



# AmeriCorps

## Peace Through Action AmeriCorps Service Sites Application Instructions

Version 11302023

### Key Information

[Peace Through Action USA](#) is accepting applications from community organizations that wish to join us in requesting AmeriCorps national service members to confront social discord within their communities. Peace Through Action will include qualified community organizations in its upcoming application to [AmeriCorps](#) to operate [Peace Through Action AmeriCorps](#). Peace Through Action has a current federal grant to [plan](#) this program. The AmeriCorps competition for which we are preparing an AmeriCorps *program* application is the [FY 2024 AmeriCorps State and National Grants](#) competition.

**Service Site Online Application Link** – [Here](#)

**Service Site Application Due Date** – **Friday, December 8, 2023**

**Applicant Resources** – The Peace Through Action AmeriCorps [service sites webpage](#) includes a link to the online application, these application instructions, a presentation and FAQ about Peace Through Action AmeriCorps, the schedule of orientation calls running through December 2023, and a form to register for an orientation call.

**Contact** – [AmeriCorps@PeaceThroughAction.org](mailto:AmeriCorps@PeaceThroughAction.org)

### General Instructions

Peace Through Action intends this application to be an efficient means for gathering information necessary for us to respond to scoring criteria in the FY 2024 AmeriCorps State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity. If some questions strike you as unusual or overly specific, it's likely because Peace Through Action needs the data or narrative to construct a fully responsive program application.

Also, this service site application includes questions to ensure your understanding of the most important conditions of participation applicable to service sites. These questions do not represent every condition that will be extended to service sites.

The application uses “AmeriCorps member” “member” and “members” interchangeably. We are referring to Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members, not other AmeriCorps members your organization may currently host or have hosted in the past.

We use “member” and “members” in both their singular and plural forms. Please know that applicants may request one member or multiple members.

We provide specific instructions below for those questions where we felt explanation or guidance was either necessary or helpful.

### Specific Instructions

#### Question 8 – What is your organization’s legal name?

This should be the name of the organization as if you were submitting your own application to a federal agency.



We anticipate some organizations that may wish to participate in Peace Through Action AmeriCorps are grassroots groups or even informal collections of individuals. They may not be legally incorporated. That's okay! Peace Through Action will figure out a way to include you. If these scenarios describe your organization enter "not applicable."

### **Question 15 – Enter your organization's Employer Identification Number**

We anticipate some organizations that may wish to participate in Peace Through Action AmeriCorps are grassroots groups or even informal collections of individuals. They may not have an EIN. That's okay! Peace Through Action will figure out a way to include you. If these scenarios describe your organization enter "not applicable."

### **Question 16 – What is your organization type?**

We recognize some of these types overlap, for example community foundations are nonprofit private organizations. Choose the type that best represents your organization.

### **Question 17 – Provide a summary description of your organization.**

This summary may be of any length. We are not expecting you to compose fresh copy, unless you don't currently have a summary description of your organization. Hopefully this is a straightforward "copy and paste" answer for most applicants.

### **Question 20 – Will you be assembling two or more organizations in your community to participate in Peace Through Action AmeriCorps together?**

We welcome "joint applicants" provided that one of the organizations agrees to serve as the primary organization for communication with Peace Through Action, and eventually with oversight of your AmeriCorps members.

A single application from the primary organization within the joint applicant will suffice.

However, if it is more likely that one or more of the organizations participating in the collective will host and/or manage their own Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members, then those organizations should submit separate applications.

### **Questions 22 – 28 Numbers of AmeriCorps member positions requested.**

This series of questions asks prospective sites for the numbers of AmeriCorps members they seek in each of the seven AmeriCorps term types.

See the Service Term and Site Participation Fee Table at <https://peacethroughaction.org/AmeriCorpsSites> for information on the minimum service hours, gross living allowance amounts, and service site participation fee per member per each of the seven service term types.

See the FAQ at <https://peacethroughaction.org/AmeriCorpsSites> for an explanation why we apply a service site participation fee.

