

2014 AmeriCorps



EVALUATION PLAN OUTLINE FOR MISSOURI NOVEMBER 15, 2013

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NATIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- ◎ Moving towards National Performance Measures:
 - Disaster Services
 - Economic Opportunity
 - Education
 - Environmental Stewardship
 - Healthy Futures
 - Veterans & Military Families

DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT AN EVALUATION PLAN? IF SO, WHEN?



<i>If you are applying for...</i>	<i>The following evaluation requirements apply:</i>
Your first three-year AmeriCorps grant	You are not required to submit an Evaluation Plan with your application. However, if you are planning to re compete for funding, it is highly recommended you begin the process.
Your second three-year AmeriCorps grant	You are required to submit an Evaluation Plan with your application and complete the evaluation during the second three-year grant period.
Your third three-year AmeriCorps grant	You are required to submit a report detailing the results of the evaluation conducted during the second grant period with your application. An Evaluation Plan submitted for the third three-year grant period will build upon results of the evaluation from the second three-year grant period.
An AmeriCorps grant beyond your third three-year grant award	You are required to submit an Evaluation Plan for each successive three-year grant period and a report with findings.

CNCS IS LOOKING FOR _____?

- ◎ Evaluations are a plan to build capacity:
 - Looks at a program's daily operation(s)
 - Are you actually serving the intended population according to the initial design?
 - Are you delivering the core program activities you initially planned to or had planned to deliver in the way you designed?
- ◎ Implement a design that includes assessment of program outcomes and a study comparison group; helps to determine where your outcomes are a result of your AmeriCorps project

CNCS IS LOOKING FOR _____?

- Grantees are encouraged to cover the following elements in the Evaluation Plan:
 - A description of theory of change or why the proposed intervention is expected to produce the proposed results;
 - Clear and measurable outcomes that are aligned with the theory of change and will be assessed during the evaluation;
 - Concrete research questions (or hypotheses) that are clearly connected to the outcomes;
 - A proposed research design for the evaluation;
 - Qualifications needed for the evaluator; and
 - An estimated budget.

CNCS IS LOOKING FOR _____?

◎ Evaluation Plan Outline

- I. Introduction
 - a. Program Background and Problem Definition
 - b. Overview of Prior Research
- II. Program Theory, Logic Model and Outcomes of Interest
- III. Research Questions to be Addressed in the Study
- IV. Study Components
 - a. Evaluation Design
 - b. Sampling Methods
 - c. Analysis Plan
- V. Internal Review Board Clearance (if applicable)
- VI. Evaluator Qualifications
- VII. Reporting Results, Timeline, and Budget

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET STARTED

- ◎ **STRENGTHS**- characteristics of your AmeriCorps project that give it an advantage over other organizations providing the same type of service
 - What advantages does your organization have over other organizations?
 - What do you do better than anyone else?
 - How can you leverage resources better than anyone else?

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET STARTED

STRENGTHS *continued...*

- What do others see as your strengths?
- What indicators will show that you are successful in meeting your performance targets?
- Make a list of organizations that provide the same type of service(s) that you provide. What sets you apart from other organizations that provide the same service?

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET STARTED

- ◎ **WEAKNESSES**- characteristics that place your organization at a disadvantage relative to others
 - What could you improve?
 - What should you avoid?
 - What do others likely see as weaknesses in your organization? In the way you administer your AmeriCorps project?
 - What do other organizations like yours offer that you do not?

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET STARTED

- ◎ **OPPORTUNITIES**- elements that the project could exploit to its advantage
 - What opportunities have you been able to expound on? Useful opportunities can come from such things as:
 - Changes in technology and markets on both a broad and narrow scale
 - Changes in government policy/regulations related to administering your AmeriCorps project
 - Changes in social patterns, population profiles, lifestyle changes, and so on
 - Local events

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO GET STARTED

- ◎ **THREATS**- elements in the environment that could cause trouble for your project
 - What obstacles do you face?
 - Are quality standards or specifications for your job or service changing?
 - Is leveraging funds increasingly becoming a challenge?
 - Could any of your weaknesses seriously threaten your organization's ability to provide ongoing services?

LOGIC MODEL CHART (SAMPLE)

Project Resources	Core Project Components	Evidence of Project Implementation & Participation	Evidence of Change		
INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES		
			Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
What we invest <i>(# and types of ACMs)</i>	What we do	Direct products from program activities	Changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, opinions	Changes in behavior or action that result from participants' new knowledge	Meaningful changes, often in their condition or status in life
“Food for All” Local Partners Professional Volunteers •Chefs •Nutritionists •Fiscal Officers AmeriCorps Funding National Local Host Sites Culinary Communities	Volunteer Management Curricula & material development Training •Staff •Volunteers Course Coordination Partnership development & maintenance Other Food for All-related educational events Program promotion	# volunteers # courses held # of Food for All-related educational events held # of thriving programs operating through local partners # of beneficiaries	Participants increase knowledge of: •Food resource management practices •Food safety practices •Healthy nutrition practices •Cooking techniques Participants increase skills in: •At-home meal prep •Ability to manage food resources	Participants increase food resource management practices •Meal planning •Price comparison •Making grocery lists Participants increase food safety practices Participants increase nutrition practices Participants increase at-home meal preparation	Improve food security for families Increase number of families eating healthy foods Improve healthy food environment for children

