

Grant Continuation Report from Task Force

Recommendation: Approve with the condition that the executive summary and the budget align, and the end date be adjusted for the grant year

Legal Applicant: Greater Portland Council of Governments

Program Name: AmeriCorps Resilience Corps

Category: AC Formula
 AC Competitive
 Other Competition

Type: Planning
 Operating
 Fixed Price
 Ed Award Only

Year in Grant Cycle: Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

Continuation Dates: Start: 11/1/21 End: 10/31/22

New Resources for Continuation: Funds and Slots

	CNCS	Local Share	% change from prior year 50% in the first year and 32% In year two; 18% decrease
Operating	\$227,790	\$108,725	
Member Support	\$211,400	\$55,922	
Indirect (Admin)	\$11,384	\$29,557	
% sharing proposed	68%	32%	
% share required	-	30%	
Cost-per-member proposed (max allowed)	\$16,300		

Total AmeriCorps Member Service Years: 14	Slot Types Requested						
	FT	HT	RHT	QT	MT		Total
Slots With living allowance	14						14
Slots with only ed award							

Program Description (executive summary from grant application):

The Greater Portland Council of Government proposes to have 14 AmeriCorps members who will enable increased capacity and impact of the municipalities and agencies throughout the greater Portland and Lakes region of Cumberland County. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for Increased local and regional capacity for community resilience. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 120 volunteers who will be engaged in who will be engaged in program activities supported by Members and their efforts to conduct data collection, planning, outreach, engagement, and project implementation. This program will concentrate on the CNCS focus area(s) of capacity building. The CNCS investment of \$227,789 will be matched with \$100,000 (30%), \$100,000 in public funding and estimated \$0 in private funding.

Service locations (new sites are italicized):

GPCOG is the host site for all the Corps Members.

Performance measures (targets and achievement for prior years; targets proposed for new year):

Communities lack the capacity to effectively recruit and support

Output: Number of organizations that received capacity building services

Target: 12

Actual: 18

Outcome: Number of organizations that increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and/or program reach

Target: 9

Actual: 0 (will be assessed in later quarters)

Member Development

Output: Number of AmeriCorps members trained

Target: 14

Actual: 14

Outcome: Number of AC members that have increased knowledge and skills

Target: 11

Actual: 0 (will be assessed in later quarters)

Capacity Building

Output: Hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were managed by AmeriCorps members or program

Target: 15

Actual: 0 (will be assessed in later quarters)

Outcome: New Volunteer Management Practices

Target: 2

Actual: 0 (will be assessed in later quarters)

Output: Number of community volunteers recruited and managed by AmeriCorps members or program

Target: 5

Actual: 19 (One volunteer, supporting the Department of Environmental Protection's Air Quality Monitoring Division, recruited 19 total volunteers - enough to last beyond the length of her service term - to host a mobile air quality unit and oversee it's well-being, and report back to her with any issues.)

There are no changes to the target for Performance Measures

Operating performance summary:

Aside from late GPR's there has been no issue. The Program Director and the Grants Officer met and went over the reporting requirements, so this should not be an issue in the future. All financial reports are on time. All staff is very responsive and prompt with communication. GPCOG is active in developing

better systems for accountability. Developed 11 initial projects with partners external to GPCOG The Corps Members have all been successful in increasing the capacity of our municipalities and partners

Enrollment/retention:

The enrollment and retention rate are at 100%. There are no issues with their recruitment as they have done a remarkable job getting this program started. They recruited, hired, onboarded, background checked, and trained 14 exceptional Corps Members in about a month and half. 50% of their Corps Members relocated to the state of Maine during Q1, and most report an interest in staying and working in Maine beyond their service year. All Corps Members successfully found local housing, and several are living together.

Compliance:

There are no compliance issues to date.

Sponsor and program:

GPCOG has had conversations with 4 different partners (3 municipalities, 1 non-profit) who are interested in applying to host a Resilience Corps Member for the 2021-2022 service year. A Resilience Corps project is serving as a primary focus of a new Roux Institute Data Science course. One Corps Member will be working with the Roux Institute to help combine air quality complaint data from South Portland and Portland through a summer data visualization course. This means that the municipalities and the DEP will be able to utilize a common data set and online tool to assess when and where there are air quality incidents to help inform the ongoing policy conundrum surrounding oil tank emissions. This is a triple win. 1.) They are helping address a regional environmental issue. 2.) A clear example of the value of the Resilience Corps and 3.) tapping into new and innovative partnerships to address regional resilience using data and collaboration.

Financial:

As the match is waived for this program year, they have not focused on meeting the contractual match obligation. During this Quarter, they did develop a fee-for-service host site model that will be implemented for the next service term and began to discuss this with current partners to assess their reaction and feedback. Thus far, it has been well-received. There are no issues with the financial reports currently. There is a decrease in the amount of match from 50% to 32% which is within the regulatory limits. Due to the pandemic, GPCOG reduced their member dues and offered the support of Resilience Corps Members to member municipalities and non-profit partners at no cost - thus generating far less match. They have been able to provide their communities with a great deal of support via the AmeriCorps members, and meet their targets of supporting 12 different partners with much greater ease than they would have if they were charging partners this year.

Task Force Review Summary:

Chair Barrett asked if there were any questions or comments about the application and review. There were none. The request is for funding set at \$227,790 Federal Share supporting 14 -member service years (MSY's) distributed over 14 slots with the proposed cost per member service year at \$16,270.71. A motion made by Barrett to forward the recommendation to the commission in the amount requested in year 3 for a vote. Second by Meinders. Vote: In favor – Haines, Barczyk, Meinders, Tilton-Flood, L'Italien, Barrett. None opposed.