### **Questions 29-33 – Pertaining to your geographic community.**

We are asking for this level of detail about your geographic community because AmeriCorps State and National is a place-based program and there are several sections of the application criteria where the agency requires geographic precision.



**Question 34 – Provide at least one physical location address within each state and territory in which your AmeriCorps members will be placed. For each “operating site” physical location, provide the organization name, street address, city, state, zip code, and number of AmeriCorps members to be assigned to that state and territory.**

At this point in the application process, we need only identify an “operating site” in each state or territory in which a Peace Through Action AmeriCorps member will be placed.

The operating site physical locations need not be the specific service locations from which the members will ultimately be serving. But the “operating site” physical locations must be locations with which the applicant organization has an association. This could be your office location or place of activity, a location where your group meets (and consents to be listed as the operating site physical location), or a location where you receive postal mail or packages. The operating site physical locations CANNOT be residences. The physical locations CANNOT be PO boxes.

If we are awarded an AmeriCorps grant, we will then need to become more specific and identify exact physical service locations from which each of our AmeriCorps members will be serving.

**Question 37 – Using key words, identify the forms of social discord affecting the general population or focus populations of the geographic communities your AmeriCorps members will be serving.**

Use your own words and/or choose from the following:

Ableism, anger, antisemitism, assault, bias and discrimination, bullying, child abuse and neglect, democracy threats, domestic violent extremism and terrorism, elder abuse and neglect, elitism/privilege, gang crime, gun violence, harassment, hate, homophobia, human trafficking, incivility, intimate partner violence, islamophobia, maltreatment of children, maltreatment of elders, murder, neighborhood violence, othering/differences, property crime, racism, religious intolerance, robbery, school violence, sexism/misogyny, sexual violence, state violence, toxic polarization, transphobia, White Christian nationalism, workplace violence, youth violence, xenophobia.

**Question 39 – In no more than three sentences, describe the social assets of your geographic community’s general population or focus populations.**

Instead of looking at what a community lacks, an assets frame focuses on utilizing the assets that are within the community. This approach facilitates the empowerment of individuals and communities by helping them to identify and share their strengths and then work together to create their own social innovations.

**Question 43 – Bridging differences through group dialogues will be a primary activity of Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members. Peace Through Action will ensure members are trained in several dialogue methods. Organizations may choose one or more of these methods, or have their members implement another method. Which methods might your organization adopt as part of your participation in Peace Through Action AmeriCorps?**

Your response does not obligate your organization or community to using the method(s) you select now. We are using this information to forecast our program’s direct service activities of common interest.

Go to the end of this document for brief descriptions of our program interventions.



**Question 46 – Organizations may have their AmeriCorps members deliver direct services and capacity building activities in addition to group dialogues. Which of the following activities might your organization have your members deliver?**

Your response does not obligate your organization or community to delivering the activities you select now. We are using this information to forecast our program’s direct service activities of common interest.

Go to the end of this document for brief descriptions of our program interventions.

**Question 47 – Organizations may assign their AmeriCorps members civic engagement, social cohesion, and peacebuilding activities of their own choice. If you intend to do so, describe those activities here.**

Describing the activities here does not guarantee your AmeriCorps members will do them. Peace Through Action will review the activities to ensure they are allowable, consistent with the purpose of Peace Through Action AmeriCorps, and feasible to be completed by an AmeriCorps member.

## Peace Through Action AmeriCorps Interventions List

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Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members will receive training in and be equipped to organize, deliver, and measure performance on a variety of direct service and capacity-building activities (or “interventions”) of benefit to the communities and community members they serve.

### Primary Intervention Set – Group Dialogues

Community organizations hosting Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members will be expected to assign their members duties of organizing, delivering, and measuring performance of group dialogues among community members. Due to the federal agency’s expectations that AmeriCorps programs concentrate their members’ efforts on a primary activity, group dialogue should be an area of concentration of member time within each of our community organization partners.

Community organizations and AmeriCorps members will determine the dialogues’ frequency, audiences, topics, methods, and other factors.

