2022-23 AmeriCorps Planning Grant Application Form

Planning Applicant Information

Name of Organization:_____

Organization Address: _____

_____

Name of Primary Grant Contact:_____

Phone Number of Primary Grant Contact:_____

Email Address of Primary Grant Contact:_____

Contact Information and Applicant Assistance

For general assistance, please contact Jill Furbish (jill.furbish@alaska.gov) or Katie Abbott (katie.abbott@alaska.gov).

Rationale and Approach/Program Design

A. Problem/Need Statement

What is the need you will address through your proposed AmeriCorps program? Explain why the need exists, who it impacts, and why it matters.

B. AmeriCorps Members as an Effective Tool

Organizations that will host an AmeriCorps Program will recruit AmeriCorps members from the geographic or demographic communities in which the programs operate. AmeriCorps members agree to serve between 100 and 1700 hours with the program and implement direct service interventions to address a community need. Examples of direct service functions include, but are not limited to, tutoring, mentoring, recruiting volunteers, assisting clients with financial stability services, building/repairing homes, restoring parks/wilderness areas, facilitating afterschool programming, assisting in career readiness/job placement services, and assisting individuals to transition to stable housing.

AmeriCorps programs are able to offer their members a living allowance to help cover basic expenses during the members' term of service. Members serving in a 1700-hour term typically receive a total of a $16,502 living allowance that is funded under the AmeriCorps grant award. Prorated living allowances are also typically provided by the grant to members serving in a part-time capacity. 1700-hour members are also eligible to receive grant-supported healthcare coverage and childcare assistance.

The average AmeriCorps program hosts between 8 and 25 AmeriCorps members who are either directly managed by the organization or are placed at service sites where the members are supervised by the staff of partner agencies.

In the response box provided below, please describe why your organization believes that AmeriCorps members could potentially be an effective tool for addressing the community need that is described in section A. Additionally, please describe any community/organizational resources that exist in the project's target community(ies), other partners, or organizations that could potentially be utilized to recruit and support AmeriCorps members if a full program grant were to be awarded in 2023-24.

AmeriCorps Members as an Effective Tool:

Continued…

C. Planning Grant Approach and Timeline

The project activities that will be implemented as part of the planning grant process are noted below. Applicants may add additional activities such as conducting needs assessments, facilitating additional feedback sessions, etc.

The AmeriCorps planning grant will provide resources and guidance to design a high-quality AmeriCorps program to serve the target community(ies) selected by the organization. During the five-month grant period, the organization will identify critical issues affecting the target community(ies); develop a plan to deliver solutions; establish effective partnerships; and develop data collection systems that will be used for reporting, learning, and continuous improvement. The process will begin with research and training, with time dedicated to becoming familiar with AmeriCorps grant provisions, regulations, and resources available for new grantees.

Throughout the planning process, the organization will work closely with Serve Alaska staff to ensure that the training needs of the organization are being met and that the planning process is adequately implemented.

Through the planning process, documentation of the community needs and plans for recruitment, training, and implementation will be used to structure a competitive AmeriCorps Program grant application that will be anticipated to be submitted for the following funding opportunity, either through Serve Alaska's Formula grant opportunity or AmeriCorps' national grant opportunity. Serve Alaska will discuss these opportunities with Planning grant recipients. A competitive application will demonstrate the organization's capacity to effectively manage an AmeriCorps program and will:

- Develop a strong performance measurement system that ensures collection of reliable data to exhibit the program's impact on the community being served;
- Create a process to select service sites;
- Design a recruitment strategy that aligns with the desired and required characteristics/skills for AmeriCorps members;
- Create policies, procedures, and forms to be used in anticipation of hosting an AmeriCorps program;
- Develop curriculum to be used in training members; and
- Create an effective orientation, training, and monitoring plan that includes applicable technical assistance.

Complete the box below with any proposed additional activities, including timelines. The following box can be left blank or add a "N/A".

Organizational Capability

A. Organization Capacity

In the response box provided below, describe the organization's prior experience administering private, local, state, and/or federal funds. Describe the organization's financial management structure and what financial systems are used to manage funds.

B. Resource Development

In the response box provided below, please discuss the organization's experience in securing outside financial and in-kind contributions. What resources could potentially be utilized/secured to assist the organization in supporting a full AmeriCorps program in 2023-24?

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

Cost-reimbursable Planning Grants can provide funding for staff/consultant time, travel, and other costs related to work developing the program design, the grant application itself, generate/secure stakeholder/partner commitment, and participate in training related to AmeriCorps program management.

Budget templates have been provided separately as Excel documents and should be submitted at the same time as this application form

Serve Alaska is not obligated to fund grant proposals in their entirety and reserves the right to request applicants to revise any portion of their organization's proposal.