

National Planning Grant Applicants 2011-2012 Comments



December 10, 2010

For 2011-2012 two National Planning Grants were submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) whose programs would include activities within Montana. The CNCS asks that state Commissions comment on applications. The OCS staff initiated contact with each of these programs to learn the nature of the project and discuss how the program goals would fit into the Montana State Service Plan. In compliance with CNCS request that state commissions provide comments regarding the applicant, below are the comments submitted to CNCS regarding each of the proposed planning grants:

Applications Supported

Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona

For a predominantly rural state such as our own we believe that the program proposed in this planning grant, by utilizing the infrastructure of 4-H, has the potential to be very effective in meeting their goal of engaging disadvantaged youth in rural communities. Additionally, with one of our commission's strategic initiatives to engage youth in math and science, this program is a good fit to the portfolio of service in our state. This applicant did not initiate contact with our commission, the AmeriCorps state office took the lead on gathering information for this recommendation.

Applications Not Supported

Trout Unlimited

While this program does propose to address an important need in our state, engaging citizens in watershed education and protective work, it is an unfortunate circumstance that a very similar program has been proposed through the competitive grant process. Based on this circumstance it is our feeling that Trout Unlimited, in our state, may be better suited as a host site than as a program unto itself. This applicant did not initiate contact with our commission, the AmeriCorps state office took the lead on gathering information for this recommendation.

As a result of the recommendation made to CNCS that the Trout Unlimited proposal not be supported, OCS staff connected staff at each the Big Sky Watershed Corps and the local Trout Unlimited office in hopes that the organizations could work together toward common goals.