AmeriCorps Program Management & Design

A presentation for AmeriCorps grant applicants

Webinar #5 of 5

AmeriCorps State & National Grants

★ Include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions and funds are directly tied to a specific number of members

★ Are solely for program expenses and are not for general organizational expenses

★ Provide _partial_ funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs.

★ Grant recipients must contribute cash or in-kind match funding to support the project

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Are you ready for AmeriCorps?

★ Experience managing federal funds

★ Organizational capability

★ Staff skilled in training, supervision and oversight

★ Community partners

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Responsibilities and Requirements

The grantee must:

★ employ strong fiscal and program management systems

★ monitor financial management, program performance and member activities

★ train and provide technical assistance to staff and members

★ ensure the recruitment, orientation and training of members

★ track and ensure the accuracy of member hours and activities

★ track progress toward meeting approved performance measures

★ act as liaison between CNCS or the Commission and other components of your program

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Program Management Structure

An AmeriCorps grant generally operates on three levels:

1. **<u>Grantee</u> (Parent organization)**

2. **<u>Operating Sites</u> (at least 1 per state)**

3. **<u>Service Locations</u> (where members serve)**

The grantee has overall legal, administrative, and fiscal responsibility for the entire scope of the program, even if the funds are sub-granted.

Program Management Structure

Where and how AmeriCorps members are placed at service locations will vary.

A Few Things to Consider:

★ Where will the service activities take place?

★ Who are your community and service partners?

★ What can your partners provide?

★ What is their capacity?

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Program Management Structure

★ **Centralized**: grantee handles all administrative functions and assigns members; and doesn't sub-grant funds

★ **Decentralized**: grantee sub-grants the funds, and the sub-grantee is responsible for member training, payroll and other administrative functions.

★ **Combination:** shared responsibilities

Grantee is ultimately responsible

Theory of Change

★ **PROBLEM:** The identified community need (supported by data/research)
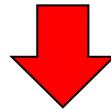
★ **INTERVENTION:** The activities of members and community volunteers supported by AmeriCorps members

★ **EVIDENCE:** Data/research that supports the likelihood that a certain set of actions (the intervention) will lead to the intended outcome

★ **OUTCOME:** The change that occurs because of the intervention

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Documenting the Need

Data should answer these questions:

★ **Scope of problem:** Who and how many are directly affected by the problem? How severe is the problem?

★ **Relevance of problem:** What makes this a compelling problem? Is it likely to become worse?

★ **Causes of problem:** Why does the problem exist? How is it perpetuated?

Evidence Basis

The evidence-basis for an intervention

★ documents why you think your intervention (using AmeriCorps members and community volunteers) will achieve the intended outcome

★ supports the use of a particular design, frequency, intensity and duration of intervention that is optimal

Evidence Basis (cont.)

Evidence for the intervention (member service activities) could be supported by:

★ Documented success,

★ research studies,

★ performance data, or

★ a successful program model being replicated that is making significant community impact.

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL&
COMMUNITY
SERVICE ★★★

Considerations

Both the data that documents the need and the evidence for the intervention should be:

- ★ Relevant
- ★ Compelling
- ★ Up-to-date
- ★ From a reliable source

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Outcomes

The change that occurs due to the intervention.
Could result in improved:

★ Attitude

★ Knowledge

★ Behavior

★ Condition
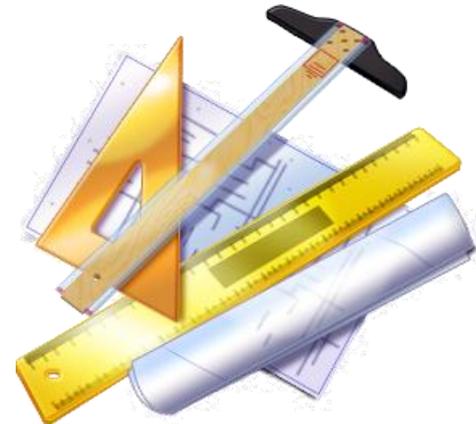
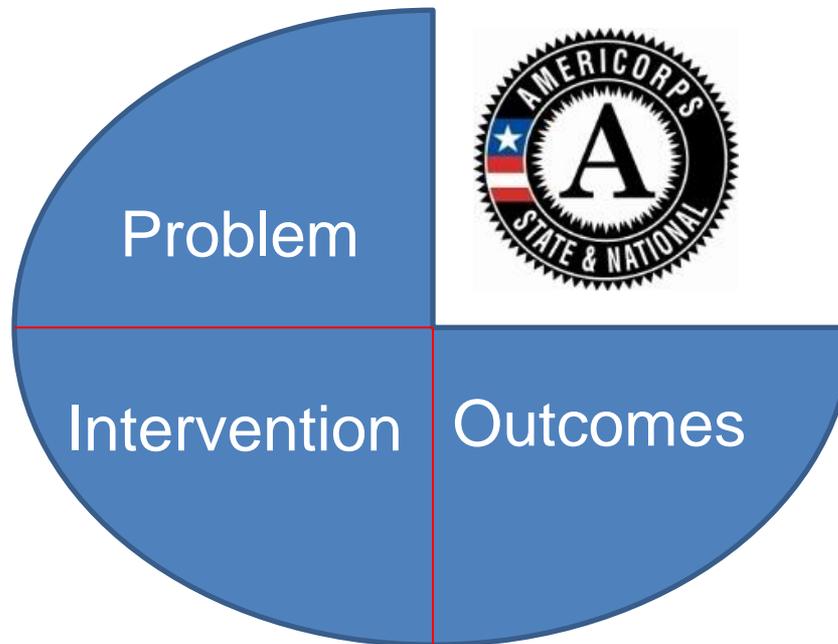Outcomes must be measurable

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Completing Your Program Design

Your program design is not complete until you incorporate additional AmeriCorps components

AmeriCorps Components

★ AmeriCorps members as a highly effective means to solving the problem

★ Plans to recruit, train, and supervise AmeriCorps members

★ Design a powerful member service experience

★ Engage community volunteers

★ AmeriCorps Identity

AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Instructions can be found here:
http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=98

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE ★★★

Additional Resources

Webinar Series:

Intro to AmeriCorps State and National

Key AmeriCorps Terms and Concepts

Intro to AmeriCorps Members

Categories of AmeriCorps Grants

AmeriCorps Program Management and Design

Applicant Resources available online: coming soon!

Live Topical Calls:

AmeriCorps State & National hosts Q&A calls with potential applicants. You can find the call schedule here: http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=98

AmeriCorps
State and National

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE ★★★

Evaluation

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACwebinarEval

If you have Questions

AmeriCorpsGrants@cns.gov

or 202.606.7508

Getting Things Done for America