

# Narratives

## Executive Summary

The Partnership for Youth, Inc. Safety Service Corps proposes to have 35 AmeriCorps Members who will provide emergency preparedness, response and recovery assistance to disaster threatened and impacted communities within Missouri and, when requested, to other communities in need across the country as well as provide natural resource stewardship to State and Federal public lands. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps Members will be responsible for generating increased capacity that enables 6 communities to better prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events as well as enhancing the environmental quality and user access to 8,000 acres of public lands. In addition, the AmeriCorps Members will leverage an additional 760 unaffiliated volunteers who will be engaged in assisting with community preparedness, mass care, debris removal, homeowner assistance, emergency protective measures and stewardship activities.

This program will focus on the CNCS focus areas of Disaster Services and Environmental Stewardship. The CNCS investment of \$439,653.35 will be matched with \$545,000 to include: \$370,000 in other public funding and \$175,000 in private funding and in-kind resources.

## Rationale and Approach/Program Design

**PROBLEM / NEED:** There is a clear and present danger for the prospect of continuing severe weather events with escalating frequency and damaging impacts. Catastrophic events affecting multi-state regions and/or multiple disasters simultaneously affecting several parts of the country have increased. Superstorms, such as Hurricane Katrina and Sandy, as well as recent widespread long track tornados are evidence of this trend. Beyond these weather related disaster impacts there is the increased prospect of unprecedented future urban earthquake impacts.

Between 2006 and 2013, Missouri received 23 federal disaster declarations which ranks Missouri as the 2nd most disaster affected state for the same period. During the last eight years, Missouri has suffered 346 weather related fatalities which is more than any other state, and during this same period, Missouri ranks 4th amongst the states with over \$5 billion in estimated property damage. In 2011 alone, 11,000 Missouri households received damage from flooding, tornadoes and other severe storms. The Joplin Tornado alone resulted in 7,500 homes seriously damaged or destroyed, while other disasters simultaneously affected the Southwest, Southeast, East Central and Northwest parts of the State.

According to Jane Lubcheno, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration administrator, it's

## Narratives

not just about numbers and records, it's about people. "Each of these events is a huge disaster for survivors who experience them. They are our unprecedented challenge for the Nation." In the face of dramatic escalating recovery costs as well as negative human and environmental impacts, there is an increasing number of American seniors, children, homeless and other special needs populations who are often the most negatively affected by disasters; and, fixed income or retirement households that leave an increasing number of disaster-affected families with fewer personal resources to devote to recovery. As communities prepare for the eventuality of future disaster events, it is paramount that special attention is paid to these most vulnerable segments of our larger population.

The recent economic downturn and persistent high unemployment rate significantly exacerbates the challenge of addressing needs arising from escalating disaster events, contributing to homelessness and families at risk. In addition, growing budget constraints within federal, state and local government is further challenging response and recovery capacities, particularly affecting those individuals in greatest need.

Many recent disasters have overwhelmed available resources and the ability of local communities to expeditiously and effectively respond to critical needs. Faith-based and voluntary organizations that are vital resources to community disaster response and recovery are similarly struggling to keep pace with the sheer magnitude and number of recent disaster events. On a positive note, a significant segment of the public feels compelled to volunteer their labor and to contribute relief supplies to assist during times of disaster. History has shown, however, that if these potentially beneficial resources are not effectively managed they can be detrimental rather than helpful in meeting critical needs.

**COMPELLING NEED:** The State of Missouri and its local communities need expanded preparedness, response and recovery capacity to reduce the negative impacts of disasters, especially for vulnerable populations. The escalation of regional widespread catastrophic events dictates the need for a greater response and recovery surge capacity to assist multiple jurisdictions at the same time. The National Response Framework mandates a need for states to assist other states during urgent times of need.

**SECONDARY NEED:** Severe weather events, proliferation of invasive species and increased pressure from multiple user groups are having adverse impacts on eco-system health in natural wildland areas.

Increased erosion contributes to the degradation of sensitive watersheds and riparian areas; invasive species negatively impacts the bio-diversity and health of wildlife habitats; and, increased user pressure in natural areas leads to negative human impacts. Available publicly budgeted resources are inadequate to effectively manage and protect the condition of eco-systems, trails and riparian areas at risk.

