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Executive Summary

In Partnership with the Alaska Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs and the Alaska National Guard State Family Program, four AmeriCorps Members, also known as Joining Community Forces AmeriCorps (JCFA) will help to integrate the Joining Community Forces (JCF) program in Alaska. The goal of the JCF program is to provide the prescribed outreach to the community of veterans, military and families throughout Alaska in an effort to foster a sustainable network of support. This effort will involve AmeriCorps Members making face-to-face outreach and contact with veterans. Upon contact members will assist identified veterans with filling out the necessary VA paperwork as well as identify their concerns/shortfalls with acquiring quality services. During the first year our goal is to make contact with 2500 veterans and validate at least 500 of them for veteran services through formal registration. Additionally, we plan to have formalized the "Alaska Coalition of Joining Community Forces" (ACJCF) with at least one hundred active community stakeholders through community outreach and presentations at statewide venues. This AmeriCorps program will incorporate the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) focus area of veterans and families. The CNCS investment of \$49,400 is the requested amount for this grant in its initial year. We anticipate commencing our program NLT 1 September 2013 ending our first year on 31 August 2014. This program is possible through the support of Alaska's Governor Sean Parnell, and the Municipality of Anchorage's Mayor, Dan Sullivan.

Rationale and Approach/Program Design

Rational and Approach:

NEED:

The last ten years have been a decade of rapid social, organizational, and operational change in military services. Personnel reductions; greater reliance on reserve components to meet military requirements; base realignments and closures; an increasing proportion of military families who reside in the civilian community; and radical shifts in the military's human service delivery system, including civilianizing, and outsourcing and privatization of many support functions have transformed military life and the nature of the military community. Military missions and corresponding military training and duty requirements have also grown more complex and demanding, especially those associated with increased deployments.

These changes have prompted a renewed interest in community support for the Nation's veterans, military members and families (VMFs). The Presidential Study Directive-9 (PSD-9) (2010) and the

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subsequent release of the "Strengthening Our Military Families" Presidential report (24 Jan 11), addresses the concerns of the VMFs. Emotional and physical combat injuries, multiple deployments, reintegration issues, and other implications of military service threaten the stability of the military family which directly impact mission readiness and adaptability of the military community. According to the Presidential Report, Strengthening Our Military Families, Meeting America's Commitment, and January 2011:

"Less than 1 percent of Americans serve in uniform today, but they bear 100 percent of the burden of defending our Nation. Currently, more than 2.2 million service members make up America's all-volunteer force in the active, National Guard, and reserve components. Since September 11, 2001, more than two-million troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Fifty-five percent of the force is married and 40 percent have two children. Only 37 percent of our families live on military installations; the remaining 63 percent live in over 4,000 communities nationwide. Multiple deployments, combat injuries, and the challenges of reintegration can have far-reaching effects on not only the troops and their families, but also upon America's communities. These challenges should be at the forefront of our national discussion".

In Alaska we have a veteran population of 77,861 with 89,000 veteran dependents. Approximately 27,000 of those veterans are active-duty and National Guard and Reserve with 37,000 dependents. Out of the 77,861 veterans Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has only made positive contact with 20,531 of those veterans. (Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, November 2012) PSD-9 called for the creation of an integrated and sustainable governmental outreach system for coordinating non-profit, commercial, and public efforts; the effects of which would motivate shared responsibility, inspire activism, and improve the quality of collaborative military family support services. The directive resulted in the creation of a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Integrative Process Team (IPT) on Family/Community Strategic Communication. One of the outcomes of the IPT tasked the National Guard Bureau (NGB) with leading the communication effort to inform, empower, and build resilience with the community.

