

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: 20-JAN-11	STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER:														
2b. APPLICATION ID: 11AC123272		4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY:	FEDERAL IDENTIFIER: 09ACHIN0010003														
5. APPLICATION INFORMATION																	
LEGAL NAME: United Way of Porter County DUNS NUMBER: 070984216		NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PROJECT DIRECTOR OR OTHER PERSON TO BE CONTACTED ON MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION (give area codes): NAME: Sharon A. Kish TELEPHONE NUMBER: (219) 464-3583 FAX NUMBER: (219) 477-5845 INTERNET E-MAIL ADDRESS: sharonk@unitedwaypc.org															
ADDRESS (give street address, city, state, zip code and county): 951 Eastport Centre Drive P.O. Box 2028 Valparaiso IN 46384 - 2028 County:		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: 7a. Non-Profit 7b. Community-Based Organization Local Affiliate of National Organization															
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 356006484		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service															
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):		10a. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 94.006 10b. TITLE: AmeriCorps State 11.a. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT: Porter County Partnership 11.b. CNCS PROGRAM INITIATIVE (IF ANY):															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (List Cities, Counties, States, etc): Northwest Indiana, including the counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski Counties. The majority of the AmeriCorps placement sites will be in Lake and Porter and LaPorte Counties, but we may have some pilot sites in the r		13. PROPOSED PROJECT: START DATE: 08/16/11 END DATE: 08/15/12 14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF: a.Applicant <input type="text" value="IN 001"/> b.Program <input type="text" value="IN 001"/>															
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;">\$ 389,996.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. APPLICANT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 192,538.00</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;">\$ 582,534.00</td> </tr> </table>		a. FEDERAL	\$ 389,996.00	b. APPLICANT	\$ 192,538.00	c. STATE	\$ 0.00	d. LOCAL	\$ 0.00	e. OTHER	\$ 0.00	f. PROGRAM INCOME	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 582,534.00	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: Sharon A. Kish		b. TITLE: President	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (219) 464-3583														
d. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:			e. DATE SIGNED: 01/07/11														

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Executive Summary

United Way of Porter County's mission is "to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community." This AmeriCorps proposal is a concrete example of United Way fulfilling its mission, by bringing together a partnership of organizations from the nonprofit, education, workforce development, and faith-based communities. These organizations have created a system of care through the interventions of AmeriCorps members, whose efforts have improved lives and have a significant and lasting impact in our community. United Way of Porter County is the intermediary organization and the fiscal and administrative agent for this grant. The participating organizations include: Valparaiso Community Schools, Portage Township Schools, Housing Opportunities, Center For Workforce Innovation, United Way of Porter County, Lake Area United Way, Lake County Sheriff's Department, Urban League, Gary Housing, Mental Health America, and Healthlinc.

The Porter County AmeriCorps Partnership program mobilizes and increases the number of volunteers, especially baby boomers, in faith-based, education, and community organizations. AmeriCorps Members ensure a brighter future for Porter County youth, concentrating on at risk students from disadvantaged circumstances, through tutoring and service-learning. Encore AmeriCorps Members provide career counseling for secondary students in seven counties in Indiana. Additionally, AmeriCorps Members serve to find housing for those who are homeless, help individuals and families become self-sufficient through career and financial counseling, recruit and train volunteers, and provide disaster relief whenever needed.

Rationale and Approach

Target population of service recipients: The population of Northwest Indiana totals 850,716. One in every eight Hoosier lives in Northwest Indiana. We are a racially and culturally diverse region with 27% minority populations, 10.9% Hispanic or Latino, and 12% speak English as a second language.

Our target population for this AmeriCorps proposal are students in area schools that are at risk of failing

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or dropping out of school before graduation and economically disadvantaged individuals and families in Northwest Indiana.

a. Compelling Community Need: United Way of Porter County and its partners have been involved in several recent community assessments that document the compelling needs of this region, especially as they impact children and low-income families. To be economically successful as a region, our children need to be prepared with the skills for the new workforce, and the most basic needs of our families have to be met if they are to thrive and flourish.

2008 Community Needs Assessment conducted by Perspectives Consulting Group. This comprehensive study was commissioned by the United Way and the Community Foundation. The top two issues were Employment/Jobs and Substance Abuse. With unemployment over 9% in the region, this issue continues to impact thousands of families. One of every 6.5 jobs in NWI is in manufacturing; especially in the steel industry, which has seen a dramatic downturn. Another top issue was available and affordable healthcare. Currently, 109,883 residents of the region are uninsured. Other issues include affordable housing, transportation, available and affordable childcare, and literacy. Graduation rates range from 35.3% in the urban core to 95% in the affluent suburbs. 39% of the children in 3-10th grades did not pass the state ISTEP in 2008, failing to achieve mastery in math and basic language skills. Children are definitely being left behind.

Women in Porter County: A Statistical Profile, conducted by Valparaiso University for the Porter County Women's Initiative. Sixty percent of women, ages 16 and older, are in the workforce. There is a substantial gap of \$23,000 between the incomes of men and women in Porter County. This is more than twice as large as the national gap. 92% of the women work in service industry jobs. 29% of the births in Porter County are to single mothers, and the poverty rate

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for female-headed households with children is 24.4%. Northwest Indiana women are less likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester. Domestic violence also impacts the lives of many women and their children. Annually, 225-275 adults and their dependent children spend 4,450-6,000 days in safe shelter. 1,000-1,500 crisis calls are also taken and an additional 350 clients are seen by the community advocate for legal and rape crisis services.

2008 Quality of Life Indicators Report, conducted by the Northwest Indiana Quality of Life Council and Indiana University Northwest. Poverty: 40% of the students in Lake and LaPorte Counties qualify for the free and reduced lunch programs. Less than 30% of the jobs in NWI pay a living wage of \$19.97 for a household of 2 adults and two children. Housing: The region has 209,004 households. 31% spent more than 30% of their income on mortgage payments and are considered cost-burdened. Foreclosures skyrocketed in the region as the economy declined. Healthcare: Infant mortality rate in the region is higher than the state average. Region infants died at the rate of 9.0 for every 1,000 live births.