## Narratives

In response to these challenges, The Safety Service Corps will maintain an Emergency Response Team (ERT) of 35 ACMs that will utilize its internal capabilities and the energy of leveraged volunteers to provide additional capacity to emergency management and organizational partners to address future disaster needs with a prioritized focus on life saving, life sustaining and life repairing assistance to vulnerable populations. The ERT will provide on the ground leadership to coordinate unaffiliated volunteers and unsolicited donations to enable them to be helpful assets during times of disaster. In addition, stewardship services will be provided to help preserve and restore at-risk eco-system health.

THEORY OF CHANGE / LOGIC MODEL: The 100-year forecast is for stronger storms ahead as predicted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research. These weather events will continue to produce escalating negative human, environmental and economic impacts. Vulnerable populations will experience the disproportionate adverse consequences of these events. Existing resources are inadequate to meet these anticipated challenges and to support the resiliency of our most at-risk communities and individuals. ACMs have been a proven decisive force in the effective management of unaffiliated volunteers and unsolicited donations that assisted in closing gaps and meeting critical needs in the aftermath of recent disaster events. The prediction of an escalation of severe disaster events supports a compelling case to continue to use ACMs as a force multiplier to meet future critical needs arising from these events.

AmeriCorps St. Louis (ACSTL) Safety Service Corps will train and support 35 full-time Member Service Year (MSY) ACMs. These ACMs will serve a minimum of 11 months and together will comprise an ERT. The ERT will leverage unaffiliated volunteers and groups to maximize their helpful assistance to disaster survivors, displaced or homeless individuals and others who are vulnerable or at risk.

The ERT will be organized into a variety of configurations to provide maximum flexibility to respond to various training and community capacity building initiatives, emergency deployments and extended recovery partnerships. ACMs will operate within a team environment based out of the ACSTL headquarters in St. Louis. Teams will be regularly deployed to field locations within Missouri as well as out-of-state locations to perform direct service and capacity building.

In the aftermath of a disaster, some ERT Members will focus on critical life safety needs, assisting with: search and rescue, initial damage assessment, debris clearance, distribution of life support supplies, sheltering of impacted families and outreach to special needs individuals. At the same time, other ERT Members will collaborate with community leaders to effectively manage volunteers, coordinate donations and help develop a structure that enhances immediate relief and long-term

## Narratives

recovery interventions.

ACMs will: implement systems to identify and prioritize special needs individuals to expedite service to them, including the homeless; develop systems to positively engage spontaneous volunteers and donations so that they are of beneficial value; serve as an intermediary between faith-based / voluntary organizations and local emergency management to promote coordinated service to disaster survivors; assist in sharing training and best practices with other organizations, State Commissions and other National Service assets to promote increased community and collective preparedness for future events; aid with emergency housing repairs and emergency protective measures to reduce disaster impacts and the displacement of survivors from their homes; support the development of sustainable community based long-term recovery committees that address unmet survivors needs; participate in disaster mission assignments from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that will support its Cooperative Agreement with FEMA and its roles pursuant to the National Response Framework.

(14) MSY will provide at least 12,600 hours of service leveraging 15,200 hours of additional volunteer service to increase the capacity of 6 community emergency management systems to prepare for or respond to disaster events. Emergency Management representatives will be surveyed to document these outcomes.

NATURAL RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP--AN ENABLING FOCUS: ERT sub-teams are rotated through natural resource preservation and restoration projects in national forests, state parks, and state conservation lands that would otherwise not receive needed attention. These public lands stewardship projects help restore historic natural habitats and repair deteriorated recreation infrastructure to meet growing public demands for quality wildland experiences. ACMs partner with the USFS, National Park Service, MO Department of Natural Resources, MO Department of Conservation, and local park's departments. Within this scope of service, the ERT functions as a trained and equipped initial attack wildland fire suppression resource for fire managers at the local, state and federal level. These projects promote personal and team skill development, an esprit de corps, perseverance and the heightened fitness required for emergency assignments. The projects are an essential source of fee-for-service income that helps enable the ERT's sustained disaster response and recovery services into the future.

