

PART I - FACE SHEET

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction															
Modified Standard Form 424 (Rev.02/07 to confirm to the Corporation's eGrants System)																	
2a. DATE SUBMITTED TO CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS):		3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE: 21-JAN-11	STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:														
2b. APPLICATION ID: 11AC124763		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY:	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER: 09ACHMI0010002														
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION																	
LEGAL NAME: Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness DUNS NUMBER: 151064123		NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Melissa Grant TELEPHONE NUMBER: (517) 485-6536 FAX NUMBER: INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: grantm2@michigan.gov															
ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 15851 S. Old US 27 Bld. 30, Suite 315 Lansing MI 48906 County: Eaton																	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 382960348		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. Non-Profit 7b.															
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION (Check appropriate box). <input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> NEW/PREVIOUS GRANTEE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTINUATION <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT If Amendment, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es): <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> A. AUGMENTATION B. BUDGET REVISION C. NO COST EXTENSION D. OTHER (specify below):		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service															
10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 94.006 10b. TITLE: AmeriCorps State		11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Michigan Campaign To End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): State of Michigan		11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):															
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 09/01/11 END DATE: 11/01/12		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text"/> b.Program <input type="text" value="MI 008"/>															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: <input type="text" value="3"/>		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO. PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372															
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">a. FEDERAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 274,721.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. APPLICANT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 245,401.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. STATE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. LOCAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. OTHER</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. PROGRAM INCOME</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 520,122.00</td> </tr> </table>		a. FEDERAL	\$ 274,721.00	b. APPLICANT	\$ 245,401.00	c. STATE	\$ 0.00	d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00	e. OTHER	\$ 0.00	f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 520,122.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES if "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
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18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.																	
a. TYPED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Melissa Grant		b. TITLE:	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (517) 485-6536														
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:			e. DATE SIGNED: 05/09/11														

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Executive Summary

N/A.

Rationale and Approach

a. Compelling Community Need

There were nearly 80,000 homeless adults, youth, and children on the streets and in shelters in Michigan during the year 2007. The good news is that Michigan has a plan to address this crisis. Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness (herein referred to as the Campaign) supports the vision that housing is a right and that no man, woman or child should be forced to sleep on the streets or on a cot in a shelter on any night, in any town or city in the state. Furthermore, the Campaign asserts that the elimination of homelessness is an achievable goal that can be realized through focused effort and an unwavering commitment to the implementation of evidence based best practices. The Campaign is taking root as a much needed social movement in Michigan. It reaches all geographic areas of the state and touches all adults, youth, and children experiencing homelessness. The need in Michigan is great; our willingness to take on this challenge is even greater.

Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps program will enhance the efforts to end homelessness in Michigan. A critical strategy of the Campaign's AmeriCorps program is to increase the number of individuals solely devoted to solving homelessness and bolstering the volunteer infrastructure in local communities. By proposing the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps program, Michigan is seeking support to accelerate the elimination of homelessness. Michigan's economic environment is one of the most challenging in the country. Layoffs within the auto industry contributed to a 9.3% unemployment rate in October 2008, almost a full 3% above the national average. While the loss of income clearly contributes to homelessness, it is certainly not the sole cause. Seventy-seven percent of families who are homeless identified issues related to housing factors as causes for their homelessness (Benchmark Report, 2007). The state's home foreclosure rate is the second highest in the nation, and working individuals and families struggle to find quality affordable rental

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units. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's report, 'Out of Reach 2006', the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two bedroom apartment in Michigan is \$718/month. To afford this level of rent and utilities without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,392 monthly or \$28,701 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this translates into a "housing wage" of \$13.80/hour. The estimated mean renter's wage in Michigan is \$11.60/hour. Consequently, an astounding 47% of renters are unable to afford a two-bedroom apartment at current FMR levels in Michigan.

Physical and mental disabilities (including substance abuse) are also identified as causal factors for homelessness. Twenty-one percent of family homelessness can be attributed to an individual within the family (adult or child) having a chronic illness. Sixty-five percent of homeless individuals have a disability or health related condition and 100% of chronically homeless individuals have a disability (more commonly a dual diagnosis) of long duration (Benchmark Report, 2007).

Another major contributing factor to homelessness is domestic violence. At the national level, domestic violence accounts for 26% of family homelessness and 10% of the overall total. At the state level, though thought to be under-represented, 16% of homeless families attribute domestic violence as the reason for homelessness (Benchmark Report, 2007).

In 2006, Michigan's population was estimated at 10,095,643. In 2007, The Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS) reported 79,940 homeless people. Over 51% were adults and children in families. Fifty-six percent of homeless persons in these families were children, most under the age of 10. Among these homeless families, single mothers with children represented the fastest growing group. One-third of these homeless families were classified as working poor, with 37% of them having an income of less than \$500 per month. Not surprisingly, poverty was identified as the greatest cause of homelessness among families and 45% of them had experienced homelessness more than once (Benchmark Report, 2007).

During 2007, 31,781 single adults and 5938 unaccompanied youth (runaways or youth aging out of

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foster care) utilized emergency shelter. Poverty is again noted as a primary reason for homelessness with 53% having no income and 72% surviving on less than \$500 per month. Within the single adult population, 70% of men between the ages of 45 and 54 experienced homelessness for long durations (chronic). All had disabilities severely limiting their ability to maintain stable housing. Many had more than one disabling condition, often mental health and substance abuse disorders. Thirteen percent were veterans (Benchmark Report, 2007). According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated Point-in-Time (PIT) Homelessness Count in 2007, Michigan has the sixth largest homeless population in the nation while having the eighth largest population.

Homeless counts are obtained via the MSHMIS, which is a computerized database that all HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grantees are required to use to enter data regarding contacts with people that are homeless. All data collect by MSHMIS for the year of 2007 has been collected into the Benchmark Report, *The State of Homelessness in Michigan, 2007*.

The state is a mix of urban and rural lands, with highly populated urban cities (such as Detroit, Flint and Lansing) as well as rural populations scattered across 19.2 million acres of forest. There are stark differences between urban and rural homelessness. Lack of housing or sheltering opportunities force rural homeless populations to double-up with multiple families or live in tents in remote locations or campsites. In contrast, people experiencing homelessness in urban areas are much more visible, often living on the streets or gathered in homeless shelters or rescue missions. The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) reported that, between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 there were 423 individuals who were homeless (out of a county population of 38,674) in the rural community of Chippewa County. Another rural county, Grand Traverse, had 1,027 out of 84,952 people who were homeless. In contrast, in 2007, urban Saginaw County had 1,838 homeless individuals out of a county population of 206,300. These numbers show that homelessness is not limited to a certain geographic area of the state nor limited to urban cities, and underscore the need for a diverse, statewide program. Michigan is the third largest state east of the Mississippi (55,527 sq mi), necessitating a multi-site

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AmeriCorps program.

