

# **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (AMERICORPS)**

## **Fall 2023 Statement of Regulatory Priorities**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Corporation for National and Community Service, operating as AmeriCorps, is the Federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for individuals to address some of the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. AmeriCorps offers individuals and organizations flexible ways to make a local and lasting impact through its programs, such as AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and Senior Demonstration programs. AmeriCorps also supports volunteerism through the national 9/11 Day of Service and Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service. AmeriCorps' authorizing statutes and regulations provide the necessary legal framework for its programs. AmeriCorps' regulatory priorities are guided by its Strategic Plan (available at [americorps.gov/about/agency-overview/strategic-plan](https://americorps.gov/about/agency-overview/strategic-plan)) and Administration priorities.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF AMERICORPS' REGULATORY PLAN**

This Regulatory Plan provides highlights of AmeriCorps' upcoming regulatory actions. Please refer to AmeriCorps' Semiannual Regulatory Agenda for the full spectrum of AmeriCorps' upcoming regulatory actions.

Among other objectives, AmeriCorps' Strategic Plan establishes a goal of partnering with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity. This past year, AmeriCorps finalized updates to its AmeriCorps VISTA regulations (3045-AA79) in support of this goal. The AmeriCorps VISTA program promotes economic resilience and address persistent poverty by encouraging and enabling persons from all walks of life to perform volunteer service to assist in the solution of poverty and poverty-related problems and secure and increase opportunities for self-advancement by persons affected by such problems. Recently finalized updates to VISTA's regulations add programmatic and grantmaking flexibilities to better reach underserved communities, reduce barriers to participation in national service, and provide those communities with access to the benefits of service to reduce poverty.

AmeriCorps is planning two proposed regulatory actions in further support of partnering with communities to alleviate poverty and advance racial equity:

First, AmeriCorps State and National Updates (3045-AA84) will consider additional programmatic and grantmaking flexibilities, including waivers and exceptions for individuals who may benefit from additional education and training, such as those reentering society after a period of incarceration, to participate in national service while acquiring skills and knowledge to ease their transition into the workplace.

And second, AmeriCorps Seniors Updates (3045-AA81) will consider removing barriers to service for individuals, particularly for low-income individuals, and increasing flexibility for sponsors to determine the best mix of staffing and resources to accomplish project goals.