

# Narratives

## Executive Summary

The City of Bloomfield will support 32 AmeriCorps members in the Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps (EIA) program who will provide energy audits, weatherization services, energy efficiency measure implementation, energy education, outreach and volunteer development services in Bloomfield, Iowa. At the end of the project period, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing a minimum of 400 low-income energy audits, weatherization of 200 low-to-moderate income residences and 5 nonprofit/public buildings, 24 educational programs that will reach 600 individuals. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 75 volunteers that will be engaged in 6 community service projects focused on energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps will reduce the overall residential energy demand in the city of Bloomfield by 5% over the next two years. The reduction in energy demand will reduce the carbon footprint of the City of Bloomfield, increase disposable income of program recipients, and set Bloomfield on a course to become a net-zero electric energy community by 2030.

Specifically, five (5) AmeriCorps State and National members will lead and conduct energy efficiency audits, weatherization, energy efficiency measure implementation, and education activities targeting affordable housing for low-to-moderate income residents, senior citizens and disabled residents from September 14, 2015 to August 12, 2016. Three (3) AmeriCorps VISTA members will coordinate energy efficiency activity logistics, conduct community assessments to target housing for projects, assist with volunteer recruitment and training from July 6, 2015 to July 1, 2016. Additionally, VISTA volunteers will work to identify green job opportunities within the community to help alleviate poverty. Two (2) AmeriCorps NCCC teams will serve 6 weeks, to implement community wide weatherization blitzes from February 1, 2016 to March 11, 2016 and from March 21, 2016 to April 29, 2016. Currently there are no Senior Corps programs operating in Bloomfield, therefore we have not included Senior Corps programs as partners.

This program will focus on Environmental Stewardship and Economic Opportunity. The CNCS investment of \$68,648 will be matched with \$128,630 in public funding.

## Rationale and Approach/Program Design

### EXTENT & SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM

The AmeriCorps members, VISTA Members and NCCC team will have a transformational impact on

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the city and residents of Bloomfield. The city of Bloomfield is the county seat for Davis County, Iowa. The community has 2,600 residents living in 1,200 housing units within 2.25 square miles. Bloomfield is a rural community approximately 15 miles north of the Missouri border and 70 miles west of the Illinois border. This project will be a pilot scale-up program to the existing Green Iowa AmeriCorps out of Cedar Falls, Iowa. The impact of this scale-up project will be dramatic, will show measurable improvement and the project will be replicable by the more than 2000 public power entities across the United States. The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps (EIA) will reduce the overall residential energy demand in the city of Bloomfield by 5% over the next two years. The reduction in energy demand will reduce the carbon footprint of the City of Bloomfield, increase disposable income of program recipients, and set Bloomfield on a course to become a net-zero electric energy community by 2030.

Energy costs are a major hardship for low-income families. According to the 2013 Home Energy Affordability Gap report and the most recent five-year American Community Survey, more than 64,000 Iowa households live with income at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level and face a home energy burden of 28%. And nearly 86,000 additional Iowa households live with incomes between 50% and 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and face a home energy burden of 15%. The 2013 Home Energy Affordability Gap report states that residential heating costs in Iowa's severe winters are significant, especially for people with low income. Existing sources of energy assistance do not adequately address the energy affordability gap in Iowa. Actual energy bills for low income Iowans exceeded affordable energy bills in Iowa by \$298 million at 2012-2013 winter heating fuel prices. In contrast, Iowa received a gross allotment of federal energy assistance funds of \$49.6 million for Fiscal Year 2013, a shortfall of nearly \$250 million (Home Energy Affordability Gap Study, 2013).

The 2013 Home Energy Affordability Gap report found that low income households in Davis County, home to Bloomfield, were paying an average of \$2,973 annually more on utility bills than they can afford; an average of \$248 per month and a home energy burden of 46 percent, nearly 65 percent higher than the state average. A Low-and-Moderate Income (LMI) Survey conducted in survey by the City of Bloomfield in September 2014 found that 52 percent of the population of Bloomfield is at or below 80 percent of the median household income for Davis County Iowa of \$45,040. In addition, according to the US Census Bureau, in 2013 over 17 percent of the population was 65 years old or older. The target housing units for energy audits and weatherization services in Bloomfield will be

