



Attachment D – Cover Letter

Montana Commission on Community Service 2011 AmeriCorps State Grant Application

Proposed Project Title: Montana Campus Corps

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Name of Applicant Organization: The Montana Campus Compact (MTCC)

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Federal Employer Identification No (FEIN): 816001713

Type of Applicant (nonprofit, government, etc.): Nonprofit, higher education

Geographic Area to be Served: Montana, statewide

Amount of Funds Requested and Total Project Budget: \$795,746 in CNCS funds requested and \$707,670 in Grantee Match, for a Total Project Budget of \$1,503,416

Question 1: Brief description and summary of program (max 500 words) *Please use similar content to what is submitted into eGrants:*

The Campus Corps AmeriCorps program engages college students in meeting community-identified needs through meaningful service. More than 700 students across Montana serve each year in schools, clinics, hospitals, nonprofits and local and tribal government agencies. Campus Corps members provide hands-on services to Montana's low-performing K-12 schools, its medically underserved populations, and help expand the impact of the nonprofit sector. In the 2009-2010 program year, members recruited over 10,000 volunteers and served over 40,000 beneficiaries.

Issue Areas - Which federal key objective(s) and/or Montana Initiative(s) will this program address?



Federal Key Objectives:

- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Environment Stewardship
- Veterans and Military Families
- Opportunity
- Disaster Services

Montana Initiatives:

- The Governor's strategic initiative for clean energy
- The Governor and First Lady's strategic initiative for math and science education
- Expand and Promote Volunteerism in Montana

Questions 2: Describe how your program will address these issue areas as outlined in the Federal Key Objectives and Montana Initiatives. (max 500 words) *Note: how well programs address issue areas will be used in the ranking of funding recommendations by the Grant Review Workgroup.*



Campus Corps was funded under the Corporation's Strategic Initiatives for FY 2009. The resulting project and its three-year performance measures align with the pre-Serve America Act initiatives of "Engaging students in communities" and "Mobilizing more volunteers." Grantees that received funding prior to the passing of the Act were encouraged by CNCS to "opt-out" of the SAA measures, in an effort to track consistent data over time. That said, services performed by Campus Corps members in 2009-2012 align with following federal and state objectives:

Education – Campus Corps adds value to students' education by integrating service experiences with coursework, civic reflection and opportunities for student leadership. By giving students opportunities to serve their communities, Campus Corps provides real-world experience to its participants, 90% of whom report a greater commitment to their intended professions as a result of participation. In 2009-2010, 25% of our members served in Education, as academic mentors and student teachers.

Healthy Futures – In 2009-2010, nearly 50% of our members served in Public Health, as student nurses and technical interns. Montana is home to many Medically Underserved Areas and Medically Underserved Populations. Campus Corps meets this community need by placing half of its Corps in not-for-profit clinics and hospitals, where patients are directly cared for by our members.

Environmental Stewardship – The program partners with several local organizations, statewide programs and national networks with an environmental focus, including



Ecology Project International, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program, Montana Wilderness Association, and the Student Advocates for Valuing the Environment (SAVE) Foundation. Campus Corps engages academic departments in environmental initiatives, including the School of Architecture at MSU with its Community Design Center and the Environmental Studies Department at UM.

Veterans and Military Families – Each year, members are placed at healthcare facilities that directly benefit veterans and their families, including VA Medical Centers in Butte, Helena and Missoula.

Opportunity – In addition to the ARRA-funded Recovery Project of 2009-2010, which placed 48 members in economically-distressed communities as volunteer recruiters for struggling nonprofits, Campus Corps members facilitated capacity-building projects at 85 nonprofit sites in 2009-2010. The result of these collaborative partnerships was that 96% of agencies reported an increase in organizational resources due to members' efforts.

Disaster Services – Members are placed at agencies that provide response and preparedness education, such as the Red Cross in Missoula and Billings, Three Rivers EMS in Columbia Falls, Evergreen Fire and Rescue in Kalispell and the Libby Volunteer Ambulance.

