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Executive Summary

Summary

The Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program assists the local school in providing after school tutoring programs in order to increase students' academic achievement. AmeriCorps members, who frequently already are a part of the Saguache community, serve in a variety of positions and receive educational and professional development support from local organizations, such as the local United States Forest Service and law enforcement offices. The rural community, which hosts high rates of poverty and unemployment, benefits greatly from the service and development provided by the AmeriCorps members.

Rationale and Approach

The United Methodist Church has a mission to support public school education at a local level. The Pre K-12 school in the community: Mountain Valley School is currently low on academic reading scores. The Saguache United Methodist Church site would like to assist the school in continuing after school tutoring programs with students and the AmeriCorps team in order to bring the students to better academic achievement. Tutoring and literacy activities are the primary focus for the Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program.

The AmeriCorps program would like to assist the school with their School/Community Garden project as well. AmeriCorps members will guide the elementary level students in planting and tending to the plants for the School/Community garden project. This will serve families in the community.

Organizational Capability

The Saguache United Methodist Church implemented the first AmeriCorps program in the summer of 2004. The Saguache site began its program with five members and it grew to eighteen members at one time and currently it has thirteen members.

The site has successfully written grants that provide food and other items for families in need in the

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community. We have successfully received in-kind donations from community members as well as the local Wal-Mart.

We will continue to be able to manage the grant and provide on site monitoring of the financial aspects through the Saguache United Methodist Church secretary and the Saguache AmeriCorps site supervisor.

The site supervisor has been with the program since 2004 (its beginning) and has successfully managed all of the paperwork required.

Receiving the AmeriCorps grant will enhance the programs we already have in place. It will provide an education award for the volunteerism we actively do as a way of life in our small rural community in order to sustain it. For many of the members it will provide an extra incentive to continue with civic engagement as they grow older. It will also provide an educational award incentive to continue on to higher education and learn new skills.

Budget/Cost Effectiveness

The Saguache United Methodist Church is requesting ten 300-hour positions and two 900-hour positions, which is equivalent to three MSY's for each of the three years. The budget of the three positions will be \$1800 (3MSY's times \$600) to cover cost of member clothing, travel expenses to Estes Park AmeriCorps conference, college visitations and a \$1000 stipend for the site supervisor. Activity costs for the annual tutoring program celebrations and member meetings is also part of this budget.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

The Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program will continue to use the local school assessment programs for the tutoring program. We will continue to survey community members and businesses for information on how we can improve our impact on the community. The Saguache United Methodist Church Board of Directors will assess the effectiveness of the site supervisor. At six-month intervals, members, participants and the community will complete written evaluations of the program. These evaluations will be discussed at our member meetings and then submitted to the AmeriCorps program with the other completed paperwork.

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The site will continue to hold site meetings to provide assistance to the members. We will plan to attend the Estes park AmeriCorps Conference for members. The site supervisor will provide orientation to all members. The site supervisor has been involved in member trainings since 2004. We will identify the program needs through written and verbal communication from members and the local community. We will recruit members through information tables at local craft fairs and community events as well as the local newspaper.

Amendment Justification

N/A

Clarification Summary

The program start date is 9-1-2011; with an end date of 8-31-2012. The member enrollment date begins 9-1-2011. The purpose of our program is to focus on education, recreation, job skills and basic needs of young people in our rural community. We will plan community service activities and tutoring programs as well as partnerships with businesses and agencies in order for members to acquire job skills. The county of Saguache is ranked as having the second highest level of poverty in the state of Colorado. The tutoring program effectiveness would be measured by the school assessment program. The local school administers a test school wide three times a year, using the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) program and once a year using the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). The recreational, local partnerships and community needs impact will be assessed through the input of the local community. They will be invited to meetings and given a survey. The community paper will also be provided with information about the program. The community paper will be given this contact in order to submit it in the paper for community members to provide input in the program.