Peace Through Action will ensure members are trained in three dialogue methods. Community organizations may assign their AmeriCorps members to deploy one or more of these methods, or to implement another dialogue method. If the organization chooses another method, it is incumbent on them to provide or arrange training on it.

Regardless of dialogue method(s) implemented, community members participating in a civic dialogue(s) organized or delivered by a Peace Through Action AmeriCorps member will be requested to complete a performance measurement instrument common across methods.

The three dialogues methods Peace Through Action USA will support are:

[Essential Partners](#)—Informed by over three decades of experience, the Essential Partners model fosters inclusive and supportive dialogue that builds resilience, belonging, and trust across differences of values, beliefs, and identities.

[Circle of Trust Approach](#)—The Circle of Trust Approach developed by Parker J. Palmer and the Center for Courage & Renewal nurtures supportive communities of reflection and practice to help



people activate a renewed sense of purpose, build trustworthy relationships, and cultivate the courage to rise to both internal and communal challenges.

[Heart of Democracy](#)—The Heart of Democracy method positions learning as a communal process and encourages the shared exploration of self, other, and our world through interpersonal dialogue and engaged reflection in service of the common good.

Also, AmeriCorps requires members to organize or participate in [National Days of Service](#). So, this a “quasi-primary” intervention in that NDOS activity is expected of all Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members. Their service projects need not be common across sites.

## Secondary Interventions – Many Choices!

Community organizations hosting Peace Through Action AmeriCorps members may choose to assign their member duties of organizing, delivering, and measuring performance of one or more civic engagement, social cohesion, peacebuilding, and community organizing programs or activities additional to dialogues. The number of secondary interventions and amount of time allocated to them is dependent on factors such as the number of members being placed with the community organization, members’ terms of service, and intensity of the program or activity.

Peace Through Action will ensure members are trained in several civic engagement, social cohesion, peacebuilding programs or activities. Community organizations may assign their AmeriCorps members to deploy one or more of these methods, or to implement other interventions. If the organization chooses another intervention, it is incumbent on them to provide or arrange training on it.

The civic engagement, social cohesion, peacebuilding, and capacity-building programs or activities Peace Through Action USA will support are:

**Peace Through Action Planning**— Our Peace Through Action Planning program will equip community members to create peace in their communities through structured action plans and connections to resources that anchor individuals and groups in a shared commitment to peace and social cohesion.

**Peaceful Leaders**—Our Peaceful Leaders youth development program guides high school-aged youth to cultivate 21<sup>st</sup>-century peacebuilding and leadership skills, nurture social and emotional growth, and foster civic engagement with an emphasis on peace. This program encompasses a year-long cycle of prosocial activities, including training sessions, clubs, a summer experience, and service projects intended to support a dedicated cohort of youth leaders who promote and implement practical peaceful solutions to aggression and violence.

**Super Practical Solutions Series**—Our Super Practical Solutions Skills Training Series will use a scenario-based sequence of practices to increase community members’ capacity to resolve “real life” conflicts and address both the causes and effects of social discord.

**Introduction to Universal Peace Skills**—Our Introduction to Universal Peace Skills program will offer foundational training in seven essential peaceful practices (from bias reduction to upstander intervention) and teach community members to skillfully apply peacebuilding strategies across a variety of social contexts.

**De-Escalation/Unarmed Civilian Protection Volunteer Recruitment**—Some communities have already or wish to organize and support volunteer teams to de-escalate intergroup conflict so that



their interactions do not turn violent; or to accompany members of vulnerable populations through places and spaces where violence against them is possible.

[Early Warning Early Action System](#) Volunteer Recruitment—The TRUST Network is implementing a citizen-run Early Warning Early Action system to prevent violence. Volunteers contribute to the system by reporting and tracking evidence of hate speech, incitement, and other forms of violence via text, images, voice, and video.

Capacity-Building for Peace—Many U.S. communities lack an infrastructure or have only a fragile infrastructure for supporting local peacebuilding. AmeriCorps members can deliver capacity-building services such as community needs assessment, leadership group formation and support, and community member engagement.