

Grant Continuation Report from Task Force

Recommendation: Approve with the condition that the slots requested in the application align with the budget and the MSY's are calculated properly

Legal Applicant: University of Southern Maine

Program Name: Maine Energy 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: 12/1/21 End:11/30/22

New Resources for Continuation: Funds and Slots

	CNCS	Local Share	% change from prior year				
Operating	\$166,749	\$140,335					
Member Support		N/A					
Indirect (Admin)		N/A					
% sharing proposed		N/A					
% share required		N/A					
Cost-per-member proposed (max allowed)	\$16,300						
Total AmeriCorps Member Service Years: 10.23							
		Slot Types Requested					
		FT	HT	RHT	QT	MT	Total
	Slots With living allowance	6				20	26
	Slots with only ed award						

Program Description (executive summary from grant application):

Maine Campus Compact's Maine Energy AmeriCorps Program proposes to have 6 Full Time (FT), and 20 Minimum Time (MT) AmeriCorps members (totaling 10.23 MSYs) at 6 host sites who will partner with community organizations and higher education institutions to affect individual behavioral and technical change leading to energy efficiency, particularly for economically disadvantaged individuals and households in Maine. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for hosting a total of 12 (2 per site) Community Energy Education Events, 6 (1 per site) Window Insert Community Builds (600 interior storm window inserts built and installed into 108 homes), and conducting at least 360 Home Energy Visits (including dorms) that encourage greater behavioral change in energy conservation. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 240 volunteers who will be engaged in supporting these community energy efficiency initiatives. This program will concentrate on the CNCS focus area of Environmental Stewardship. The CNCS investment of \$166,749 will be matched with \$140,335 in private funding.

Service locations (new sites are italicized):

MEAP has secured four host sites for 2020-2021: GrowSmart Maine, Kennebunkport Climate Initiative (KCI), Maine Campus Compact/USM, and the University of Maine. Of these, two are new host sites for FT members: GrowSmart Maine and KCI.

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

Technical Interventions to Increase Energy Efficiency

Output: Number of housing units or public structures weatherized or retrofitted

Target: 108

Actual: 0

Due to COVID, our members have not been able to be in person to do this work. The members have been working on ways to meet this measure virtually. We are anticipating that these measures will be met in the summer when we will be able to be in person and will have a more robust remote weatherization plan.

Outcome: Number of housing units/structures with reduced energy consumption or reduced energy costs

Target: 108

Actual: 0

Awareness Activities Leading to Behavioral Interventions

Output: Number of individuals receiving education or training in environmental stewardship

Target: 240

Actual: 30

Outcome: Number of individuals with increased knowledge of environmental stewardship

Target: 180

Actual: 30

Outcome: Number of individuals reporting a change in behavior or intention to change behavior

Target: 144

Actual: 0

They have not surveyed individuals about this measure yet.

Member Development

Outcome: Number of AmeriCorps members demonstrating an increased competency or application of knowledge

Target: 26

Actual: 6

Output: Number of program training and other formal development activities that result in increased skills

Target: 5

Actual: 15

There are no changes to the targets for the year 2 continuation.

Operating performance summary:

Program staff conduct weekly team meetings and one on one virtual check-ins for the FT and HT members. These meetings provide: ongoing training and an opportunity to discuss challenges, successes, and use each other as resources. MEAP staff has also worked with members to create outlines for their service year so they can complete their terms successfully and to encourage added professional development. All reports are submitted on time and there are no corrective actions currently.

Enrollment/retention:

MEAP has 8 slots filled out of 28 granted slots, giving them an average enrollment rate of 28.600 %. Their enrollment rate is below 100% because they are planning on enrolling most of the MT members in the summer. They expect that these slots will be filled in the next month or so. Additionally, they are in the process of enrolling a member for the last HT slot and then that will be filled, making the goal of 100% achievable for the next reporting period. Their retention rate is at 100%. The FT and HT positions were posted on several job/service boards in November and December including Service Year, Craigslist, LinkedIn, Indeed, Texas A & M and Warnell University Environmental Job Board.

Compliance:

MEAP regularly checks in with host sites and provide additional support to them when needed for supervision and time reporting. Host site supervisors have been doing well thus far with staying on top of submitting their time through OnCorps and approving their members timesheets. MEAP members have had an opportunity to network with many people during their terms so far, including past MEAP members who have answered their questions and helped them learn more about what a term of service typically looks like. Despite the challenges of serving in a remote setting the members have still made great connections in their communities. MEAP members will be able to safely begin getting out into their communities more in the coming months. They have begun planning for their community window insert builds and will be recruiting for those households this spring MEAP members will be meeting each other for the first time for an outdoor socially distanced team meeting in late April. This should help with overall team cohesion and ease the members back into their communities and with serving in person. There are no compliance issues to date.

Sponsor and program issues:

None to report.

Financial:

There are no unanticipated variances in the program budget and no challenges related to obtaining local match to report. This is a fixed amount grant therefore the applicant does not submit a full project budget as part of the proposal.

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 \$166,749 Federal Share supporting 10.23 -member service years (MSY's) distributed over 26 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.