2009 Epidemiological Study on the Consumption and Consequences of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs, conducted by Porter Starke Services and Valparaiso University. 22.7% of 6th graders have used alcohol. This figure rises to 75% of students by the 12th grade. 33.4% of 12th graders report binge drinking in the past two weeks, which is 5 or more drinks in one episode. One-half of 12th graders report driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There were 1,252 alcohol-related collisions in Lake and Porter Counties in 2007, which resulted in 27 fatalities. In addition, in the same time period, there were 4,576 DUI arrests, 2,558 Public Intoxication arrests, and 2,337 liquor law arrests. 27% of 12 graders report monthly use of tobacco, with another 8% reporting use of smokeless tobacco. 44% of 12 graders have tried marijuana, with 17.5% using 40 or more times. 128 individuals were treated at the hospital for heroin related problems, with 11 deaths.

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Center of Workforce Innovations and Dept. of Labor Statistics show that in the six-county area, the following figures represent the percentage of adults functioning below Literacy Level 2 (adults can perform tasks such as comparing, contrasting, or integrating pieces of information but not higher level reading and problem-solving skills, such as interpreting data on a table or chart--a skill necessary to obtain a GED):

Jasper County 45% LaPorte County 46%

Lake County 52% Newton County 45%

Porter County 34% Starke County 53%

In Northwest Indiana there are:

287,409 people with low literacy levels

96,700 people with less than a high school diploma

19,090 recent immigrants

78,390 people who live in households where a language other than English is spoken

27,537 people who speak English "less than well"

Kids Count in Indiana 2008: 31.8% of children live in single parent households. 25,664 children under the age of 18 live below the poverty level.

Disaster Relief: In September, 2008, Northwest Indiana was hit by severe flooding that was declared a state and federal disaster. Over 18,000 households sustained damage and registered with FEMA. Three Volunteer Reception Centers were set up and served by AmeriCorps members for 3 months. Two national NCC AmeriCorps teams came to the region to help in the cleanup and rebuilding activities. We

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are still helping families rebuild and recover.

b. Description of Activities and Member Roles:

The AmeriCorps members will serve in three major areas of community need:

1. Ensuring a brighter future for children and youth
2. Engaging the community to increase opportunities for economically disadvantaged families
3. Disaster preparedness/recovery

1. Ensuring a Brighter Future for Children and Youth:

a) AmeriCorps members will serve in the Valparaiso School System and the Portage Schools. The primary focus for the AmeriCorps members will include, but not be limited to, at-risk youth, youth who are low achievers, youth who have not yet passed State required standardized tests, End of Course Assessments, or graduation requirements, and youth who have English as a new language. The members will serve as a tutors, mentors, and service-learning facilitators. Members will serve in the classroom, in small groups, or one-on-one tutoring and mentoring academically and socially at risk students as well as students who have not yet passed State required standardized testing, End of Course Assessments, or graduation requirements. Additionally, the Members will serve during in-class and out-of-class time to facilitate students in the development of service-learning projects incorporating academic standards, curriculum, youth voice, community partnerships, meaningful service, planned reflection, civic

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engagement, comprehensive evaluation, and recognition so that students apply academic learning on their way to becoming life-long engaged community members.

Members will serve at Valparaiso High School, Ben Franklin Middle School, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Central Elementary School, Cooks Corners Elementary School, Flint Lake Elementary School, Hayes Leonard Elementary School, Memorial Elementary School, Northview Elementary School, Parkview Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, and/or Porter County Career Center and selected schools in Portage.

In addition to tutoring and service-learning, members will be trained to use the Response To Intervention (RTI) three-tier model, recognized by Indiana as an effective intervention tool. RTI is primarily a general education initiative designed to address the needs of struggling learners. RTI interventions are based on a problem-solving model that used data to inform decision-making. Its interventions are systematically applied and derived from research-based practices. RTI is highly dependent on progress monitoring and data collection. Its intervention plans are designed, implemented, and monitored by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals. RTI is able to replace the I.Q. discrepancy model for determining the presence of a learning disability.

For the past three years, we have had eight AmeriCorps members in the Valparaiso schools. This year the schools are requesting 15 members, so that there will be one in every school building. Portage Schools have witnessed the success of the Valparaiso program and are now requesting 5 members.

AmeriCorps Members will receive in-depth training in tutoring, RTI, and Service-Learning to assure that all of the major elements and state standards are met.

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b) In addition to being the intermediary organization, United Way of Porter County and Lake Area United Way would be sites for two part-time AmeriCorps members, who would serve with our Regional Volunteer Center to increase the number of youth volunteers in grades K-12 and in our six area universities. The AmeriCorps members would develop a traveling Volunteer Recruitment display that would be placed in the schools. They would update and expand our on-line web-based Volunteer Solutions software and develop special events and promotional materials targeted toward youth to highlight the AmeriCorps service opportunities. The members will help to expand the Power of Youth Council in Porter County and to establish a Youth Council in Lake County. The members will coordinate the Youth Day of Caring for the region. They will work with the service learning consortium of the six area colleges to engage college students in volunteerism, thus nurturing the growth of the next generation of community leaders.

c) Encore Service Program with the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI) would recruit Baby Boomers to serve as AmeriCorps members to leverage their knowledge and experience to improve career education for youth in area schools. Baby Boomers who have recently retired or are victims of the current economy will be recruited to serve the community as AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisors. The ideal candidates will be individuals with significant career experience as a professional, semi-professional or in the trades and have a desire to help youth prepare for college and careers in demand, defined by the local labor market. They will be outgoing individuals, dedicated to community service, and interested in facilitating relationships between schools, local businesses, and the community. AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisors will be willing to help youth and families prepare for college, plan for high-wage/high-demand careers, and are willing to serve alongside teachers and counselors and mobilize businesses and community organizations as mentors and partners. CWI is asking for four (4) full-time and six (6) part-time AmeriCorps Volunteers as part of the Porter County Partnership. AmeriCorps members will be trained and supervised by the Center of Workforce Innovations. CWI will

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provide training in mentoring, setting up internships and job shadowing, and effectively serving the interests of students, schools, and businesses. Each AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisor will learn about the leading industries and career pathways of Northwest Indiana. By establishing and strengthening relationships with community organizations and local businesses, each AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisor will strengthen the college and career planning efforts of participating school corporations. Additionally, these volunteers will provide direct mentoring and assistance to students alongside the schools' teachers and career counselors both inside of the classroom and outside of the school building. The full-time AmeriCorps members will serve with the larger school corporations in the region while the part-time members will serve smaller, rural school corporations.

The AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisors will counsel individual students about career choices, give presentations to middle and high school students, and connect students and schools with resources for college preparation and career planning. Each AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisor will serve one school corporation. CWI and the school corporations will customize each service experience to the particular needs of the students, schools, and community. The AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisors will establish deep, meaningful, and mutually-beneficial relationships with career counselors and teachers. Rather than interrupting classes or curriculum, the advisors will support and enhance the college preparation and career planning efforts of each school. Each member will also leverage years of career experience and strong work ethics to model appropriate professional behavior. While the members will be working extensively with one community and school corporation, the team of Career Advisors will connect with CWI and meet regularly to share resources, stories of success, and best practices.

AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisors will be responsible for securing private-sector involvement in the project and will ensure that local companies are informed about work-study programs, internships, job shadowing, and similar opportunities. Throughout their time of service, AmeriCorps Encore Career Advisors will perform site visits to local businesses and community organizations and give presentations to the public. They will attend business networking events, seminars, conferences, and other events that

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will help them strengthen connections with local businesses, industry associations, the public sector and improve their knowledge about career planning.

d) PATH: PATH's mission is to equip youth to make healthy choices and develop relationship skills through abstinence-centered services. Through character education and health promotion, PATH empowers youth to make the healthiest decisions regarding alcohol, drugs, tobacco, sexual activity and relationships. PATH works with students through their schools, but also in the community at faith-based organizations, at mentor/tutor sites at low-income housing complexes and neighborhoods. PATH is a resource for all youth serving agencies, youth clubs, schools and churches.

An AmeriCorps Member would enhance PATH's services by recruiting, retaining, and training volunteers, who will mentor disadvantaged youth, give presentations to groups of youth to make healthier choices and ensure a brighter social future. Volunteers would also be recruited to plan teen events and parent programs.

2. Engaging the Community to Find Opportunities for Economically-Disadvantaged Families

AmeriCorps members will serve in area non-profit organizations, helping to initiate, improve, and expand the ability of economically disadvantaged families to meet their critical needs and improve their quality of life. They will mobilize volunteers to expand services and find solutions.

a) Housing Opportunities: One AmeriCorps member will help individuals and families find safe, affordable, and permanent housing. Homeowner and budgeting classes will be offered, as well as interventions to help prevent foreclosures.

b) Spring Valley Homeless Shelter: The AmeriCorps member will facilitate the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program at the shelter, so that low-income families can take advantage of the tax benefits,

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which will help them achieve permanent housing.

c) Mental Health America--One AmeriCorps member will serve with the mental health consumers who attend the drop-in center at MHA, to help them understand and apply for benefits for which they are eligible. The member will also help the consumers learn computer skills to increase their employability.

d) Gary Housing Continuum of Care: A part-time member will serve to help individuals and families in the Gary urban area deal with housing and income issues.

e) New Creation Business Advocates: The AmeriCorps member will help homeless men, including homeless veterans, develop the work skills needed to gain employment. This may include computer skills, resume-writing, job readiness training, etc.

f) The Valparaiso Christian Ministerial Association (VCMA) is an interdenominational Christian organization that exists to: provide professional support to local churches and clergy, enhance the visibility and vitality of the Christian groups and churches in our community, work for social justice by serving people in need and deepen individual and group spirituality in our community. There are 18 active churches in the VCMA that represent a total Sunday morning worship attendance of over 6,000.

The churches of Valparaiso provide a huge pool of people ready, willing and able to participate in volunteer projects throughout the community. The AmeriCorps member would mobilize volunteers from the churches to meet the needs of the community. The VCMA provides daily evening shelter for homeless men in area churches from October through April. The AmeriCorps member will help engage more church sites and recruit and train church volunteers who staff the shelters. Once a year church members come together for a one-day Sharefest, and the AmeriCorps member will help plan the day's activities and recruit church members for that day in September.

g) HealthLinc is our federally-qualified community health center, serving low-income families in Porter, Starke and LaPorte Counties. They are requesting one AmeriCorps member to provide health education and health literacy programs to low-income patients.

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h) The Caring Place is our domestic violence shelter. They are requesting a part-time AmeriCorps member to recruit, screen, and train volunteers for their shelter and for their hot-line.

i) The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) is requesting an AmeriCorps member to recruit and train volunteers for their new bereavement program for youth.

AmeriCorps members will be mobilizing volunteers to meet the most critical needs in Northwest Indiana. They would also be creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged families to become self-sufficient and independent. Each site will provide a site supervisor for the AmeriCorps Member.

3. Disaster Relief and Recovery

a) An AmeriCorps member would serve with Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana (LARRI) to recruit volunteers who will help with the on-going recovery efforts of the 18,000 flood survivors. The rebuilding efforts will take another two-three years. The need for volunteers in rebuilding and re-constructing homes is an on-going challenge.

AmeriCorps members will enhance the ability of the above organizations to provide mission-related services. The members will not duplicate staff efforts nor will they replace staff responsibilities, but they will engage students and agency clients in a one-on-one manner, which will expand the numbers served and the quality of the services delivered. Also, they will engage the broader community through their volunteer recruitment efforts, which will also expand the service delivery system. Finally, because of their visibility in the region, they will introduce thousands of residents to the importance and impact of the AmeriCorps service model and program.

AmeriCorps members and their site supervisors will receive an initial orientation and training from the AmeriCorps Coordinator at United Way, including an overview of AmeriCorps service and the role and

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responsibilities of a member, including prohibited activities. They will also receive individual training needed at their individual site. Additional trainings will be held throughout the year, as needed. A monthly civic reflection meeting will be held to explore the meaning of service. Also, it will be a time for reflection and discussion of their current activities.

We have sponsored an AmeriCorps program for the past three years. People are responding to the President's call for service in these tough economic times. We have a solid program that has grown in the past three years. We had more applicants than sites this year. The schools are requesting a member in every school building and agencies are requesting AmeriCorps members because they have seen the impact of the Porter County partnership.

Measurable Outputs and Outcomes:

We plan to operate the program in 2 of the national focus areas:

Education and Opportunity and we will be using a standard performance measure in each focus area. We will measure the academic progress of students-at-risk in the Education focus area, through grade transcripts and ISTEP scores. We will also be measuring the financial knowledge of economically disadvantaged individuals in the Opportunity focus area. We will track the number of tax returns sent to the IRS at VITA sites, the dollars returned to low income families, and the financial knowledge gained.