1. There is a compelling need for a tutoring program in the community. The students at Mountain Valley School are 60% below grade level according to our NWEA evaluation. According to the homeless and mobile youth data 12% of our students fall into this category and are considered high need students.
2. AmeriCorps members will facilitate after school tutoring programs throughout the school year in the

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pre k-12 school. They will be assisting students with any homework needs. Members will be assisting the local library with a summer reading program for youth. Engaging youth in reading a novel together and discussing it as well as story hour.

3. Program self assessment will consist of a survey distributed throughout the community at the local memorial day celebration. This survey can then be dropped off at the local school drop box to be viewed by its members. Information will also be included in the local paper. The AmeriCorps members and program manager will discuss the results and share it with the Governors Commission of Community Service for suggestions and improvement guidelines.

4. The target community has been actively involved in the program by providing input as to the communities needs. The school administration has provided school assessment results. The school provides a place for the AmeriCorps members to facilitate and after school tutoring program. The program developed around the community and its needs.

5. The Saguache/Center Americorps program has worked with VISTA volunteers in the community. They have worked together on environmental projects as well as tutoring programs.

6. The program is designed in such a way that it is very flexible. Managing the program is very similar each year. The members do activities with Mountain Valley School that are very similar each year. Teachers do incorporate a few new ideas each year, but the program itself is duplicated as a tutoring program. The work the members do with the USFS is also duplicated with differences according to the projects the USFS has available. The general AmeriCorps program we have here is very similar each year.

7. All members that are tutoring youth have background checks done on them. They are also supervised by a school administrator and must meet the school requirements for working with youth.

8. Members are recruited at local community events; Memorial Day Celebration, Parade and Museum Opening, Art in the Park during the 4th of July, and at the Saguache Fall Festival. An AmeriCorps Banner is displayed at a booth in the park and the members always carry the flags in the parade, The

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AmeriCorps banner is displayed on the volunteer fire department truck as it is in the parade as well. Sign up sheets are available at each of these events. Former members are great about verbally spreading the word about AmeriCorps and Americorps signs are posted at the post office as well as in the local businesses bulletin boards.

9. The program will be assured diversity because of the diverse population of Saguache County. The community consists of Hispanics, Native Americans and white ethnic backgrounds. The economic diversity is 75% poverty and the rest middle to upper economics.

10. Members are rewarded with a once a month get together activity that normally consist of a BBQ and swimming at the local hot springs. Members are also awarded with Americorps logo sweatshirts and t-shirts.

11. Members are trained by the program manager at meetings every month; includes filling out time sheets, professional conduct, etc.. Movies are provided concerning first aid, CPR, tutoring and assisting young people. Mountain Valley School teachers provide a lot of tutoring training to members. They are also provided with CPR training by certified Red Cross.

12. Members are provided supervision by the school teachers and administrators as well as the Americorps program manager. The Americorps program manager is a certified teacher and counselor.

13. The program promotes an ethic of service among members by attending the Estes Park AmeriCorps Conference in the fall. The workshops at the conference and activities promote the focus of service. The members are provided with opportunities to attend other workshops and team building sessions with the program manager and as offered at the local college.

14. The program addresses sustainability issues through the advertisement of the wonderful work the members are doing. The local newspaper provides free advertising and printing of articles. The community has supported the program and is still supporting the program with opportunities for members to serve and be recognized for their service.

15. Volunteers will continue to be recruited through advertising, word of mouth, alumni presentations

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and articles in the local and nearby communities. We will also provide presentations at the local schools and businesses.

16. The program will enhance the capacity of local organizations by allowing members to actively assist them with tutoring, environmental projects and other activities. The program will provide enthusiastic volunteers to the community and ease some of the burden put on local organizations to provide the volunteers or paid staff.

