

SEEKING EXPERIENCE IN PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR THE 2014 AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL GRANT COMPETITION PEER REVIEW



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) continually seeks qualified individuals to participate in peer reviews for the 2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant competitions. CNCS needs individuals with subject matter expertise and demonstrated experience in **six Focus Areas** including: *Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans & Military Families*. **This year CNCS is also seeking Reviewers with advanced experience in program and project evaluation.**

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PEER REVIEW

Minimum Qualifications for Reviewers—Reviewers must demonstrate at least one of the following experience qualifications, with preference given to Reviewers demonstrating both:

- **Core Experience:** 5+ years of relevant experience in one of the **six Focus Areas**; core experience years can be supplemented with evaluation experience, **OR**
- **Evaluation Experience:** Completed graduate coursework in (or a program evaluation course that included both) research design and statistics; in the social sciences, public policy/administration, business administration or organizational development.

Preferred Qualifications in Evaluation Experience—Preference for selection is given to Reviewers with the preferred level of Evaluation Experience

- 3+ years managing program evaluations for an organization or agency or serving as a program evaluator (either internal or external) for an organization or agency.
- Ability to analyze research results, be familiar with a wide range of experimental and non-experimental evaluation designs, and understand common evaluation challenges.
 - Reviewers should have acquired this experience through leadership positions in public, private, or grant making organizations; graduate work; academic positions; management consulting experience with nonprofit or grant making organizations; or relevant board or committee membership.

EVALUATION

The use of established and social science research methods to assess the design, implementation, and effectiveness of programs, policies, and practices.

THE CNCS PEER REVIEW PROCESS

- The FY2013 AmeriCorps grant competition Peer Review utilizes a distance-based Field Review model, eliminating the need to travel for review participation.
- Each Reviewer is assigned to a review panel and assigned specific applications to discuss during their panel deliberations.
- Some Reviewers may be eligible to serve as Panel Coordinators to manage a review panel and facilitate discussions.
- The review process lasts two to three weeks and can take about **50 hours of active time** to complete. There are mandatory orientation sessions, as well as panel calls that **require alterations to normal work and/or activity schedules**.
- CNCS offers Reviewers and Panel Coordinators *with the exception of federal employees*, a modest honorarium for their participation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING

If chosen, all Review Participants are asked to respond to questions to determine if a Conflict of Interest (e.g., involvement with an organization applying for an AmeriCorps Grant, State Commissions) exists. **Please note, the names of all participating Reviewers and Panel Coordinators for CNCS grant competitions may be made public after the close of the review.**

HOW TO RESPOND

If interested in participating as a Peer Reviewer for the FY2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competitions (January 2014), send an email to PeerReviewers@cns.gov. Please use the subject line "**Evaluation Experience - AmeriCorps Review.**" CNCS will respond immediately with information on how to proceed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the AmeriCorps competitions and CNCS, please visit our [website](#). For general information about becoming a CNCS Peer Reviewer, please consult [eGrants Reviewer Information](#).

TELL A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE!

Please share this flyer with any individuals or groups that might have the appropriate qualifications and interest in the AmeriCorps Peer Review opportunity.

Thank you for considering service as an External Peer Reviewer for CNCS!