

2017 Competitive Funding Memo & Applicant Brief Descriptions

12.7.16

Context: ServeMontana is the prime applicant to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) for grants to eligible organizations to operate AmeriCorps programs. The competitive funding process results in the Commission making the funding recommendation to CNCS for applicants that are in a continuation, renew or who have submitted a new application. Those applicants compete nationally, with CNCS making the funding determination. In this cycle, six organizations responded to the Request For Proposal; three continuations, two renew applicants and one new application, all from current grantees.

On Wednesday November 16, 2016 the Montana Commission on Community Service Grant Review Work Group met to conduct consensus scoring of the applications and to produce the following funding recommendation.

		Cost per MSY	#MSY	CNCS Request
Continuation	FoodCorps, Inc. FoodCorps Montana	\$11,557	11	\$127,130
Continuation	Montana Conservation Corps, Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)	\$13,200	27	\$356,400
Continuation	Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)	\$11,732	159.57	\$1,872,000
Renew	Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps	\$13,281	16.5	\$219,137
Renew	Montana Legal Services Association, Justice For Montanans Project (JFMP)	\$13,425	20	\$268,500
New	National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) Montana Energy Corps	\$13,471	18	\$242,477
			252.07 MSY	\$3,085,644

2017 Competitive Continuation Applicant Descriptions

FoodCorps, Inc, nonprofit

Program Name: FoodCorps Montana

CNCS Focus Area: Healthy Futures

MSY requested: 11

CNCS Funds requested: \$127,130

Applicant Match: \$357,766 year

Budget Total: \$484,896

Cost per MSY: \$11,557

FoodCorps Montana Executive Summary FoodCorps proposes placing 11 full-time AmeriCorps members to connect children in public schools to healthy food through nutrition education, school gardens, and improved school lunch offerings throughout Montana. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for measurably improving children's preferences toward eating healthy foods, thereby overcoming a key barrier in addressing the nation's costly epidemic of childhood obesity. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 360 community volunteers who will also be engaged in promoting healthy foods and healthy school food environments. This program is aligned with the CNCS focus area Healthy Futures. The CNCS fixed amount investment of \$127,130, represents 30% of the budget needed to support these members. FoodCorps will leverage private funding to support each AmeriCorps member from sources including an anonymous donor, New Profit, Inc., The William K. Bowes Jr. Foundation, and FoodCorps general funds.

2017 Competitive Continuation Applicant Descriptions continued

Montana Conservation Corps , nonprofit	CNCS Funds requested: \$356,400
Program Name: Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)	Applicant Match: \$564,918
CNCS Focus Area: Environmental Stewardship & Capacity Building	Budget Total: \$921,318
MSY requested: 27	Cost per MSY: \$13,200

Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) Executive Summary BSWC will engage 27 AmeriCorps members to make a measurable contribution in environmental stewardship of America's headwaters in the northern Rocky Mountains and improve at-risk ecosystems critical to the health of Montana's communities. Members will be placed with community based Conservation Districts and watershed organizations throughout Montana. AmeriCorps members will be directly responsible for improving the health of Montana's natural resources, reducing the impact of drought, increasing community members' knowledge about watersheds and environmentally conscious practices, and building the capacity of community-based organizations to be effective caretakers of our headwater resources. The AmeriCorps members will leverage 500 volunteers that will engage in hands-on stewardship of local watersheds. This program is aligned with the CNCS focus areas of Environmental Stewardship and Capacity Building. Big Sky Watershed Corps is a collaborative partnership of three statewide organizations, the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana and Montana Conservation Corps, each dedicated to conserving and protecting Montana's natural resources.

Montana Conservation Corps , nonprofit	CNCS Funds requested: \$1,872,000
Program Name: Montana Conservation Corps (MCC)	Applicant Match: \$3,977,273
CNCS Focus Area: Environmental Stewardship	Budget Total: \$5,849,273
MSY requested: 159.57	Cost per MSY: \$11,732

Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) Executive Summary MCC proposes to engage 291 (159.57 MSY) AmeriCorps members in a versatile 21st Century Conservation Service Corps model intervention that mobilizes young Americans and veterans to protect at-risk ecosystems and improve natural resources on public lands and in communities across Montana, and connected in ecosystems in Idaho, Wyoming, North and South Dakota. At the end of the program year, AmeriCorps members will have improved 600 miles of community and backcountry trails, enhanced 5,000 acres of parks and public lands by mitigating invasive weeds, reducing wildfire risks, and restoring natural habitat, and they will have installed low-cost weatherization measures to make 1,000 homes of low-income residents more energy efficient. 1,100 youth, homeowners, and volunteers will have increased knowledge and skills for environmental stewardship. AmeriCorps members include 20 veterans serving with MCC's Veterans Green Corps, where they earn professional certifications for environmental jobs. The AmeriCorps members will leverage 1,000 volunteers as active stewards of local parks and trails.

