



Purpose

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on this official day of serve their neighbors and communities. The [MLK Day of Service](#) is a part of the [AmeriCorps](#) national call to service initiative. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community.

These mini-grants offer eligible entities grant funding to effectively recruit and engage volunteers in meaningful service activities AND/OR to deliver a service-learning activity that honors Dr. King’s legacy. A service-learning activity is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

Preference will be given to applicants that engage one other community partner in the planning, collaboration, or execution of the event. Service activities should engage a minimum of 10 volunteers and paid staff may not count as volunteers.

Eligible Entities

Entities that are eligible to apply are public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations, school districts, institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties), labor organizations, partnerships and consortia, and Native American tribes.

All projects must take place in the state of Missouri.

All entities must provide the following information:

1. Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W-9)
2. Employer Identification Number (EIN)
3. Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number AND must have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to applying.
4. Organizations must have an active vendor profile in the MOVERS system with the state of Missouri.

Grant Project Period

Projects under this proposal should occur from **January 1, 2026 – January 31, 2026**. Mini-grant award recipients will be notified of approval or denial, via email, on or before October 15, 2025.

Funding Information

ServMO has allocated \$3,000 for the 2026 MLK Day of Service Mini-grant. Eligible applicants may request up to **\$1,000**. This is a cost-reimbursement grant funding opportunity that will be paid upon submission of the project report and documentation of expenditures. Only those expenses incurred after the grant starts will be eligible for reimbursement.

Recipients will be selected based on the quality of application, the need and impact of the proposed activities, and the organization's demonstrated readiness to implement the proposed project. Should there be a competition for funds, priority will be given to organizations serving underrepresented and vulnerable populations as well as those serving in rural areas.

Grant Application Submission

All completed applications must be submitted by **October 14, 2025, by 5 p.m.**, via email, to ServMO@ded.mo.gov. Incomplete applications, applications sent directly to program staff, or submitted past the deadline will not be considered.

Responsibilities of Mini-Grant Recipients

Mini-grant recipients will be required to:

- Engage at least **10** volunteers in community service or service-learning projects within the grant period. Track and report impact of service project including
 - Number of volunteers
 - Number of volunteer hours
- Include the ServMO logo on all program materials and publicity.
- Approved grantees must attend the Training and Technical Assistance Call. Missing this training will result in withdrawal from the grant.
- Submit a final report and reimbursement form by **February 28, 2026**. *A form will be provided.*

Funding Restrictions

- Funds may not be used for staffing, travel costs, gift cards, volunteer stipends, subawards, or indirect costs.
- Match funds must be incurred during the project period
- Grant funds are intended to supplement, not supplant.
 - Supplement means to add to; to enhance; to expand; to increase; to extend; to create something new.
 - Supplant means to take the place of; to replace by something else.
- Grant funds under this program are federal funds from AmeriCorps, [CFDA No. 94.003](#), therefore the Commission will not fund projects that engage in:
 - Political activity and advocacy.
 - Religious activity.
 - Benefiting for-profit entities.
 - Voter registration.
 - Abortion services.
- Grants under this program are subject to applicable Cost Principles under the [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Circulars](#) A-21 (2 CFR part 220), A-87 (CFR part 225), or A-122 (2 CFR part 230), and the Uniform Administrative Requirements for grants under A-102 (45 CFR part 2541) or A-110 (45 CFR 2543 or 2 CFR part 21).

Application Timeline

Grant Guidelines Released	September 8, 2025
Application Due	October 14, 2025
Award Announcement	October 15, 2025
Grant Award Start Date	January 1, 2026
Grant Award End Date	January 31, 2026
Final Report and Reimbursement Form Due	February 28, 2026
Goal Reimbursement Date	March 31, 2026

Contact Information

For technical assistance and/or questions about this grant opportunity, please email ServMO at ServMO@ded.mo.gov.

Resources

- [AmeriCorps Resources](#)
- [Points of Light Resources](#)
- [National Youth Leadership Council Service-Learning Resources](#)