In summary, Michigan's Campaign is seeking support to end homelessness in Michigan by increasing the number of individuals devoted to ending homelessness and bolstering the volunteer infrastructure in local communities. The rising number of individuals entering into homelessness is overwhelming the level of resources that Michigan's current economy can sustain. The Campaign's AmeriCorps program will provide a vital resource to a worthy and achievable vision.

b. Description of Activities and Member Roles

Michigan's nonprofit agencies lack the manpower, funds, and support needed to effectively transition homeless individuals from the streets or shelters into housing. Currently, agencies are barely able to support the practical aspects of the theoretical housing model, leading to an ineffective housing process. AmeriCorps members will serve as Housing and Services Liaisons (hereon referred to as Liaisons), fulfilling activities not currently addressed at local sites. They will also participate in activities directly addressing the goals of the Campaign, for example increasing the number of persons involved in solving the problem of homelessness and bolstering volunteerism in local communities. Liaisons will be placed statewide with a variety of organizations providing different services to different homeless populations which include youth aging out of foster care, homeless veterans, homeless families with children, chronic homeless, and individuals living in domestic violence shelters.

Despite serving diverse populations, there are common elements that each Liaison will engage in during the course of any given day including outreach, housing assistance, resource networking, follow-up, and increasing volunteers and community involvement. Below is a detailed list of the activities that Liaisons will directly provide or that assist homeless persons to take action themselves:

Outreach: Liaisons will provide outreach to homeless individuals. Outreach is a strategy that engages homeless individuals, away from an office setting, in order to connect them to the essential services they need. A large number of homeless individuals, both rural and urban, are hard to reach and serve due to mental health and substance abuse issues, and/or domestic violence. They may be wary of seeking

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services due to past disappointments and so outreach identifies homeless and at-risk individuals "where they are at," physically and psychologically. After they are identified, the Liaison links them to the services necessary for them to be permanently and stably housed. Liaison roles within outreach include identifying persons in need of housing and linking them with appropriate services (ex. Connecting with schools regarding homeless children); and maintaining regular and ongoing contact with emergency and domestic violence shelters, transitional housing programs, and other area service providers in order to make appropriate referrals.

Housing Assistance: Housing Assistance may be available in a community but with the added barriers of homelessness, it can be difficult for an individual to navigate the system. Housing Assistance is made accessible as result of the Liaison's outreach to homeless individuals and is a resource that allows access to safe and affordable housing. Housing Assistance will aid those with mental/physically disabilities by locating appropriate housing and resources for their specific needs. Domestic violence survivors and those living in poverty will identify resources through Housing Assistance that can help them transition out of their current status. The roles assumed by Liaisons include providing direct assistance in locating and securing safe, decent affordable housing; developing relations with local landlords; maintaining an updated and comprehensive listing of housing options and resources for populations who are homeless, and; assisting persons to fill out necessary forms for leases or housing vouchers.

Resource Networking: Inconsistent income is a barrier to homeless individuals trying to maintain stable housing. Mainstream resources that homeless individuals may be eligible for, such as Social Security Income (SSI/SSDI), Veterans Assistance (VA), Medicaid, Michigan Works, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps (FS), Women-Infant-Children (WIC), MI-Child, etc. are often difficult to obtain without assistance. Liaisons will link homeless individuals and resource benefits. Resource Networking will assist individuals in meeting housing costs by locating and accessing income resources that can be used to attain housing. This activity will help those with physical/mental disabilities obtain the benefits for which they are eligible. Finally, one of the main reasons domestic

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violence survivors return to their abuser is the lack of resources. Resource Networking will assist survivors to obtain the resources to live independently. The role of the Housing & Services Liaison includes: Assisting individuals and households who are homeless to identify eligibility for mainstream benefits and assisting in program enrollment.

Follow-Up Support: Follow-up support is a routine "check-in" on clients once placed in housing. Follow-up visits are critical to rapid re-housing to ensure that the client is still successfully linked to the resources ensuring housing stability. Follow-Up Support will also assist those with mental/physical disabilities by ensuring needed services and it is crucial to preventing the re-occurrence of domestic violence and poverty by making appropriate referrals that can assist before housing is lost. Roles for follow-up support by Liaisons include: Promoting housing stability by assessing housing status at three and six months following placement in permanent housing and providing additional follow-up support, as needed, for up to six months.

Bolstering Volunteer Infrastructure and Community Involvement: The vision of ending homelessness in Michigan cannot be fulfilled merely by service providers and state government. The inclusion of volunteerism and community involvement is essential to the mission of the Campaign. These two activities help the homeless by educating landlords, officials, and the public about the lack of affordable housing. Liaisons will assist those who are mentally/physically disabled by generating volunteers to assist them with their special needs. Sites will be responsible for ensuring that volunteers are trained. Increasing community involvement will help those in domestic violence situations and poverty by obtaining volunteers and business leaders engaged in community outreach events. There are many opportunities within the Campaign to pursue community involvement and volunteerism. An example opportunity is Project Homeless Connect (PHC), which is a volunteer and community driven event funded by the MCAH. These events are one day, centralized one-stop-shops for those who are homeless where they can access anything from free haircuts and clothing to legal aid, all of which is provided by volunteers, service providers, and local governments. The role of the AmeriCorps members in these

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activities will include: Communicating with the Volunteer Coordinator; Attending local monthly meetings already established by the Campaign to increase homeless awareness and community volunteerism; connecting with business and community leaders for the development of PHC events; and working with neighborhoods and community leaders to educate them about the need for affordable and supportive housing. The role of the member Volunteer Coordinator position is to: develop volunteer recruitment materials for other AmeriCorps members to use; stay in contact with AmeriCorps members to identify communities with gaps in service and; generate volunteers for PHC events.

The Campaign's AmeriCorps Program is an initiative of Michigan's 10-Year Campaign to End Homelessness. The MCAH is applying on behalf of the Campaign and will be the AmeriCorps grant fiduciary, while working in partnership with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS). These agencies already work collaboratively to provide oversight and guidance to the Campaign.

MCAH, with the assistance of MSHDA, will provide the required match funds for both member support and program operation. MSHDA will issue a statewide Request for Proposals (RFP) to local human service agencies to select service sites, which will be an effective strategy since MSHDA has a large presence throughout the state and has processes and systems in place to support the RFP distribution. Due to the size of Michigan (55,527 sq mi), the leaders of the Campaign have split Michigan into 8 regions. AmeriCorps members will be spread throughout the 8 regions in order to maximize service coverage of Liaisons. Applicants will be permitted to request more than one member but will need to provide justification and support.