MT Math & Science – Members coordinate volunteers for the America Counts program at UM and MSU, promote math and science education for youth through campus-sponsored projects, such as Little Digger Day at Montana Tech, and lead hands-on science activities and field trips with Watershed Education Network, Hopa Mountain and Exploration Works.

Expand & Promote Volunteerism – In 2009-2010, members recruited over 10,000 volunteers who served over 100,000 hours. Of these, over half were youth under age 18.

The Montana Commission on Community Service also has the following expectations of all AmeriCorps Programs:

Montana Expectations of All Programs:

- Disability inclusion in the design and delivery of the program
- A collaborative approach to program planning, design and delivery
- Demonstrated ability to successfully administer an AmeriCorps or other federal grant
- Addressing rural, underserved or areas of extreme poverty that are not currently served by AmeriCorps programs



Questions 3: Describe how your program will address these expectations (max 300 words):

Disability inclusion - Central to the work of Campus Corps is the idea that our members, projects and placements adequately reflect the diversity of local Montana communities. Projects such as peer mentoring through Blackfeet Community College's disability services, marketing and outreach through Special Friends Advocacy in Kalispell, raising awareness through the Same Difference Inclusion Theater in Butte, and client services through Montana Independent Living Project in Helena are examples of inclusive initiatives that have grown out of local partnerships.

Collaborative program design/delivery - Every Campus Corps project and partnership evolves from a local needs assessment, involving campus and community stakeholders. Each spring, campuses wishing to participate in the program must submit a proposal outlining their plans to engage students in meeting unmet community needs, and providing justification for how these needs were identified and how partnerships were developed.

Demonstrated success - The Montana Campus Compact has been a grantee of CNCS funding since 1994. The organization currently operates AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA grants, and is a subgrantee of the largest AmeriCorps National Direct program in the U.S. With fiscal support provided by the University of Montana, MTCC and its staff are experienced at managing grants and administering a statewide program, such as Campus Corps.

Addressing unmet community needs - Although the Campus Corps program is hosted by 18 campuses in 15 cities throughout the state, it is worth noting that our members served in 55 unique Montana communities in 2009-2010. This includes service in rural areas, urban centers and the Flathead, Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Crow, Fort Peck and Rocky Boy's Indian Reservations.

Indirect Cost Rate:

Applicants that include a federally-approved indirect cost rate amount in their budget must submit the approved indirect cost rate agreement to the Governor's Office of Community Service.

**Please attach the indirect cost rate agreement.*



AmeriCorps Members

How many Members will be recruited under the proposed program?

30 Full Time
(1700 hrs)

60 Half Time
(900 hrs)

10 Reduced Half Time
(675 hrs)

370 Quarter Time
(450 hrs)

290 Minimum Time
(300 hrs)

760 Total

Continuation Applicants Only:

Give a summary of the successes and highlights of you program in the last year. Please consider using information from your progress reports. (max 500 words)

This three-year cycle represents a nearly 800% increase in the size of the Campus Corps grant (221.01 MSY, compared to 28 MSY for the 2008-2009 Campus Corps program). The program in 2009-2012 successfully fused what was formerly the Community Partners program, with its emphasis on encouraging college students to serve within their academic disciplines, and the Campus Corps program, with its team-based model supporting students who build capacity in the nonprofit sector.

We have successfully partnered with more than 60 academic departments at 18 campuses throughout the state, formalizing service-learning as a program initiative for the first time in the program's 16 year history. This means that more Montana students than ever are able to participate in AmeriCorps service (740 members in 2009-2010, compared to 380 in 2008-2009). The involvement of more faculty and administrators in program delivery has resulted in increased retention rates (89% in 2009-2010, compared to 83% in 2008-2009) and greater community impact, with more than 250 community agencies served in 2009-2010!

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to reviewing your proposal!

Please submit a completed cover letter (attachment D) to the Governor's Office of Community Service by November 3, 2010 at 5pm in order to be eligible for a 2011 AmeriCorps Grant. This is in conjunction to the full application submitted in eGrants by November 3, 2010 at 5pm.

