

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): 01/20/11	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE:	STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:														
2b. APPLICATION ID: 11ND125596	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY: 01/20/11	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER: 10NDHDC004														
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION																
LEGAL NAME: National Association for Public Interest Law d/b/a Equal Justice Works DUNS NUMBER: 198566192	NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Cole McMahon TELEPHONE NUMBER: (202) 466-3686 120 FAX NUMBER: INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: cmcmahon@equaljusticeworks.org															
ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 1730 M St NW Ste 1010 Washington DC 20036 - 4511 County: District of Columbia																
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 521469738	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. National Non Profit 7b. National Non-Profit (Multi-State)															
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 National	11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Equal Justice Works Recovery Program 11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): Akron/Canton, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Houston, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Richmond, Kentucky; Seattle, Washington; Tolec																
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 08/01/11 END DATE: 09/30/12	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text" value="DC 001"/> b.Program <input type="text"/>															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: Year #: <input type="text" value="2"/>	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;">\$ 1,506,886.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. APPLICANT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,237,356.00</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;">\$ 2,744,242.00</td> </tr> </table>	a. FEDERAL	\$ 1,506,886.00	b. APPLICANT	\$ 1,237,356.00	c. STATE	\$ 0.00	d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00	e. OTHER	\$ 0.00	f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 2,744,242.00	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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b. APPLICANT	\$ 1,237,356.00															
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f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00															
g. TOTAL	\$ 2,744,242.00															
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: David Stern	b. TITLE: Executive Director	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (202) 466-3686 118														
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:		e. DATE SIGNED: 04/29/11														

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Executive Summary

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps is the national AmeriCorps program for lawyers and law students. In this extension of an ARRA grant, AmeriCorps members stop unlawful foreclosures, create medical-legal partnerships and address legal barriers to housing for people who are homeless. Through representation and volunteer generation, our mission is to expand legal services to people in need and energize the next generation of lawyers committed to public service.

Rationale and Approach

Equal Justice Works is the largest provider in the country of national service opportunities for law students and lawyers. While the value of national service is widely recognized, legal services are not well understood. For people living in poverty, legal representation can mean the difference between homelessness and shelter; it can protect children from abuse; it can stop domestic violence. Indeed, in some dire circumstances, access to legal services can even be the difference between life and death.

To put it simply, many crises confronted by people in poor communities require lawyers to resolve but--without support from legal services---they will not have access to those lawyers.

Equal Justice Works engages lawyers and law students as AmeriCorps members who provide low-income people access to justice. The spectrum of services provided by our AmeriCorps members helps prevent foreclosures, eliminate legal barriers to housing, protects victims of abuse, eviction, wrongful termination, and a myriad of other issues.

Last year, AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and Summer Corps members served 40,000 people. In the first quarter of a new Recovery program, AmeriCorps Fellows have helped eleven homeless people secure housing, and have save 92 homes from foreclosure.

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Building on this impressive beginning and the clear impact legal service can immediately render to distressed communities, Equal Justice Works proposes a new AmeriCorps*National program, expanding on the successes of our AmeriCorps Recovery Fellowships. We propose:

20 AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows to provide legal help to prevent poor people from losing their homes to foreclosure.

10 AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows to assist homeless veterans secure permanent housing.

10 AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows to address housing and benefits issues for low-income families.

360 Education Award Only law student members will serve 20,000 people in dire need.

Equal Justice Works has placed over 1,000 lawyers and 2,000 law students with hundreds of legal service organizations in the past 23 years.

The hundreds of applications we receive annually provide us an on-going real-time assessment of unmet legal needs throughout the country. In the past two years, foreclosure prevention and assistance for homeless veterans---those areas which we propose to serve with AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows---have emerged as urgent unmet legal needs.

Statement of Need: the Foreclosure Crisis.

Request: 20 Full time AmeriCorps members.

Neighborhoods around the nation are faced with an economic disaster as devastating as any storm. A

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record 3 million homes received foreclosure notices in 2009, according to the National Association of Realtors, with an equal number expected this year. RealtyTrac.com reports that one in every 417 homes in the United States received a foreclosure filing in November 2009.

TIME Magazine reports that the worst is yet to come:

"The decimated housing market may get considerably worse before it gets better, according to housing-industry professionals, who expect foreclosures and home-price declines to continue pressuring the sector through at least the first half of 2010. All of this is expected to trigger another wave of potential home foreclosures in 2010 and could cause home prices to fall another 5 percent to 10 percent before the market stabilizes, according to analysts and economists." (Still Hunting for the Bottom in Housing, January 7, 2010.)

In many ways, the cards are stacked against homeowners. The National Consumer Law Center reports that many large banks and other mortgage servicers have decided it's cheaper to foreclose than to offer more affordable loan terms. State laws provide few protections: In 30 states and the District of Columbia, mortgage holders can bypass the courts and move directly to take away and auction off homes. In 33 states and the District of Columbia, there is no requirement that homeowners be served personally with a foreclosure notice or legal documents. In almost every state, mortgage holders can move directly to foreclosure without discussing ways to avoid loss of the home with homeowners, such as through modification of the terms of the loan.

A study conducted by the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law concluded, "The nation's massive foreclosure crisis is also, at its heart, a legal crisis. Many homeowners are losing their homes because they lack the ability to navigate the landscape of our lending laws. The Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the major federal source of funding for civil representation for the

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poor, reports that nonprofit legal services programs everywhere are 'besieged with requests for foreclosure assistance.' Too few people are able to obtain qualified legal guidance. Foreclosures may be inevitable for many individuals, but not for all. Legal representation can help many homeowners save their homes and, more broadly, help to stabilize neighborhoods at risk.

"Many people have legitimate legal defenses that can halt foreclosure actions, or help open the door to alternative solutions, such as mortgage refinancing. But few homeowners and tenants are aware of their legal defenses. Among other important interventions, lawyers can identify violations of state and federal laws, enforce consumer protection laws, and advance defenses that can either inspire lenders to agree on sustainable loan terms, or slow foreclosure proceedings enough to create time in which to obtain alternative housing."

Equal Justice Works partnered with the Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance to select host organizations with expertise in the hardest hit areas of the country:

Akron/Canton, Ohio: Community Legal Aid Services

Atlanta, Georgia: Atlanta Legal Aid

Cincinnati, Ohio: Pro Seniors and Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati

Columbus, Ohio: Legal Aid Society of Columbus

Detroit, Michigan: Legal Aid and Defender Association

Houston, Texas: Lone Star Legal Aid

Indianapolis, Indiana: Indiana Legal Services

Los Angeles and Orange County, California: Asian Pacific American Legal Services, Public Counsel, Public Law Center

Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee

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Richmond, Kentucky: Appalachian Research and Defense Fund

Seattle, Washington: Northwest Justice Project

Toledo, Ohio: Advocates for Basic Legal Equality

Washington, DC: Legal Aid Society of DC

Statement of Need: Veterans in Crisis.