The program aligns with the CNCS focus areas of Environmental Stewardship, and Veterans and Military Families. MCC is a fixed-amount grantee with \$1,872,000 in CNCS funds that will be leveraged with \$3.9 million in fee-for-service contributions from federal, state, and local government agencies and nonprofit partners, and from private grants and donations. The CNCS share comprises 32% of program costs, as MCC significantly lowers the cost-per-member and federal share while increasing services.

2017 Competitive Renew Applicant Descriptions

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks state agency
 Program Name: Montana State Parks AmeriCorps
 CNCS Focus Area: Environmental Stewardship
 MSY requested: 16.5

CNCS Funds requested: \$219,137
 Applicant Match: \$342,743
 Budget Total: \$561,880
 Cost per MSY: \$13,281

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Executive Summary, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps will host 20 AmeriCorps members (16.5 MSY) in a 21st Century Conservation Service Corps intervention to promote healthy, active and environmentally aware communities by improving the condition of state park lands, enriching educational opportunities, building volunteer capacity, and strengthening community outreach through 18 individual placement service sites in state parks across Montana. At the end of the first program year, the members will have improved 425 acres of land, delivered 350 education programs to at least 8000 youth and 2500 adults, and facilitate 20 new community partnerships. AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 500 volunteers, who will assist park managers in keeping parks and services accessible to the public, while increasing the stewardship for the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Montana State Parks system. Members will be available to respond to disasters in state parks as needed. This program is aligned with the CNCS focus area of Environmental Stewardship, EN4 and EN3. The CNCS investment of \$219,137 will be matched with \$342,743 in state funds.

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA), nonprofit
 Program Name: Justice For Montanan's Project
 CNCS Focus Area: Economic Opportunity
 MSY requested: 20

CNCS Funds requested: \$268,500
 Applicant Match: \$284,757
 Budget Total: \$553,257
 Cost per MSY: \$13,425

MLSA's Justice For Montanans Project (JFMP) Executive Summary, The AmeriCorps State Justice for Montanans Project will engage 20 AmeriCorps members who will expand access to civil legal information for low to moderate income Montanans by increasing access to intake, self-help, and referral services; recruiting community volunteers who will educate, advise, and represent low to moderate income Montanans in civil matters that fundamentally impact their lives; and increasing access to legal information through community outreach and education campaigns so that Montanans will be empowered to improve their lives and protect their rights. The AmeriCorps members will serve in Kalispell, Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, Bozeman, and Billings. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for helping at least 15,000 low and moderate income Montanans navigate the legal system to find and use court forms at self-help law centers and online, process applications for free civil legal aid from MLSA and reduced cost attorney services through the Modest Means Program, and field consumer inquiries and complaints and assist crime victims at the Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 200 volunteers who will be engaged in providing civil legal assistance to low and moderate income Montanans. This program will focus on the CNCS focus areas of Economic Opportunity and Capacity Building and the self-identified focus area of Access to Justice. The CNCS investment of \$268,500 will be matched with at least \$284,757 from MLSA's partners and non-federal sources.

2017 Competitive New Applicant Description

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), nonprofit	CNCS Funds requested: \$242,477
Program Name: Montana Energy Corps	Applicant Match: \$196,323
CNCS Focus Area: Environmental Stewardship	Budget Total: \$483,800
MSY requested: 18	Cost per MSY: \$13,471

NCAT's Montana Energy Corps Executive Summary, The National Center for Appropriate Technology will have 20 AmeriCorps members who will provide weatherization and energy assistance services to low-income Montanans and design and conduct educational activities in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable practices in Whitefish, West Glacier, Missoula, Butte, Helena, Havre, Red Lodge, as well as other communities within Montana. At the end of the 1st program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing 400 people with hands on weatherization and energy assistance services to reduce home energy use and for educating 6000 people in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other sustainable practices. This program will focus on the CNCS focus area(s) of Environmental Stewardship. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 75 volunteers who will be engaged in community-based energy education services. The CNCS investment of \$242,477 will be matched with \$196,323; \$80,500 in public funding and \$115,823 in private funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah R. Sadowski, Grants Manager
Governor's Office of Community Service