While NGB is uniquely positioned in the community to affect this communication effort, it is not an initiative based solely on National Guard members and their families. Instead, the focus is on all VMFs in an effort to foster a sustainable network of support. The JCF program is intended to be a single place to handle state-wide military family issues. Designed at the national level, it is

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implemented at the individual state /community level. This program is to direct all active-duty, National Guard and Reserve, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, and their families to a broad spectrum of family services and support (non-governmental organizations, state and federal) that exist in the states, territories, and tribes. JCF also aims to support stakeholders at the community, regional and statewide levels. JCF's primary goal is to educate, leverage, and promote existing local best practices to build community capacity. Functionally, JCF will serve as both an information conduit and marketing vehicle to:

- * Foster a sustainable network of local support
- * Facilitate government, non-governmental, non-profit, and corporate partnerships
- * Leverage state-generated content, best practices, and training
- * Guide community leaders and local commanders toward establishing and sustaining their own "Community Forces"

JCF is designed to tie it all together and grow community resources to empower, mentor and build resilience for military members; especially in the event of mobilization, deployment, or natural disaster. By leveraging the resources of all JCF members, a sense of community spirit is fostered and this can ultimately benefit the entire community population in addition to VMFs.

AMERICORPS MEMBERS AS MEANS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS:

In partnership with CNCS, who provides oversight to AmeriCorps, the program goal is to use four AmeriCorps Members and over a three year phased approach. The Members will support the ACJCF program by capitalizing on existing community AmeriCorps sponsored programs to provide the prescribed outreach to the community of VMFs throughout Alaska. Partnering with other AmeriCorps programs within the state will increase the scope of ACJCF's contacts and connections. Established AmeriCorps*State programs, along with the AmeriCorps*National program of the JVC Northwest, is a great utilization of Members and contacts within the state. Eventually, ACJCF AmeriCorps will strategically place an AmeriCorps Member in proximity to the National Guard Family Assistance Centers (Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage). Costs and supervisory support may require placement in the Anchorage and Fairbanks area in the first year program, traveling to the other areas with VMF populations.

The National Guard Family Program (Family Program) does not have the staff capacity to properly assist with the JCF's program goals. The requested four AmeriCorps Members' focus will add to the capacity of the NGFP in order to achieve these goals. AmeriCorps Members will serve within the existing infrastructure to strengthen and develop family assistance delivery support programs and

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networks; increase community capacity and sustainment for years to come successfully enabling, proactive, efficient and effective assistance from the closest support source. Duties of the four full-time AmeriCorps Members will parallel the specific goals of the ACJCF to meet the intent of JCF are as follows:

Phase I

A. Survey the VMFs on resource needs and service gaps experiences

1. Generate a comprehensive survey using Survey Monkey or equivalent
2. AmeriCorps outreach and education for the purpose of the survey will determine the level and number of responses returned allowing us to coordinate the necessary services
3. Compile the responses and prioritize

B. Research, solicit and scrutinize local, state, and national resources that can address the identified priorities from the survey

1. AmeriCorps Member outreach activities are crucial to identifying and vetting those resources
2. Improve coordination and reduce duplication of support services provided by all government and non-governmental and community support agencies
3. Develop marketing campaign
 - a. Compile outreach/marketing kit
 - b. Publish press/releases and articles
 - c. Variety of video messages and program descriptions as public service announcements
 - d. Newsletter distribution/insertion into existing newsletters
 - e. Interagency engagement (connect with audiences via pre-existing information portals, attend existing events, work with local agencies as guest speakers at events such as in-service training, Village Public Safety Officer training, local Chamber of Commerce, etc)
 - f. Social media - continue to develop Facebook page and public website accessible by all VMFs
 - g. Strategic linking (button/banner sharing, partner site affiliations)
 - h. Branding kit (logs, letterheads, etc)

C. Establish a community contact registry and mapping of community support partners to maintain current information of available support services

1. Input data collected through outreach efforts/partnership building into a single database accessible by all VMFs

D. Establish a local charter (Alaska Coalition for Joining Community Forces) to institutionalize organizational roles and responsibilities

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1. Partner with any existing Army/Military Community Covenant
 2. Survey regional areas for potential stakeholders (military installations, civic offices and leaders, and non-governmental organizations)
 3. Identify VMFs needs and issues faced
- E. Identify and communicate with community leaders and installation commanders for active-duty, National Guard and Reserve components
1. State Family Program Office and National Guard and Reserve leadership representation and active participation on the active-duty Community Action Information Board (CAIB)
 2. Establish a Guard and Reserve CAIB that meets monthly or quarterly (supplements the active-duty CAIB)

