

Grant Review Workgroup Recommendations for 2012 AmeriCorps Competitive Funding

Report to the Full Commission on December 9th 2011

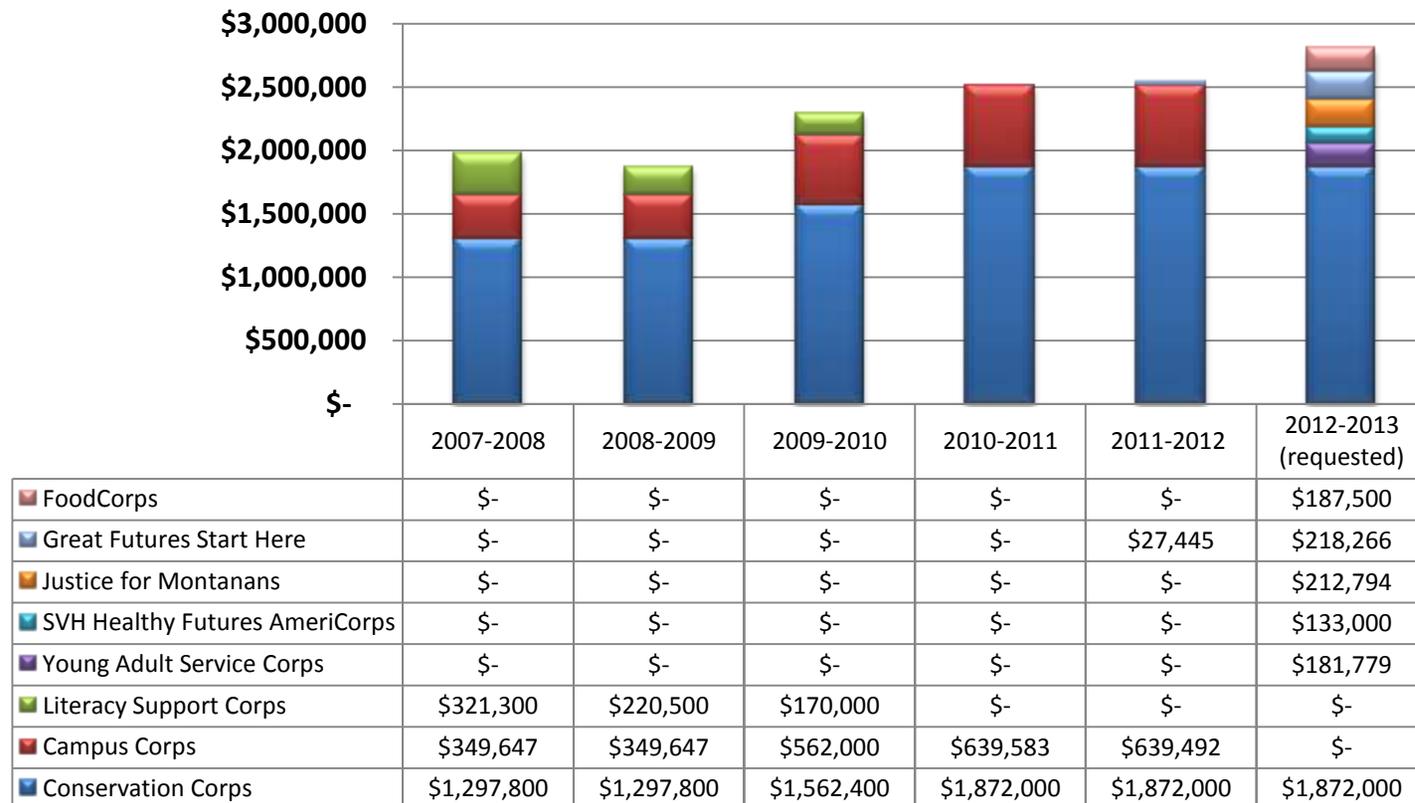


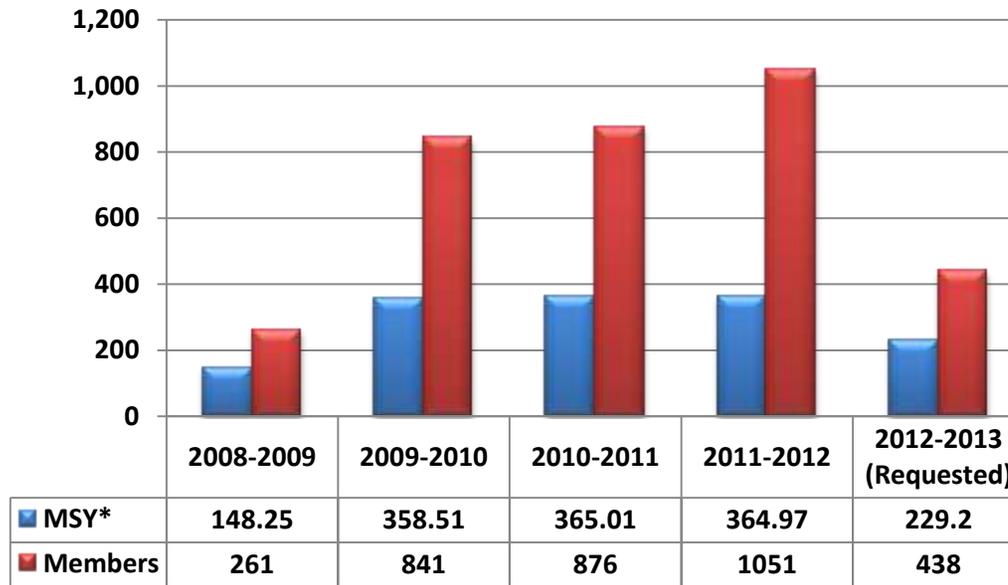
Figure 1: Total competitive funding awarded through the Governor's Office of Community Service 2008-2011, total funding requested 2012