(21) MSY will provide 34,200 hours of service to improve at-risk public lands ecosystems. Public land managers will be surveyed to document their assessment of beneficial change to targeted ecosystem health.

## Narratives

The ERT program will utilize National Performance Measures D1,D2, EN4, EN5 to track intervention outputs.

### EVIDENCE

1. In 2012, the Rutgers School of Social Work published a study in the Journal of Non Profit Management: Volunteer, Non-Profits and Community Capacity, A Case Study in Preparing for Disaster Response and recovery. Conclusion: As it becomes apparent at all levels that "government alone cannot deliver all disaster relief" it is necessary that voluntary activities contribute in ways that are often "more efficient and effective than the Federal government's response." The interventions that are proposed are consistent with the findings and best practices outlined in this report and are strong evidence of the approach as presented.
2. In December 2011, the FEMA National Preparedness Assessment Division conducted a Lessons Learned Study relating to the Joplin tornado response. Pursuant to the State of Missouri Emergency Response Plan, ACSTL coordinated the AmeriCorps Response in Joplin. Preliminary Finding 2.7 of the Study, documents a Strength Outcome as follows: "AmeriCorps provided critical support in Joplin including managing thousands of self dispatched volunteers." This study provides strong evidence that proposed interventions will lead to similar results in the future.
3. On September 15, 2013 The Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University released a study on Community recovery and resiliency. The study underscores the significant contributions of volunteers towards Joplin's successful recovery. This study documents real results which were achieved by ACSTL and are consistent with the interventions outlined in this proposal and provides strong further evidence that similar outcomes will be achieved in the future.
4. During the winter of 2008, The American Interest Journal included a Peer Review Article entitled: 'A Call to National Service' which included a service impact review entitled: 'Katrina Diary' by Malcolm Jones, City Administrator for Pass Christian, Mississippi. This article provides strong evidence that supports the government surge capacity outcomes outlined in this proposal.
5. Consistent with the evaluation plan in the Safety Service Corps current grant an internal evaluation was conducted during 2013-2014. A survey methodology was used to elicit feedback from faith-based, voluntary and emergency management partners to document the level of value of ERT services and to garner input to support continuous program improvements into the future. 93% of 30 respondents rated as very valuable (highest ranking) the level of response assistance they received from the ERT. 100% of respondents stated that they would partner again and would recommend the ERT to other organizations. This evaluation provides strong evidence based on past performance that

## Narratives

proposal interventions will lead to the outcomes identified in this application.

NOTICE PRIORITY: Since 1994, the Safety Corps ERT has assisted in 30 states and over 60 of Missouri's 105 counties to meet disaster related needs. During the last three years, ERT Members have provided almost 89,000 hours of service leveraging over 74,000 volunteers to assist 9,830 disaster affected households with needs.

The interventions in this proposal will enable the ACSTL/ERT to continue to use lessons learned and best practices to assist disaster affected communities through the CNCS Disaster Cooperative Agreement Program and the State of Missouri Disaster Response Plan. This proposal is an investment in the CNCS Disaster Services and Environmental Stewardship Focus Areas.

AMERICORPS MEMBER TRAINING starts with an out-of-town immersion/team building experience. This phase is designed as a metaphor for the year ahead, underscoring the importance of problem solving, resiliency, embracing diversity, and teamwork. From this start, ACMs are given opportunities to gain an increased awareness of their own strengths, develop skill around professionalism, form an ethic of service, serve as part of a team, and set personal goals. At the end of this process, the successful ACMs participate in a formal swearing-in celebration. Continuing in-service development is provided at the ACSTL Headquarters facility. ACMs participate in training to provide for their safety and skill development in a variety of areas essential to their success in natural restoration and stewardship, or on disaster deployments.

These topics include: driving safety, risk management procedures, incident command systems, CPR/First Aid, radios and communications, applied technology, use of power and hand tools, MO State wildland firefighter training, volunteer and donations management, basic community emergency response team (CERT) protocols, human service considerations, logistical systems, national service response system expectations and guidelines, and recording and documenting results. In follow-up phases, ACMs are matched to more in depth training, ie: operating Volunteer Reception Centers, federal wildland and chainsaw certification, community assessment tools, support roles to emergency managers and incident management teams, shelter operations and caring for special populations. Corps ACMs receive additional incentives through opportunities to attend advanced training in areas of specialized interest. For example, some ACMs annually participate in the Midwest Wildfire Academy that leads to advanced skill certifications.

