

POLICY GUIDANCE: Cohort Flexibilities - 12.21.20

- As stated on page 10 of the FOA, "by entering in small groups or cohorts, the expectation is that the students will create an informal support system that would further increase the likelihood of them successfully completing the program. Whenever possible, the grantee educational institutions should encourage the development of these cohort support systems. "Although the intention of the program is to serve one set of 40 Job Corps eligible youth per year, grantees may have difficulties recruiting and enrolling 40 individuals to begin services at the same time due to COVID-19. Currently, there are over 200 applicants waiting in the pipeline to receive services. Grantees will lose participants in order to group 40 Job Corps eligible youth to receive services under the grant. Ultimately, grantees must enroll a total of 80 Job Corps eligible youth.
- Grantees may enroll students on a rolling basis to serve a total of 80 Job Corps eligible youth. Grantees are not required to wait until they have a cohort of 40 applicants until they can be enrolled, but cohort sizes may not be smaller than 5 applicants. This guidance provides flexibility to allow services to pending Job Corps eligible youth but does not remove the requirement to maintain a cohort design. The intent and spirit of the FOA is to create a peer/ support network among Job Corps eligible youth. Grantees are equipped to facilitate peer-to-peer engagement regardless of the number of Job Corps eligible youth enrolled at any given time, and are therefore still expected to provide services that will satisfy the intent of the FOA. This guidance does not eliminate/waive the requirement to serve a minimum of 80 Job Corps eligible youth within the period of performance.

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