17. The program manager provides the main oversight to the program. The school administration and staff is provided with members and then also provides input to the program manager as to how the tutoring program is working. The Saguache/Center United Methodist Church board of directors meets with the program manager every other month to discuss the Americorps program. They also oversee the finances of the program. The program manager meets with the Americorps members every month. The program manager also inputs the information from the members time sheets and records. The program manager also provides the members with a phone number to call any time. The program manager is available to the members anytime and discusses projects and programs with each member several times a week.

18. Organizational self assessment is done by the program manager and the current volunteers at regular meetings. The technical assistance is provided by the program manager or a technical assistant at the local school who has volunteered his time to help the members as needed.

19. The program has been able to fill all of the available slots each year for the program. Many times we have people asking for a slot the following year, because we have none left for the current year. The United States Forest Service and the Mountain Valley School have been wonderful assets to the program and providing assistance and leadership as well. The two facilities in the community provide the members with different workshops and skill building activities they can attend for free. This is a great tower of leadership in the community, along with the program.

20. The program will manage the member site through the program manager and the members

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leadership. The members are given contacts in the community that they volunteer their time with. A booklet that is given to each member includes contact information and leadership information, meeting dates and times and FAQs page. The program manager is available for any questions and support.

21. The community support is very high. The local USFS, school, and fire department as well as the Saguache County Museum have continually provided activities for the members and we join them for the CPR and skill building activities they provide for their staff.

22. Non federal resources include the local volunteer fire department supports the program with a BBQ every year for volunteer members. The local Wal Mart has donated school supplies for the members to distribute to the local school. The local USFS has also donated gloves for members doing environmental projects. The local school where the members have a tutoring program provides many of the resources in order for the children to work with the members. The school provides the space for the members to work with students. The school has also provided the Americorps members with computer access. The school also has allowed the members to eat free lunch on the days the members are volunteering at the school.

23. A total of 12 members is being requested. The performance measures are aligned with the community needs. The community/school needs a tutoring program in order to assist students in reading. The Colorado assessments indicated a need for reading tutors.

FYIO BUDGET CLARIFICATION:

I believe there is a need for an increase in the cost/MSY. There has been an increase in the cost of living by at least 25% since 2005. Member support costs have increased 10%. Gas costs have increased over 5 cents per mile since 2005. Attending the Estes Park Service Conference is 5 hours away and I support members with gas and food for travel to and from the conference. The members also receive Americorps sweatshirts/tshirts that are purchased and the shipping costs have increased. Training costs have increased.

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FY10 CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS 30-DAY ENROLLMENT AND EXIT CHALLENGES:

The changes made in exit and enrollment of Americorps members into egrants was very challenging for me. I have since gained greater knowledge about the system. I will attend webinar trainings and advise from the senior program manager in order to increase my knowledge of the system.

FY10/5/17 BUDGET CLARIFICATION RESPONSES

The Saguache United Methodist Church has seen an increase in cost of the AmeriCorps program over the past five year to the level that we are requesting the new \$800/MSY fixed award level. While community support for the program has increased over those years, no additional resources have been identified to cover those costs. Saguache is a small community located in a rural area of the state with high unemployment and high poverty levels. Over the past five years there has been increase in the cost of living by at least 25%, member support costs have increased 10%, gasoline costs have increased over 5 cents per mile since 2005. Attending the Commission's State Service Conference in Estes Park is 5 hours away and the program has had to assume the increased travel expenses. Additionally, shipping costs for AmeriCorps gear (sweatshirts/t-shirts) has increased as have training costs for first aid instructors.

FY10/5/17 CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS 30-DAY ENROLLMENT AND EXIT CHALLENGES:

The Americorps supervisor will acquire a stronger knowledge of member management by participating in webinars available on the CNCS Resource Center website. The supervisor will log onto specific tutorials that include; member management, member recruitment, member enrollment and member reporting as an informational tool. The tutorials, along with technical assistance from Commission staff, will ensure that enrollment and exits of members will occur within the 30 day time limit

Continuation Changes

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*The program is in compliance with the National tutoring regulations as they relate to AmeriCorps members. Specifically, this is to certify that the program is exempt from the regulations as stated in SS2522.920. All AC member tutors are 12th grade students tutoring younger students.