Request: 10 full-time AmeriCorps members.

As of December 31, 2009, more than 1.7 million Americans have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. A 2008 RAND study revealed that over 300,000 servicemen and women suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and another 320,000 from Traumatic Brain Injury. Unfortunately, only about half have sought help for their condition. Many are entering the criminal justice system, and others will end up on the streets.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports, "About one-third of the adult homeless population has served their country in the Armed Services. Current population estimates suggest that about 131,000 Veterans (male and female) are homeless on any given night and perhaps twice as many experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year. Right now, the number of homeless male and female Vietnam era Veterans is greater than the number of service persons who died during that war. Desert Storm veterans are also appearing in the homeless population."

In November 2009, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said, "President Obama and I are personally committed to ending homelessness among veterans within the next five years. No one who has served this nation as veterans have should ever be living on the streets."

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National and local data speak of the depth of the crisis. The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports:

In 2008, veterans made up 11 percent of the overall population, but 26 percent of the homeless population. The rate of homelessness for veterans is more than twice that of the general population.

Nearly 500,000 veterans are at risk of homelessness (paying at least 50 percent of their income on rent).

In California, Louisiana and Washington, DC, (locations of proposed sites for AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows), over 1 percent of the total veteran population is homeless. An astonishing 7.5 percent of the veterans living in the nation's capital do not have shelter.

Homelessness is a legal problem with legal solutions. The VA and the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness and Poverty have identified these legal barriers:

- 1) Child support. Many homeless veterans find that their ability to move into permanent housing is compromised by old fines, debts and other legal judgments. Many of these obligations were incurred while the veteran was homeless, in a phase of active addiction, or otherwise untreated for a serious mental illness. The VA ranks legal assistance for child support as the second most pressing unmet need.
- 2) Incarceration and bench warrants. VA Homeless Services staff reports that it is common for homeless veterans to be incarcerated for misdemeanor warrants stemming from child support arrears, or failure to appear in court for nuisance violations. Approximately half of all those treated in VA specialized homeless programs have been convicted of felony or misdemeanor offenses requiring them to spend

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time either in prison or on probation.

Child support payments seem like a minor obstacle compared to substance abuse and employment, but these issues are linked. The typical incarcerated parent owes \$20,000 in child support when released from prison, with payment schedules averaging \$225 to \$300 per month. Minimum wage workers have little hope of making these payments while supporting themselves. As child support payments are deducted automatically from paychecks, workers often quit once their pay is garnished, returning to the underground economy to avoid child support. For ex-offenders, participation in the underground economy often means a return to illegal activity. Hence, legal assistance around the issue of child support is one key to helping Veterans meet their obligations to society, while still having the means to avoid relapsing to homelessness.

Identification of need

As the nation's largest provider of public interest legal opportunities, Equal Justice Works has placed over 1,000 lawyers and 2,000 law students with hundreds of legal service organizations in the past 23 years. Equal Justice Works host sites identify and address needs at the local level well before the issues receive national attention. In 1989, Atlanta Legal Aid created the Home Defense Program to prevent homeowners from losing their homes to fraudulent and abusive mortgage schemes. Also in 1989, San Diego started the first Homeless Court Program in the nation at Stand Down, the three day tent city for homeless veterans.

To focus on areas of the country with the greatest needs, Equal Justice Works partners with organizations with specific expertise. The Veterans Administration's Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Group (CHALENG) research identifies urban areas with

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high numbers of homeless veterans. In California, for example, there are 49,724 homeless veterans and supportive housing beds available for only 1,875 people. For our Veterans Initiative, Equal Justice Works is working with the ABA's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty to finalize a list of host organizations based on local need and capacity. Among the locations under consideration are: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Washington, DC, and San Diego.

Activities and Member Roles: Foreclosure Initiative

Twenty AmeriCorps Legal Fellows will address the needs of homeowners facing foreclosure and protect low-income individuals from mortgage fraud and real estate scams through direct services to clients, negotiations with lenders, review of loan files, initiation of lawsuits, and assistance with alternatives to foreclosure. These Fellows will work in partnership with housing counselors, governmental agencies and other legal service providers to assist homeowners who are in danger of foreclosure, including those who have not yet missed a payment but know they will, and those who have already received a notice of default. A typical AmeriCorps Fellow will spend her time as follows:

- a) Conducting clinics and community outreach to assist 200 homeowners who are facing or are at-risk of foreclosure and/or real estate fraud (20 percent);
- b) Recruiting and training 15 pro bono attorneys, law students and other volunteers to assist homeowners facing foreclosure and victims of real estate fraud (5 percent);
- c) Providing case management and direct representation related to foreclosure and real estate fraud prevention to 35 homeowners (70 percent); and
- d) Other activities including educating clients, volunteers and the community on foreclosure issues and effective solutions, working with community partners to develop effective strategies to assist homeowners facing foreclosure (5 percent).

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One case handled by AmeriCorps Recovery Fellow Anna Mackowiak illustrates the service these Fellows will provide:

In late November 2009, Atlanta Legal Aid received a call from Ms. B and her son, who stated that their home had been foreclosed on and that an eviction action had been filed against them. Ms. B is a 65-year old African American widow who has resided in her home in DeKalb County, Georgia, since she and her husband purchased the home in 1977. Ms. B is blind and had to have both legs amputated in 2006. She has been living on a fixed income of Social Security disability payments since 1997.

In June 2005 Countrywide extended a \$37,599 mortgage loan to Ms. B. Prior to this transaction, Ms. B had only about two years left to pay off the original loan. In July 2006, Countrywide took more of the equity out of Ms. B's home by flipping her into yet another mortgage loan, this one in the amount of \$75,000. Countrywide's loan application showed her monthly income as \$1,204. Despite this fact, Countrywide extended her a loan with a total monthly payment of \$662, or 55 percent of her monthly income. Ms. B's home was valued at \$131,000 at the time of the transaction, leaving a substantial equity cushion. This predatory and abusive lending practice is known as asset-based lending. Unfortunately, it is common for lenders to recoup assets through foreclosure and resale of homes.

Anna investigated the case, sent a demand letter, and negotiated with opposing counsel. The dispossessory action was dismissed and Ms. B and her son were able to remain in the home through the holidays. Foreclosure defense cases often last many months, and discussions with Countrywide will resume after the holidays in order to attempt to negotiate a settlement.

Activities and Member Roles: Veterans Initiative

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Ten AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows will serve veterans who are homeless. They will assist veterans and their families by helping to stabilize their living situations, securing VA and government benefits, Supplemental Security Income, medical benefits and providing veterans with legal representation to overcome barriers they face in procuring employment, housing, medical care and support services. These Fellows will assist with recruitment of volunteers and training in VA adjudication and representation. A typical Fellow will spend his time as follows:

- a) Conducting clinics and community outreach to assist 100 veterans and family members with benefits, housing, employment, services, and other legal issues (10 percent);
- b) Recruiting and training at least 50 volunteers to assist veterans and their families with VA claims and other legal issues (5 percent);
- c) Providing case management and direct representation to 220 veterans and family members (75 percent); and
- d) Other activities, including outreach and collaboration on behalf of veterans at local, state and national levels (10 percent).