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homes and apartments occupied by these low to-moderate income, senior citizen and disabled residents. According to the utility clerk for the City of Bloomfield, most renters in Bloomfield are responsible for pay utilities for the properties they rent.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority funded "Energy Independent Community: An Evaluation for the City of Bloomfield, Iowa" by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) in the summer of 2014. The results of this study clearly indicate that starting an aggressive energy efficiency program and installing direct load control equipment will save utility customers money and has the potential to reduce overall electric use in Bloomfield. The IAMU study reviewed 55 energy efficiency programs designed for residential customers and 115 programs designed for commercial and industrial customers. It determined that 51 of the 170 energy efficiency programs, if fully implemented could save the utility about 7,000,000 kWh per year, approximately 23% of Bloomfield's annual projected electricity needs. The analysis indicated that residential customers could achieve a 28% reduction in electricity usage, while the commercial and industrial customers could achieve a 20% reduction. Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps will be implementing or educating the community on a number of these measures, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with LED lighting, installing radiant barriers, replacing showerheads with low-flow showerheads. Additional measures may be implemented as funding allows.

To serve the needs identified above, the Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps (EIA) program will transform the City of Bloomfield through significant reductions in energy demand. AmeriCorps State and NCCC members will focus on implementing weatherization and energy efficiency improvements for households of low-income, elderly and disabled persons, because they are the most affected by rising energy costs and will benefit directly. Low-income individuals do not have the financial capacity to make efficiency upgrades while elderly and disabled residents are often times physically unable to weatherize their own homes and apartments. These target populations will be identified and marketed to through the local government, community action agencies, local services groups, presentations, notices in local media and partnerships with entities serving the same groups. AmeriCorps VISTA members will assist with broader adoption of energy efficiency measures, developing volunteer, educational, and community service assets that will impact the entire community. Those living in poverty will realize lower costs of living. Numerous education and community service projects will cause a shift in general behavior resulting in even greater reduction in energy use.

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### HOW AMERICORPS MEMBERS WILL ACHIEVE A TRANSFORMATIONAL AND MEASURABLE CHANGE

AmeriCorps members will serve as a transformational catalyst reaching nearly 33% of all Bloomfield households through energy audits and weatherization activities. AmeriCorps State and NCCC members will provide direct support to a population in need while the VISTA members work with the City of Bloomfield and local nonprofits to build capacity within the organizations to continue to reduce energy usage in the community once the project is complete. Having State and National members, VISTA members, and NCCC members in the same community at the same time will magnify the efforts and provide the social capital necessary for transformational and measurable change.

Three AmeriCorps VISTA members will begin serving in the summer to lay the groundwork for the project by identifying key partners, reviewing community assessments and targeting neighborhoods for energy efficiency improvements. In the fall, they will be joined by the AmeriCorps state members who will participate in basic and advanced training to conduct audits and weatherization on housing units using acceptable industry standards. The VISTA members will continue to support the project by conducting outreach to low income eligible residents, scheduling audits, establishing a volunteer management system, developing protocols for standardization of weatherization, building educational curricula and materials, identifying energy incentives and locating resources to benefit low-income residents, and developing a green jobs identification and referral system.

Two AmeriCorps NCCC teams of 12 members will conduct weatherization blitzes between February and April of 2016 under the leadership of Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps members. During this time, the NCCC team will provide energy efficiency improvements based on audits that were conducted by the Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps members in the fall and winter. In addition, NCCC members may participate in education, outreach or volunteer management.

AmeriCorps State members in the Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps will follow the model of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps that has proven that placing trained teams of members in communities is a highly effective means of providing energy audits, performing weatherization and engaging the community in implementing energy efficiency improvements. According the Green Iowa AmeriCorps'

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website, during 2013 service term, Green Iowa AmeriCorps members performed 528 energy audits, weatherized 260 homes for populations in need, engaged 2,845 volunteers, resulting in \$959,478 in energy cost savings (based on the 15-year lifespan of the weatherization improvements).

The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps plan to scale-up the Green Iowa AmeriCorps model by going beyond the Green Iowa AmeriCorps' traditional energy audit, weatherization and air sealing services by offering services such as installation of insulation and by helping establish local energy efficiency incentive programs in the target municipal utility community of Bloomfield.

Five full-time AmeriCorps State members will serve as a team over the course of an eleven-month service term. Each member will dedicate roughly 40 hours per week (1,700 total over the course of their term) towards core project activities. The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps Program members will engage in the following core activities: energy audits, weatherization, insulation installation, education, outreach, and volunteer generation. In this section, the term "member" refers broadly to AmeriCorps State, VISTA and/or NCCC members who will provide these interventions.