Each ACM receives an orientation to prohibited activities at the start of their term of service and signs

## Narratives

a contract agreeing to comply with prohibitions. Each volunteer receives an orientation to expectations at the start of their volunteer engagement and signs a volunteer agreement reinforcing these requirements.

**SUPERVISION:** We have continued to promote AmeriCorps Alums into post-service "Fellows" roles to serve as senior AmeriCorps Leaders, assisting in ACM coaching, supporting field services, facilitating ACM-driven events and reinforcing accountability standards. ACM leadership from Team Leaders is supported by a supervisory structure of professional staff coordinators and the Safety Corps director to ensure that ACM service placements and performance are consistent with ACSTL partner agreements. This structure of having Fellows and Staff with at least two years of previous AmeriCorps experience supports current ACMs with first-hand lessons learned as well as best practices relevant to their term of service.

ACMs are asked to reflect on expectations for the year and set goals for themselves in both professional and personal areas while also exploring possible professional development opportunities they would be able to take advantage of during the service year. ACMs are evaluated weekly on their strengths and areas in which they could improve by Team Leaders. Fellows and staff have scheduled checks with each member to gauge progress on member goals as well as give them feedback on their performance throughout the term. These checks help ensure progress and growth within the program.

The full-time Safety Corps director provides orientation and oversight to the program leadership team regarding program regulations, priorities and expectations. This information is then shared with members and partners to support desired outcomes.

**MEMBER EXPERIENCE:** Throughout their year of service, our ACMs are encouraged to reflect on the greater meaning of their service, especially during two retreats, one halfway through their service and another at the end of their service. ACMs debrief in their service teams at the end of each project assignment to capture lessons learned. Each ACM also journals their experience and contributes member stories in the OnCorps reporting system. On recent disaster missions, several ACMs contributed to a series of blogs on local TV stations and the CNCS website to showcase their service assignments.

We have found that one of the best ways to reward service is to provide ACMs with additional leadership responsibility. In the past, many ACMs have been trained as trainers and have subsequently trained other Corps and community groups. This approach will continue. ACMs are also rewarded for their leadership and performance through opportunities to attend, "network," and in

## Narratives

some cases make presentations at state and national conferences. Each ACM participates in cross-stream National Service events such as MLK Day and St. Louis Serves Day. ACMs regularly serve with other program members on disaster deployments and multi-corps "signature" projects promoting a multi-corps esprit de corps.

A significant number of our ACMs continue life-long service-oriented career paths including: teachers, doctors, emergency managers, social workers, park rangers, firefighters, a former Missouri Citizen Corps Coordinator, State Emergency Management Operation officers, two state commission program officers, an EPA project director, a CDC emergency planner, and three of 10 regional FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons.

In addition to promoting a lifelong ethic of service with our current ACMs, we encourage our alumni to remain connected to their AmeriCorps roots as both ongoing and episodic volunteers through Safety Corps sponsored projects i.e.: our Winter Emergency Homeless Shelter.

In June of 2014, over 200 alums returned for our 20th reunion. They came from across the country with wonderful tales of their lifelong commitment to service and the impact that they are continuing to make. Thank You notes from Alums, consistently repeated, 'this changed my life forever', 'thank you for giving me something so valuable that I never knew I wanted before I found it'. We continue to recruit a diverse corps using social media, the national CNCS website, our alumni and our partners within our own community.

Each new ACM receives an orientation and history of AmeriCorps and ACSTL when they begin their term of service so they can accurately identify themselves to partners and the community. ACMs are required to wear a visible "A" any time they are in service. In addition, all of our vehicles are marked with AmeriCorps logo magnets and we carry banners and signs to mark service sites.

Our cooperative agreements with our partners feature a section describing our goals as an Emergency Response Team and as an AmeriCorps Program. Our social media sites and website allow uninterrupted access to information and updates on our teams and their service. It highlights special projects, volunteer opportunities with our program, current and past deployments, and ACM reflections on their service year within AmeriCorps.