Activities and Member Roles: Other Economic Issues

Ten AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows will address other legal issues related to the economic crisis, including:

Indiana Legal Services: An AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will provide legal assistance to statewide renters across the state facing eviction due to the foreclosure of apartment buildings, so clients can preserve their tenancies or rapidly transition to other housing without periods of homelessness.

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Legal Aid Society of DC: One AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will serve victims of domestic violence who are presently or formerly incarcerated to use the courts and police (of whom they are distrusting) to help protect them from harm. A second Fellow will assist clients who have been improperly denied unemployment insurance (UI), an area of significant unmet need in the District.

Lone Star Legal Aid: The AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will serve residents of rural Bend County, Texas. The Fellow will address consumer legal matters, such as fair debt collection, unfair sales practices, bankruptcy (with priority for older adults, those who are disabled, and other persons facing overwhelming medical bills), and unlawful repairs, contracts, and warranties.

Public Counsel: One AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will work to support nonprofit organizations and small businesses that strengthen low-income and underserved communities in Los Angeles. Another will focus on preserving critically needed units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in Los Angeles.

Public Law Center: In Orange County, California, the AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will conduct 20 clinics on tenants' rights and assist 150 tenants faced with improper eviction and homelessness.

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services: Two AmeriCorps Legal Fellows will continue to serve survivors of Hurricane Katrina. One will help low-income people apply for the Disaster Housing Assistance Program and defend against evictions. The other will manage a medical-legal partnership, a legal clinic at Tulane Medical Center to address the legal causes of health issues (for instance, substandard housing or domestic violence).

Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington: The AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will conduct drop-in legal

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clinics at youth service organizations for homeless teens in Seattle. The AmeriCorps Legal Fellow will help the teens secure housing, employment and education before they become injured, addicted or involved with the criminal justice system.

Member Slots and Program Design

With this application, Equal Justice Works requests 40 full-time AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows to be placed at 22 local and national legal service agencies. This is a new program, with its own performance measures and 20 new sites outside those that have partnered with Equal Justice Works over the past seven years.

Each host site serves as a self-contained AmeriCorps program with placements of between one to four Fellows. We also request 360 Summer Corps minimum-time, education award-only (EAO) slots. Up to ten Summer Corps positions will be granted to each AmeriCorps Fellowship host site. We have determined that this combination of full-time attorneys and EAO law students serving over the summer guarantees the highest community impact by achieving significant program outcomes, building collaborations, and increasing civic engagement.

Roles, Non-displacement, Non-duplication and Non-supplementation

Equal Justice Works requires sites to develop distinct service roles for each AmeriCorps Fellowship to avoid even the appearance of displacement or duplication of staff. For instance, the two Fellows with Indiana Legal Services will expand the organization's foreclosure practice by addressing new service areas (Bloomington and Southern Indiana) and starting new projects (protecting tenants by defending against the foreclosure of apartment buildings).

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Training (see below) is provided by Equal Justice Works on volunteer and program management. Sites provide training and day-to-day supervision by fully licensed attorneys for the specific legal work of the Fellows. AmeriCorps Recovery Fellow roles are distinct from that of volunteers because they are barred attorneys. As law students, Summer Corps member roles are distinct by definition: they can provide legal research, conduct investigations and interview clients, but they cannot provide legal advice, and all work must be supervised by an attorney.

Prohibited Activities

For 15 years, Equal Justice Works has managed AmeriCorps grants, never experiencing a prohibited activities compliance issue at the parent organization or host sites. Our AmeriCorps staff trains site supervisors and Fellows about the prohibited activities and includes the list of those activities in orientation materials and contractual agreements. During our 2008 Inspector General audit, Equal Justice Works identified seven points during the application, enrollment and exit process where 350 members or their supervisors verified and certified that they would not and did not engage in prohibited activities. We will continue to ensure compliance through bi-monthly communications with AmeriCorps Fellows and sites, annual desk audits, and monitoring site visits.

Value added to Equal Justice Works, Host Sites and the Community

AmeriCorps funds add immense value to Equal Justice Works and our host sites for two main reasons.

1) The mission of Equal Justice Works is to mobilize the next generation of lawyers committed to public service. Over 3,000 law students and lawyers received their first public interest legal opportunity from Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps. Our research proves that the continuum of service opportunities from law school through the Fellowship period creates a lifelong commitment to public interest law. Over 99

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percent of Summer Corps members report that their service solidified this commitment.

2) The goal of the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps program is to expand legal services to people in need. Studies conducted by the American Bar Association and others conclude that the 'justice gap' is massive. Nationally, it is estimated that over 90% of lawyers serve less than 10% of the population. There are not enough lawyers to protect the rights of poor people. One million cases per year are rejected because the programs lack sufficient resources to provide counsel. AmeriCorps funds allow organizations to serve clients who would otherwise be turned away.

The added value of the service of AmeriCorps lawyers and law students is remarkable. In 2008-2009, Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows and their volunteers served 26,019 clients (723 per Fellow), at an average of \$43 federal dollars per client. AmeriCorps Fellows generated or managed pro bono opportunities for 3,543 volunteers, or an average of 98 per Fellow. For this new AmeriCorps application, Equal Justice Works has refined our foreclosure-related Recovery Act program and added the Veterans Initiative. The Recovery Act program, only four months old, has surpassed all expectations. Thirty AmeriCorps Legal Fellows have served 1,434 clients and generated 658 community volunteers.

Measurable Outputs and Outcomes

From the Katrina and Recovery grants to the Pro Bono Legal Corps, Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps programs routinely exceed their performance measures. 2008 Grantee Progress Report feedback from the Corporation states, "EJW AmeriCorps attorneys exceeded every service performance measure target by a wide margin, demonstrating the enormous impact and cost-effectiveness of AmeriCorps funding."

AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows will operate in the Opportunity and Veterans focus areas, and will use a

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standard performance measure. Performance measures will include:

Aligned output, intermediate and end outcome measure: AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows will provide 10,000 clients legal assistance related to home foreclosures and housing assistance programs. Fellows will defend 1,000 cases against foreclosure. Fellows will prevent 500 foreclosures.

National performance measure 1, Veterans Priority Area: AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows will provide services to 1,500 veterans, including veterans with disabilities, veterans who are unemployed, older veterans, and veterans in rural communities.

Systems for Tracking Results

We will measure the legal assistance provided and its impact on clients. Nonprofit law firms are experts in tracking legal advice, representation, referrals, clinics, and know-your-rights presentations. Through automated case management systems, host sites and Fellows maintain daily reports on client interaction and measure outcomes and impacts from the legal help provided.