*The program's current enrollment is 83% and will be 100% by Feb. 1, 2010 with the addition of two remaining members. Retention rate is 100%.

*Regarding Output Measures for the Tutoring and Literacy PM, the students tutored have exceed the 30% target value as recorded by the NWEA literacy test of Mountain Valley School students.

*The Tutoring and Literacy Performance Measure Outcome shows a 50% increase in literacy scores as tested by the NWEA. This meets the 50% target value.

*In reference to the PM "Learning Job Skills for the Future", the program is working with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service on job skills training activities. Members devote on average one day per week. The relationship and engagement with the BLM and USFS is excellent and continues to grow.

*The program manager continues to attend program manager institutes and professional development workshops.

*Program Assessment surveys are sent to community members in order to assess the program. The next survey will be sent in June of 2010. AmeriCorps members, BLM, USFS and two local businesses will also meet with the AmeriCorps program site manager to provide input assessing the quality of the program to the community.

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Year 3 Continuation Changes

MSY-I would like to keep the same number of MSY's. However I would like to change the slot distribution to 4×0.5 (900 hrs) = 2.0 MSY 1×0.381 (675 hrs) = 0.381 MSY

$2 \times .3810$ (450 hrs) = 0.762 MSY

1×0.2117 (300 hrs) = 0.2117 MSY

Total MSY's = 3.1219

Changing the slot distribution in order to increase the service and education opportunities for members.

The program plans to improve enrollment through greater publicity in the community. Presentations will be given at the Church regarding the AmeriCorps program and what activities the members have accomplished in the community.

Areas affected by the project have been updated.

Performance Measures

SAA Characteristics

- AmeriCorps Member Population - None
 Geographic Focus - Urban
 Geographic Focus - Rural
 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 type="checkbox"/> Economic Opportunity | | <input checked="" 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 3.12

Service Categories

Secondary Education

Tutoring and Child (Elementary) Literacy

National Performance Measures

Priority Area: Education

Strategy to Achieve Results

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

Students will be tutored in literacy and other subjects by AmeriCorps members to increase their academic skills and reading level.

Result: Output

Result.

20 students will start the AC education program.

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

Target : AC members will tutor 20 elementary age students.

Target Value: 20

Instruments: Sign in sheets

PM Statement: 20 students will start an AC Education program.

Result: Output

Result.

A high percentage of the elementary school students who start the AC tutoring program will complete it.

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

Target : 18 (90%) of 20 elementary age students who start with the AC tutoring program will complete it.

Target Value: 18

Instruments: Attendance and sign it sheets will be used at each session.

PM Statement: Mountain Valley students who are performing at or below grade level will participate in one-hour tutoring sessions four times a week. In addition, students will spend 15-20 minutes per day reading self-selected books and charts will track the progress on the number of pages/ books students read. 90% of students completing the tutoring program will demonstrate academic progress as shown using the NWEA assessment tool.

Result: Intermediate Outcome

Result.

Students who complete the year long AC tutoring program will show an increase in academic skills and literacy.

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

Target : 17 (85%) of students that complete the tutoring program will show an increase in academic skills and literacy.

Target Value: 17

Instruments: NWEA testing takes place three times per year and the results will be used to collect the data needed. Classroom tracking charts will also be used to collect information.

PM Statement: Mountain Valley students who are performing at or below grade level will participate in weekly tutoring, spend 15-20 minutes per day reading self-selected books, and charts in the classroom will track pages/ books read. 85% of students completing the program will show one grade level increase in academic/ reading levels.

Required Documents

Document Name

Status

Evaluation

Not Applicable

Labor Union Concurrence

Not Applicable