Plan for Self Assessment and Improvement: Quarterly reports will be required from all sites to monitor progress on achieving performance measures. The Coordinator will work with any site not achieving their performance goals to resolve problems and improve performance. There will be monthly meetings

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of the AmeriCorps members to identify strengths and areas where improvement is needed, plus strategies to improve the entire system. Finally the coordinator will contact site supervisors quarterly to monitor the progress of the AmeriCorps partnership.

Community Involvement: The various needs assessments identified earlier engaged many partners in community dialogues.

These partnerships will continue as we monitor progress toward finding solutions to community needs. These partnerships include the nonprofit providers, businesses, governmental agencies, the community foundations, schools and the 6 universities in the region, churches and faith-based groups, and the clients who receive the services. We maintain contact with this broad group of stakeholders through community forums, surveys, newsletters, and the media.

Relationship to other National and Community Service Programs:

We will work closely with other national programs in the region, such as VISTA and Senior Service Corps. They will be invited and encouraged to participate in AmeriCorps programs and activities. We will work closely with our state OFBCI office to coordinate our activities with other AmeriCorps programs in the state. We have hosted two National NCCC teams and a third one is coming in January, 2010. Our Volunteer Center Director is a member of the state-wide Governor's Council on Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. The proposal builds on the work of the past three years of AmeriCorps funding.

Potential for Replication: We believe that this community partnership, led by United Way as the intermediary organization, has a great potential for replication throughout the state and the nation. United Ways are in the position to be community conveners and can bring local partners to the table to develop strategies that have a real impact on the community. We are willing to share the results of our

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efforts with any other interested community.

Organizational Capability

1. Sound Organizational Structure

a. Ability to Provide Sound Programmatic and Fiscal Oversight

*United Way of Porter County was incorporated 52 years ago. The first campaign raised \$70,000 for community services. In 2008, we raised \$2 million which supports health and human services to over 70,000 people in Porter County. In our 52 years, we have raised and distributed \$59,263,461 for health and human services in Porter County.

*We currently fund 40 health and human service organizations. A 40-member volunteer Board of Directors sets policy and provides oversight. United Way of Porter County has a long history of community service, fiscal responsibility, and community leadership.

*United Way funds and monitors a complex service system in Porter County that reaches into all parts of the communities and makes a difference in the lives of over 70,000 service recipients. United Way conducts and prioritizes community needs assessments, develops the necessary resources to fund the services and community safety net, provides fiscal oversight and accountability and evaluates program results.

*United Way was one of two United Ways in the state to receive a Lilly Endowment-funded competitive grant to conduct a community assessment using appreciative inquiry techniques.

*United Way was the recipient of a crisis preparedness grant from United Way of America to help establish CERT training in Porter County.

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*United Way is the FEMA administrator for Porter County. FEMA dollars are distributed through community providers. United Way provides the administrative and fiscal oversight. We received stimulus dollars to expand the FEMA funded services this year.

*United Way, with our two sister United Ways, received a \$750,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment for a planning and community building project. Thirty-four partners joined in this 4Community Project and a comprehensive regional epidemiological study was conducted looking at ten behavioral health issues. This study is now available on-line as a service to the entire region. The 34 partner collaborative decided to focus on obesity, especially childhood obesity. Matching dollars were secured, an RPP was written, and 10 projects were funded. This project won a TrailBlazer Award from Governor Daniels.

*The United Ways are presently undertaking a second regional initiative, focusing on early childhood development, called Success by Six. United Way of Porter County is the fiscal agent for this Lilly-funded initiative.

*The work of United Way as a community-building leader has prepared it to manage the AmeriCorps grant. The administrative, fiscal and programmatic expertise is established and proven.

b) Multi-site Program

*United Way of Porter County has managed a multi-site program successfully for the past three years. We started with 4 partners in the first year. The program has continued to grow and expand as the community has seen the positive results of the AmeriCorps program. We started with 4 members in the Valparaiso Schools. Now they want 13 members, one in every school. The Portage Schools heard about

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the success of the AmeriCorps members in Valparaiso Schools and now they want members. We started with one social service agency--now we 15 who have expressed interest in being an AmeriCorps site. People are seeing the results that AmeriCorps can bring to a community.

*United Way is uniquely qualified to support and manage multiple sites. Currently, we provide financial support and program oversight to 40 organizations in Porter County. Each agency is reviewed annually by Allocation volunteers, and the financial audits and 990's are reviewed by the Finance Committee.

*All sites must meet the criteria required by the AmeriCorps regulations. Each site will be reviewed to ensure that they have adequate programmatic and fiscal and supervisory capability before being approved.

*The AmeriCorps Coordinator will have weekly contact with the AmeriCorps members, and quarterly contact with site supervisors. Quarterly outcome progress reports will be required.

*There will be monthly meetings of the AmeriCorps' team to discuss common elements and strategies to enhance program goals.

b. Board of Directors, Administrators, and Staff:

* United Way has a 40 member Board of Directors, responsible for setting policy and providing oversight of the organization. The AmeriCorps program will be monitored by the Community Impact Committee of the Board.

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*The President will be responsible for the overall administration of the program. The President has 33 years experience in nonprofit management. Reporting to the President will be the Director of the Regional Volunteer Center, who will supervise the two AmeriCorps members at United Way. This Director started as an AmeriCorps volunteer, so she has a unique insight into their role.

*Our Volunteer Coordinator for Porter County also served as an AmeriCorps member in the 2008/09 year. She joined our staff in September, 2009.

*The Executive Vice-President will be responsible for the fiscal monitoring of this grant. She has been with United Way for 25 years as Chief Financial Officer.

*We will hire a Coordinator of the AmeriCorps program. Currently, our Information and Community Services Coordinator has responsibilities as the Coordinator of the AmeriCorps program. She has 17 years experience with United Way and oversees our "First Call for Help" and she is also the FEMA coordinator. She has extensive experience in the social service field. She will be retiring in June, 2010, and will train her replacement before she retires.

