

Grant Proposal Report to Commission from Task Force

Recommendation: Authorize proposal

Legal Applicant: White Pines Program

Project Name: White Pine & AmeriCorps
Nature-Based Intervention Initiative

Category: ☐ AC Formula -- Standard
☒ AC Formula – Rural State
☐ AC Competitive
☐ Other Competition

Type: ☐ Planning
☐ Operating
☒ Fixed Amount
☐ Cost Reimbursement
☐ Ed Award Only

Applicant type: ☐ New (no prior AC experience)
☒ Re-compete (# of yrs: 1)

Proposed Dates: 01/01/2026 to 12/31/2026
Submitted request is for Yr [1]

Federal Focus Area: Healthy Futures

Commission priorities: Public health

Local Share Required in Budget: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Source of Funds detail required: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Requested Resources: Funds and Slots (*indicates sections with calculation errors)

	CNCS		Local Share
Operating			
Member Support			
Indirect (Admin)			
CNCS Award amount	\$94,500	Total Local Share (cash + in-kind)	N/A
% sharing proposed			
% share required			
Cost-per-member proposed	\$ 27,000		
max allowed	\$27,000		

Total AmeriCorps Member Service Years: 3.5

	Slot Types Requested						
	1700	1200	900	675	450	300	Total
Slots With living allowance		5					
Living allowance proposed		27,000					
Slots with only ed award							

Program Description (executive summary):

White Pine Programs proposes to have 5 AmeriCorps members who will deliver nature-based programming for youth and seniors in Kittery, York, Eliot, South/North Berwick, Sanford, Wells and the Kennebunks. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps program will have meaningfully impacted the mental well-being of youth and seniors in these communities through boosted self-confidence, building new relationships, and gathering in community outdoors. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 100 community volunteers who will be engaged in providing nature-based programming such as facilitated recess and workshops that build naturalist skills, focused on reducing loneliness, sadness and feelings of isolation. The AmeriCorps investment of \$130,900 will leverage \$305,000 comprised of \$0 in public funding and \$305,000 in private funding.

Service locations: White Pines

Other than the legal applicant, please list the agencies or organizations that appear to be the major collaborators or partners in this grant.

Center for Active Living

Will the applicant place AmeriCorps members with other agencies? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Applicant proposes to deliver services:

☐ Within a single municipality ☒ Within a single County but not covering the entire County
☐ County-wide in a single County ☐ Multiple Counties but not Statewide ☐ Statewide

Performance measures (targets proposed for Year 2)

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

OUTPUT: H4A: Number of individuals served (youth)

Proposed target: 2,300 individuals

OUTCOME: Improved mental well-being, reduced anxiety & stress (youth)

Proposed target: 2,300 individuals

OUTPUT: H4A: Number of individuals served (seniors)

Proposed target: 300 individuals

OUTCOME: Reduced loneliness, isolation and fear of leaving home

Proposed target: 300 individuals

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT: NUMBER OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

TARGET: 60

OUTCOME: NUMBER OF MEMBERS WITH INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OR SKILLS

TARGET: 4

CAPACITY BUILDING

OUTPUT: NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVED CAPACITY BUILDING SERVICES

TARGET: 5

OUTPUT: NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT INCREASE THEIR EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND/OR PROGRAM REACH

TARGET: 3

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

N/A

Task Force Review Notes and Appraisal Summary:

Performance Targets

Mental Health # individuals served number is amazing - the target was 600, and the actual served was 1220. Also, Supporting Schools capacity to integrate nature was 5 Target, and 5 actual, number of organizations partnered with was 3 target, 3 actual, and member development was on track - with a plan - target 60, actual 50. Good job with this section.
Exceeding initial expectations. A little too early to review performance data from past year's efforts.

Budget

Good amount of private funding to go with AmeriCorps investment
Appears to have met goals

Positions/slots Recommendation

5 slots - used 2 - but believe they will use others 'in future' with changes to program operation already suggested.

Other comments

Continue to work on financial documentation
Nothing to mention other than that that was already suggested/planned - for continuation - they have come up with strategies to boost recruitment - it was low, and they are working on the process - this will be good - they are aware of the issue, and have a plan. Keep up with this and they will be ok.