1) Energy Audits: Members conduct energy audits to assess home performance and identify air infiltration issues and efficiency measures that can be implemented during the follow-up weatherization process. The audit process consists of a 2-hour period with two members conducting an air infiltration test using a tool called a blower door, and completing a walk-through visual assessment of the home. The blower door test will be administered by a member trained and certified as a Building Performance Institute (BPI) energy auditor. If evidence supports a need for Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps services, members schedule a time to return for installation of weatherization and insulation improvements.

2) Weatherization: Members provide weatherization services that are prioritized based on several criteria: low-income individuals, elderly, persons with disabilities, energy costs, and high air infiltration as determined during audit assessment. Members will fill cracks; caulk windows, outlets and other areas identified during blower door test to reduce the air infiltration and improve the envelope of the house, install efficiency improvements like compact fluorescent light bulbs, low-flow water fixtures, and inspect the furnace/water heater for potential safety hazards, seal ductwork, insulate piping, air seal and insulate attics and conduct a post audit test, and document the estimated

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energy savings. During the audit process, members will educate homeowners about rebates and energy saving behaviors, review the results of the energy audit with the resident, and share estimated savings, and instruct on basic maintenance skills to preserve the improvements over time.

3) Education: In addition to the resident education noted above, members also facilitate energy education activities for school and community groups, partners and residents of Bloomfield. Members learn and teach the multiple benefits of energy efficiency, weatherization and conservation efforts through visible community events and programming. Members will educate program recipients and partner organizations about available energy efficiency programs, such as Energy Star appliance rebates and volunteer demand management technologies.

4) Outreach: Members conduct outreach to households in Bloomfield to target the services offered under the grant. In addition, members will help to secure funding and materials, develop partnerships and engage volunteers in identification of beneficiaries of the project.

5) Volunteer Generation: Members will recruit and train community volunteers to participate in energy efficiency and weatherization activities in Bloomfield. Volunteers will be engaged in one time and ongoing activities, including implementation of the interventions, data collection and analysis, marketing and promotion of the program, fundraising, training, etc. Examples include: weatherization workshops, developing local energy efficiency incentive programs, organizing energy efficiency competitions and education programs, and organizing weatherization blitzes.

### LEVERAGE, COORDINATE OR ENGAGE LOCAL PARTNERS:

Because becoming an Energy Independent Community is a strategic goal for the City of Bloomfield, many partners are expected to be interested in participating in the AmeriCorps program. In addition to community groups and individuals that will be engaged as volunteers in the project, several key partners have been identified: the local community action agency may provide training (the Department of Energy-required level training for federal weatherization program crews), possible office space, partnerships for referrals of potential beneficiaries, groups for educational presentations, etc. The Bloomfield Main Street organization has offered housing assistance and the Bloomfield schools have offered the use of space for housing of NCCC teams. Additional partnerships will be identified and developed as project plans are finalized.

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Members engage community volunteers through workshops, civic engagement projects, and community weatherization days. VISTA members will identify and engage partner organizations, assist those organizations with volunteer recruitment and training. Local organizations such as Rotary, Optimists, Main Street and the Development Corporation reach a diverse population of potential volunteers and donors that will push energy independence forward in the community once the vision and capacity building have been solidified within those organizations. There are no other national service programs with a presence in Bloomfield at this time, however, EIA will be partnering extensively with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program.

### FEASIBILITY OF 1-YEAR TIMELINE TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

Using the results of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps project as a basis for development of outputs and outcomes, we believe these are reasonable and ambitious targets for year one of the project with the AmeriCorps resources as described in this proposal. In addition, we believe that over a two-year grant period, this project has strong potential to achieve transformational change for Bloomfield and to provide a replication road map to be used for other municipal utilities for development and implementation of similar programs. Bloomfield intends to track the services provided and outcomes produced under this project as described below.

### LEVEL OF EVIDENCE

The services provided by Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps and generated volunteers are based on a scale-up of the existing Green Iowa AmeriCorps program. Therefore, the level of evidence is preliminary. In general, weatherization services are strongly supported by evidence. Policy Matters Ohio, Ohio's Weatherization Assistance Program lowers energy bills by more than 20%, helping families achieve home energy affordability. Weatherization also generates jobs, reduces pollution, and increases home values.