The site RFP will include the member position description, eligible and ineligible activities, and the term of service. Interested agencies will submit a proposal to the AmeriCorps Program Director. The AmeriCorps Program Director, MCAH, MSHDA, and DHS will review and determine acceptable site agencies. Site selection will be based on five criteria: Organizational capacity; Clear delineation of the member's roles and responsibilities; How the community's 10 Year Plan benefits from the member's

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support; Whether or not the outcomes are realistic and achievable and; The effectiveness of the Site Supervisor's plan. Selected agencies will be responsible, with the assistance of the AmeriCorps Program Director, for recruiting their own member(s). Agencies can recruit from local Michigan Works, colleges/universities, volunteer pools, previous homeless individuals, and United Ways.

In order to accomplish the goals of the Campaign's AmeriCorps Program, MCAH is requesting 20 full-time AmeriCorps members. Nineteen AmeriCorps members will serve in local human service agencies throughout the state. The final member will be located at MCAH as a statewide Volunteer Coordinator. The agencies that receive members will designate a Site Supervisor. Site Supervisors will be responsible for the organization, coordination, and delivery of on-site trainings to AmeriCorps members. They will also provide oversight and supervision to AmeriCorps members and conduct regularly scheduled supervision time. Since a considerable amount of time is required to assist a homeless individual/family to transition out of homelessness, it is essential that positions be full-time. Members serving less than full-time would be unable to achieve the measures of success for this program.

c. Measurable Outputs and Outcomes

Homeless individuals and families struggle to find quality, affordable housing. In 2007, 76% of homeless families and 50% of homeless individuals in Michigan identified lack of affordable housing and issues related to housing factors as causes for their homelessness. By eliminating barriers to housing, the AmeriCorps program will allow homeless individuals and families in Michigan to navigate the system to obtain the resources they need to break their cycle of homelessness. This outcome directly relates to the compelling need of Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program by addressing the root cause of homelessness. We intend to track the impact of the Campaign's efforts through a number of outputs focusing on outreach and linking homeless persons to services.

Outputs:

Members will provide outreach to:

*400 persons statewide experiencing homelessness within 12 months

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*100 landlords statewide within 12 months

*60 local housing agencies statewide within 12 months

Members will provide access to support services for 70% of persons that have entered into Permanent Supportive Housing within 12 months.

*Members will link 60% of families served to housing resources within 12 months. For the year ending September, 2008, 4,066 families received housing resources.

*Members will link 60% of youth served that have aged out of foster care to housing resources within 12 months

*Members will provide follow up support to 100 formerly homeless individuals within 12 months

Intermediate outcome: 85% of 400 persons experiencing homelessness will have increased knowledge of how to gain access to support services. These persons will be assisted in assessing their barriers to housing and identify housing opportunities.

End outcome: Homeless individuals and families in Michigan will experience fewer barriers and increased access to affordable housing.

The system used to track this outcome and outputs will be Michigan Statewide Homeless Management Information System (MSHMIS). The MSHMIS, which won HUD's 2007 Outstanding HMIS Achievement Award, will be used to track and evaluate the progress towards achieving performance measures. It is a database that receives statewide data from community service agencies to provide an unduplicated count of homeless individuals, measure the patterns of homeless services used, measure the effectiveness of the services delivered, and improve the coordination of care for the homeless. The MSHMIS is being administered by MCAH.

d. Plan for Self-Assessment and Improvement

The AmeriCorps Program Director will be responsible for tracking and evaluating program goals. The utilization of MSHMIS at operating sites will be used to capture this data. The AmeriCorps Program Director and Site Supervisors will analyze quarterly reports generated from statewide data. The reports

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will assess progress toward meeting performance measures and will also assist with the individual member management. Data will show what outcomes members are not achieving, guiding the Program Director and Site Supervisor in assisting the AmeriCorps members in successfully attaining personal and program goals.

Periodic evaluations will be performed for both members and operating sites. Evaluations will be used by the AmeriCorps Program Director to identify strengths and weaknesses, resolve problems, and provide feedback to members and sites. MSHMIS data and evaluation reports will be shared quarterly with the MCAH, MSHDA and DHS.

e. Community Involvement

In 2006, MSHDA awarded planning grants to Continuum of Care bodies to develop local 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness. One hundred percent of Michigan's 83 counties have developed 10-Year Plans. These planning grants served as an incentive for communities to collaborate to address homelessness. Communities were also encouraged to build effective local partnerships and to maintain data on people who are homeless. Leadership at the highest levels of state government, champions at the local level including nonprofit service providers, shelters, local DHS and Community Mental Health (CMH) agencies, as well as local service providers, business leaders, and homeless and formerly homeless individuals collaborated and completed these community-wide 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness in their communities.

Geographically, the campaign is broken into eight regions which comprise all of the Continuum of Care bodies. The purpose of this is enable communication to flow from the state level down to the Continuums, and from the Continuums up to the state level. Each region has a Regional Council which is made up from representatives of each Continuum of Care in that region. These representatives come from partners and stakeholders of the Campaign such as Community Action Agencies, domestic violence shelters, emergency shelters, housing commissions, Salvation Army, Red Cross, CMH, and city and business leaders. Often, Continuums also involve homeless or formerly homeless individuals within

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their Continuum of Care; their input is also carried forward to the Regional Council. The Regional Councils have recently identified several needs that were missing within the Campaign. One of the most pressing needs is the dearth of individuals dedicated solely to working on the Campaign and the lack of volunteerism within communities. At the state level, MSHDA continuously tracked problems and concerns identified by communities.

The same communities which have identified their needs will play active roles and responsibilities within this grant. MSHDA will issue a statewide Request for Proposals (RFP) in which communities can apply to receive an AmeriCorps member. These same communities and agencies will also be engaged through Michigan's Summit on Ending Homelessness which brings all the 10-Year Plan communities together. The Campaign maintains a website that enhances communication, collaboration, and volunteerism through community engagement in Michigan. A newsletter, featuring guest writers is published bi-weekly on the website, "thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org." Also available are: a calendar of trainings offered by MSHDA, CSH and other partners in ending homelessness; tool kits that share best practice models; frequently asked questions with answers provided; and a chat room (in development). The Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program will become an established and integral part of the strategies communities use to achieve the goals of their 10-Year Plans. Stakeholder involvement in the next three years will continue to increase as AmeriCorps members respond to critical needs in service. The AmeriCorps Program will be spotlighted during the annual Michigan Summit on Ending Homelessness held on the campus of Michigan State University and at the annual Michigan Affordable Housing Conference. The achievement of outcomes by members will be reported through the Campaign website and newsletter. These are strategies that will be used to communicate with partners and stakeholders the achievements and success of the AmeriCorps Program.

f. Relationship to Other National and Community Service Programs

The Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps members will serve within a larger social

