

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor, City of New York

Anusha Venkataraman  
NYC Chief Service Officer

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**2020-2021 NYC Service Fellowship Program  
Frequently Asked Questions**

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## **Application Process**

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### **What does the application process entail?**

The application opens in April 2020. Each applicant is asked to complete our online form and submit the following:

- Unofficial Transcript; *an official transcript is required upon acceptance into the fellowship*
- Resume
- Two Essays
  - A personal statement not to exceed 750 words.
  - A policy recommendation not to exceed 1000 words.
- Two References (at least one from a current or former supervisor) who must submit a letter of recommendation by the deadline of the application. Applicants may not submit letters on behalf of their references. References will receive an email once the completed application is submitted.

### **For the policy recommendation, what is the structure and what is it on?**

There is no specific structure to the policy recommendation. If you wish to use citation, you can do so, but it is not required. Please refer to the online application instructions document on the NYC Service website.

### **What is qualified as a service experience?**

We recognize that volunteerism and service exist in many forms. We expect applicants to have one year of volunteer or service experience by the time the position is offered.

### **Is there an interview process?**

Yes, select finalists will be interviewed via phone and potentially scheduled for two additional in-person interviews. In-person interviews typically include a panel of the hiring manager and two additional NYC Service staff. Second round in-person interviews may include the NYC Chief Service Officer and hiring manager.

### **Can I defer my acceptance for one year?**

No. Finalists must decide if they will accept the NYC Service Coordinator position for the year or release the spot for a wait listed candidate. If eligible, a candidate can re-apply the following year.

### **Can I re-apply to the program and use the two essays I already submitted?**

Applicants may re-apply if they are still eligible, but must submit a new application and revised application materials.



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**How are will we be notified throughout the process?**

All communication will be done via email.

**Eligibility** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do I determine if I am eligible?**

Please see “Eligibility” on [nyc.gov/ServiceFellowship](http://nyc.gov/ServiceFellowship).

**Do I have to be a U.S. citizen to apply?**

Applicants **DO NOT** need to be U.S. citizens. However, applicants must be able to demonstrate their eligibility to work in the United States after graduation and for the entire program period. Applicants must meet the criteria set forth by the I-9, “Employment Eligibility Verification,” from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The NYC Service Fellowship Program does not sponsor work visas.

**Is there an age limit to apply to this program?**

There is absolutely no age limit to apply to the program. Please see “Eligibility on [nyc.gov/ServiceFellowship](http://nyc.gov/ServiceFellowship).”

**Fellowship Details** \_\_\_\_\_

**When does the NYC Service Fellowship Program begin? How long is the commitment?**

The 2020-2021 NYC Service Fellowship will begin in August or September 2020, depending on the position, and the program is a one year (12 month) commitment. Each Coordinator position has a different start date during the period mentioned above.

**How much are NYC Service Coordinators in the Program paid?**

NYC Service Coordinators in our program receive a taxable stipend of \$55,326 for the 12-month program.

**What are the health benefits for the fellowship?**

There is a choice of paid health insurance plans (vision and dental not included). Health insurance (not including vision or dental) is also offered by the City. Some options are free and some have additional costs taken by payroll deductions. NYC Service Coordinators choose the option that works best for them, if they wish to enroll.

**Does the City pay the NYC Service Coordinators relocation and/or housing expenses?**

The City does not pay for relocation and housing expenses. NYC Service Coordinators are expected to secure their own housing arrangements.

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## **General Questions**

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### **How is the third year extension like?**

Dependent on funding and satisfactory performance during first (and then second, if applicable) year of fellowship. Most fellows who continue for a second or third year remain in their original position. If a fellow wanted to switch to another position for a second or third year, they would need to submit a formal application to the position of interest.

### **Can I go to graduate school part-time or at night while serving as a NYC Service Coordinator in the program?**

NYC Service Coordinators are expected to commit full-time to the twelve-month program. Due to the intensive nature of the work, Coordinators may only attend graduate school part-time (e.g. 1 class) after work hours. If you are already enrolled in a master's degree program and are accepted into the NYC Service Fellowship Program, you will need to move to a part-time status during the duration of this program or defer the graduate program. This fellowship is a full-time commitment with potential late nights, early mornings, and weekends. Coordinators and supervisors plan and communicate if and when commitments outside of 9-5 work hours are needed.

### **What is the LinkedIn group for AmeriCorps alumni's?**

Join the online professional community of New Yorkers interested in service:

- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nyc-service/>

Join the online community of NYC Service Year alumni:

- <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12399639/>

### **In what ways might the fellowship program be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?**

The COVID-19 safety protocols in NYC are evolving daily and are determined based on three indicators monitored by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. As we receive guidance, we will update all accepted applicants, as well. As a general measure, those applying to the fellowship or accepted should expect to be in NYC the first day of the fellowship.