### **Organizational Capability**

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY--BACKGROUND AND STAFFING: The ACSTL Safety Corps evolved from a regional convocation for service held in the fall of 1993. A partnership of working groups supported by the American Youth Foundation and the Danforth Foundation launched two

## Narratives

separate initiatives to address critical unmet needs in the areas of education and public safety. Beginning in 1994, with a successful Summer of Safety pilot effort the full time Safety Service Corps AmeriCorps program was launched in the Fall. This program has operated continuously since 1994 and the inception of AmeriCorps. In January of 2000, an independent group of local civic and business leaders committed itself to sustaining these efforts into the future. This leadership group legally incorporated itself as Partnership for Youth, Inc., a 501c3 organization doing business as AmeriCorps St. Louis (ACSTL). The Safety Service Corps, which includes the ERT, has been funded continuously out of the National competitive pool of funding since its first year, 1994. The mission of AmeriCorps St. Louis is to: develop the professional skills, leadership and life-long service ethic of the young men and women who serve; to respond to critical unmet needs in the areas of homelessness, emergency response, and the natural environment; and to build the capacity of our partnering agencies and communities we serve. Partnership for Youth d.b.a AmeriCorps St. Louis exists solely as an organization to effectively utilize National Service assets and volunteers to beneficially impact the needs outlined in its mission.

During the preceding two years, 2012-2014, the Safety Service Corps received approximately \$906,500 in CNCS support which was augmented by at least \$1,100,000 in grantee generated resources, not including substantial in-kind contributions. This represents more than a dollar for dollar match of Federal resources.

ACSTL Board has been expanded to include seven respected civic and business leaders: a senior governmental emergency planner, Vice president of Governmental Affairs for an education association, the retired Director of Human Services for the City of St. Louis, an ACSTL alum Social Worker and president of the ACSTL Junior Board, the Dean of the Brown School of Social work at Washington University, the CEO of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, a former elected member of the Missouri House of Representatives, and an advisory Board Member who is the Vice President of Community Affairs for the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Bruce Bailey, Director of ACSTL Safety Service Corps will continue to provide executive leadership and oversight to the ERT program. He has provided executive leadership to the Safety Corps program since its inception in 1994, and has 30 years of professional experience in developing and directing community service, educational and emergency service programs. This experience includes developing Youth Corps programs, directing experiential learning projects, providing subject matter expertise to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other national service organizations. He is the former Chair for the Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MOVOAD) and contributes to the

## Narratives

National VOAD committee on volunteerism. ACSTL continues within the Missouri State Emergency Plan, Emergency Support Function 6 /Annex U,, to be the lead organization for coordination of spontaneous volunteers. In addition, ACSTL will continue its long standing partnerships and will coordinate/collaborate with the MO VOAD, the Governor's Faith-based and Community Service Partnership, FEMA Region 7 Interagency Steering Committee and the CNCS Disaster Services Unit to accomplish desired program outcomes.

Compliance and Accountability: Member training, contract, and handbook clearly outline the AmeriCorps provisions and prohibitions as well as additional ACSTL program expectations.

AmeriCorps requirements are conveyed to partners through orientation meetings and written agreements. All Member projects and mission assignments are pre-reviewed for safety and other potential concerns that would result in vulnerabilities for ACMs, our program, National AmeriCorps or partner interests. Risk management procedures are put in place to prevent non-compliance issues and to protect ACMs, programs and partners. Daily Member briefing and de-briefings are held to reinforce preventative actions. Should a compliance issue arise with ACMs or partners, a written corrective action plan would be implemented to insure a rapid resolution of the problem.

PAST PERFORMANCE: Performance Measures were met or exceeded during the past three years. Significant achievements in direct disaster services, volunteer management, capacity building with partners and environmental stewardship include:

Between 2011-2014, ACMs served 88,937 hours, leveraging 1,024,298 volunteer hours to assist 9,830 disaster affected households. Approximately 30,200 disaster survivors were assisted through ERT supported response and recovery activities. Four thousand, two hundred and thirty overnight shelter days were provided to at-risk homeless individuals. The ERT undertook 17 separate disaster deployments, 7 of which were Federal Mission Assignments to support the CNCS/FEMA Cooperative Agreement. ACSTL provided direct assistance to those in need in Louisiana, New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois, Florida, Michigan and our own State of Missouri.