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movement to help bring about significant change to a neglected portion of society. Collaboration with other AmeriCorps state programs is a critical component of this planned activity. For example, a relationship will be developed with the 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative, another statewide AmeriCorps program. The 4-H Mentor Michigan Initiative focuses on the expansion and strengthening of mentoring programs in targeted Michigan communities. The 4-H Mentor Michigan project enlists AmeriCorps members statewide to serve community-based mentoring programs and to recruit 2000 potential volunteers to serve as mentors. Mentors will be an invaluable resource for Michigan's homeless youth, specifically those aging out of foster care. Mentors can provide much needed caring, guidance, and support to these under served youth. They can also help to strengthen links to the community. In addition to mobilizing resources for youth across the state, this collaboration will contribute to member development through opportunities for partnering at the local level. Members in both programs will provide a unique service that can be an invaluable resource to Michigan's homeless youth. AmeriCorps members will also collaborate with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). There are many relevant volunteer opportunities with local service agencies that provide an experience that is both helpful and meaningful. RSVP members can partner with service providers to assist in delivering meals to the elderly or disabled, work in food pantries or soup kitchens, or help out at local Salvation Armies. RSVP members can also be partnered with to assist with community Project Homeless Connects. PHC events are volunteer driven; often the individuals served by the event greatly outnumber the volunteers available to assist.

All members and the AmeriCorps Program Director will participate in MCSC events. For example, AmeriCorps members will have the opportunity to network with other members at the statewide Russ Mawby Signature Service project and the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service events, as well as the annual AmeriCorps Member Celebration. Members will have the opportunity to learn about other programs and resources, share ideas, and build future relationships.

g. Potential for Replication

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The design of the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program and its relationship to the innovative Campaign to End Homelessness will be documented and made available to outside entities that wish to replicate the program. Every state is battling homelessness. They can add value to their strategies by replicating our efforts. Note that Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness is known as an innovative, sound plan, having won national awards described later in this application. MSHDA and MCAH staff are continuously invited to present at national conferences throughout the year. All program systems, including member recruitment, support and supervision practices, program policies, service activities, and data collection systems will be documented. As program improvements are made, our guidelines and forms will be updated. This will allow for seamless program implementation in the event of staff turnover.

The State of Michigan's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the 10-Year Plans from communities are posted on the Campaign's website. These plans can be downloaded and used as models, or replicated by any organization in the nation that is researching 10-Year Plans. The Campaign website also provides research, data, and strategies for future programs working to end homelessness. This website will have a link for the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program which will post the grant proposal, and program design material for easy access for future replication. Combining the proposed Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Grant to Michigan's Campaign is unique and groundbreaking initiative that addresses the root causes of homelessness and attempts to resolve those issues.

Organizational Capability

a. Ability to Provide Sound Programmatic and Fiscal Oversight

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness was founded in 1991 as a statewide association of service providers, shelters, and non-profit housing developers dedicated to ending homelessness through education, technical assistance, collaboration, networking and advocacy. Over the past 17 years it has grown into an organization with a one million dollar operating budget providing support to more than

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500 organizations across Michigan.

MCAH's current activities include operating as the statewide administrator for Michigan's Homeless Management Information System (MHMIS), which is a required data information system for any organization receiving Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) funding. Funding for this program is substantial and the administration and control systems in place for this federal grant are great. MCAH recently underwent an audit with HUD as part of HUD's audit of MSHDA. While recommendations were made and have been implemented there were no significant findings against the MHMIS or MCAH.

The MHMIS program also requires substantial work with local communities and providers to ensure that correct information is being entered into the system and that the resulting data is analyzed and interpreted correctly. Support for communities comes in the form of extensive training and technical assistance resources (face to face as well as via webinar and podcast) and on-site reviews of processes and monitoring of stipends to ensure compliance with the MCAH's funding from HUD and MSHDA. An example of an end result from the MHMIS work is the 2007 Benchmarking Report, which provides demographic information by region and statewide on Michigan's homeless community (www.mihomeless.org).

Project Homeless Connect is another component program of MCAH. The PHC events are organized by local Continuums of Care (CoC) to not only raise awareness of homelessness issues but also to provide direct and immediate linkages to service. The events often include direct service providers and other members of the community who donate their time to assist individuals who are homeless with everything from free haircuts to moving into housing that day. MCAH provides the CoC's with small monetary grants but also with training, technical assistance, and reporting assistance to increase the likelihood of the PHC event's success. As part of the oversight of the projects, MCAH staff have attended events and CoC's are required to provide a written report that includes documentation of expenses for the event. The work of MCAH within these communities has resulted in 22 PHC events within the past

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four months with another 10 scheduled for the next three months.

Both of these primary activities illustrate MCAH's ability to provide oversight and administration to projects comparable to the one we are currently proposing. The MCAH and its staff have a history of working with local agencies to collaboratively provide and improve services to the homeless community while also holding the responsibility for monitoring the work and expenses of these different projects. Receiving an AmeriCorps grant would prove to be a boon for the Coalition. The increasingly dire economic condition of Michigan puts more people at risk for homelessness. Michigan's rates of foreclosures and unemployment remain some of the highest in the nation. The poor economic conditions also signify that organizations such as the Coalition and other agencies working with homeless populations are receiving less and less money to fund their endeavors. This is why an AmeriCorps grant is crucial to the mission of the Coalition. It will allow agencies across the entire state to receive additional help for their cause and the Coalition itself will be able to continue providing services such as Project Homeless Connect to the communities who may otherwise not have a high level of awareness about homelessness.

The Campaign is a state-wide endeavor and has the full support of not only MCAH, but also the Office of Supportive Housing and Homeless Initiatives at MSHDA. This division has split up the state into 8 geographic regions and houses four Homeless Assistance Specialists (HA Specialists) who oversee two regions a piece. Each one of the specialists pays frequent visits to the different counties of their region and maintains close relationships with agencies and local Continuum of Cares. The HA Specialists will also form a review committee with the Program Director in order to select the best agencies for operating sites.

In order to choose the best operating sites for the program, a set of requirements will be developed based on AmeriCorps Regulations 45 CFR § 2522.450 and 475. Applications will be scored by the review committee based on whether or not they have met the following conditions: sharing adequate detail of the history of their organization and their organizational capacity; outlining appropriate duties for the

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AmeriCorps member that will meaningfully contribute to the mission of the Campaign to End Homelessness; creating a realistic set of expectations and outcomes for the term of service; proving that the AmeriCorps member will neither replace nor displace paid workers at the site and; providing a feasible site supervision plan and an effective member recruitment plan.

