



# Volunteer Services Overview

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Founded in 2014, Community Engineering Corps (CECorps) brings together underserved communities and volunteer engineers to advance local infrastructure solutions in the United States and its territories. CECorps is a partnership program of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA).

## Community Driven

CECorps' work is centered around and led by the needs of our partner communities and organizations. CECorps works through local leaders, public officials, local or national nonprofit, or community-based organizations to provide engineering services that benefit a broader group of people, known as the "community". CECorps cannot provide engineering services to an individual homeowner or a private, for-profit business that doesn't provide services to underserved clients.

## Project Application

Upon receipt of a project application, CECorps staff will conduct an intake call to determine if your request can be accepted by the CECorps program. During this interview, applications will be evaluated on a review of:

- Fit within the CECorps program's vision, mission, and type of services provided
- Benefiting population meets the definition of an underserved community
- A defined request for engineering consulting services, which may include elements such as designs, reports, permits, cost estimations, or contractor oversight.
- The scope and scale of work can be successfully completed by a qualified volunteer project team

CECorps projects are strictly limited to engineering consulting services, and volunteers do not participate in construction activities, fundraising, academic research, or commercial product development.

The CECorps program exists to provide pro-bono engineering and technical advisory services to communities that otherwise cannot afford or access traditional for-hire services. The applicant will be asked to attest that neither they nor the community can afford to hire equivalent engineering services from a private consultant or consulting firm.



Staff may require further information beyond that interview to determine if the proposed project is appropriate, or may request to speak with other stakeholders, regulators, or other interested parties prior to approving an application. CECorps cannot guarantee that all applications are accepted into the program.

## Volunteers and Period of Performance

The CECorps program fulfills engineering service requests through a volunteer workforce. Once an application is approved, CECorps staff will make every effort to recruit appropriate volunteers and pair them with the engineering request. The time frame for a match can take as long as 6 months. If a match is not made by this time, staff will confirm if the applicant would like to continue to wait for volunteers or close the project.

A small, dedicated CECorps staff oversees the work of our volunteers. The volunteers bring the required technical expertise, while CECorps staff provide additional training and orientation to community-based development and the CECorps process. Volunteers are expected to follow an engineering Code of Ethics. Due to the nature of volunteering, CECorps projects will take longer than a traditional for-hire project, with the goal for completing the project between 1 to 2 years.

## Community and Client Expectations

As a community-driven program, CECorps staff and volunteers work in partnership with our applicant communities. In order to effectively provide pro-bono engineering services to our communities, we ask that you review the following expectations:

- The applicant will provide identify a representative to provide timely and consistent communication with the volunteer project team and CECorps staff. The volunteer project lead will be the point of contact for all project-related questions and activities, and CECorps staff will address questions related to the volunteer team, legal, or other programmatic questions.
- CECorps volunteers come from various ethnic, social, racial backgrounds and gender orientations. CECorps embraces the diversity of our volunteers and celebrates their contributions to our communities and partners. We ask our communities to provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for these volunteers, both in person and via communications.
- Inability to contact the volunteer project team lead, or any issues that cannot be resolved with the project lead, should be brought to CECorps staff attention.
- Please keep your project team lead informed of substantive changes that could affect the project.
- The applicant will enter into a standard contractual agreement with CECorps. This agreement will be provided once a volunteer team has been identified and assigned to your project.
- CECorps staff may request to use details of the engineering work for purposes of marketing and fundraising for future projects, which may include published articles or web stories on the engineering work performed (inclusive of pictures), with permission from the community.