

Question Number	Page Number	Section	Questions & Answers for FFY2016 Competitive
1.	Notice, Page 3	Timeline	<p>Q. Is there a Letter of Intent Template?</p> <p>A. No, a simple email to the serve@mt.gov email clearly stating an organizations intention to apply is sufficient.</p>
2.	Notice, Page 3	Timeline	<p>Q. If our Organization’s documentation for our current Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate is on file with OCS, do we have to resubmit that documentation again?</p> <p>A. If the Organization’s documentation for the Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate is on file with OCS, it does not need to be resubmitted.</p>
3.	<p>Application Instructions, Page 16</p> <p>Notice, Page 18</p>	<p>Application Instructions, Item 8</p> <p>Assessment of Continuation Applications, I. Budget, Match & Cost Per MSY</p>	<p>Q. The NOFO addresses requests for additional funds, but not additional slots. Is it possible for MCC to request additional slots/MSY’s with no additional costs (No cost slots)? We are thinking of something between 2-4 MSY’s. Thus, the MCC award would remain the same, but we’d have ability to offer additional AmeriCorps positions to meet interests of partners. This would reduce the overall cost per member. The use for these slots would be to respond to increasing interests in the Conservation Interns program, and to provide additional leaders for programs serving Native American communities.</p> <p>A. Both the NOFO and the Application Instructions indicate that a continuation application may propose expansion (increase in members, increase in funding and/or an increase in cost/MSY) There is a note that continuation increases in funding are rarely approved. Since this question is not an increase in funding and would actually decrease the cost per MSY it appears that yes, a continuation applicant may propose additional MSY without an increase in funding. The Application Instructions page 16, item 8 boldly states that ‘applicants requesting expansion should not modify performance measures and the application budget to reflect the increase.’ This section includes questions that require responses in the application. Please read that section carefully.</p> <p>The Notice, page 18, describes the assessment of Continuation Applications and indicates that cost per MSY will be considered in as comparison to previous operating periods.</p>

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4.	Notice, Page 16	D. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy	<p>Q. If it is possible to requests additional slots at no added cost, would OCS/CNCS look upon this favorably? Benefit is increasing services by MCC at decreasing cost per member. But, perhaps at this time of possible cuts, perhaps CNCS would not look upon this favorably. What's your sense for how this would be received?</p> <p>A. Page 16 of the Notice boldly states that "Having a low cost per Member Service year is a competitive advantage, and that New applicants that submit with a low cost per MSY and recompeting applicants that submit with a lower cost per MSY than previously funded may receive higher priority for funding." Based on this OCS would support an increase in MSY that can be achieved at a lower cost per MSY. Such requests may or may not be approved by CNCS.</p>
5.	Notice, Page 16 Notice, Page 17	E. Evaluation Plan B. Phase One Review	<p>Q. Are current formula funded applicants required to submit an evaluation plan with their competitive proposal if it is the program's first time applying for competitive funding?</p> <p>A. Page 16 of the Notice states that "If the applicant is competing for the first time, please enter N/A in the Evaluation Plan field since it pertains only to recompeting grantees." Page 17 of the Notice defines recompeting and states that if the project does not satisfy the definition of recompeting, it will not be required to submit an evaluation plan, summary or completed evaluation. Please read this section carefully. Page 17 describes CNCS considerations for applicants that are current formula grantees that are submitting applications for the same program model, which does not include evaluation. Based on these items, it appears that a formula funded applicant is not required to submit an evaluation plan with the first application for competitive funding.</p>