The results from Get Energized Iowa!, a friendly community energy competition, indicate that through a combination of incentives, energy education, outreach and AmeriCorps energy services, participating communities reduced their overall electricity consumption by 2 to 20% annually, and summer time electricity use by 6 to 26% (Get Energized Iowa UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education and Iowa Policy Project, 2013). After the competition monthly gas usage

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data was collected for the communities as well as the electric usage data. The electric and gas information came from the utility providers for each community. Overall for the nine months April - December the four communities reduced electric usage by 4% and gas usage by 10%. Data focused on the last 3 quarters of the year because during the first quarter the competition was just getting started, surveys were being completed, etc. These numbers are significant given that most utilities have 1-2% energy efficiency reduction goals for a specific year. Program staff used pre and post-surveys to investigate participants' attitudes, interests, knowledge and behaviors regarding energy use in their homes. Residents were asked about several new behaviors they may have taken during 2012, many of which relate to the information provided Green Iowa AmeriCorps staff as part of the educational component to residents. (Get Energized Iowa UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education and Iowa Policy Project, 2013).

Green Iowa AmeriCorps surveyed 250 recipients of weatherization services. From satisfaction surveys collected, 100 percent of individuals indicated they were "satisfied" to "very satisfied" with the services, and 98% said they felt an increased awareness about their residential energy use after receiving services (Green Iowa AmeriCorps Satisfaction Survey, 2012).

### QUALITY OF OUTCOMES, MEASURES, DATA COLLECTION AND LOGIC MODEL

Bloomfield is committed to gathering strong data to track the services provided and the outcomes produced from this program. Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps will address the CNCS National Performance Measure in the focus area of Environmental Stewardship, EN1-Energy Efficiency. The logic model (submitted) outlines the anticipated short, medium and long-term outcomes for the project.

The anticipated outputs are:

- 1) 400 low-income energy audits conducted for low income housing units
- 2) 200 housing units of low-income households will be weatherized to improve energy efficiency (EN1)
- 3) 600 low-income residents reached regarding weatherization services through partnership with local community action agencies,
- 4) 24 educational programs facilitated to reach 360 people,
- 5) Over 75 volunteers will be engaged, dedicating 300 hours towards 6 community service projects.

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The short-term outcomes will be number of weatherized low-income households with reduced energy consumption (EN1.1). The short term outcome for the recipient of services will include an increase in knowledge through receiving weatherization service as well as new skills gained to maintain improvements. Residents will gain an increased investment and interest in energy efficiency, a positive opinion of energy efficiency services, and a positive attitude about the importance of energy efficiency.

The medium-term outcomes for recipients of service will be an increased emphasis on energy conservation in daily life, increased energy independence because of the knowledge gained to maintain energy efficiency improvements, and the ability to utilize new skills to implement energy efficiency improvements for family and friends. Medium term outcomes also include participation in local energy efficiency incentives programs available to additional potential recipients so they too can undertake future energy efficiency projects.

The long-term outcomes for recipients of service from the reduction of income spent on utility bills will generate more financial stability, a more stable living environment by utilizing those funds for other basic needs, and allowing residents to remain in their homes longer. Implementing weatherization services creates an immediate impact for the populations in need, resulting in energy and money savings. Educating residents about energy efficiency gives them the tools to make mindful decisions about their energy consumption and gain long-term financial independence. Creating investment and interest in energy efficiency efforts through volunteerism generates an impact larger than AmeriCorps members could have independently.

### Organizational Capability

#### ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH

As a city government, Bloomfield operates as a Mayor-Council joint leadership structure. The Mayor works on a part-time basis and serves as a non-voting member of the Council. The City Clerk is a full-time employee who has worked for Bloomfield since 2004 and provides financial management for the city, including \$2.9 million in federal funding over the past 10 years. In addition to the City Clerk and mayor, there are approximately 15 other staff members currently working for Bloomfield. In conjunction with this grant, Bloomfield intends to hire a fulltime Director of Energy Efficiency (site supervisor) to lead the energy efficiency efforts of the City, including committing 50% of their time to overseeing the AmeriCorps program. The City Council and Mayor have been very engaged

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throughout the development of the project. The program began as a grassroots effort to improve the streetscape in downtown Bloomfield and has expanded into a community-wide effort (supported by the state) to become an energy independent community. In addition, this project will be supported by Ashley Wolter, the Program Director of Green Iowa AmeriCorps who will be engaged as a consultant to this project. Ms. Wolter has more than five years of experience as a program director and was a former AmeriCorps member herself. In addition to AmeriCorps State, Ms. Wolter has also served as a site supervisor for AmeriCorps VISTA and has established relationships with the NCCC campus in Vinton. Her expertise and skills will be invaluable to Bloomfield to achieve their program goals within a short two-year timeframe. Ms. Wolter will provide leadership in the areas of member recruitment, training, replication, budget development, compliance and other elements of the program as needed.