As previously mentioned the MCAH has extensive experience in fiscal and programmatic compliance areas and we have had previous programmatic or funding relationships with a majority of organizations who will be able to compete to become service sites. Regardless of previous relationships, each site will be responsible for meeting similar fiscal and programmatic requirements based on national AmeriCorp requirements. The MCAH will utilize its already implemented systems for compliance to ensure that selected sites subscribe to mandated requirements.

In order to create successful projects it will be important to assist AmeriCorps members and their supervising sites with opportunities to connect with each other and with the Program Director, and MCAH and MSHDA staff. Immediately after applications are selected and sites have determined their AmeriCorps member, the Program Director will bring the full group together for an initial session to provide networking and connecting to develop and to also review expectations and requirements of the project.

2. Board of Directors, Administrators and Staff

The MCAH Board meets six times a year and represents a broad swath of community, geography and expertise. The function of the Board and the role that they will play in supporting the Campaign AmeriCorps program is that of policy and fiscal development and oversight. The Board is also responsible for assessing the success of a project based on the stated outcomes. Ultimately, the Board assists the organization to achieve its goals by setting policy that meets the expectations of the grant, maintaining financial accountability, and ensuring program success by reviewing measured outcomes with the Executive Director.

Lynn Nee, Interim Director will be the lead key staff supporting this program. Ms. Nee is a Licensed

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Master's of Social Work with a Concentration in Program Administration and Program Evaluation. She has extensive experience developing and providing program oversight as well as working with partners throughout Michigan and with MSHDA and DHS through her experience running a statewide association for runaway and homeless youth providers. She also has extensive experience in managing large programs and grants through her work as Manager of Purchased Foster Care for Michigan's Department of Human Services. Her role in this project is to provide leadership to the Program Director and Liaison. She also will assist the Program Director to ensure that the responsibilities for the project are carried out and to assist in mediating issues as they arise. She is also responsible for ensuring fiscal responsibility and answering to the Board about the program's outcomes.

Melissa Grant will be the Program Director for the AmeriCorps program and comes to the program with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. Ms. Grant's experience includes an internship at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies in Tbilisi, Georgia. There she researched the role of government in repatriating displaced ethnic minority groups and issues of available housing and resources. Ms. Grant was also the Secretary-General of Michigan State University's Model United Nations organization, which achieved non-profit status the year she directed the group. Ms. Grant will be responsible for the direct oversight of the project including handling the logistics of the RFP and site selection process as well as assisting the communities, if needed, in locating individuals to fill the AmeriCorps positions. Finally, Ms. Grant will have the responsibility of ensuring that each of the sites are meeting the requirements of the grant and that they are provided any support they need to ensure their compliance and success.

Another important individual within the MCAH staff structure is Christine Corbett. Ms. Corbett holds the position of HMIS trainer but also handles all of the MCAH's finances and will do so for this project as well.

Ms. Nee, Ms. Grant and Ms. Corbett are joined by talented individuals on the MSHDA staff. Paul Beiring is the Homeless Assistance Specialist for Michigan's Upper Peninsula and the East Central portion of the

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state. He also works on grant administration and implementation for the Campaign to End Homelessness. Mr. Beiring has a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work and has completed several internships, working variously with youth sex offenders, substance abuse counseling for ex-felons, and substance abuse counseling for homeless veterans. Before working at MSHDA, Mr. Beiring worked at the Listening Ear in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, providing case management services to youth aging out of the foster care system. He will be responsible for the integration of the AmeriCorps program into the Campaign.

Other crucial staff includes Jillian Fitzsimmons, a MSHDA intern with a Bachelor's of Science in Family Community Services and specializations in Health Promotion and Women, Gender, and Social Justice. Ms. Fitzsimmons contributes to special projects in the office of Rental Development and Homeless Initiatives, including the Campaign to End Homelessness. She will receive her Master's in Social Work, macro practice, in 2009. Ms. Fitzsimmons will assist with resource development and other duties related to the AmeriCorps program.

Also working closely with those at MSHDA and the Coalition is Pat Caruso, the Housing Specialist at the Department of Human Services with 24 years of tenure. Ms. Caruso will provide insight into the Operating site selection process as well as identifying resources that Liaisons can link their clients to.

3. Plan for Self-Assessment or Improvement

The Michigan Coalition has an ongoing internal assessment structure through its Board of Directors. As mentioned previously the Board is responsible for reviewing the programs and assessing their accomplishments and needed areas for improvement. The information that they use to guide their assessment includes annual A-133 audits, membership surveys, and stakeholder feedback. The Board also reviews the finances of the MCAH utilizing a Finance Committee that reviews reports monthly and then reports to the full Board. Recently, the organization successfully went through a HUD audit and implemented the suggestions recommended. Lastly, staff receives annual reviews that identify areas for growth and that include a development plan for the upcoming year, which can then be assessed at the

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next review or prior should it become necessary.

4. Plan for Effective Technical Assistance

For over 17 years, MCAH has been regarded as the state leader in providing technical assistance and training. Providing technical assistance for MSHMIS is a key part of MCAH's overall technical assistance. In 2004, MCAH was awarded HUD funds to begin administering MSHMIS and their program won the HUD national Best Practice award in the category of Program Management in 2007. MSHMIS is a pivotal part of the Campaign to End Homelessness and in turn, is linked to the duties of the AmeriCorps member, as selected Operating sites will undoubtedly engage in MSHMIS counts and data collection. MSHMIS allows the State of Michigan and agencies within Michigan to receive accurate data on homeless persons in order to best map out how to connect them with services and pinpoint the largest problem areas in the state.

MCAH also receives HUD funds to provide technical assistance to Continuum of Cares. These funds are designated to assess the progress of CoCs on their 10-Year Plans. MCAH educates CoCs on using outcome and process measures and provides training modules including the following information: understanding data; addressing performance problems; effectively communicating goals and progress to community stakeholders; publicizing growth and; using the Campaign to End Homelessness website to benchmark with others.

Providing technical assistance on such information will ultimately increase the number of CoCs that can adequately monitor performance and move to performance-based contracting. In turn, there will be improved housing and services outcomes for homeless persons in Michigan.

Additional training sessions are provided by MCAH on additional topics such as program assessment, agency administration, data collection and compilation methods and system administration among other things. The MCAH website maintains a cache of documents and tools related to conducting Point in Time (PIT) surveys, Self Sufficiency measures, privacy training documents and others. Tools related to data collection and surveying, such as Point in Time (PIT) Kits, Self Sufficiency matrices, privacy

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training documents and others are also posted to the MCAH website. Finally, MCAH maintains a limited podcast library, covering some crucial subjects not already included in documents. Entering data into HMIS, volunteer recruitment, and the PIT process are just a few of the podcasts that AmeriCorps members and Site Supervisors alike can utilize.