ACSTL played a major role in the response to Hurricane Sandy, both in New York and New Jersey. We initially helped manage shelter operations in New York City, serving an estimated 6,000 displaced survivors. In New Jersey, ERT ACMs established the foundation for multiple Volunteer Reception Centers to assist with the recovery. The ERT provided more than 13 months of decisive assistance to Long Island and was instrumental in the launch of its Long Term Recovery Committee and Support Center. The ERT spearheaded a FEMA expedited assistance program (Shelter, Temporary Electric Program) to support 328 disaster affected Nassau and Suffolk County households to remain in their

## Narratives

homes.

Within our own State, the ERT was instrumental in protecting our historic town of Clarksville, managing volunteers, pumps and using 1,000 tons of sand for 78,000 sand bags to provide successful flood protection. Finally in 2012, the ERT was the sole recipient of the CNCS National Disaster Services Impact Award for its cumulative exemplary disaster assistance record.

Natural Resource Protection and Stewardship: Between 2011-2014, 2044 acres of invasive species were treated, 76,500+ acres of habitat were improved and fuels reduced thorough prescribed fire, approximately 36 wildfires were attacked involving 4,951 acres, over 950 miles of trail were maintained or developed, including new constructed trail miles and over 16, 275 hazardous trees were felled to protect public safety.

Additional Capacity Building: The AmeriCorps St. Louis ERT supports disaster preparedness across the country by conducting trainings in volunteer management, Volunteer Reception Center operations, data management, best practices and lessons learned. Since 2011, ERT has run more than 20 capacity building trainings and provided technical assistance to State and National Service Commissions, Emergency Management, Faith-Based and Voluntary Agency Partners. Trainings were provided to the Gulf States VOAD (MS, AL, LA) Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, California, Wisconsin, Missouri, as well as multiple national presentations including a presentation at the FEMA 2012 National Preparedness Symposium. More than 1,500 people have received training by ACSTL since 2011.

Enrollment and Retention: ACSTL has enrolled and retained 100% of ACMs during the last operating year.

### **Budget/Cost Effectiveness**

COST EFFECTIVENESS: Despite the fact that the Member living allowance is being raised generating additional Member fixed costs, we are requesting a fixed grant amount of \$12,561.52 per MSY. This funding request represents a continuing level of CNCS funding investment at the current level. This request is \$868.48/MSY below the current NOFO MSY fixed cost rate of \$13,430.

BUDGET ADEQUACY: CNCS funding of \$439,653.35 will be supported by augmentation funding to include earned income of \$120,000 MO Department of Natural Resources, \$120,000 MO Department of Conservation, \$130,000 USFS, \$120,000 private sector giving and \$55,000 in-kind Partnership For Youth facility contribution. Members will receive a full time living allowance of \$12,530 for an 11 month term of service and will be supported with healthcare, workers compensation and FICA contributions. As in the past, additional in-kind resources will supplement these

## Narratives

commitments. A composite of similar resources has demonstrated over many years to be sufficient in supporting a high quality program which yielded exemplary results. These resources are adequate to support the desired outcomes of this proposal.

### Evaluation Summary or Plan

The Safety Service Corps will use feedback provided from emergency management and natural stewardship partners to establish a valuation of ERT services in achieving desired outcomes. Trained responders will be surveyed to evaluate their confidence level for improved personal response capabilities during future disaster events. A sampling of disaster survivor beneficiaries of ERT services will be surveyed to establish the extent to which their immediate disaster related needs have been improved. Tracking mechanisms will be utilized to document the potential local/state cost share offset for volunteer services and donations to match Federal Disaster Public Assistance. The Safety Corps will utilize detailed feedback from program partners to guide continuous improvement actions into the future. The Safety Corps has and will continue to participate in external reviews that are conducted by the Corporation, FEMA, other partner and service associations, and universities. For the purpose of this application, a copy of an internal survey of partner valuation of the Safety Corps emergency services for 2013-14 is included.