We will continue to utilize pre- and post-service survey tools to track the impact of the AmeriCorps experience on the Fellows; development of their legal skills, commitment to public service and public interest law, and development of their careers.

Plan for Self-Assessment and Improvement

Throughout the year, Equal Justice Works engages in planning and quality control efforts. Our goal is to ensure that Fellows have the most effective and transformational experience possible. In response to feedback from Fellows and host sites, we have implemented a series of social networking tools to foster

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collaboration and esprit de corps. We have engaged three second-year Fellows (two from the regular grant and one from Recovery) as Class Representatives. They oversee a small Innovation Grant, which Fellows apply for in order to enhance their projects.

A recent example is from AmeriCorps Fellow JR LaPlante: "We will create a community education video about Indian Estate Planning and conduct clinics on four of nine Indian reservations in South Dakota during the 2010 spring break. Law students at the University of South Dakota will team up with lawyers from the Dakota Plains Legal Services to conduct Estate Planning Clinics on the Rosebud, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, and Pine Ridge Reservations. The project will be called the Initiative for Indian Estate Planning and the slogan for our spring break trip will be, "Defractionation Tour: 40 wills in 4 days". My hope is that this project and the spring break trip will take on a tradition at USD and will further exemplify the type of partnerships needed to impact the justice gap in our state."

We monitor the Fellows' progress towards achieving their performance measures through a mid-year report. We enlisted the Urban Institute, a national leader in program evaluation, to help us to improve data tracking and collection methods.

Our staff conducts annual site visits and audits of host organizations. In addition, we conduct an annual technical review focusing on issues that are not covered in the reports and the applications, such as AmeriCorps identity, responsiveness of the parent organization, and the quality of member support.

Community Involvement

In the first four months of our Recovery-funded program, AmeriCorps Fellows collaborated with 168 community organizations. We anticipate that Summer Corps members funded through Recovery will

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serve with 200 community organizations.

Equal Justice Works encourages host sites to engage their communities throughout the span of the project. In some instances, host sites consult with their communities to design the AmeriCorps project. In other cases, communities work with legal services to expand delivery of services. AmeriCorps Recovery Fellow Nick Toman's experience is a combination of these models. Nick's AmeriCorps Fellowship was designed in collaboration with the Dominican Center for Women in an effort to address the foreclosure crisis in a specific neighborhood, rather than the city at large.

Nick serves alongside the Dominican Center's nuns to revitalize a block in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood that has been hit very hard by foreclosure. About half of the homes on this block are abandoned. There are a number of Habitat for Humanity homes, a few owner-occupied houses and a few rental units. Nick is helping the neighbors write grant proposals to get lighting on their street, paint some of the dilapidated houses, and improve security. He worked with the City of Milwaukee to raze two abandoned nuisance houses. Habitat for Humanity has agreed to build new houses on the block if lots become available. The residents are enthusiastic and we hope to use this as a model for future neighborhood revitalization.

Relationship to other National and Community Service Programs

Equal Justice Works is proud of our contributions to the service community. We share our monitoring tools, program start-up blueprints, and program evaluation models with commissions and our peer network of National Direct programs. We are a national leader in providing education and technical assistance on the College Cost Reduction and Access Act and its impact on AmeriCorps members. The Corporation frequently calls upon our staff to train on multi-site management, program start-up, social

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networking, audit readiness and other aspects of AmeriCorps management at national and cluster conferences.

State Commission Consultation

Equal Justice Works has maintained relationships with State Commissions for the seven years of the existing AmeriCorps program, particularly where most AmeriCorps Legal Fellows currently serve. In the past few months, we've reached out to Serve DC, the One Star Foundation (Texas) and the Georgia, Virginia, Michigan and Kentucky Commissions, locations of our new sites. We have moved beyond the consultation process to get our Fellows engaged with service days and to share resources with their AmeriCorps*State counterparts. Our Senior Program Manager (a former Commission PO and PDAT coordinator) joined the Washington Commission's Executive Director to train participants on collaborating with National Directs at the 2009 State Service Commissioners Institute.

Potential for Replication

While there are relatively few justice-related programs in the national service field, Equal Justice Works is committed to expanding our model and replicating our programs. At the request of the Corporation's Interim CEO, we provide training and technical assistance to legal service organizations across the country on designing national service programs and applying for our program or AmeriCorps*State and VISTA funds.

Organizational Capability

Nearly 25 years ago, a small group of law students dedicated to working for equal justice on behalf of low-income and underserved people formed Equal Justice Works, then known as the National Association for Public Interest Law. Since its founding in 1986, Equal Justice Works has become a

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vibrant source of innovation and inspiration for the American legal community, ever advancing the cause of equal justice. Today, we are the nation's largest provider of public interest opportunities for law students and lawyers. In addition to our AmeriCorps programs, we manage a two-year Fellowship program for 100 lawyers to increase access to justice for tens of thousands of people who might otherwise be denied their rights.

Sound Organizational Structure

Equal Justice Works has a strong track record of providing opportunities for law students and lawyers to engage in public service, and has served as a Corporation grantee since 1994. Equal Justice Works is currently in the second year of three year pro bono generation AmeriCorps grant. Launched in September 2003, this program began with 17 AmeriCorps attorney positions at 10 legal service organizations and has grown to 36 AmeriCorps Fellows at 16 organizations today. In 2006, Equal Justice Works received a disaster augmentation grant to provide legal services to survivors of the Gulf Coast hurricanes. While the Katrina projects at other organizations have ended with the close of the augmentation grants, we continue to maintain AmeriCorps Fellowships in Louisiana and Mississippi.

In November 2008, the Corporation granted Equal Justice Works an additional, though unfunded, member slot to address the legal needs of survivors of Hurricane Ike. We secured 100 percent of the funding for the position and enrolled an AmeriCorps Fellow at Houston Volunteer Lawyers Project within three months of the disaster. In 2009, Equal Justice Works was among the first organizations to enroll Recovery funded AmeriCorps members, with 59 Summer Corps members sworn in on the first day of the grant. Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps funding has increased 300 percent in four years.

Sound Programmatic and Fiscal Oversight

Narratives

Equal Justice Works and our AmeriCorps host sites recently concluded an audit with the Office of the Inspector General of the Corporation. The auditors cited only minor findings routinely found in other audits. The audit report is available on the Inspector General's website. We have nearly 15 years of experience managing a multi-site AmeriCorps program. As a parent organization, we evaluate our grant management systems and the systems of our host sites annually.

Each AmeriCorps Fellowship host site identifies one Project Director, who is responsible for all aspects of the grant, including supervising the Fellows, maintaining member files, and ensuring the projects meet their stated objectives. Each site also has a financial manager, usually the site's Director of Administration or Grants, who is responsible for fiscal monitoring, management, and reporting. In addition, all sites must identify a staff attorney as Site Supervisor, specifically to supervise the AmeriCorps Fellows' legal work. Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps staff provides and annual training and ongoing support throughout the year.