Notes:

- *SVH Healthy Futures AmeriCorps received a formula funded planning grant which closed in July 2011
- *FoodCorps is currently in year one of operating a national direct grant, and there has been a Food Corps VISTA program in Montana since 2006
- *Justice for Montanans Project was previously funded through a formula planning grant in 2004 and is currently in year three of operating a formula funded AmeriCorps Program
- *Great Futures Start here is currently funded through a national planning grant ending in January 2012
- *Young Adult service Corps is currently in year six of operating a formula funded AmeriCorps grant



↓ **Table 1:** Summary of Grant Review Workgroup rankings for the 2012 Competitive funding cycle



← **Figure 2:** Members and member service Years (MSY) funded through competitive grants overseen by the Governor's Office of Community Service

Program Name	Funds Requested	Match %	Members	Cost Per MSY	Focus Area	Project Summary	Consensus Score	Rank
Montana Conservation Corps	\$1,872,000	62%	245	\$12,990	Environmental Stewardship, Veterans and Military Families	Environmental conservation	100	1
Young Adult Service Corps	\$181,779	38%	120	\$7,157	Capacity Building, Education	Non-profit capacity building, promoting graduation	92	2
Great Futures Start Here	\$218,266	24%	32	\$11,678	Capacity Building, Education	Education through Boys and Girls Clubs	90	3
Justice for Montanans Project	\$212,794	41%	16	\$13,300	Capacity Building, Healthy Futures, Veterans and Military Families, Economic Opportunity	Improving access to the legal system	85	4
SVH Healthy Futures AmeriCorps	\$133,000	41%	10	\$13,300	Healthy Futures	Health Education	82	5
FoodCorps	\$187,500	n/a*	15	\$12,500	Healthy Futures	Community Gardening, Farm to School, k-12 Nutrition Education	74	6

*FoodCorps has applied for a fixed amount grant which does not require match be recorded

Summary of Applicants



Montana Conservation Corps

Executive Summary

Over the past twenty years, Montana Conservation Corps has developed a versatile program that uses the power of service and the crew dynamic to mobilize a new generation of land stewards to protect Montana's iconic landscape. This environment, however, is at-risk from catastrophic wildfires, invasive weeds, trails in disrepair, natural disasters, and poorly winterized homes. MCC will recruit 245 AmeriCorps members to improve trails, restore parks and public lands, weatherize homes, and mobilize an additional 1,250 volunteers. Young veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars will also serve in AmeriCorps, helping to reduce risks of wildfires while gaining skills for forestry jobs and productive civilian lives. Serving on small crews with 177 project partners, the members and volunteers will annually improve 750 miles of trails, restore 2,500 acres of parks and public lands, and retrofit 1,200 homes for energy conservation. This project will focus on the CNCS focus areas of environmental stewardship and veterans. The CNCS investment of \$1,872,000 is matched with \$3,118,000

	Current Grant ('11)	Request ('12)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$1,872,000	\$1,872,000	\$0
Cash Match	\$3,074,424	\$3,118,000	\$43,576
In-Kind Match			\$0
Total Match	\$3,074,424	\$3,118,000	\$43,576
Match %	62%	62%	0%
Project Cost	\$4,946,424	\$4,990,000	\$43,576
MSY	144.00	144.11	0.11
Cost per MSY	\$13,000	\$12,990	(\$10)

Young Adult Service Corps

Executive Summary

The Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), a program of the Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation (JMGF) based in Helena, Montana, uses national service as a means to engage young adults in education. YASC creates service opportunities for young adults to develop positive connections to their schools and communities leading to an increase in on-time high school graduation rates and college access and success. The service activities YASC members and their non-AmeriCorps volunteers provide increase the capacity of local schools and community-based organizations.