2.Sound Record of Accomplishment as an Organization

a. Volunteer Generation and Support:

In 2002, United Way merged a small Valparaiso-based Volunteer Center into United Way. We were fortunate to secure an AmeriCorps member to direct the Center. We installed the web-based Volunteer Solutions software, became a member of the Points of Light Foundation, and began to recruit volunteers not only for United Way but for nonprofits throughout the county. Our first year goal was 100

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volunteers recruited and matched....we had over 200. The second year, the Volunteer Center Director became a full-time staff member, we held our first Day of Caring with 300 volunteers participating and began a service learning project with Valparaiso High School, called Project United Way. We also received a Crisis Preparedness Grant from United Way of America to work with our Emergency Management Agency to recruit and train C.E.R.T. members.

In the past seven years, we have grown to be a Regional United Way Center, serving Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties; and last year, we added Starke County. Currently, there are 268 volunteer opportunities and 19 Board positions listed on the website from 172 nonprofits. There have been 5,993 volunteer referrals made to the agencies.

The Day of Caring is now a regional event and 1,800 volunteers completed 168 projects--this was 500 more volunteers from the year before. The youth Day of Caring had 300 youth cleaning up the National Lakeshore, and 300 Valparaiso University Students were at Taltree Arboretum.

The Volunteer Center also implements the I Need a Hug program in 84 elementary schools in NW Indiana, co-sponsored by the VU Girls Softball team. 5,000 new stuffed animals were distributed to these schools to be used as counseling or educational tools.

Disaster Response is another focus for the Volunteer Center. Three Volunteer Reception Centers were opened in NWI within 48 hours after the flooding started. The AmeriCorps members helped manned the centers for three months. 3,000 volunteers were mobilized to muck and gut over 700 homes in the region and provide emergency assistance.

United Way of Porter County has demonstrated our ability to recruit and support a diverse group of

Narratives

volunteers.

b. Organizational and Community Leadership:

*United Way's mission is to "mobilize the caring power of the community." Our vision is to be "the key community-building leader in Porter County." We have consistently met our fund-raising goals, in order to support the safety net of services in Porter County.

*United Way is the FEMA administrator for Porter County.

*The President serves on the Board of the Indiana Association of United Ways and previously was Chair of the United Way President's Roundtable for the Indiana Association of United Ways.

*The President is the current president of the Valparaiso Rotary Club and the Volunteer Center Director is the past president of the Portage Rotary.

*The President also serves on the Porter County Community Foundation Board.

*United Way of Porter County was named the 2009 nonprofit organization of the year by the Porter County Community Foundation and the President was recognized as the Outstanding Staff Person in 2006.

*United Way of Porter County, Lake Area United Way and United Way of LaPorte County received the Governor's TrailBlazer Award for our regional obesity project.

Narratives

*Staff also serve on the following Boards and organizations:

Valparaiso Human Relations Council

Affordable Housing Coalition

211 Coalition

Chambers of Commerce

Rotary and Kiwanis

Career Center Advisory Board

Purdue Extension Advisory Board

NIPSCO Community Advisory Council

Step Ahead Council

Connections Social Service Network

Governor's Council on Volunteerism

Valparaiso Ministerial Association

Match Resources:

United Way has been successful in securing a cash match from each partnership site. They have agreed to pay \$2500 for each 1700 hour AmeriCorps member or the proportional amount based on hours served.

Community Support--The first year of our project we had 3 other partners. Because of the success of the AmeriCorps members and the recognition of the value they bring to our region, we have expanded the partnerships to include another school system, Portage Schools. Valparaiso schools, who started with 4 AmeriCorps members, are now requesting one in every school building in the district. The Center of Workforce Innovations, our Region 1 Workforce Development Board, has requested 10 members in an Encore program. We now have 10 sites requesting members, including several faith-based organizations.

Narratives

Clearly, the AmeriCorps program is seen as a valuable community asset.

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

United Way of Porter County along with our partners in this grant strive to keep costs as low as possible.

Matching funds will be reached through site participation of \$2,600 per full time member assigned to their location. The amount will be prorated for part-time members. The balance of the match will come from UWPC operating funds.

a. Corporation Cost per Member Service Year (MSY):

Our cost per member for 30 MSY is \$13,000.

b. Diverse Non-Federal Support:

The Porter County Partners will contribute \$2,600 cash match for each fulltime AmeriCorps member they host. United Way of Porter County will contribute any additional cash match needed. In addition, the partners will provide in kind support with supplies, space, supervision costs and training specific to the organization.

We have sufficient financial resources for program implementation and to achieve our desired outcomes and achieve sustainability. The sources of the match funds are listed in the attached budget.

c. Current Grantees Only: Decreased Reliance on Federal Support.

The Porter County Partnership is increasing our share of the costs from 24% to 26% of the total grant,

Narratives

which will allow us to meet program goals.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

Evaluation Summary: Our progress reports have been filed with OFBCI and we have met or surpassed our outcome measures. Progress reports are on file on OnCorps and with OFBCI. Also, a state evaluation was conducted by OFBCI in 2008 and is on file with them.

We expect to achieve the following as the result of our activities in 2010/2011:

*250 at-risk students, special education students, ESL students, low academically functioning students, and/or students receiving RTI education initiative services will be tutored and mentored by the AmeriCorps members in the schools and/or participate in service learning opportunities. 30% will show improvement in their core subjects by .5 or more on a 4 point scale and will be successful in meeting RTI goals by the end of the school year.

*300 new volunteers will be recruited and trained by the AmeriCorps members to work with economically disadvantaged families and at risk students.

*We will increase the number of youth involved in the Day of Caring by 20%.

*70% of the AmeriCorps sites will report that the services provided by the AmeriCorps members increased their ability to provide mission-based services.

*200 individuals and families will receive services designed to increase their ability to become independent and self-sufficient. This will include budgeting and homeowner classes, computer literacy, job readiness training, etc.

*We will increase the EITC filings by economically disadvantaged families by 20%.

*500 students will be exposed to local industries and careers in demand by the Encore AmeriCorps

Narratives

members. 75% will increase their understanding of careers in demand.

*AmeriCorps members will provide disaster relief, if needed, and they will engage volunteers in response and recovery activities.

Evaluation tools:

*Student progress will be monitored through grade cards and transcripts and test scores.

*Volunteers will be registered on our Volunteer Solutions software

*Rating scales and evaluations will be used at the end of each training session.