Phase II

- A. Continue development of local charter and marketing campaign designed in Phase I
 - B. Ensure continued communication of all services to families using previously developed marketing campaign
 - C. Build awareness about service-connected family continuum of services needs to include quality of life issues, urgent life needs, and contingency plans for natural disasters
1. Optimizing the marketing tools listed above
 2. Establish Emergency Family Assistance Center to support disaster response and serve as focal point for military connected victim and family assistance services such as disaster relief and contingency information

Phase III

- A. Refine the database
- B. Possible third year survey to see if we have sufficiently addressed the identified service shortfalls and gaps
- C. Ensure continuity of programs to continue into foreseeable future

EVIDENCE-BASED/EVIDENCE-INFORMED AND MEASUREABLE COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Alaska Coalition of Joining Community Forces' AmeriCorps program is utilizing an evidence-informed process to measure community impact. The national JCF program is designed to identify veterans within their community. This local identification process connects the Veteran with the Federal Veteran's Administration, the state Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs, the National Guard's Family Program and local community resources. Until these veterans are identified, they are unaware and not utilizing the entitlements that they have earned. Veterans that are unregistered/

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identified within the system are missing out on critical support through the VA. This support includes services for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and identification and assessment of current disability rating. Once identified and enrolled in the VA system, these individuals will access the appropriate services for primary diagnosis. Currently, unregistered veterans will rely on local hospital and emergency room services for these needs. If the veterans are enrolled in the proper VA system, the local / community resources will not be as affected.

The Program structure is designed to have multiple pieces and is modeled off the successful Arizona Coalition for Military Families:

- Implementation Team--Core team facilitating coordination and collaboration between the key stakeholders for ACJCF activities and initiatives. The team includes a community liaison, two Military Life Consultants from the Joint Family Support Assistance Program and an AmeriCorps volunteer.
- Planning Partners--Representatives of key partners and stakeholders participate in planning and implementation of activities.
- Advisory Board and Leadership Council--The ACJCF Advisory Board will be comprised of nominated positions to include military and community leaders.

The AmeriCorps Members' first objective is to survey the four focus communities. This survey will be two fold in its mission. First, the surveys will help to identify local services that could benefit a veteran and/or family member. While the Members are going door to door for the survey, they will offer information and outreach to find unidentified veterans. Once identified, the AmeriCorps Members will help the veterans sort through and complete the numerous government forms needed to verify and register for their benefits.

Another impact of this program, on a smaller community scale, is the benefit to the veterans themselves. The outreach provided by the AmeriCorps Members will also include education. This education will allow the veterans to understand their benefits and how to obtain them. If a person is suffering from PTSD or TBI, they may not realize their symptoms, the help available or how to access the help. This education is also extended to the family members that may be better suited at identifying and advocating for the veteran's needs.

The program will also focus on identifying gaps and needs in the local services. JCF is designed to strengthen and promote support networks to aid VMFs in the state. By maximizing the effects of community resources (civilian and military) serving the VMF, the JCF helps to build resilience and foster a sustainable and relevant support network. This program will help to reduce duplication of

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efforts of the community and military services.

The value of the impact of this program is difficult to measure in dollars. The AmeriCorps investment of \$52,000 is minimal when considering the impact on the community, the veterans and the services of the community. It is a social obligation to take care of the people that protect our freedom.

At the end of the three year period, the expected outcome is to have increased the VMFs registration/outreach by thirty percent, formalized the Alaska Coalition for Joining Community Forces initiative with at least 100 community stakeholders and increased the overall outreach by fifty percent.

The impact will be measured using baseline data off current statistics from the DMVA. Next, the program will utilize the data from the survey/ outreach and compare the survey information with the yearly progress to the baseline data.