AmeriCorps program specific assistance will be a part of MCAH's work with partnering agencies. Michigan's branch of the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) provides training sessions and provides technical assistance for the entire state. Training sessions focus on a diverse range of topics such as advocacy, providing trauma-informed services to homeless individuals, supportive housing, asset management, working with mentally ill homeless, best practices for providing service and many other topics. Training and technical assistance sessions are held monthly. Staff from CSH will be recruited to provide training to AmeriCorps members and Site Supervisors during the initial two-day orientation and the mid-year training.

MSHDA will also be lending technical assistance and training help for the AmeriCorps program. HA Specialists will work closely with the Program Director and Site Supervisors to tailor the AmeriCorps program to work in rural and urban areas. Often, the Program Director and HA Specialists will conduct site visits jointly to make certain that each Operating site has all of the technical assistance they need. HA Specialists and others in the MSHDA Supportive Housing and Homeless Initiatives Division will present during the two-day orientation and mid-year training.

B. Sound Record of Accomplishment as an Organization

1. Volunteer Generation and Support

MCAH is a statewide advocate for homeless service providers and has fostered strong partnerships with agencies and communities in Michigan since its founding. This partnership allows for the recruitment of a diverse group of volunteers by seeking individuals from communities statewide to become part of the Campaign. An example of how this will expand the reach of the program into the community is through Project Homeless Connect events. Through PHC, community Continuum of Care bodies develop and

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host events dedicated to raising awareness about homelessness, building volunteerism and increasing social responsibility in their communities. Civic leaders, institutions of higher education, private citizens and members from the faith community all participate in PHC events and the events themselves would not be possible, were it not for the dedication of volunteers. Volunteers generated for a PHC event are as diverse as the communities in which the PHC event is held.

Volunteerism will also be bolstered with an AmeriCorps member acting as a Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of PHC and other statewide and community based projects.

2. Organizational and Community Leadership

The proposed AmeriCorps grant will build on the wide array of established relationships that MCAH has developed throughout the nonprofit community and with government agencies. MCAH is a state partner in the Michigan Homeless Assistance Advisory Board (MHAAB). Through their role on the board, the Coalition is responsible for maintaining communication between state agencies and CoCs, serving as the primary technical assistant for developing MSHMIS projects, and overseeing CoC budgets related to MSHMIS. MCAH is also the main lead for all PHC events across the state of Michigan. They help manage the volunteers and they distribute the grants for the projects. MCAH has given national presentations on PHC. However, MCAH's most important leadership role is their part in the Campaign to End Homelessness. Through their work with partner agencies, MCAH has received extensive 10-Year plans from 100% of Michigan's 83 counties. MCAH is primarily responsible for overseeing the progress of the plans in each county, with help from MSHDA and CSH. Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness has received two national awards, the A Home for Every American award and the Public Sector Award. The first award was given by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness in April 2007 and presented to Governor Jennifer Granholm. The second award, given to Governor Granholm on behalf of the state of Michigan, was awarded in August 2007 by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Michigan was the first state to receive this award.

3. Success in Securing Match Resources

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This grant was recently awarded program funding for one year and monetary match resources have been secured from MSHDA and service site fees. In-kind resources come from MCAH, CSH, MSHDA and service sites.

C. Success in Securing Community Support

1. Collaboration

Ending homelessness in Michigan requires both a change in the attitudes of people concerning homelessness as well as a change in capacities. The challenge is to create both the understanding of the process and the capacity at the local level to identify and expand the amount of cost effective housing and services options in rural and urban communities. Additionally, the appropriate systems must be in place as well to make housing easier to develop and operate. A solitary agency or initiative would be unable to spearhead such a vast undertaking. More importantly, there is no single cause behind homelessness nor does it only affect certain groups of people. MCAH's partnerships allow them to tackle the myriad causes of homelessness and target all vulnerable populations from youth to veterans. Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness is one example of a joint initiative with MSHDA, the Department of Community Health (DCH), DHS, the Department of Corrections (DOC), CSH and other nonprofits across Michigan. Collaboration with these entities plays a critical role in the reach of services offered by the Campaign. For example, the Department of Corrections partners with MSHDA and DHS on the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) which increases the success of prisoners transitioning from prison to the community by creating a safety net of housing and support services. Additionally, the Department of Community Health and MSHDA collaborate to assist people who are homeless to successfully apply for Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Income for the first time through the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Initiative. AmeriCorps members will become a part of these collaborations through their site's participation with these various programs.

2. Local Financial and In-Kind Contributions

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The MCAH has grown and diversified its funding continuously for the past three years. The biggest funding source supporting the organization is still the HMIs contracts but there has been continued expansion from other sources as well. Examples of the diversification and expansion include: A contribution increase of approximately 4000% from FY06-07 to FY07-08 with an possibility of doubling that for the current fiscal year; A \$95,00 grant from MSHDA to help support PHC events around the state; A \$5,000 grant from Comerica to help implement Homeless Awareness Week in Michigan and; An AdWords award from Google that purchased \$10,000 worth of services to expand MCAH's online marketing research.

As the MCAH continues to expand its presence through the above activities, as well as continuing to pursue mission related funding, it expects to continue its diversification and growth.

3. Wide Range of Community Stakeholders

The MCAH has a large and ever-growing list of stakeholders including members, service organizations utilizing HMIS, local Continuums of Care, funders, and project partners. It is these stakeholders who have improved the quality of the MCAH work and the impact of that work over time. For example, service providers working with youth brought their expertise to the table to help build an HMIS assessment tool that could be used for young people. The MCAH was subsequently able to provide that system to the Michigan DHS for their use, increasing and strengthening MCAH's relationship with DHS. Another example is the partnership of the MCAH, MSHDA, and CSH. As mutual stakeholders, this group created the first homeless summit by working collaboratively to handle the planning and logistics of location, registration, workshop development, etc. This created an opportunity where a large number of people in the field of homelessness were able to come together and benefit from all of the stakeholders as well as provide their own input to the work of these three partner organizations.

Over time, the MCAH has done an excellent job in working and partnering with its stakeholders in a way that is mutually beneficial for both group and continues to expand the quantity of their outreach and the quality of their work.

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4. Special Circumstances

Not applicable.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

a. Corporation Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

The cost per member service year for the first year of this proposal is \$12,974, well under the maximum cost per member service year. Several variables justify this cost per MSY, including Michigan's current economic conditions, necessary travel costs, and the impact this program will have across our large state.

Michigan currently has the worst economy in the nation, as evidenced by the highest home foreclosure rate (two and one half times the national rate) and a rising unemployment rate (currently 9.3%) that is nearly 3% higher than the national average. Not only has this exacerbated the identified need that this program addresses, but it also impacts how the program is financially structured. This program has set a goal to directly impact 400 or more individuals directly affected by Michigan's economic distress.