*Number of EITC filings with the IRS will be documented.

Amendment Justification

Host sites have been changed in order to better serve our community.

Clarification Summary

Clarification Response 2011, Part 2

Start Date and Member Enrollment Period: Our Member Enrollment start date will be August 16, 2011.

This is the same as the grant award start date. The grant period will be August 16, 2011 to August 15, 2012. The member enrollment period does not overlap with the current period.

Opportunity National Measure: The output result statement was revised to summarize the output of the number of beneficiaries served by the AmeriCorps members. The outcome of improved financial knowledge was removed from the output result statement.

Budget Clarification Response 2011, Part 2

The program will conduct the required three part check: search of statewide criminal history

Narratives

repositories, NSOPR & FBI check for all members and staff. All members and staff in this program have recurring access to vulnerable populations.

Clarification Response FY11

FY11 Budget Clarification Responses:

The budget has been revised to equal the funding level of \$389,996 with 30 MSYs and 40 member positions. Revised budget narrative is also included.

Start Date and Member Enrollment Period: Our start date will be August 16, 2011 to August 15, 2012.

Section 1A: Personnel: Personnel time has been adjusted to reflect .95FTE. An increase of 5% in time for the Program Coordinator, there will be sufficient time to implement the corrective action plan for retention. Our Program Coordinator started September, 2010, so she has been on the job for almost a year and has done an outstanding job. She visits sites on a monthly basis, so has contact with members and site supervisors regularly. She also facilitates a monthly civic reflection training, which allows additional interaction with the members and gives them a chance to share issues and concerns. She engages members often through phone contacts and emails, and she responds quickly if there is a problem.

Section 1B: Benefits: Listed below are the benefits for each staff position.

Program Coordinator: FICA - $\$30400 \times 7.65\% = \2326 /Retirement $\$30400 \times 8\% = \2432 /Medical = \$7850 for a total of \$12,608

Narratives

President: FICA - $\$4414 \times 7.65\% = \338 /Retirement $\$4404 \times 8\% = \353 /Medical = \$714 for a total of \$1,405

CFO: FICA - $\$5451 \times 7.65\% = \417 /Retirement $\$5451 \times 8\% = \436 /Medical = \$802 for a total of \$1655

Section 1F: Contractual and Consultant Services.

The Consultant was to be retained to do an evaluation of the program. As a result of a reduction the amount available v. amount of first budget request, we decided to remove this item. Volunteer assistance from Valparaiso University will be recruited to cover this activity.

Section 1G: Staff Training

The \$150 represents 3 staff members attending the Governor's Conference - \$50 registration for each.

Section 2G: Member Training

The detail for the \$49.50 cost per member:

\$15 - Binder

\$3 - Tabs for Binder

\$2.50 - Copies - 250 pages x \$.01 per copy

\$25 - The Civically Engaged Reader - book used for Civic Reflections

\$4 - American Red Cross Disaster Training Manual

38 hours of training per member -

16 hours of orientation training - 2 full days (8 hours each) of orientation training. 18 hours of civic reflections - 9 meetings at 2 hours each. 4 hours of tutor training. The combined cost per hour for all of

Narratives

these meetings is \$3. This includes meals for the 2 full days of training and misc supplies (pens, note pads, additional copies not anticipated in above cost) for civic reflections and tutor training.

Section 11: Other

FBI Criminal History checks using fingerprinting will be used for all prospective members as well as staff. Indiana OFBCI has contracted with L-1 Identity Solutions to use INKless fingerprinting at a rate of \$40 per. NSOP searches are performed at no cost. All members and staff in this program have recurring access to vulnerable populations.

Performance Measure Clarification Items

The Disaster Services performance measure was deleted as requested.

The Volunteer Generation performance measure was deleted as requested.

There will be members recruiting volunteers and increasing the service capacity of area nonprofits and disaster-serving organizations and their outputs and outcomes will be tracked in the demographics section of the GPR.

Education National Measure

Core subjects were defined as reading and math.

The number of students demonstrating improved academic achievement was changed to 200 students - an increase from 100 students originally shown.

Under ED5, grade transcripts do not meet requirements. The school district indicated to our program that Star Math and Star Reading scores will more accurately reflect the influence of tutoring from AmeriCorps members so we will use these scores in place of grade transcripts.

Narratives

Opportunity National Measure

The output result was changed to match the output indicator as requested.

The pre and post test were removed from the output instrument line as requested. Attendance logs will measure the number of individuals receiving financial literacy services.

The percentage was removed from the intermediate outcome result as requested.

The target of 45 individuals and the target value of 45 are now consistent as requested.

Pre and post tests will be administered for any financial literacy training. The surveys will be administered by the AmeriCorps members prior to any training and after the training has been completed. The PM statement was aligned with the rest of the measure as requested.

Clarification Response FY10:

Programmatic Items:

* We are requesting 40 AmeriCorps members. 15 MSYs will serve in the schools and 15 MSYs will serve in community agencies. 20 members will be fulltime and 20 members half-time.

*Members who are recruited to serve in the schools and who will tutor will meet the qualifications for tutors as required in 34 C.F.R.200.58:

1. High school diploma or its equivalent, or a higher degree; and
2. Successful completion of a pre-and in-service specialized training, as required in statute 2522.940.

The curriculum is outlined in the grant narrative.

Members will be recruited from universities, volunteer fairs, AmeriCorps listservs and websites, through placement of opportunities in newspapers, on radio stations, social media and websites. Recruitment strategies will continue to expand as other sources and resources are discovered.

We are requesting August 16, 2011 as the grant award start date and the member enrollment start date.

Narratives

FY10 Budget Clarification Response:

*Personnel Expense - It is correct that Site Supervisors are not included in the budget.

*Dir of Reg Vol Ctr & Vol Ctr Coordinator are not included in the budget.

*Yes, the .95 FTE will be sufficient to run the program. The three staff positions will work diligently to provide the attention needed.

*Personnel Fringe Benefits - The rates used to calculate are the same for each staff member, and have been clarified in the budget narrative.

*Staff and Member Travel - Travel to CNCS meetings are included within the budget but are part of another line item. Clarification and separation have been made to the narrative to show more clearly. The number of host sites (16) has been added to the narrative. Hotel fees are for CNCS meetings, opening ceremony, OFBCI meetings. Registration fees are for the Governor's Conference, detail has been added to the narrative. Calculation for Member Local Travel has been adjusted to reflect number of members. No hotel and per diem costs are included in the budget for members.