At the start of each grant year, Equal Justice Works provides written guidance and in-person training to all subgrantees on the fiscal reporting responsibilities and compliance requirements of the grant. Consistent with current systems, we will continue to monitor program finances by requiring sites to: 1) produce monthly statements that show actual grant expenditures against the projected budgets; 2) submit quarterly financial status reports; and 3) comply with the AmeriCorps Grant Provisions. Sites are provided grant funds on a reimbursement basis.

Site Selection

To select sites for this grant, Equal Justice Works identified organizations that are leaders in the pro

Narratives

bono and legal services community; demonstrate sustainability, internal leadership, and innovation; and have the ability to manage and support AmeriCorps projects. Additionally, we sought organizations that address unmet needs in underserved areas of the country. For example, the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty works with groups that give legal representation to homeless veterans. The ABA assessed areas of the country where there is infrastructure for this type of legal service and is helping Equal Justice Works place AmeriCorps Fellows in those communities.

To select new host sites, we developed an RFP based on the Corporation's application guidelines and invited select organizations to apply. Each prospective applicant submitted a program narrative and budget. A team of Equal Justice Works staff reviewed the applications and provided ongoing assistance to prospective sites throughout the application process, including guidance with their budgets. The new host sites were selected based on a scoring rubric that includes demonstrated expertise and innovation; capacity to manage and recruit volunteers; and experience addressing the legal needs of low-income communities through direct and volunteer legal services.

Relationships with Sites

Our goal for the Recovery grant has been to save as many homes from foreclosure as possible. To that end, Equal Justice Works selected the 16 host organizations addressing the foreclosure crisis based on local need and organizational capacity. These sites were selected through an RFP process conducted jointly with the Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance, and have succeeded in the first quarter of that grant.

This grant request includes eight new subgrantees (for the Veterans Initiative) and 15 returning host sites. The standards for site renewal are intentionally high; in the past three years of our volunteer

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generation program, six sites have not been renewed due to sub-par performance. While maintaining rigorous compliance, Equal Justice Works prides itself on being a partner of choice, working with sites to achieve solutions and provide effective and transforming service experiences for all AmeriCorps Fellows. Three alumni of our other program will serve as AmeriCorps supervisors at host sites for this grant.

Compliance Monitoring

Equal Justice Works uses a risk-based monitoring protocol. The AmeriCorps staff conducts a separate technical review of host sites' grants management activities, not covered in progress reports and applications. Host sites are evaluated on timeliness, AmeriCorps identity, quality of member support, and other factors.

Monitoring activities will take place consistently throughout the life cycle of the program. Monitoring processes include conducting site visits and desk audits, conducting regular telephone communication, email, and webinars with project staff, ongoing development and strengthening of Equal Justice Works internal administrative and program management systems, and communicating Corporation updates to sites on a regular basis. Throughout the program, we will collect both quantitative and qualitative data from each operating site, using the AmeriCorps Progress Reports. This information will be used to assess the program's progress toward its stated objectives and will be used in Grantee Progress Reports to the Corporation, Equal Justice Works Board of Directors, and other funders.

Developing Connections across Sites

Like the national service field, the legal services field is collegial. Host site staff meets at least twice a

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year, once for our Leadership Development Training and again for the American Bar Association's Equal Justice Conference. We promote AmeriCorps identity with site staff through phone calls, webinars, and regional events throughout the year. In 2008 Equal Justice Works opened a West Coast Office, enhancing interaction with and among our five California host sites and their fifteen AmeriCorps Fellows. We have been very successful building connections among AmeriCorps Fellows. Through our social networking tools, our Fellows have built a level of esprit de corps comparable to that of the crew based or state programs.

Board of Directors, Administrators and Staff

The Equal Justice Works Board of Directors developed our organizational mission and goals and adopted our current five-year strategic plan, which calls for the expansion of AmeriCorps Fellowships and Summer Corps. The Board provides ongoing programmatic and fiscal oversight to ensure that activities are aligned with the strategic plan's goals and objectives and annual benchmarks are achieved. Our Board includes two Federal judges, the Dean of the Stanford Law School, General Counsels for Fortune 500 companies, law firm partners, executive directors of legal service providers, and several law students engaged in pro bono work. Attorney General Eric Holder and Solicitor General Elena Kagan are former board members.

The AmeriCorps Team has over 25 years of AmeriCorps program management experience. Cait Clarke, Esq., Director of Public Interest Law Opportunities is responsible for the overall direction of Equal Justice Works programs and oversees all work functions for the AmeriCorps team. Ms. Clarke is a respected legal educator who has served on the faculty of the Loyola Law School in New Orleans and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Narratives

Cole McMahon, Senior Program Manager and Martin Costello, Esq., Program Manager are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the AmeriCorps program, ensuring that the sites and members receive the information and support they need to have a rewarding and effective experience. Mr. McMahon directed an AmeriCorps*State program from 1995-1998, served as a Program Officer and Director of Training for the Maryland Commission from 1998-2003, and has been a trainer for national service participants and staff for 15 years. Mr. Costello served as an AmeriCorps Fellow from 2005-2006 and is an expert on pro bono management and housing law. He is responsible for the creation of our web-based program management system, which can be found at www.equaljusticeworks.org/communities/participants/ameri-corps. AmeriCorps accounting and financial management are handled by Raffa, a top 100 accounting firm located in Washington, DC.

Plan for Self Assessment and Improvement

Last year our Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. Equal Justice Works staff develops their annual work plans, including activities and benchmarks, to coincide with achieving the strategic plan's goals and objectives. The AmeriCorps team conducts a mid-year retreat to review our progress toward the programmatic benchmarks, prioritize new initiatives, and ensure adequate resources are available to accomplish our work. Three times year, a formal progress report is provided to the Board, with benchmarks and budgets determined for upcoming fiscal year. With Board oversight, Equal Justice Works staff maintains an ongoing process to evaluate the AmeriCorps program and improve systems, structure, staffing, and other capacities to ensure that the program is sound and well-managed.

Plan for Effective Technical Assistance

Narratives

Equal Justice Works is both a recipient and a provider of AmeriCorps technical assistance. We identify technical assistance needs for the organization and host sites through surveys and standard monitoring, and as requested by AmeriCorps Fellows and sites. Equal Justice Works has developed compliance-related training materials for our sites and other multi-site programs, particularly those whose staff devote less than half of their time to the AmeriCorps grant. Currently, we are developing training materials focused on the effects of Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Income Based Repayment on AmeriCorps members' loan forbearance. We are happy to share our materials with other organizations.

