

Grant Continuation Assessment and Performance Report

Legal Applicant:	Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
Program/Project Name:	Maine Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Program

	Yes	No
Legal Applicant on SAM is active	X (2/11/23)	
Legal applicant is not on federal excluded parties list in SAM	X	

	From (date)	To (date)
Grant Period (full 3-year time)	01/01/22	12/31/22
Continuation period covered by request	01/01/24	12/31/24
Performance period under review	01/01/22	12/31/22
Grant type	X Fixed amount	

Task Force Continuation Recommendation	Authorize Proposal	Modify: Increase	Modify: Decrease	Deny Request
Budget			X	
Volunteers/participants			X	
Performance targets	X			
Operating plans	X			
Other:				

Reason for recommendation: The program enrollment in the year completed was only 69% of positions and the program retained only 79% of those enrolled. Among the slots awarded, the 675hr slots were under-enrolled by 57%. The budget proposed for the new award requested increases the number of 675hr slots. Recommendation is that only 20 positions be authorized and the funding request reduced by 10.6 MSY (48 requested, 20 authorized; reduction of 28 X 0.381 MSY per slot = 10.6).

This recommendation follows the Commission policy on grant continuations that states, for part time positions less than 900 hours absent circumstances beyond grantees control, the Commission will reduce approved part time positions. The task force acknowledges that other part-time slot types were less than 85% enrolled (see below). The recommendation addresses the worst level of enrollment.

It is noted that the application did not provide any information on how recruitment/enrollment will change nor did it reconcile the listing of 79 positions in the Source of Funds screen with the 88 positions requested. It is unclear how much the living allowance will increase although an increase is given as the basis for requesting more funding.

Conditions or requirements of continuation award:

Recommendation on Supplemental or Expansion Request:

Continuation Recommendation: Award Resources in Next 12 mo Budget Period						
	CNCS	Match	Total			
				Cost Per Member		
Financial	\$ 707,020	\$ n/a	\$ 707,020	\$23,000		
Percentages	100%		100%			
AmeriCorps Member Positions	1700	1200	900 Hr	675 Hr	450 Hr	Min 300
# of Slot types requested	10		22	20	8	
MSY [Total: <u>30.74</u>]	10		11	7.62	2.12	

Reviewed by Grant Selection and Performance Task Force Members (names): Meinders, Rudy, Moran

CONTINUATION REQUEST: For information only. The full request is not recommended.

	CNCS	Match	Total	Cost Per Member		
Financial	\$ 952,200	\$ n/a	\$ 952,200	\$23,000		
Percentages	100%		100%			
AmeriCorps Member Positions	1700	1200	900 Hr	675 Hr	450 Hr	Min 300
# of Slot types requested	10		22	48	8	
MSY [Total: <u>41.4</u>]	10		11	18.28	2.12	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Executive Summary (needs modification to match Commission action)

The Maine Conservation Corps proposes to have 88 AmeriCorps members who will accrue marketable skills and experiences, while completing vital environmental stewardship and capacity building activities. Team based placements will focus on trail rehabilitation and construction as well as habitat restoration; individual placement members will be engaged in host site specific objectives, such as ecological monitoring, environmental education, community engagement, and expanding volunteer management practice. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for treating or constructing 200 miles of trail and providing capacity building services to 15 host site agencies. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 600 community volunteers who will be engaged in skill development activities to perpetuate the stewardship efforts of members. This program will concentrate on the CNCS focus area of Environmental Stewardship and Capacity Building. The CNCS investment of \$952,200 will leverage \$1,350,049, \$962,219 in public funding, and \$387,830 in private funding.

Continuation Narrative. The budget was modified to account for the increased minimum living allowance, cost/MSY, and source of funds. The executive summary was modified to align with the budget. MCC does not yet have a negotiated indirect cost rate, and will enter this in eGrants once available, likely in early 2023.

PAST PERFORMANCE: ENROLLMENT/RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

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

Service Term	Awarded slots	Used Slots	% of enrollment
1700	10	10	100%
1200			
900	18	16	88.9%
675	35	15	42.9%
450	23	18	78.3%
300	14	10	71.4%
Overall	100	69	69%

RETENTION – keeping members engaged once they are enrolled.

Service Term	Filled slots	Left early	Successfully completed	% retained
1700	10	1	9	90%
1200				81.3%
900	16	3	13	
675	15	4	11	73.3%
450	18	2	16	88.9%
300	10	6	4	60%
Overall	69	14	55	79.7%

» Performance Measures:

Performance Measure: Environmental Stewardship - Field Teams

EN5: Miles of trails or rivers treated

Target: 200

Actual: 2

Proposed: 200

Project outputs (totaling 4 miles) at 10 short-term project sites were sent to partners for review and confirmation. 6 of 10 partners have responded to date. Additional outputs will be sent throughout Q4 and non-responsive partners will be asked to complete the survey once more.

EN5.1: Miles of trails or rivers improved

Target: 180

Actual: 4

Proposed: 180

MCC had several long-term projects in 2022. The field season for teams concludes in October and Environmental Stewards in November. Barely any outputs and outcomes have been tallied at this time. More to come in Q4.

Performance Measure: Capacity Building - Environmental Stewards

G3-3.4: Number of organizations that received capacity building services

Target: 15

Actual: 16

Proposed: 15

G3-3.10A Number of organizations that increase their efficiency, effectiveness, and/or program reach

Target: 12

Actual: 0

Proposed: 12

Environmental Stewards have completed initial assessments of host site volunteer management practices and crafted volunteer management action plans. Post-assessments will be conducted in Q4.

PROPOSED CONTINUATION BUDGET:

N/A

EXPANSION/SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST:

N/A

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