### MEMBER EXPERIENCE: SUPERVISION

The City of Bloomfield is dedicated to ensuring a high quality service experience for members from AmeriCorps State, VISTA and NCCC. The city of Bloomfield's Director of Energy Efficiency will serve as a site supervisor to ensure members are meeting the expectations outlined in their service agreements, refraining from any prohibited activities and monitoring attendance and leave. In addition, the site supervisor will recruit, interview and select AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA members. One of the key goals of this project is development of a replicable program model and therefore, emphasis for the site supervisor and members will be on development of protocols, monitoring, data collection and evaluation.

In the case of NCCC, Bloomfield is prepared to coordinate interventions with the regional staff based in Vinton, IA and to provide temporary housing for the NCCC teams during their service spikes. In the past, NCCC members in Vinton have participated in training with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps project and the spikes in Bloomfield will allow members to put their weatherization skills to use under the leadership of a trained AmeriCorps state member. Bloomfield is exploring housing options for service spikes in February, March or April of 2016.

Bloomfield's Director will serve as the VISTA supervisor and will participate in CNCS-sponsored supervisor training. In addition, the site supervisor will provide on-site training and orientation and necessary supplies and resources for the VISTA members, including housing assistance, if needed. In partnership with the site supervisor, VISTA members will engage the low-income beneficiary

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community in planning, serving and sustaining the project.

The AmeriCorps State program is modeled after the Green Iowa AmeriCorps and is designed to allow members to take initiative in their day-to-day service with oversight from the site supervisor. The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps will take the same approach. The site supervisor will receive training, assistance and mentoring through a partnership with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program and its program director (Ashley Wolter). This partnership will allow the site supervisor in Bloomfield to get started much earlier which is crucial in a two-year project.

The site supervisor will conduct weekly, all-member meetings to discuss plans for upcoming activities and events, share ideas and address concerns. A meeting summary from each meeting will be shared with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program director to keep all parties updated on current events. The site supervisor will also ensure that members do not participate in prohibited activities or dedicate too many hours in the training or fundraising categories. The site supervisor will be available as-needed to members for feedback and guidance throughout their term, including providing mid and end-term evaluations.

### **MEMBER EXPERIENCE: TRAINING AND BRANDING**

AmeriCorps member on-site orientation and training under this program will be tailored to the timing and nature of the member responsibilities. For NCCC, Bloomfield will rely on the NCCC campus to identify on-site training that should be offered to the team(s) in preparation for their service spikes. This training will likely occur within the first couple of days of the NCCC teams' arrival. VISTA members will first attend PSO and then receive on-site training when they return to Bloomfield. For all streams, AmeriCorps members' safety and skill set trainings are conducted early on in the service term.

AmeriCorps state members will receive their orientation during their first week of service with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps team members from across the state. The AmeriCorps VISTA members will also participate in portions of this orientation, as appropriate. The training will cover the history of AmeriCorps, OSHA safety training, prohibited activities, and include three days of comprehensive, hands-on weatherization training following the model and curriculum developed by Green Iowa AmeriCorps. Other training includes conflict resolution, confidentiality protocol for residents, and

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customer service procedures. Program staff plans required Communication (including sharing your AmeriCorps story in the community), Volunteer Management, Disaster Response and Citizenship training during the week of orientation or within the first month of member service. Members will participate in on-site and hands-on educational trainings throughout their service term and will be trained on disaster response, citizenship, Life after AmeriCorps and volunteer management. AmeriCorps state members will also have the opportunity for advanced training which allows them to earn certifications that ensure they are meeting industry standards.

Prohibited activities will be explained in detail at orientation with a review of all activities in their service agreement, a role play activity dealing with activities involving generated volunteers that are considered prohibited and ongoing reminders to all members and supervisors during program wide communication emails, site visits, and during heightened time of presence of prohibited activities in the media.

Members from all streams will receive on-site orientation in Bloomfield. The orientation will be scaled depending on the team, the length of their service and their service activities. During this time, members may receive information on local office operations, discuss community partnerships, communication, public speaking, leadership, marketing and/or participate in team building activities. Former Green Iowa members, site supervisors and qualified trainers will facilitate the on-site training to acclimate new members to the processes and services of Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps.