Sound Record of Accomplishment as an Organization

Volunteer Generation and Support

Our experience demonstrates that public service increases during a recession. Applications for our AmeriCorps program have doubled in two years. Our Fellows generated 97 community volunteers apiece last year.

Equal Justice Works relies on volunteers to advise our staff on program management and to serve as ambassadors for the organization.

In addition to the Board, the National Advisory Committee (NAC) is the vehicle for the membership of Equal Justice Works, law students and law school professionals, to advance our goal for law students to develop a lifelong commitment to work on behalf of underrepresented individuals, communities, and causes. Equal Justice Works also engages a Training Advisory Committee, comprised of current and former Fellows from our AmeriCorps and traditional Equal Justice Works Fellowship programs, as well as past host site staff members. Committee members help design training for the year and identify the best available trainers for our events and webinars. Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps alumni serve as volunteer ambassadors and trainers. Alumni make presentations at law schools to promote public

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interest opportunities and serve as mentors for current AmeriCorps Fellows.

Organizational and Community Leadership

Equal Justice Works dedicated the past 23 years to ensuring a sustained pipeline of lawyers committed to public service. We are pleased to partner with the Corporation as the only national AmeriCorps program for lawyers. Equal Justice Works also manages a traditional Fellowship Program, the largest postgraduate legal fellowship program in the nation.

Held each fall in Washington, DC, the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair brings together more than 1,000 public service-minded law students and 150 public service employers. Our staff provides coaching, training, and technical assistance to law school professionals and students on how to launch a public interest career, how to afford a public interest career, and how to promote public interest causes on law school campuses. The Equal Justice Works Guide to Law Schools provides comprehensive listings on public service opportunities, curricula, financial programs, and scholarships at more than 150 law schools.

For years, one of the major obstacles to public service has been high student debt combined with low public service salaries. Equal Justice Works joined other public interest law leaders to support the enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. We anticipate that Income-Based Repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness will enable many more law school graduates to pursue public interest careers despite skyrocketing student debt.

Select awards and achievements of our organization and staff include:

Equal Justice Works received the 2009 Award of Distinction for Public Service by NALP - the

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Association for Legal Career Professionals. The award is given to an individual or organization that provides legal services, promotes ethics, or lends financial support to activities dedicated to the promotion of the public good.

David Stern, CEO, was instrumental in creating a role for professionals in AmeriCorps during its inception. Mr. Stern was recently named by The Legal Times as one of "the greatest Washington lawyers in the past 30 years."

Cait Clarke, Director, Public Interest Law Opportunities, founded the Gardenia House Foundation, providing shelter for migrant women and children in Georgetown, Delaware. She is the recipient of the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center's service award at Loyola Law School in New Orleans.

Cole McMahon, Senior Program Manager-AmeriCorps, developed a "Blueprint for AmeriCorps Program Start-up" for the Corporation in 2000 that is still used by state commissions around the country. Through the Corporation's technical assistance providers, he has trained hundreds of AmeriCorps staff and members since 1995.

Heather Jarvis, Senior Program Manager, Law School Advocacy and Outreach, worked for the development and passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. She teamed with Corporation and Department of Education staff to ensure that time served in AmeriCorps counts towards Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Although she does not charge time to the AmeriCorps grant, members across the country will benefit from her efforts.

Crystal Utley, Site Supervisor, Mississippi Center for Justice, served two terms as an AmeriCorps Legal Fellow as part of the Katrina Initiative. She received the 2007 Spirit of Service Award for AmeriCorps

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State and National.

Success in Securing Match

While this is an application for a new grant, Equal Justice Works secured a 50 percent match for Recovery funds and we've matched our other AmeriCorps grant above 50 percent for the past three years. Sources of match include the Open Society Institute, Fannie Mae, and the Ford Foundation, as well as from law firms, corporations, and individual donors. Equal Justice Works will provide a 50 percent match for this grant in Year One.

As a nationwide program, one of our major costs is convening AmeriCorps Fellows for trainings. To defray those costs, we negotiated in-kind donations from several training providers: the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), the American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Consumer Law Center.

Success in Securing Community Support

Collaboration

Of the 206 ABA accredited law schools, 97 percent are members of Equal Justice Works. The membership fees provide \$347,250 in support each year. Membership numbers and financial support from law schools have steadily increased each year.

In addition to the nonprofit public interest organizations that serve as AmeriCorps host sites, we partner with the 50 local and national organizations that host Equal Justice Works Fellowships each year, as

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well as the law firms and state bar foundations that fund these Fellowships.

Community collaboration is essential to the service AmeriCorps Fellows will perform to address homelessness and the foreclosure crisis. Four months into their term of service, AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows started or bolstered collaborations with 168 faith-based and community organizations.

Local Financial and In-kind Contributions

In addition to funding from events, foundation grants, and individual donors, all of our host sites receive match funding from their state bar associations and bar foundations. Sites are also funded by a variety of government sources. For example, the Orleans Civil District Court gives five dollars for every suit filed in the parish to Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

Wide Range of Community Stakeholders

Equal Justice Works has a wide range of community stakeholders, including law schools and law students; local and national providers of legal services to underserved people, communities, and causes; and associations of law school professionals and legal professionals, as well as our individual and institutional donors. We partner with the American Bar Association, the National Association of Law Placement (NALP), the National Lawyers Guild, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Legal Services Corporation, The Access Group, the American Association of Law Schools, and the National Fellows Network.

Over time, Equal Justice Works has become indispensable to our law school and nonprofit law firm partners, by serving as a pipeline from one to the other for leadership and talent. We estimate that over 1,000 Fellows and 2,000 law students have pursued a public interest career path via our programs.

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Special Circumstances

Serving Resource-Poor Communities

The purpose of the AmeriCorps Recovery Fellowships is to provide access to justice for homeless veterans and low-income people in danger of losing their homes. AmeriCorps Fellowship sites are located in areas with high poverty rates, including Detroit, Los Angeles, and New Orleans, or rural areas lacking community resources, such as Kentucky. For 15 years, AmeriCorps Fellows have assisted survivors from every type of devastation, from natural disasters to the current housing crisis. There is much more work to be done.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

Cost Effectiveness

Our program model is unique in the national service field. AmeriCorps Fellows recruit and train highly qualified volunteers to provide specialized services. Fellows and their volunteers provide advice and representation at an average federal cost of \$43 per person served, which is remarkable given the cost of legal services in this country. The impact of AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows (at an average cost of \$12,967 per MSY) is unmatched, as illustrated by the service of Christine Khalili-Borna, an AmeriCorps Recovery Fellow with Public Counsel in Los Angeles:

In 2008, Christine was a member of our volunteer generation program. In her second term she is serving as an AmeriCorps Recovery Fellow. Christine's service is designed to shorten the period of time that people are homeless by connecting them with basic human needs like shelter, food, health, transportation, and employment services. In 16 months, she and her volunteers have assisted 3,462

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people.

