

## Grant Continuation Report from Task Force

**Recommendation:** Approve with the condition that their executive summary align with their 2<sup>nd</sup> year budget and the source of funds be identified in the budget

**Legal Applicant:** **Maine Development Foundation**

**Program Name:** **Main Street Fellows AmeriCorps Program**

**Category:**  AC Formula  
 AC Competitive  
 Other Competition

**Type:**  Planning  
 Operating  
 Fixed Price  
 Ed Award Only

**Year in Grant Cycle:**  Year 1  Year 2  Yr 3

**Continuation Dates:** Start: 9/1/21 End: 8/31/22

### New Resources for Continuation: Funds and Slots

	CNCS	Local Share	% change from prior year 56% in the first year and 55% in year 2; decrease of 1%
<b>Operating</b>	\$81,500	\$101,414	
<b>Member Support</b>	\$75,500	\$27,591	
<b>Indirect (Admin)</b>	\$4,073	\$16,258	
<b>% sharing proposed</b>	45%	55%	
<b>% share required</b>	-	30%	
<b>Cost-per-member proposed (max allowed)</b>	\$16,300		

  

<b>Total AmeriCorps Member Service Years: 5</b>	<b>Slot Types Requested</b>						
	FT	HT	RHT	QT	MT		Total
<b>Slots With living allowance</b>	5						5
<b>Slots with only ed award</b>							

### Program Description (executive summary from grant application):

The Maine Development Foundation proposes to have five AmeriCorps members who will assist in community development, strategic planning, and the creation of new social capital in a community selected through a competitive process in one of the Maine Downtown Centers champion communities which include the ten Main Street communities and two of the high performing Maine Downtown Affiliate communities. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for creating economic opportunities in their host community through direct program assistance to the downtown organization. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 10-20 volunteers who will be engaged in local research, planning, education, and technology projects through a range of projects in communities that strengthen local resilience. This program will concentrate on the CNCS focus area(s) of Economic Opportunity. The CNCS investment of \$77,395 will be matched with \$99,814; \$37,407 in public funding and \$62,407 in private funding.

### Service locations (new sites are italicized):

Current host sites: Heart of Biddeford, Gardiner Main Street, Maine Downtown Center, Rockland Main Street and Skowhegan Main Street

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

- **Improving Systems in Rural Downtowns**

Output: Number of organizations that received capacity building services

TARGET: 5

ACTUAL: 5

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

TARGET: 3

ACTUAL: 5

- **Member development**

Output: Number of trainings

TARGET: 8

ACTUAL: 5

Outcome: Number of members with increased knowledge and skills

TARGET: 5

ACTUAL: 5

- **Increasing Volunteerism**

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

TARGET: 400

ACTUAL: 289

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

TARGET: 20

ACTUAL: 74

Outcome: Number of organizations fully implementing three or more new effective volunteer management practices because of capacity building services provided AmeriCorps members

TARGET: 4

ACTUAL: 0

The targets proposed for next year are the same as this past year.

**Operating performance summary:**

This program has been in operation since September of 2020 and they have not had a full monitoring of their program yet. MDF is off to a strong start and are very communicative with the VM staff, there is no concern or need for corrective action currently. They successfully recruited 7 total AmeriCorps members. They were promptly assigned to host sites: Heart of Biddeford, Gardiner Main Street, Maine Downtown Center, Rockland Main Street and Skowhegan Main Street. Background checks were completed, and enrollment occurred in a timely manner in eGrants.

The program has been totally compliant with on-time approval of the members timesheets and their members are appropriately documenting their activities when they serve. The one member that exited

early was within the 30-day framework. Member management consists of a lot of engagement and team building, and all members have reported that the formal programming (training, cohort calls, etc.) are high quality and informative.

**Enrollment/retention:**

MDF started off with 5 Full-time slots which they filled, then one member exited early without an award. The Program Director did a slot conversion for that Full-time (1700hr) position into two half-time positions (900hr), these positions are filled, and the members are still serving currently. Because of that early exit, they have a retention rate of 80%, which can change if all currently serving members complete their year successfully. Their recruitment efforts have been successful and adaptive.

**Compliance:**

The program is in compliance with their overall operations. There are no issues to report.

Sponsor and program:

**Financial:**

The budget has increased this year to align with the increase in cost per MSY. The CNCS share is \$81,500 and the grantee share is \$101,414. The source of funds for the grantee share needs to be filled in their budget. The financial monitoring has not been completed yet. The monthly and quarterly reports have all been submitted on time and with minimal errors. They are well above their match; their match is set at 24% and they have so far matched at 59%.

**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 \$81,500 Federal Share supporting 5-member service years (MSY's) distributed over 5 slots with the proposed cost per member service year at \$16,300. A motion made by Barrett to forward the recommendation to the commission in the amount requested in year 2 for a vote. Second by L'Italien. Vote: In favor – Haines, Barczyk, Meinders, Tilton-Flood, L'Italien, Barrett. None opposed.