This information will be reported quarterly to Serve Alaska through an online performance measure system. The data will be compiled into a yearly report to CNCS. The performance measure will track the number of veterans that receive CNCS supported assistance.

This performance measure targets were chosen as a realistic yet challenging number considering the need is primarily outside Anchorage where fewer resources are available.

MEMBER RECRUITMENT: Recruiting AmeriCorps Members will start with widespread public releases soliciting Members, preferably from the local area and familiar with the military for participation under the auspices of the JCF program. Facebook pages, through the Alaska National Guard and the state Family Program, will post the AmeriCorps opportunity. The state Public Affairs Office, through DMVA will send out a public release statewide for newspapers and radio PSAs. This opportunity will also be posted on the MyAmeriCorps website for recruitment.

Again, the ideal AmeriCorps Member will be a veteran or military spouse, familiar with issues associated with military service. It is the program's desire to have an Alaska Native Member representing the Bethel area.

Resume packages will go through a thorough board review to ensure the right candidate is selected, one who understands and supports the intent of JCF.

MEMBER TRAINING: Upon selection the AmeriCorps Members will go through a formalized orientation that mirrors what we already provide for the military volunteers in conjunction with required Department of Defense and Department of the Army guidance. Specific training on the goals and objectives of the JCF program will be provided. The orientation will include background checks, operational security requirements, review of position description outlining roles and responsibilities,

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identification of the Members' supervisor, military 101 (understanding of chain of command, military protocols, etc), and AmeriCorps prohibited activities as well as the completion of any required paperwork and forms.

The AmeriCorps Members will come together at different times for specialized training on public speaking and cultural sensitivity to better present the JCF program. The Joining Community Forces AmeriCorps program will also have specialized training throughout the service year focusing on volunteer management and engagement and event planning.

These trainings have been utilized by the National Guard staff and volunteers successfully for years. To ensure the proper information has been retained by the Members, a pre and post-training evaluation will be conducted.

To ensure compliance with AmeriCorps prohibited activities, the Joining Community Forces AmeriCorps program will emphasize the regulations at Joining Community Forces AmeriCorps (JCFA) meetings and trainings, including Volunteer trainings.

MEMBER SUPERVISION: The four primary focus areas for this year one program all have Family Program offices within the community. Each office has a Family Program Specialist on site. Three of the AmeriCorps Members will be stationed in Anchorage and the fourth will be stationed in Fairbanks.

The Family Program Specialist at the two primary locations will act as supervisors for the Members on a daily basis. They will provide guidance, support and supervision including mid and end of term evaluations and timekeeping. When the AmeriCorps Members travel to Juneau and Bethel for outreach, the Family Program Specialist at that location will act as a back-up supervisor.

All four Family Program Specialists will receive training on AmeriCorps during the Member orientation session. This training will include AmeriCorps prohibited activities and clarify Member and supervisor duties.

MEMBER EXPERIENCE: As mentioned in the Member Recruitment section, the ideal/ preferred Member will be connected to the military in some way. This connection will serve as a catalyst to engage the Member in the community impact; it will be a personal connection as well as seeing the importance of helping other service men and women and their families. The Members will recruit volunteers from the local communities, training and encouraging the volunteers. This volunteer connection for the betterment of the whole will also connect the Members to a lifelong commitment to civic participation.

AmeriCorps Members will be required to submit a monthly Great Story on their service experience. This reflection tool can be promoted to the Commission level for reporting. The Family Program has

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a monthly newsletter that will also promote great stories as a way of connecting the Member, their service and to the greater program.

The AmeriCorps Members, locally and when traveling, will connect with Members throughout the state. The partnerships with AmeriCorps*State and *National have been established and this network will continue to grow and strengthen as community support and outreach grows. Ideally, other Members will be able to join JCFA's Members during trainings and gatherings. During Orientation, Members will receive AmeriCorps service gear including a fleece vest and lanyards with the AmeriCorps logo.