*Supplies - Member Gear is for AmeriCorps Logo materials ONLY. Consumable Supplies have been detailed in the narrative - pens, paper, name badges, lanyards, copies.

Member Training - Calculation has been changed to reflect 40 members. Costs have been explained more clearly in the narrative. Members will receive 4 hours of AmeriCorps orientation and training in the first week of service. Topics will include an overview of national service, my AmeriCorps portal, OFBCI's role, oncorps entries of time and service, progress reports. eligible activities, and AmeriCorps members and supervisors roles. Members will then go to their individual sites for site training and tutor training. In addition, members will receive 1 and 1/2 hours of training monthly, where they will meet as a group to discuss issues and concerns and they will participate in a civic reflection discussion. They

Narratives

will also travel to Indianapolis for the opening ceremonies. Training will be 22-25 hours minimum.

*Evaluation - Calculation method has been changed to better reflect proper calculation as well as defining who will be performing the evaluation.

*Other Program Operating Costs - Background checks are only required for members and staff who have recurring access to vulnerable populations.

*Living Allowance - 40 members is correct

*Match & Source Funds - More detail has been added to show UWPC portion of the Grantee Share. The total matches the budgeted amount.

Performance Measurement: The national performance measures have been entered under the performance measures section.

FY10 Budget Clarification Response, Part 2

Supervision: All sites will have a site supervisor, paid through the site organization, that will monitor member(s) at each individual site. Therefore, the Program Coordinator will be responsible for communicating with each site supervisor on a regular basis and monitoring the progress.

Costs for soda and snacks have been removed from the budget.

Background Check line item has been changed to reflect staff, site supervisors and AmeriCorps members.

Clarification Response FY10, Part 2

Performance Measures:

Narratives

Opportunity: We have increased the number of participants to 60. However, this will be a new service opportunity for AmeriCorps members in Porter County and there will be start-up time and development of curriculum/learning objectives. We know that we will be serving a vulnerable population, who move frequently due to their financial situation. Getting them to attend a series of meetings will be a challenge, especially in a county with no mass transportation. We hope, in fact, to serve more than 60, but this first year is a baseline year.

Education

1. ED2 cannot be an intermediate outcome according to the National Performance measures. It must be an output. The drop-down boxes will not allow me to make it anything other than an output.
2. The target has been changed to students who complete participation.
3. There is no provision for end outcomes in the national performance measures in Egrants drop-down boxes. The choices are outputs and intermediate outcomes. So I left ED5 as an intermediate outcome.
4. Star Reading, Star Math and Study Island in pre and post assessments will be used to demonstrate improvement in core areas.
5. Test data from state and standardized tests, grade transcripts and test scores. Additionally, K-5 students will use STAR reading and STAR math for pre and post data; grades 6-8 will use STUDY ISLAND for pre and post data; and 9th grade Freshman Academy will use STAR READING and STAR MATH for pre and post data. These are standardized assessments and monitoring tools that have been validated externally, and meet the criteria for the National Performance Measurement Pilot.

Continuation Changes

Narratives

Continuation Changes for 2011/12:

Year 2011/12: Host sites will be evaluated and new sites added, if necessary, to better serve our community. The Lake County Sheriff's Department has requested an AmeriCorps Member to provide community outreach to schools and youth groups. The Valparaiso Human Rights Council has requested a member to expand diversity and cultural competency in the community. Portage Township Schools are requesting additional Members and the Hammond School District is also requesting AmeriCorps members. The Center for Innovation has 10 Encore AmeriCorps members providing career coaching and counseling in school districts throughout the region. New schools are asking for an Encore AmeriCorps member.

Program Evaluation: A comprehensive internal evaluation and action plans were submitted to the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives.

Outputs and outcomes:

We will continue to hold Day of Caring in the summers of 2011 and 2012 with the goal of recruiting volunteers to do projects throughout Northwest Indiana. In August 2010 more than 2000 volunteers from across the region completed over 100 projects. A Youth Day of Caring was held at the National Lakeshore and 350 youth from throughout Northwest Indiana participated. And two local Universities also engaged students through Days of Caring. AmeriCorps Members helped organize, facilitate, and implement this huge and successful volunteer event.

We will continue to provide disaster recovery services through Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana (LARRI). We have now hosted 6 NCCC teams to help rehabilitate flood victims. Another team

Narratives

has been approved for March, 2011.

Volunteer recruitment display boards will be placed in additional sites in 2011/2012. The volunteer website (www.nwivolunteer.org) will be enhanced and upgraded.

Relationship to National and Community Service Programs:

We collaborated with Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, RSVP, and other AmeriCorps Programs to present the Regional Governor's Conference held on January 6, 2011. The conference was very successful. Members planned a Martin Luther King Day project, collecting over \$1,000 of nonfood products for the local food pantry....items that individuals cannot purchase with food stamps, like shampoo, shaving cream, diapers, toilet paper, etc.

We have been asked by the Indiana State office of Corporation for National and Community Service to be the interim sponsor of the RSVP program for six months, replacing the sponsor who has relinquished the program.

Member Enrollment and Retention:

We had a 100% enrollment rate for 2009/2010. We had a 73% retention rate for 2009/2010. In 2009/2010 5 members exited without receiving an education award.

For 2010/11, We have been successful in recruiting 20 full-time and 20 part-time AmeriCorps members....100% enrollment. We have exited one member for cause.

Narratives

Retention Plan: The program director meets with each member at least once a month and members are given the opportunity to share their site specific experiences. They are always asked how things are going as a starting off point to identify any potential problems.

The program director emails informational and programmatic updates to members and site supervisors as needed and invites feedback and questions.

When a member self-identifies or a site supervisor identifies a problem, either the member or site supervisor may bring it to the attention of the program coordinator. Dialog among the program coordinator, site supervisor and the member takes place to identify any problem areas. Once the problem(s) is/are identified, the participants come up with a plan to remedy the situation. The plan is documented on paper and discussed among the participants and the document is signed and dated by all parties.

Follow up is conducted by the participants in the form of site visits, phone calls, emails and written logs, such as time sheets, to monitor the progress. If the problem escalates beyond the original plan, follow up meetings may be held to discuss further action.