Positive changes in individual lives have the potential to halt or at least slow the downward spiral of negative economic factors that we are experiencing. This proposal represents a reasonable investment with the potential for maximum benefit across a wide geographic region.

b. Diverse non-federal support

Nonprofit and governmental agencies are experiencing budgetary struggles as a result of the current economic downturn. As a result, the Campaign is cognizant of the capacity of member sites to contribute match funds. Despite these challenges, we will match CNCS costs at a ratio of 46% to 54%, demonstrating that we have leveraged diverse non-federal in excess of the CNCS funding request.

Each member site will be asked to contribute a \$3,000 host site fee in order to host an AmeriCorps member, for a projected total of \$60,000 in cash match. If it is determined that payment of this fee would cause financial hardship for an organization that is otherwise able to train, supervise, and support a member, the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program will consider waiving the

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fee. To offset these waivers and other costs, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority has committed up to \$40,000 in additional funds (cash). To supplement these cash contributions and to strengthen programming, extensive in-kind support has been pledged: MSHDA has committed \$17,696; the host sites will provide \$48,119 (above the cash match); and Michigan's Coalition Against Homelessness will provide \$17,000.

As Michigan's economy begins to improve the cash contributions requirements for site agencies will increase, allowing us to further decrease our reliance on federal funding over time.

c. Decreased Reliance on Federal Support

N/A

2. Budget Adequacy

The budget that is proposed for the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program is reasonable and commits a greater percentage of match (54%) funding, than is being requested in grant funds (46%). The Program Director, site supervisors, and the 20 AmeriCorps members are the lifeblood of this program. As described earlier in this application, they will provide vitally needed support to organizations who are working to end homelessness throughout Michigan. As such, it is appropriate that the budget includes \$285,346, approximately 50% of the total budget, for staffing and member-related costs. Because of its belief in the importance of the Michigan Campaign to End Homelessness AmeriCorps Program, the grantee is providing a 35% match to the Member Costs detailed in the budget.

In order to fully serve the state of Michigan, this budget also includes necessary and sufficient travel costs. The vast geographic size of Michigan (55,527 square miles) justifies the budgeted cost of travel. To provide some perspective on Michigan's size, it is nearly 5 times as large as the state of Maryland (10,455 square miles). The service areas for individual members who serve more than one county may approach or even exceed the size of other whole states, such as Rhode Island (1,214 square miles).

These areas of financial investment, in addition to resources needed to prepare members for effective

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community service activities and to provide sufficient supervision, fully warrant this budget request.

3. Evaluation Summary or Plan

Our evaluation plan for 2009-2010 focuses on member recruitment. The Program Director will be responsible for conducting the evaluation process. The process will begin with polling other AmeriCorps programs about their recruitment strategies and successes. Members will also be surveyed in order to discover how they found out about the position. Site Supervisors will be interviewed to determine what methods for recruitment were most successful. The information gathered by the Program Director will be utilized to improve current recruitment practices.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

N/A

Amendment Justification

N/A

Clarification Summary

Budget Clarifications

Section I

B: Personnel Fringe Benefits

A line item for the employer contribution to the Program Director's Health Savings Account (HSA) has been added. This item should have been included in prior budgets but was overlooked.

C: Staff Travel

Calculations have been added to the line item per the request of CNCS.

G: Training

The section on staff and member training has been clarified and a more detailed calculation has been included in the budget.

H: Evaluation

Evaluation costs have been reviewed and they do not include daily or weekly gathering of data.

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9-MAY-11 UPDATES

HMIS is used to collect client data as well as evaluate program progress toward performance measures. However, the section in the budget on HMIS has been moved to Section I: I, Other Program Operating Costs

E: Supplies

Office space, computer, phone and internet costs for members and Program Director have been moved to Section I: I, Other Program Operating Costs.

I: Other Program Operating Costs

Criminal history checks will be conducted for all members in the program as well as staff who receive a salary from the grant. Members will complete the criminal background check process before starting service. Program funds have been designated to cover all individuals requiring a criminal history check.

9-MAY-11 UPDATES

Criminal history checks are included for the four MCAH staff that will be working with the AmeriCorps program and handling aspects of the grant. The section of the budget dealing with criminal history checks has been updated to show that the grantee share will pay for the staff portion of the checks and that CNCS funds will only be spent on members. These additional staff members are included in the budget because they are mentioned in the narrative as part of the grant overhead.

Section III

Source of Funds:

Source of funds and the corresponding amounts have been included in the budget.

9-MAY-11 UPDATE

The match amounts have been corrected and should correspond with one another.

Narrative Clarifications

1. Members will increase the capacity of agencies serving the homeless population by providing services to persons experiencing homelessness that may not otherwise be served by the agency.

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2. The entirety of the Performance Measure for the program has been modified and included in the Performance Measure section of the grant.

3. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used by our AmeriCorps members is designed to track service and demographic information of the clients being served. When members perform outreach to homeless or at-risk individuals or connect them with other services, they then enter this data into HMIS. This information is gathered on a quarterly basis to ensure reasonable progress is being made toward the goals of the program.

4-6. The entirety of the Performance Measure for the program has been modified. It is our hope that this new PM will accurately reflect the service being conducted by our members while also showing measurable positive outcomes.

7. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a HUD-funded, nationwide system used by virtually all Michigan agencies serving homeless and at-risk populations. When a client comes to an agency to receive services, their personal, demographic and experience (i.e. actually homeless, at-risk, whether or not they are a victim of domestic violence) information is entered into the HMIS system. The goal of the system is to create an accurate picture of the extent and nature of homelessness in the state of Michigan. Data put into HMIS allows service providers to give accurate information about services a client may need or coordinate case management efforts between agencies. One of the most important aspects of this system is its ability to collect important data while still maintaining the privacy of clients. Agencies can elect to share or not share data with one another, but all host agencies participating with the AmeriCorps program agree to allow the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH) access to the data in order to track progress on the program's Performance Measures.

Currently, a pre- and post-intake survey measuring an increase in knowledge is not included within the HMIS system. However, such surveys will be developed by the program and given to members so that they may open and close the intake process with the appropriate questions. Once answers have been obtained, members will record the results in OnCorps.

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Continuation Changes

A. Applicant Info

No changes.

B. Narrative

Rationale and Approach:

B. Description of Member Activities and Roles

Based on feedback received from host sites, we introduced ten half-time member slots to our program last year. In spite of receiving multiple requests for these slots in the past, few sites requested half-time members this year. Based on this, we're going to modify the slots again, this time reducing our half-time slots to six. We still think half-time slots are a good fit for our program, since we continue to have many members who are single parents, students or with other part-time employment. In addition, we've found that half-time slots are ideal for new host sites since it allows them to have the experience of hosting an AmeriCorps member without the responsibility and potential issues of a full-time member.

