

Grant Proposal Report to Commission from Task Force

PROGRAM: AmeriCorps Legal Access Navigators

SPONSOR: Alpha Legal Foundation

GRANT FUNDING: Formula

GRANT TYPE: Fixed Amount

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Alpha Legal Foundation proposes to have 3 FT AmeriCorps members who will provide legal education, procedural guidance, resources, and support for self-represented litigants in courthouses, legal aid organizations and community-based organizations in York, Cumberland and Androscoggin counties. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps program will have made the civil justice system more accessible to at least 100 Maine residents who face legal issues with no representation and strengthen a diverse pipeline into the legal field. The AmeriCorps investment of \$81,000 will leverage \$100,000 comprised of no additional public funding and \$100,000 in private funding from ALF's current operational budget. *(NOTE: This is the original Executive Summary from their year one grant proposal. For approved grant funding levels see below).*

GRANT FUNDING HISTORY FOR CURRENT AWARD:

- \$ 81,000 Year 1 CNCS Award
- \$ 27,000 Year 1 Cost per MSY (3 MSY)

- \$ 126,000 Year 2 CNCS Award
- \$ 25,200 Year 2 Cost per MSY (5 MSY)

CONTINUATION REQUEST:

- \$ 126,000 Year 3 CNCS Award
- \$ 25,200 Year 3 Cost per MSY (5 MSY)

Final Assessment of Application:

- Forward or fund with no corrections/modifications
- Forward or fund with corrections/modifications
- Do Not Forward or fund

Referenced Conditions/Corrections

4 MSY and \$100,800 and staff to follow up on necessity of performance measure change.

Task Force Review Notes and Appraisal Summary:

Reviewers expressed strong support for the program and highlighted its value in addressing significant community needs in Cumberland and Androscoggin counties. Performance targets were generally viewed as realistic and achievable. However, several reviewers raised concerns about the proposed removal of outcome measures due to low client survey response rates. While acknowledging the literacy challenges faced by the population served, reviewers encouraged the program to explore alternative methods for collecting and analyzing outcome data rather than relying solely on output measures. Overall, reviewers emphasized the importance of maintaining meaningful outcome measurement to demonstrate program impact while adapting evaluation approaches to better reflect the realities of the population being served.