The Joining Community Forces AmeriCorps (JCFA) Members will identify with their AmeriCorps service through promotion of service opportunities preferably with other local AmeriCorps Members. This program will promote a sense of esprit'd corps by collaborating with other AmeriCorps programs in creating and implementing service projects and by receiving joint training.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION: A key factor in the success of this program is community support. This includes partner agencies and local residents. One of the goals of JCFA is to increase the number of VMFs registered with the JCF program. The Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs requires volunteers called Tribal Veteran Representatives to provide critical outreach in rural areas. The outreach includes benefits and resources which starts with enrolling the veteran with Veteran's Administration. As AmeriCorps Members increase their outreach, they will partially focus on finding volunteers for this critical role.

The AmeriCorps Members will also recruit local volunteers for episodic and established volunteer roles at Family Program offices in the four selected focus areas. These volunteers at the offices will have duties that include morale and welfare activities, briefing on rights of the service members, and mentoring for new vets within the community.

The AmeriCorps Members will be trained during Orientation on volunteer recruitment and engagement and management. The Members will provide guidance mainly during episodic events.

ORGANIZATION COMMITMENT TO AMERICORPS IDENTIFICATION

The intent of JCF is to strengthen and support networks to aid every VMP. The AmeriCorps Members are part of that network and will be recognized for their contributions. As in any good military organization there will be a ceremonial start to their service obligation with a press release to the focus communities applauding their commitment and partnership with the Alaska National Guard. The AmeriCorps logo will appear next to the Family Program logo on all printed documents as well as recognized on the Family Program website as a partner. Attire will be provided that will recognize

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them as AmeriCorps Members in partnership with the Alaska National Guard Family Program. Upon completion of their tenure there will be a recognition ceremony identifying the progress made with programs as a result of their dedication and outreach.

Organizational Capability

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND AND STAFFING

The mission of The National Guard Family Program is to ensure service members and families are prepared for the stresses of deployment, and supported throughout the deployment cycle. With the unprecedented increases in military activity and extended deployment in recent years, this has become increasingly imperative.

The Family Program acts as a network that allows families to mutually support one another. By providing families with information, education, resources, and support, the program strengthens both the unit and service members. The Family Program is the conduit into the community ensuring communication and understanding by the community and therefore generating support from within the community.

The Family Program has evolved greatly in the past ten years; from a single individual in 2000 to an additional Wing Family Program Coordinator in direct support to Airmen and their families in 2002. In 2003 Family Program expanded with the addition of a Family Program Assistant, Family Assistant Center Supervisor and three Family Assistant Center Specialists. In 2004 Family Program continued to develop with five more Family Assistant Center Specialists for a total of nine that are geographically dispersed through Alaska (Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Juneau and Bethel). As of 2013 the Family Program has approximately 46 personnel operating 16 programs in support of our veterans, military and families.

To support this program, the Family Program plans on utilizing the supervisory structure already in place with existing programs. In addition to the existing supervisory structure staff have attended CNCS related meetings and training sessions to include "Theory of Change" through Serve Alaska. The Deputy State Family Program Director will have the primary responsibility and oversight of the Members. This position is currently being advertised. The ideal qualifications include people management skills, knowledge of existing programs and outreach, ability to administer a program that provides information and referral assistance, the ability to gather and analyze information on problems and difficulties of obtaining assistance using the current systems and to recommend action to improve systems.

Following an in-depth initial orientation including AmeriCorps prohibited activities there are bi-

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annual professional development opportunities where topics of importance are trained upon. For example, this past winter training was a presentation on strategic planning and the steps necessary to plan for the future to meet strategic goals. The Family Program has a staff of certified professionals in their field that provide 1-3 hour training sessions throughout the year in topics such as resiliency, finance/investing, communications/public speaking, and career planning to name a few.

The Deputy State Family Program Director will also be the primary point person for Serve Alaska, receiving training and technical assistance through webinars, email updates and in person group meetings. Serve Alaska promotes a unified portfolio, where current programs can help to mentor new programs.