QUALITATIVE DATA

- ⦿ Measuring the value of a project
- ⦿ Focusing on the benefit(s) of AmeriCorps members providing services as opposed to utilizing other organizations

QUALITATIVE DATA

Benefits to the Project

1. Cost effectiveness
2. More solid commitment to administer and provide quality services
3. More individualized/innovative approaches to provide services
4. More timely interventions to address issues/concerns

QUALITATIVE DATA

Benefits to the AmeriCorps Member

1. Life experiences that perpetuates a continuous cycle to volunteer
2. Become a strong leader in the community
3. Improved work readiness skills
4. Improved communication skills
5. Improved problem-solving skills
6. Improved team-building skills and working cooperative/collaboratively with others
7. Improved timeliness and time management skills
8. Improved ability to be resourceful and innovative

SUMMARY

◎ BEGINNING

- Develop a Logic Model
- Develop indicators for measuring outcomes

◎ DURING IMPLEMENTATION

- Document program process(es)
- Establish continuous process improvement protocol

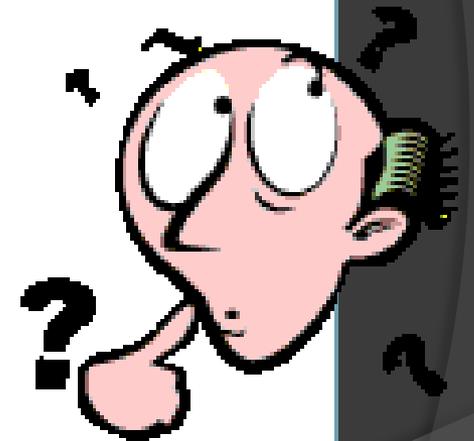
◎ EVALUATION

- Measuring tools developed- effectiveness (especially cost) compared to other interventions addressing the same need

Q & A

If you have never received AmeriCorps State and/or National funding, what type of applicant are you?

- ⦿ A: Previous
- ⦿ B: Re compete
- ⦿ C: New
- ⦿ D: Zero Dollars Recipient



ANSWER

C: NEW

Q&A

Do I have to submit an Evaluation Plan with my application?

- ⦿ A: Yes
- ⦿ B: No



ANSWER

B: NO

Q&A



If you have received AmeriCorps State and/or National funding before and are in Year 3 of your grant cycle, what type of applicant are you?

- ⦿ A: Previous
- ⦿ B: Recompete
- ⦿ C: New
- ⦿ D: Gotta Get Them Grants Recipient

ANSWER

B: RECOMPETE

Q&A

Do I have to submit an Evaluation Plan with my application?

- A: Yes
- B: No



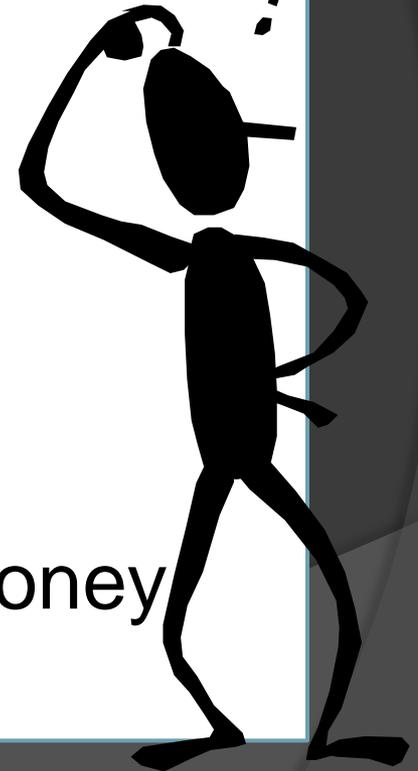
ANSWER

A: YES

Q&A

If you are currently receiving funding for either years 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, or 9, what type of applicant are you?

- ⦿ A: Continuation
- ⦿ B: Recompete
- ⦿ C: New
- ⦿ D: Mo Money, Mo Money, Mo Money Recipient



ANSWER

A: CONTINUATION

Q&A

Do I have to submit an Evaluation Plan with my application?

- Ⓐ: Yes
- Ⓑ: No



ANSWER

B: NO

RE-CAP

YEAR	APPLICANT TYPE	EVALUATION PLAN
1	NEW	No
2	CONTINUATION	No
3	CONTINUATION	No
4	RECOMPETE	Yes
5	CONTINUATION	No (but submit a copy)
6	CONTINUATION	No (but submit a copy)
7	RECOMPETE	Yes (AND Evaluation Report)
8	CONTINUATION	No (but submit a copy)
9	CONTINUATION	No (but submit a copy)
10 & beyond	Repeat above	Repeat above

COMMENTS?

QUESTIONS?

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