Many of Christine's clients don't fit the stereotype of homelessness that Los Angeles city officials and others are used to. "Two of my homeless clients - a newlywed, formerly middle-class white couple - were turned away by officials. Why? Because, the official later told me, 'they didn't look homeless,'" Khalili-Borna said. "This is inexcusable. Foreclosure and homelessness does not discriminate, so neither should the people responsible for helping those in need."

"We have witnessed a shifting demographic in the homeless population and Christine has had to think and react creatively," said Liz Bluestein, General Counsel at Public Counsel. "As the needs in the community and in the homeless and at-risk populations grow, Christine is tremendously expanding the capacity of this organization and we are grateful to have her services for another year."

The value of Christine's service is remarkable: the legal fees in the private sector for handling 3,000 cases would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Cost-wise, helping only one homeless person secure permanent housing may be worth the value of Christine's Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.

Corporation Cost per MSY

Equal Justice Works is committed to fiscal responsibility and efficient grants management. AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows will receive the maximum living allowance, \$23,600. Equal Justice Works and host sites will provide a 50 percent match. The cost per MSY will be \$12,967.

Diverse Non-Federal Support

We promote program sustainability by requiring host sites to match at 50 percent. In effect, subgranted

Narratives

funds pay for the AmeriCorps Fellows' living allowance. The sites provide all other costs as match. This dollar-for-dollar match balance is ideal; without the Federal or match funds, Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Recovery Fellowships are simply not possible.

Equal Justice Works receives non-federal support from a variety of sources including foundations, law firms, corporations, and individual donors. For the Recovery grant, Equal Justice Works secured over one million dollars in matching funds, including \$100,000 from the Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance.

Decreased Reliance on Federal Support

If approved, this program will achieve both of the both of the Corporation's goals for program sustainability: 1) moving beyond the 50-50 match requirement, i.e. decreasing reliance on federal funds, and 2) achieving breadth, depth, and impact, with ambitious performance measures and placement in several of the poorest communities in the country.

Budget Adequacy

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps programs rank among the top performers in the country in terms of cost-effectiveness. The proposed budget is sufficient for AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows to prevent 1,000 foreclosures and assist 1,500 homeless veterans. Equal Justice Works requests \$12,967 per MSY.

Equal Justice Works will subgrant \$24,600 per Fellow to host organizations. This includes the maximum AmeriCorps living allowance and \$1,000 in administrative funds. This represents half of the funds needed to operate the program, hence the 50 percent match. There are a number of reasons each

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AmeriCorps Fellowship costs more in public and private funds than AmeriCorps members in other programs.

First, we pay AmeriCorps Legal Fellows the maximum living allowance to attract the best possible candidates. Second, we require host sites to defray law school student loans for Fellows (many of whom owe over \$100,000 due to the cost of law school). Third, we place Fellows in places like New York, San Francisco and New Orleans, where there is both high poverty and a high cost of living. Fourth, we provide the best possible trainings for our Fellows, including three national events. Fifth, legal services require costly liability insurance and licensure. In fact, \$24,600 for one lawyer is widely regarded in the legal services field to be an extremely modest grant. Regardless, we are confident our AmeriCorps Fellows represent one of the most efficient and impactful expenditures in the Federal budget.

Equal Justice Works is proud of our host sites, the AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows, and their impact. We are deeply committed to this work and delighted to partner with the Corporation for National and Community Service to address poverty across America. It is an honor to have received Recovery funding, and we appreciate the opportunity to expand the service of our AmeriCorps Recovery Fellows through this application.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

N/A

Amendment Justification

N/A

Clarification Summary

2011-2012 Clarifications

Programmatic Clarification Items:

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a) Criminal history checks must be conducted on all members, employees or other individuals who receive a salary, education award, living allowance, stipend or similar payment from the grant, regardless of whether these costs are coming from federal or non-federal share. Criminal history background checks include a search of statewide criminal history repositories and the National Sex Offender Public Website for all members and employees as described above. An FBI check is also required for members, employees or other individuals with recurring access to vulnerable populations. A detailed description of the requirements can be found at:

<http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/criminal-history>. Please verify that criminal history checks will be conducted on all members, employees and other individuals as described above. You may revise the budget to include these costs, if necessary but may not exceed the level of funding for which you are under consideration.

Equal Justice Works shares the Corporation's commitment to protecting vulnerable populations. Equal Justice Works has played a leadership role in working with the Corporation and national service programs across the nation to achieve full criminal history check compliance.

Equal Justice Works has fully implemented Serve America Act requirements. National, state and NSOPR criminal history checks have been conducted on all staff and members who receive salary, education awards and living allowance payments from the grant or match. Costs to conduct criminal history checks for all members and staff are included in the submitted budget.

b) Please verify that the criminal history checks conducted for members and staff will include an FBI fingerprint check in addition to the state registry check and the NSOPR for anyone with recurring access to vulnerable populations.

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Equal Justice Works is working with our subgrantees to implement the FBI fingerprint check requirement for all AmeriCorps Fellows who will be enrolled under the 2011-2012 grant. We verify that our program will conduct FBI checks, in addition to the state registry check and the NSOPR we currently conduct for anyone with recurring access to vulnerable populations.

c) Please briefly summarize the value added of AmeriCorps members.

Our performance measures are built upon upholding people's rights as American citizens. Our program is built on the need to give poor people access to their rights under the law, which the Director of AmeriCorps emphasized while swearing in members at our orientation this year. Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows and Summer Corps Members serve people who would otherwise fall through the cracks. For people living in poverty, legal representation can mean the difference between homelessness and shelter; it can protect children from abuse; it can stop domestic violence. Indeed, in some dire circumstances, access to legal services can even be the difference between life and death.

Many of the AmeriCorps Legal Fellows serving under this grant represent people who may lose their homes, often as the result of fraud or lender error. Last year, AmeriCorps Legal Fellows helped 2,834 clients in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure. AmeriCorps Fellows and their volunteers prevented 39% of these foreclosures. The Joint Economic Committee of Congress estimates the cost of a foreclosure to a community to be \$77,395. Through Corporation funding, AmeriCorps Fellows saved 1,086 homes, a return of \$71 for every taxpayer dollar invested.

d) Please revise performance measure targets for 116.19 MSY.

Performance Measures have been revised to reflect 116.19 MSY.

Narratives

Continuation Changes

Year 2

Equal Justice Works is pleased to request second year funding for the AmeriCorps Legal Fellowships and Summer Corps programs. Equal Justice Works anticipates a twelve percent increase in program costs for 2011-2012. We seek an increase of five minimum-time MSY and a one percent increase in Corporation funds.

The Equal Justice Works ARRA grant is the foundation for this continuation request for the 10NDHDC004 grant, which started August 2010. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, AmeriCorps Fellows helped 9,515 clients in dire economic need, including 2,565 in danger of losing their homes to inappropriate and unlawful foreclosures. AmeriCorps Fellows and their volunteers prevented 40% of these foreclosures. Freddie Mac estimates the cost of a foreclosure to a community to be \$80,000. By that standard, the foreclosure prevention efforts of AmeriCorps Fellows returned \$8 for every taxpayer dollar invested.