### Amendment Justification

N/A

### Clarification Summary

CLARIFICATION YEAR 1 (2015-2016)

Even though the mandated fixed costs for Members is rising, we are not requesting a commensurate increase in CNCS support. Our commitment to Federal funding is at over 120% in program generated resources for each federal dollar invested. Disaster Response, which is a key Safety Corps priority, requires a significant commitment of program resources when not supported by a Federal Mission Assignment, and is typically not supported by any outside resource. These deployments require a substantial commitment of organizational funds which are not typically incurred by other AmeriCorps programs. Furthermore, Partnership For Youth, Inc. is headquartered in the City of St. Louis which is designated as a severely economically distressed county with a poverty rate of 27% (national rate is 15.4%) a median household income of \$31,509 (national rate is 53,046) and an unemployment rate for the past 12 months went from 8.1-7.3 (as opposed to the national rate which

## Narratives

went from 6.5-5.4). \*All based on the latest information available from recommended sites: US Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Information System and Department of Labor statistics. Many not-for-profits in St. Louis are competing for the same dollars. Funder preference is often not on our focus areas simply because both our conservation and disaster deployments are generally out of town and often out of state. Local funder preference is to have their dollars stay in St. Louis. These combined circumstances create a serious financial hardship for our program and make it impossible for us to further reduce our Federal cost per MSY at this time.

1. D1 and D2 Unique tracking numbers will be assigned to targeted service beneficiaries in D1 and D2. This tracking system will be designed to prevent a duplicate count of individuals.
2. D1 (Outcome CM 6336) Trainees will be asked to rate their post training gain in knowledge on best practices on such items as Instant Command System, Emergency Care, and Risk and Volunteer Management.
3. D2 Changes made as directed
4. D2 Outcome will be measured by a survey of survivor households served to attain an evaluation of response assisted provided. The outcome target value as well as the output target value includes households that we anticipate will have the ability to communicate and be reachable in the aftermath of a disaster event.
5. EN4 Examples of resource service interventions will include prescribed fire to support natural diversity and habitat health, invasive species eradication, restoration of over used damaged areas, construction of fencing and natural barriers to protect riparian areas. These are included in the Performance Measure module.
6. EN4 Each block of treated acreage will be tracked by a unique service identifier. Land management service partners will provide a receipt of service including acreage treated. Cumulative treated acreage blocks will be compared against one another on a quarterly basis to prevent the reporting of duplicate counting of the same acreage.

## Narratives

7. EN4 Our program receives resource assignments from partner land managers based on agency resource plans that preferentially target the treatment of the most in need or at risk acreage as a priority.
8. EN4.1 Partner land manager service/assessment receipts will be collected to document acres improved to agency standards.
9. EN4.1 A substantial percentage of the target acreage outcome is tied to prescribe fire. Weather and climate conditions have a major bearing on the ability to successfully treat acres and obviously are not influenced by program factors. In developing our EN4 target outcome we reviewed our performance over the past three years. Based on this historical analysis, we believe that 7,200 acres improved is a valid target.
10. EN5 Examples of service interventions include: removal of hazard trees, removal of user generated invasive species, installation of trail control barriers, trail tread improvement, re-routers, obliteration of unauthorized user generated trails, repair and construction of bridges, turnpikes and puncheons, signage improvements, clearing and brushing, drainage improvements and construction of new trail corridor. These are included in the Performance Measure module.
11. EN5 A trail project tracking system which incorporates unique mileage identification will be implemented and analyzed on a quarterly basis to prevent the reporting of duplicate trail mileage.
12. EN5 Our program receives trail assignments from partner land managers based on agency resource plans that preferentially target interventions on trails most in need or most at risk.
13. EN5.1 This performance measure has been updated to indicate that a land manager service/assessment receipt will be utilized to document service impact results.
14. EN5.1 This target outcome is based on a three year analysis of past proven results. We believe that 180 miles of validated trail improvement is a reasonable expectation.

### D. Strategic Engagement Slots

## **Narratives**

We do not have the ability to pursue this initiative at this time.

E. MSY with No Program Funds Attached: We are not requesting additional unfunded MSY's at this time.

### **Continuation Changes**

N/A

### **Grant Characteristics**