	Current Grant ('11)	Request ('12)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$141,822	\$181,779	\$39,957
Cash Match	\$26,721	\$57,472	\$30,751
In-Kind Match	\$46,620	\$52,000	\$5,380
Total Match	\$73,341	\$109,472	\$36,131
Match %	34%	38%	4%
Project Cost	\$215,163	\$291,251	\$76,088
MSY	23.28	25.40	2.12
Cost per MSY	\$6,092	\$7,157	\$1,065

Great Futures Start Here AmeriCorps

Executive Summary

The Montana Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, funded as a planning grant during 2011, is poised to host an AmeriCorps program that will assist Montana Clubs, particularly those in communities with the lowest performing schools, in helping youth prepare for school; perform at grade-level; and graduate from high school ready for college, work and life. During the 2012-13 academic year, ten full-time, fourteen halftime, and eight minimum time AmeriCorps members will serve Montana's children (Grades K-12) in at least 20 urban, rural and reservation clubhouses throughout the state. The 20 clubhouses currently serve 5,000 youth annually. AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 92 volunteers to assist them with offering high-yield learning activities and provide evidence-based targeted programs designed to meet our priority outcomes, namely consistent club attendance resulting in demonstrated improved academic engagement. This project will focus on the CNCS focus area of Education.

	Current Grant ('11)	Request ('12)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$27,445	\$218,266	\$190,821
Cash Match	\$9,113	\$70,134*	\$61,051
In-Kind Match			
Total Match	\$9,113	\$70,134	\$61,021
Match %	25%	24%	-1%
Project Cost	\$36,558	\$288,400	\$251,842
MSY	n/a	18.69	n/a
Cost per MSY	n/a	\$11,678	n/a

Justice for Montanans Project

Executive Summary

15 AmeriCorps*State Justice for Montanans Project members and one leader will leverage an additional 120 volunteers to help low-income people apply for and obtain legal aid services, refer self-represented litigants and others to legal information and resources, process consumer inquiries and complaints, and assist crime victims across the state. At the end of the 3-year period, low-income Montanans will have increased access to courts, legal services, and other means of asserting and protecting their legal rights. This project will focus on the applicant-identified area of Legal Services, as well as the CNCS focus areas of Economic Opportunity, Capacity Building, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. The CNCS investment of \$212,794 will be matched with \$147,763.

	Current Grant ('11)	Request ('12)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$169,008	\$212,794	\$43,786
Cash Match	\$51,521	\$62,546	\$11,025
In-Kind Match	\$67,607	\$85,218	\$17,611
Total Match	\$119,128	\$147,763	\$28,635
Match %	41%	41%	0%
Project Cost	\$288,136	\$360,557	\$72,421
MSY	13.00	16.00	3.00
Cost per MSY	\$13,001	\$13,300	\$299

SVH Healthy Futures AmeriCorps

Executive Summary

Ten St. Vincent Healthcare AmeriCorps Healthy Futures members will deliver health education to underserved populations in Montana, aimed at improving nutrition, which consequently will help prevent adult and childhood obesity. At the end of the first year (Sept. 2012 -- Aug. 2013) it is anticipated that 1500 individuals will receive health education which will result in 1,125 or 75% modifying their unhealthy eating behaviors. Through their service, AmeriCorps members will leverage an estimated 70 new volunteers to help grow and sustain education efforts. This project will focus on the CNCS focus area of Healthy Futures. The CNCS investment of \$133,000 will be matched with \$92,615 from the sponsor and community partners.

	Current Grant ('11)	Request ('12)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$30,000	\$133,000	\$103,000
Cash Match	\$13,750	\$79,871	\$66,121
In-Kind Match	\$2,991	\$12,744	\$9,753
Total Match	\$16,741	\$92,615	\$75,874
Match %	36%	41%	5%
Project Cost	\$46,741	\$225,615	\$178,874
MSY	n/a	10.00	10.00
Cost per MSY	n/a	\$13,300	\$13,300

FoodCorps

Executive Summary

FoodCorps is a national service organization that seeks to reverse childhood obesity by increasing vulnerable children's knowledge of, engagement with, and access to healthy food. Fifteen AmeriCorps members, serving with a network of state and local partners in Montana, will invest a year delivering food and nutrition education, cultivating school gardens, and sourcing and promoting local food for K- 12 students in communities of need, measurably improving their attitudes toward fruits and vegetables and setting them on an enduring path toward maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle.

	Current Grant ('11)	Request ('12)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$0	\$187,500	\$187,500
Cash Match	\$0	n/a	n/a
In-Kind Match	\$0	n/a	n/a
Total Match	\$0	n/a	n/a
Match %	0%	n/a	n/a
Project Cost	\$0	\$187,500	\$187,500
MSY	0.00	15.00	15.00
Cost per MSY	\$0	\$12,500	\$12,500

Note: in applying for a fixed amount grant FoodCorps is not required to record match funds

Grant Review Workgroup

Recommendation:

Forward the 4 highest scoring applications to competitive level

Invite the two non-forwarded programs to apply for formula funding

Executive Director

Recommendation:

Forward all applications to competitive level