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellows are part of a growing movement to ensure that banks conduct foreclosure proceedings fairly and with proper paperwork. AmeriCorps Fellows from Seattle to Atlanta have been featured in the national media for successfully defending innocent victims from unscrupulous lenders and scammers. This crisis continues to devastate communities and undermine the economy. RealtyTrac estimates that 5,000,000 homes will enter foreclosure in 2011.

Equal Justice Works is shifting the Veterans Initiative and its performance measures to grant 09NDHDC002. This will increase the number of AmeriCorps Fellows serving veterans by 50 percent.

Enrollment and Retention

Narratives

This grant is currently in the sixth month of operation, so we have no prior year enrollment and retention data. For 2010-11, Equal Justice Works has achieved 100 percent enrollment and retention for the full-time AmeriCorps Fellowships. 40 of 40 positions are filled and all Fellows are actively serving.

State Commission Consultation

Equal Justice Works shared our AmeriCorps application plans with 17 states and the District of Columbia. In our consultation communication, Equal Justice Works noted that we will be finalizing our host site selection in the spring and would contact the Commissions again if our plans for members in their state change. The states we contacted were: California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington, DC.

Equal Justice Works will be placing our minimum-time Summer Corps members in April and May. We will send an email to all states in February to inform them of our Summer Corps program and the potential for members to be placed in their state. A follow up email will be sent once all members are placed.

Equal Justice Works has shared contact lists and included commission staff in our communications. Several of our Fellows and site staff have participated in Commission trainings and service projects. On site visits, we have visited the Indiana, Mississippi, Georgia and West Virginia offices to meet their staff. Equal Justice Works staff have attended Corporation-sponsored trainings and events and have gotten to know many staff members at State Commissions across the country.

Performance Measures

SAA Characteristics

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

Priority Areas

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

Grand Total of all MSYs entered for all Priority Areas 116.19

Service Categories

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Housing Placement Services | Primary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Human Needs | Primary <input type="checkbox"/> | Secondary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Foreclosure Prevention and Defense

Service Category: Housing Placement Services

Measure Category: Needs and Service Activities

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and their volunteers will address the needs of homeowners facing foreclosure and protect low-income individuals from mortgage fraud and real estate scams through direct services to clients, negotiations with lenders, review of loan files, initiation of lawsuits, and assistance with alternatives to foreclosure. These Fellows will work in partnership with housing counselors, governmental agencies and other legal service providers to assist homeowners who are in danger of foreclosure, including those who have not yet missed a payment but know they will, and those who have already received a notice of default. A typical AmeriCorps Fellow will spend her time conducting clinics and community outreach to assist 200 homeowners who are facing or are at-risk of foreclosure and/or real estate fraud (20 percent). The Fellow will also recruit and train 15 pro bono attorneys, law students and other volunteers to assist homeowners facing

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

foreclosure and victims of real estate fraud (5 percent). In addition, the Fellow will provide case management and direct representation related to foreclosure and real estate fraud prevention to 35 homeowners (70 percent). We also anticipate that the Fellow will engage in other activities including educating clients, volunteers and the community on foreclosure issues and effective solutions, working with community partners to develop effective strategies to assist homeowners facing foreclosure (5 percent).

Results

Result: End Outcome

Fellows will prevent 500 foreclosures, keeping families across the country from losing their homes.

Indicator: beneficiaries

Target: The target number "500" is meant to describe "homes saved" from foreclosure.

Target Value: 500

Instruments: Fellows will track the number of homes saved from foreclosure through a computerized database.

PM Statement: Fellows will prevent 500 foreclosures, keeping families across the country from losing their homes.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Fellows will defend 1,000 cases against foreclosure.

Indicator: Number of legal cases

Target: The target number of "1,000" describes the number of cases that the fellows will defend against foreclosure.

Target Value: 1000

Instruments: AmeriCorps Fellows will record the number of cases that they defend from foreclosure, in a computerized database.

PM Statement: Fellows will defend 1,000 cases against foreclosure.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Output

AmeriCorps Fellows and Summer Corps members and their volunteers will provide 10,000 clients legal assistance.

Indicator: beneficiaries

Target: The target number "10,000" describes the number of clients that the fellows will serve.

Target Value: 10000

Instruments: AmeriCorps members will record the number of clients they serve in a computerized database.

PM Statement: AmeriCorps Fellows, Summer Corps members and their volunteers will provide 10,000 clients legal assistance related to home foreclosures and housing assistance programs.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Community Collaboration and Medical Legal Partnerships

Service Category: Other Human Needs

Measure Category: Not Applicable

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and Summer Corps members will conduct and participate in community legal clinics, particularly in health centers and medical facilities. These members will increase organizational capacity by building community collaborations, and serve clients whose health issues are associated with legal issues (for instance, substandard housing or domestic violence). Studies suggest 85% of low-income people have between one and five legal issues contributing to their poverty. Through community legal clinics, AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and Summer Corps members inform people of their rights as employees, tenants, students and citizens. Members advise clients on benefits, barriers to housing and other services, and help them achieve financial stability.

Results

Result: Output

Fellows and Summer Corps members will lead or participate in 500 community collaborations.

Indicator: Number of community organizations whose capacity is increased through partnerships

Target: "Organizations" refers to community and faith-based organizations with which the AmeriCorps members engage to serve clients, not including the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps subgrantees.

Target Value: 500

Instruments: Members will track community partners using workplans developed at the start of the term of service, and through periodic impact reports.

PM Statement: 40 AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and 360 Summer Corps members will lead or participate in 500 community collaborations to expand the delivery of legal advice and brief services.

Prev. Yrs. Data

Result: Output

with AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and Summer Corps members.

Result: Output

Fellows and Summer Corps members will conduct or participate in 300 community legal clinics, providing legal advice and brief services to 5,000 low-income clients.

Indicator: Number of legal clinics to be conducted and number of clients served.

Target: "Legal clinics" refers to the number of events where legal services are conducted in community settings. "Clients" are participants who receive information and brief legal advice.

Target Value: 5000

Instruments: Participant lists and intake forms are used to determine the number of clients at a legal clinic.

PM Statement: 40 AmeriCorps Legal Fellows and 360 Summer Corps members will lead or participate in 300 community legal clinics, providing legal advice and brief services to 5,000 low-income clients.

Prev. Yrs. Data

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Subapplicants

<u>ID</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>	<u># FTEs Requested</u>	<u># FTEs Approved</u>	<u>Status</u>
Totals:		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	

Required Documents

<u>Document Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Evaluation	Not Applicable
Federally Approved Indirect Cost Agreement	Not Applicable
Labor Union Concurrence	Sent