

Grant Continuation Report from Task Force

Recommendation: Recommend authorization with the condition that they adjust their cost per member service year to the maximum amount of \$26,000, thus modifying their budget overall

Legal Applicant: UMaine Center on Aging

Program Name: Lifelong Maine 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 ☐ Year 3

Continuation Dates: Start: 09/01/22 End: 08/31/23

New Resources for Continuation: Funds and Slots

	CNCS	Local Share						
Total	\$212,940	N/A						
Cost-per-member proposed (max allowed)	\$26,000							
Total AmeriCorps Member Service Years: 8.16		Slot Types Requested						
		FT	HT	RHT	QT	MT		Total
	Slots With living allowance	1	12		2	3		18
	Slots with only ed award							

Program Description (executive summary from grant application):

The UMaine Center on Aging proposes to have 16 AmeriCorps members [(1) 1700-hour, (12) 900-hour, (2) 450-hour, and (3) 300-hour stipend] who will provide direct services that will expand or enhance services, programs, or activities in lifelong, age-friendly communities throughout Maine. As a consequence of these efforts, multiple locations throughout Maine will realize increased and revitalized citizen engagement across the life span in the communities served by the targeted lifelong, age-friendly community initiatives. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps program will have (1) engaged at least 18 new partners in lifelong/age-friendly community initiatives in Maine; and, (2) improved capacity for lifelong, age-friendly communities to deliver services and engage residents. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 30 or more community volunteers who will be engaged in delivering services (e.g., volunteer transportation or social engagement programming) developed by a local age-friendly, lifelong community initiative. The CNCS investment of \$212,316 includes \$65,328 of American Rescue Plan funding.

Service locations (new sites are italicized):

Age-Friendly Coastal Communities, Age-Friendly Danforth, Age-Friendly Dexter, Age-Friendly Saco Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, Bethel Area Age-Friendly Community Initiative, Central Hall Commons and, Mobilize Millinocket

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

» Performance Measure:

Performance Measure: LMAP Performance Measures

Output: Number of individuals served

Target = 180

Actual = 2580 (exceeded their target)

New target = 180

Outcome = Number of individuals who report having increased social support or improved capacity for independent living

Target = 160

Actual = 0 (this survey has not been distributed yet)

New target = 160

Performance Measure: Capacity Building-Volunteers

Output: Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Target = 35

Actual = 90 (this number might not be correct)

New target = 35

Outcome: Volunteer Service

Target = 11

Actual = 89 (these numbers are good, but they do need to be verified)

New target = 11

Performance Measure: LMAP Trainings and Member Development

Output: LMAP member trainings

Target = 20

Actual = 15 (on track to meet target)

New target = 20

Outcome: LMAP member competence

Target = 15

Actual = 0 (it is too soon to report on this measure)

New target = 15

Operating performance summary:

AmeriCorps members have made a significant impact in their communities, in part, by pursuing training opportunities that are offered by outside organizations. For example, the Age-Friendly Coastal Communities members participated in the Matter of Balance Train the Trainer program. She has shared that it has been a dream of hers to bring the training to the peninsula. Her father died because of a fall, so she is particularly passionate about falls prevention and felt that the training gave her the tools she needs to make the program widely available. Another Age-Friendly Coastal Community member will be taking the Psychological First Aid class and was particularly gratified that the community partner is paying for the class because they recognize the benefit to having someone locally trained. The volunteer driver coordinators have participated in training to run those programs

and have shared that they feel confident in their skills and energized to see the difference they are making.

UMaine COA hosts monthly check-ins for all the members. During their updates, it is not unusual for a member to tear up when they are describing community impact. For example, one of their members reported giving a ride to one of her high school teachers, someone who had made a difference in her life. She felt that giving back, by offering a ride through the volunteer driver program she coordinates, brought life in the community full circle.

One area that is being improved for host site supervisors to provide the support and mentorship that the members needed. All members are matched with a Lifelong Maine AmeriCorps Program (LMAP) mentor who meets with the member weekly. The mentors and the LMAP program director meet monthly and email frequently to make sure that the program is meeting the needs of our members. UMaine COA implements a monthly host site supervisor meeting and bi-monthly check ins for host site supervisors and mentors (each host community individually) to assure that they are all on the same page and are planning a much more thorough training for host site supervisors as they enter their second year.

Enrollment/retention:

RECRUITMENT/ENROLLMENT – use of positions awarded to program for the program year

Service Term	Awarded slots	Used Slots	% of enrollment
1700	2	2	100%
1200			
900	9	11	122.2%
675			
450	3	2	66.7%
300	4	2	50%
<i>Overall</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>94.4%</i>

RETENTION – keeping members engaged once they are enrolled.

Service Term	Filled slots	Left early	Successfully completed	% retained
1700	2	1	1	50%
1200				
900	11	1	10	90.9%
675				
450	2	1	1	50%
300	2	0	2	100%
<i>Overall</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>82.4%</i>

Compliance:

The program impact varies based on different host communities. In Saco, Danforth, and Dexter, new volunteer transportation programs have been launched and have, in total, provided more than 125 rides. The all-volunteer initiatives in the three communities simply did not have the capacity to develop the policies and procedures, recruit volunteers and provide training in best practices, and coordinate rides. One of the LMAP mentors has significant experience running a volunteer transportation program

and has provided expert guidance to the members to increase their impact in the community. Similarly, sites have started or expanded wellness programming, food security initiatives, addressed digital equity, and are working to increase awareness of the lifelong community initiative in their host site. Age-Friendly Dexter has expanded access to digital technology by writing a mini-grant to purchase Echo Dots and other devices people can use to make life easier and safer in their home. The member provides training once/week at the library and is meeting with residents in their home to match them with needed technology. In addition to the volunteer transportation program, the members in Danforth have started a walking group and are working on several friend and fund-raising projects to open a new community center. The program director reads member journals, we host monthly check-in calls with the members, and monthly trainings (that include a check-in component). The LMAP mentors and LMAP program director encourage members to pursue opportunities that can make their service more meaningful and provide links to opportunities we think may be of interest. Members have all advocated successfully with their host site supervisors for those opportunities.

Task Force Review Summary:

Staff assessment stated cost per member service year is a little higher than allowable. First year, didn't fill all slots, so they need some work with recruitment. Not sure if they will fill all slots but believe they will. Not all targets reported yet or verified. Need a review of performance data system to verify data. Need to fix GPR data/collection processes.