Every effort is made to accommodate the needs of member and site. The discipline plan is written in the member handbook and the member contract. The program coordinator verbally goes over the contract with each member at contract signing, and the handbook is discussed with the group during orientation/training.

We work very hard to ensure that the member and the site have a rewarding and fulfilling AmeriCorps experience.

Narratives

2011/12 Budget Revisions:

The budget has been adjusted to show increases in the following areas:

1. Member stipends increased which increases the overall cost of the program, even for the same number of members;
2. Increased mileage reimbursements due to increased number of sites and more service activities being provided out in the community. Members need to drive their own vehicles because there is very limited bus service in the region.
3. OFBCI conference registration fees, which were not charged in the past;
4. Increase in background checks due to new requirements. We will have to run both state and FBI checks, which increases our cost per member.

We believe that the slight increase in cost per member is justified due to the above reasons. In addition, locally our unemployment rate is still over 10%. The United Way campaign is down about \$200,000, so we cannot absorb the additional local costs. However, the cost per member is still below the \$13,300 limit per full-time Member. We have also increased the site participation fee to help offset the increased costs. In addition, our local participation rate is 32%, which is above the required percentage of 30% for year 5.

Performance Measures:

We have not changed any of the performance measures for 2011/12 at this point, since we do not have the figures for the first quarter of 2010/11 yet. We will re-evaluate after the 1st quarter progress report is completed.

Performance Measures

SAA Characteristics

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

Priority Areas

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Futures | |
| <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>Selected for National Measure</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Grand Total of all MSYs entered for all Priority Areas 16.5

Service Categories

- Disaster Response
- Tutoring and Child (Elementary) Literacy
- Community-Based Volunteer Programs

National Performance Measures

Priority Area: Economic Opportunity

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

Two AmeriCorps members will provide financial literacy education to economically disadvantaged adults, including financial literacy education with regard to credit management, financial institutions including banks and credit unions, and utilization of savings plans. Members will administer a pre-test before the financial education is provided and will administer a post test after the educational program has been completed to measure knowledge gained.

Volunteers will be recruited and trained for Vita Sites and to help improve the financial knowledge of disadvantaged individuals.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

45 individuals will increase their financial knowledge on their post-test as compared to their pre-test.

Indicator: O9: Individuals with improved financial knowledge.

Target : 45 adults receiving or meet the income eligibility requirements to receive: TANF, Food Stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, SCHIP, Section 8 housing assistance or have a poor credit score or are at least 60 days behind on one or more personal/family accounts.

Target Value: 45

Instruments: Attendance Logs, pre tests and post tests

PM Statement: AmeriCorps members will conduct pre-testing prior to financial literacy education and post-testing after the education has been completed indicating 45 economically disadvantaged adults show an increase in knowledge gained from the presentation(s).

Result: Output

Result.

60 individuals will receive financial literacy services through financial literacy presentations provided by the 2

AmeriCorps members.

Indicator: O1: Individuals receiving financial literacy services.

Target : 60 adults receiving or who meet the income eligibility requirements to receive: TANF, Food Stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, SCHIP, Section 8 housing assistance or have a poor credit score or are at least 60 days behind on one or more personal/family accounts

Target Value: 60

Instruments: Attendance logs

PM Statement: 60 adults will attend one or more financial literacy sessions provided by the AmeriCorps members.

Priority Area: Education

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

National Performance Measures

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

AmeriCorps members will address the needs of at-risk students through service learning and individual classroom academic support and tutoring. Members will serve in classrooms where Math and Reading are taught, under the supervision of the classroom teacher, working with a maximum of 250 students, who have been identified as "at risk". The AmeriCorps members will help the students apply the academic knowledge they have gained in the classroom to solve real-life problems in their community and school by developing and implementing service learning projects. K-5 Students will use STAR Reading and Star Math to validate and monitor progress. 6-8 Students will use Study Island to monitor progress. Freshman Academy (9th grade) will use Star Reading and Star Math to monitor their progress. All students will use grades, End of Course Assessments, and/or ISTEP as part of the evaluatory process.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

200 at-risk students who receive 10 or more hours of tutoring from AmeriCorps members will demonstrate an academic improvement in Math or Reading.

Indicator: (PRIORITY) ED5: Students w/ improved academic performance.

Target : 200 at-risk students, special education students, ENL students, low academically functioning students, and/or students involved in the RTI education initiative.

Target Value: 200

Instruments: K-5 students will use STAR reading and STAR math scores for pre and post data.

Grades 6-8 will use STUDY ISLAND for pre and post data.

Ninth grade Freshman Academy will use STAR READING and STAR MATH for pre and post data.

These are standardized assessments and monitoring tools that have been validated externally.

PM Statement: Two hundred (200) students who receive academic support and tutoring by 20 AmeriCorps members will show improvement in Star Reading or Star Math scores, by the end of the 4th grading period, based on pre and post test scores furnished by Valparaiso School System.

Result: Output

Result.

At risk students, special education students, ENL students, low academically functioning, and/or students who have been identified by the schools will receive academic support and tutoring by 20 AmeriCorps members and they will participate in service learning projects.

Indicator: ED1: Students who start in an AC ED program.

Target : 250 at-risk students, special education students, ENL students, low academically functioning students, and/or students involved in the RTI education initiative.

Target Value: 250

Instruments: Student attendance records and Student Monthly Contact Log

PM Statement:

National Performance Measures

Result.

250 at-risk students, special education students, ENL students, low academically functioning students, and/or students involved in the RTI education initiative will receive academic support and tutoring by 20 AmeriCorps members and they will participate in service learning projects.

Result: Output

Result.

200 at-risk students who receive academic support and tutoring from 20 AmeriCorps members will maintain enrollment and complete the AC ED program.

Indicator: (PRIORITY) ED2: Number of students who complete an AC ED program.

Target : 200 at-risk students, special education students, ENL students, low academically functioning students, and/or students involved in the RTI education initiative.

Target Value: 200

Instruments: Student attendance records and education service output summary and Student Monthly Contact Log.

PM Statement: 200 at risk students will attend 25 sessions or participate in 10 hours of tutoring or service learning will have met the program's completion requirement.

Required Documents

Document Name

Status

Evaluation

Sent

Labor Union Concurrence

Not Applicable