The military has implemented systems to evaluate impact of different programs. Family Program has attended meetings and trainings to better gauge the success of the programs through better defined measurable. Family Program will evaluate the success of the program by comparing sites that don't receive outreach. The Family Program has no prior experience administering an AmeriCorps grant, however have a budget analyst on hand. The analyst manages federal funds as well as familiarizes and trains staff how to build a spend plan, execute the plan and then provides for the accountability to ensure all spending meets the intent of the type of money available. The Family Program also has quarterly meetings with accounting to review books and ensure spending is compliant. The Family Program is partnering on this project with the state of Alaska's Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs (DMVA). Both organizations have the same mission to serve the state's veterans and their families to improve their quality of life making for a great partnership. As part of this partnership JCFAC will draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) clearly identify roles and responsibilities. The MOU will include utilizing DMVA's EIN and DUNS numbers as a more concrete way to form a partnership. DMVA also has experience administrating federal and state grants and will act as a mentor to the Family Program office with this AmeriCorps grant.

The Family Program will draw together key stakeholders to support this AmeriCorps program and the ACJCF as a whole, in an advisory capacity. The group of Stakeholders, yet to be formed, will include organizations such as local non-profits in the target communities, the state DMVA, Tri-West, Alaska's Friends of the Guard and Reserve, also a non-profit. The unified commitment towards serving Alaska's Veterans, Military and Family (VMF) is a common thread through all of the stakeholders. The knowledge, commitment and expertise will benefit this program immensely.

Alaska National Guard will provide support for this program to include the required Member background checks. Also, travel to the target communities by the Members and general support and

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office space in Anchorage is included in this support.

SUSTAINABILITY

Operation of ACJCF activities and initiatives is made possible through in-kind and financial support of public and private sector partners, including, Tri-West Healthcare Alliance, Friends of the Guard and Reserve and other key stakeholders from the military, government and all sectors of the community. Long-term stability is ensured through a variety of ways. First, ACJCF provides a natural point of engagement for both public and private sector partners. Additionally, the Coalition is intentionally "suspended in mid-air," that is not tied to any one organization, administration or individual. This is beneficial as organizations change, the Coalition can easily adapt.

Second, the structure is designed to have multiple pieces and is modeled off the successful Arizona Coalition for Military Families:

- Implementation Team--Core team facilitating coordination and collaboration between the key stakeholders for ACJCF activities and initiatives. The team includes a community liaison, two Military Life Consultants from the Joint Family Support Assistance Program and an AmeriCorps volunteer.
- Planning Partners--Representatives of key partners and stakeholders participate in planning and implementation of activities.
- Advisory Board and Leadership Council--The ACJCF Advisory Board will be comprised of nominated positions to include military and community leaders.

Third, the Family Program is focusing its energy on partnering with agencies such as the State of Alaska's Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs and the Federal Veteran's Administration in the beginning to gain support from partners with like minded goals. As the program expands throughout the community, it will continue to focus on partnering with agencies that support the program with a desire to support veterans, military and families. The partners are involved at an advisory level currently, but as the program is developed, the ACJCF will bring in additional agencies to provide expansion and depth to the much needed services.

The program is being developed to be self-sustaining through community collaboration and not tied to any one organization. Also, volunteers will be recruited from within the targeted community to better support long term goals and sustainability.

The Family Program, as mentioned earlier, will develop a group of stakeholders to include local, state and federal entities.

COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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As a military organization, Family Program is governed by the Department of the Army and Department of Defense instructions and regulations. Utilizing compliance tools, such as internal auditors and a variety of checklists, these tools will help ensure the integrity and purpose of the program. There will be an initial thorough orientation that includes reviewing the AmeriCorps prohibited activities as well as the dos and don'ts of working within a government agency. Follow up will be conducted through a bi-annual compliance inspection checklist to monitor the overall program and manage service sites and adherence to the rules and regulations. Site visits will be made quarterly to check in on the progress of the AmeriCorps program. If during these site visits there is an indication of vulnerability for the program, an immediate timeout is called and the program goals reevaluated with necessary corrections implemented. The Family Program has already institutionalized weekly virtual meetings to ensure compliance and understanding of program goals and to follow the progress of these goals and compliance with existing guidance.