During their service terms, IEA members will be expected to wear their service gear while serving. In addition, the team will make presentations to the City Council, schools and other community groups to enhance awareness of AmeriCorps' role in energy efficiency efforts in Bloomfield. In addition, Bloomfield will look for ways to extend the brand in the community, for example, they will look at regular media opportunities and explore the possibility of placing yard signs or window placards in housing units that receive service.

### **COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Bloomfield is committed to ensuring full compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations, including prohibited activities. Bloomfield will utilize supervision and formal and informal monitoring techniques to prevent and identify compliance issues. Bloomfield understands that we will be held

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accountable if instances of risk or noncompliance are identified. The Green Iowa AmeriCorps Director who we are engaging as a consultant for this grant, will be an excellent resource to Bloomfield, as will the commission and CNCS state office.

### **Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy**

The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps (EIA) program is a cost-effective approach for increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy expenses for program recipients. EIA's target for the first year of operation is to conduct 400 energy audits and weatherize 200 housing units, reducing energy (electricity and natural gas) consumption in Bloomfield by 5% annually. This has the capacity to reduce consumer spending on electricity by \$63,340 each year. This is a sum nearly equal to proposed CNCS investment in Bloomfield. In addition, the project proposes to encourage additional energy efficiency activities in the community by providing education and outreach activities, engaging individual citizens, civic groups, volunteers and community partners. To further sustainability for the project, members will work with government officials and leaders to educate the community on energy incentive programs to continue the project beyond the grant period.

In addition to the \$68K in federal funds proposed under this project, and the \$64K committed by the city itself, Bloomfield has secured an additional \$47K in state funding to support the innovative efforts. These funds are adequate to carry out a project, however, the city is committed to developing the project with the strongest potential to have a transformative impact in the city. In order to achieve this, Bloomfield has plans to raise another \$35K to support advanced member training and additional weatherization interventions. The proposed budget covers member living allowance, health care, criminal history checks and other elements that are necessary for a successful, high-quality AmeriCorps program.

EIA relied extensively upon the successful Green Iowa AmeriCorps program to determine budget line items for training, travel, weatherization supplies, and needed equipment. Green Iowa AmeriCorps shared detailed budgets, work protocols, and recommendations for scaling up its energy efficiency programs. Based on the five-year experience of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps project, we are confident that the resources outlined in the budget are adequate to carry out the project. In addition to the costs of the AmeriCorps State grant, Bloomfield is prepared to work with NCCC and VISTA to provide the necessary resources to support all components of the project.

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The City of Bloomfield is committed to making the Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps project successful. The City is hiring a fulltime staff member to support new energy efficiency programs/projects and to lay a solid foundation for eventual energy independence for Bloomfield. The AmeriCorps project is a key component for launching the project based on community visioning that has been ongoing in the community for the past couple of years. Funds necessary to fulfill budget requirements have been pledged and additional partners and funding sources continue to be sought in order to ensure sustainability beyond the project period. In addition, the model incorporates energy incentive programs and evaluation to identify program components that are the most effective in achieving energy savings. This will allow the city to continue implementing weatherization interventions that offer the most benefit.

### **Evaluation Summary or Plan**

The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps (EIA) project will cooperate fully with the CNCS national assessment of Operation AmeriCorps projects.

In addition, EIA will discuss the possibility of participating in the Green Iowa AmeriCorps evaluation process.

### **Amendment Justification**

N/A

### **Clarification Summary**

#### CLARIFICATION SUMMARY

The Iowa Energy Independence AmeriCorps project will use VISTA members to assist with volunteer recruitment and training, procedure development, data collection for IEIA project evaluation, community education and green job development. Capacity Building outcomes and outputs that may be used to evaluate the VISTA portion of the project include:

- \* G3-3.1: Number of community volunteers recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants.
- \* G3-3.2: Number of community volunteers managed by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants.
- \* G3-3.7: Hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants.

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\* G3-3.8: Hours of service contributed by community volunteers who were managed by CNCS-supported organizations or national service participants.

\* G3-3.11: Number of new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.) or enhancements to existing systems and business processes put in place as a result of capacity building services.

Economic Opportunities Outputs and Outcomes in which we intend to have VISTA members have an anti-poverty impact include:

\* O5 Number of economically disadvantaged individuals receiving housing services

\* O2 Number of economically disadvantaged individuals receiving job training or other skill development services

### Continuation Changes

N/A