C. Measureable Outputs and Outcomes

Output:

Members will provide outreach to 875 persons statewide that are experiencing homelessness or that are at-risk for homelessness.

Our output is currently at 800 but based on the HMIS data we've collected for the 2009-2010 program year, we feel comfortable raising the output number, since our members far exceeded our goal of 800.

However, we also want to ensure that our output number is realistic.

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Output:

500 volunteers will be recruited across the state of Michigan in order to assist in providing services for homeless individuals and families.

The current program output is 475. Last year, we had several members who focused solely on volunteer recruitment and we ended up with over 1000 volunteers recruited. Anticipating that we will not always have more than one member working on volunteer recruitment, we decided to raise our output only by a modest amount.

Organizational Capability

No changes.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

The MSY for the 2011-2012 year is \$12,602, well below the suggested amount of \$13,000. The reason why our MSY is lower than last year was because we streamlined certain areas of the budget related to members, such as member travel. We also eliminated costs for the Affordable Housing Conference (AHC) and Homeless Summit because while they were great opportunities for members, we were no longer able to secure a reduced rate for members to attend the AHC. As for the Homeless Summit, the dates now fall in between program years and logistically, it is difficult for us to get members to attend.

Our match percentage for the 2011-2012 program year will be 47%, which is above the requested amount of 24%.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

For the 2010-2011 program year, we will be modifying the member Mid Year Trainings based on

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feedback received from 2009-2010 members. Instead of having a one day event in Lansing, our program is going to partner with the Michigan Foreclosure Corps Program and hold regional mid year trainings with members from both programs. There are two reasons why we're doing this. First, members often cited that they did not feel like they had many opportunities to meet or network with other AmeriCorps members. This will give them a new opportunity to meet members from an AmeriCorps program very closely linked with our own. Second, we know that in many areas of the state, foreclosures and homelessness go hand in hand. It never hurts for our members to become better educated about foreclosures and the foreclosure process, especially if they are receiving clients who need foreclosure advice.

We are also aware that it is important to bring our own group of members together again before the program ends. In August 2011, we are planning on doing an end of the year celebration for members in Lansing to compensate for the fact we're not doing a group mid year training. During the August meeting, we'll focus on "Life After AmeriCorps," by hosting a resume writing workshop, a Q & A panel with former AmeriCorps members, a training on how to most effectively use the education award as well as some team building activities. Members will also have an opportunity to share what they've accomplished during the year of service. At the end of the year, we'll assess the changes we've made and if they are well-received by the members, they will become a regular part of the program. If not, we'll revert to the model we've used with previous programs.

Amendment Justification

No changes.

Clarification Information

No changes.

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Continuation Changes:

1. Enrollment

At the moment, we have not enrolled members in all of our slots. Our program has two half-time slots that have not yet been filled, but have a start date of January 29, 2011. We are confident that we will fill the empty positions, as enrollment has never been an issue for our program in the past.

2. Retention

As in previous programs years, we lost the majority of our members to regular, paid employment either with their agency or elsewhere. When the program began, we strongly cautioned our host sites against hiring on their members before their term of service ended, but did not include this in our host site agreement. Because it continued to happen, we have now amended our host site agreement to say that if they hire on a member before the term is complete, they will forfeit their host site match fee and that they may not be eligible for members for the next program year. We are hoping that this will make a difference in the amount of members we lose. Another change we enacted this year was to do webinars for host sites during the recruitment process to help them understand the program and recruit for retention. We also had webinars for members after they began their service and before the member orientation. This allowed us to provide clarity about AmeriCorps, program policies and expectations. Additionally, we made it mandatory for site supervisors to attend our second day of member orientation to ensure that both members and supervisors received identical information about the program. We also asked members and site supervisors to craft work plans for the service year together and create a list of goals for the members to attain.

So far, in our current program year, we haven't lost any of our members and remain at 100 percent retention. This is the first program year where we haven't lost a member (or several) within the first few

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months of service. I think the measures we've put in place for our program have a lot to do with our success thus far.

C. Performance Measures

Changes to our program's performance measures have been included under the Measureable Outputs and Outcomes section of the continuation.

Performance Measures

SAA Characteristics

- AmeriCorps Member Population - None Geographic Focus - Rural
 Geographic Focus - Urban Encore Program

Priority Areas

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education
<i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Futures
<i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship
<i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans and Military Families
<i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity
<i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<i>Selected for National Measure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Grand Total of all MSYs entered for all Priority Areas 20

Service Categories

Homeless Services Primary Secondary

Housing Support

Service Category: Homeless Services

Measure Category: Not Applicable

Strategy to Achieve Results

Briefly describe how you will achieve this result (Max 4,000 chars.)

Members will increase the capacity at their host agencies by providing outreach and other services to homeless individuals that may not otherwise be served. The services that members provide will increase client knowledge and lead to access of supportive services.

Results

Result: Output

Members will increase capacity at their agencies by providing outreach and services to at least 800 persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. These 800 individuals will be ones that otherwise would not be able to receive information or services.

Indicator: Eight hundred Homeless and at-risk individuals receiving information and services.

Target: The homeless or at-risk population in Michigan that would not be able to receive information or services without the assistance of AmeriCorps members.

Target Value: 800

Instruments: HMIS intake forms.

PM Statement: Twenty-two of 23 AmeriCorps members will provide outreach and services to at least 800 homeless or at-risk individuals.

Result: Output

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Six hundred and forty homeless and at-risk persons (80% of 800) will increase their knowledge of available support services by 50 percent. This will be measured through a pre- and post-intake survey.

Indicator: Six hundred and forty homeless and at-risk individuals increasing their knowledge of

Target: Homeless and at-risk populations receiving information from AmeriCorps members.

Target Value: 80%

Instruments: HMIS intake forms, pre- and post-survey results recorded in OnCorps.

PM Statement: Twenty-two AmeriCorps members, along with their host sites, will assist a total of 640 homeless and at-risk persons in assessing their barriers to housing and increasing their knowledge of available support services.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Intermediate Outcome

available services.

Result: End Outcome

Of 640 homeless and at-risk individuals increasing their knowledge and accessing services, 32 will transition to permanent housing within 18 months.

Indicator: Thirty-two homeless and at-risk individuals receiving services moving into permanent

Target: Homeless and at-risk populations receiving information from AmeriCorps members and transitioning into permanent housing.

Target Value: 32

Instruments: HMIS exit surveys.

PM Statement: As a result of 640 homeless and at-risk individuals increasing their knowledge and accessing services, 32 will be permanently housed within 18 months.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: End Outcome
housing.

Required Documents

Document Name

Status

Evaluation

Not Applicable

Labor Union Concurrence

Not Applicable