Budget/Cost Effectiveness

COST EFFECTIVENESS

The Family Program is requesting four Full Time AmeriCorps Members at the Fixed Cost amount of \$12,350 per Member.

The stipend for Full Time Members will be \$12,100 per year, FICA of just under \$4,000 total, and workers compensation of \$800 for the year. Health Insurance for four Members is \$6,700 and background checks and uniforms are estimated to total \$500. This is roughly \$11,600 'cash' needed to complete this program. Family Program has cash reserves and will tap into nonprofit and state entities for cash match.

Other items such as travel to the focus communities, computer and work station areas, general supplies and professional development/orientation training will be covered as in-kind through Alaska National Guard.

The Alaska National Guard Family Program office will participate in the cost-share program as allowed. For example, this will include the cost of the background checks and Member uniforms. In-kind services provided by the Family Program for Member operational needs will include computer equipment, office supplies, office space, professional development and travel similar to what we already provide under our volunteer program.

Evaluation Summary or Plan

N/A

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Amendment Justification

N/A

Clarification Summary

1. Please describe your plan to reduce your cost per MSY in years 2 and 3 of the grant.

In an attempt to reduce my cost per MSY in years 2 and 3 of the grant I will make it a point in year 1 to build partners with agencies that share the same purpose in supporting our service members, veterans and families.

This program has the potential to benefit existing programs that through partner commitment I expect to garner cash match through "program income" from other state agencies as they indirectly benefit from our AmeriCorps program. As part of the Governor's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration initiative I will also look at the applicability of funding through existing grants at the state level.

2. Applicants applying to the Governor and Mayor Initiative must include a minimum of two nonprofits that need to submit letters of commitment to the Corporation.

I have acquired a written commitment from the Alaska National Guard Officer's Association as well as the Rural Veterans Health Access Program.

3. Please describe how the program plans to guarantee that the Department of Defense's compliance tools will ensure the program is in compliance with AmeriCorps regulations.

As the State Family Program Director I have the responsibility to establish internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that obligations and costs are in compliance with applicable laws; all assets are safeguarded against waste, loss, unauthorized, use, or misappropriation, revenues and expenditures are properly recorded and accounted for; and programs are efficiently and effectively carried out according to the applicable law and management policy.

The internal control evaluation plan (ICEP) is established and maintained by me and describes how key internal controls will be evaluated. Required documentation on each completed internal control

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evaluation is retained, subject to audit and/or inspection. My intention is to add the AmeriCorps regulatory requirements to the ICEP making them a documented accountable item, similar to a Policy and Procedure handbook. This will be available upon request once we initiate the program and update it with the AmeriCorps requirements.

Member Disability Clarification:

What percentage of your slots will be targeted to recruiting members with disabilities? What is your program's plan, if any, for outreach and recruitment of members of the disability community?

All slots are available to members with disabilities. The only limiting factor is accessing our geographically dispersed VMFs which may reside in locations where our members will need to be physically mobile in rough terrain (village's are mostly mud and dirt with limited handicap accessibility, not to mention riding in the boats).

Our plan during the marketing campaign is to corroborate with agencies such as the Employer Assistance and Resource Network (EARN) and the local Warrior Transition Units to engage in affirmative activities to recruit and employ people with disabilities.

Continuation Changes

N/A

Grant Characteristics

- AmeriCorps Member Population - Communities of Color
- AmeriCorps Member Population - Low -income Individuals
- AmeriCorps Member Population - Native Americans
- AmeriCorps Member Population - New Americans
- AmeriCorps Member Population - Older Americans
- AmeriCorps Member Population - People with Disabilities
- AmeriCorps Member Population - Rural Residents
- AmeriCorps Member Population - Veterans, Active Military, or their Families
- AmeriCorps Member Population - economically disadvantaged young adults/opportunity youth
- AmeriCorps Member Population - None of the above
- Geographic Focus - Rural
- Geographic Focus - Urban
- Encore Program
- Community Based Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Governor/Mayor Initiative