

Performance Measure Review Activity – Healthy Futures ANSWER KEY

Questions for Discussion:

1) What aspect(s) of this performance measure need improvement? Why?

- Generally speaking, performance measures should reflect the primary activities that the AmeriCorps members are engaged in. While a program may measure multiple indicators for their own internal purposes, they don't need to report all of these measures to CNCS; instead, they should focus their reporting on a smaller number of high-quality performance measures. For OUTPT1234 & OUTCM1235, based on the limited information provided about the program and since the MSYs allocated to this aligned measure are small, this is probably not a primary service activity. The applicant should remove this applicant determined measure.
- OUTPT1234 & OUTCM1235: Although this measure uses the same target value for OUTPT1234 and OUTCM1235 (9 Gardens/Farms) OUTCM1235 is actually proposing to measure lbs of vegetables, number of students engaged, etc. The narrative under the “Described Instrument” is not aligned with the target.
- OUTPT1234 & OUTCM1235: As currently stated, this outcome is not distinguished from the output. An outcome should measure a change in knowledge, behavior, attitude, or condition.
- H10 & H12: Although this measure uses the same target value for H10 and H12 (1000 individuals), for most program types it may not be feasible for 100% of the individuals who start the program to successfully complete the program. For example: It is highly likely that the AmeriCorps members may struggle with reconnecting to clients due to the transitory nature of the beneficiaries. It is in the program’s interest to have a more realistic outcome target in anticipation of the low response rate.
- H10 & H12: The applicant is required to demonstrate non-duplication of count.
- H10 & H12: The applicant did not indicate the “dosage,” or how many sessions, days or hours of the service are required to influence the desired outcome. The applicant can only count clients who received some minimum dosage that can be expected to have an effect in terms of alleviating hunger.
- H10 & H12: The narrative under “Described Instrument” does not demonstrate that the proposed survey meets the Performance Measure requirements. The performance measure does not indicate that a pre-test or baseline assessment will be given to individuals at the beginning of the program. Pre-assessments are necessary in order to be able to measure change over time in an objective fashion. Pre- and post-tests are a very helpful way for programs to see the impact of their AmeriCorps activities.
- H10 & H12: The applicant cannot just sample a selection of beneficiaries without an approved, rigorous sampling plan from CNCS’ office of Research and Evaluation. Since this applicant doesn’t currently have an approved sampling plan for this specific aligned measure, the program should use the standardized pre-post test with all of the beneficiaries they serve.
- H10 & H12: The aligned performance measure should measure how the AmeriCorps member’s service directly impacts the output and outcome.
- H5 & OUTCM1236: As currently stated, this outcome is not distinguished from the output. An outcome should measure a change in knowledge, behavior, attitude, or condition.

- H5 & OUTCM1236: The applicant is required to demonstrate non-duplication of count. Specifically, they must count of the number of children actively participating in the intervention as opposed to the children just attending the event.
- H5 & OUTCM1236: The target value for OUTCM1236 exceeds the target for output H5. Outcome measures are the denominator for output measures, so outcome targets should not exceed output targets.
- H5 & OUTCM1236: The applicant did not indicate the “dosage,” or how many sessions, days or hours of the service are required to influence the desired outcome. The applicant can only count clients who received some minimum dosage that can be expected to have an effect in terms of reducing childhood obesity.
- H5 & OUTCM1236: H6 may be a better fit for this program instead of H5. H6: Number of children and youth receiving nutrition education with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity.

Additional notes:

- Be sure to confirm that the Healthy Futures outcomes you intend to measure are actually do-able. Since many health-related interventions often have restrictions around whether or how various types of data can be disclosed, a data-sharing agreement between the program and the beneficiary/service sites should be worked out in advance and signed by both parties. Otherwise programs may have delays in obtaining data or be prohibited from accessing the data they need.
- The individuals counted under H10 need to meet the threshold for "emergency food" as defined in the Performance Measure Instructions.
- Ensure that programs proposing to place members at food banks, community health centers, etc. are not displacing staff.

2) Propose specific change(s) that could be made to this performance measure to address the issue(s) identified in #1.

- See changes made to the performance measure in [track-changes](#) mode below

Performance Measure Review Activity – Healthy Futures ANSWER KEY (with proposed changes)

Background Information about Program:

The Food Depot Nutrition Program has 24 AmeriCorps members serving at local schools, non-profit organizations, community gardens, and food banks. They coordinate volunteers, lead healthy eating sessions introducing fresh produce, providing cooking instruction, demonstrating how to analyze the nutritional value of foods, taste-testing, and discussing the cultural background of each session's meal. Members also engage in support services and case management offered through the ABC Non-Profit Organization for Homeless Children, Youth, and Families, with the local food bank, and other partner agencies.

~~Performance Measure Title: Local Food Production Capacity~~

~~Focus Area: Healthy Futures Objective: Obesity and Food No. of MSY's: 0.60~~

~~**OUTPT1234 Output:**~~

~~Number of farms, community and school gardens started or supported~~

~~**Target:** 9 Gardens/Farms~~

~~**Measured By:** Other~~

~~**Described Instrument:** Farm/Community Garden Service project log documents number of farms/gardens served, hours performed for each service project, work performed. Garden maintenance log documents number of school gardens serviced, hours of garden work performed at school gardens, lbs of vegetables harvested for school cafeteria use, lbs of vegetables harvested for donation to food banks, and # of students engaged.~~

~~**OUTCM1235 Outcome:**~~

~~Increased supply of fresh fruits and vegetables available to food insecure individuals~~

~~**Target:** 9 Gardens/Farms~~

~~**Measured By:** Other~~

~~**Described Instrument:** Farm/Community Garden log measuring lbs of vegetables harvested for sale, lbs of vegetables harvested for donation to food banks, and estimated benefit to farm in production capacity as a result of Member support. Garden maintenance log documents lbs of vegetables harvested for school cafeteria use, lbs of vegetables harvested for donation to food banks, and # of students engaged.~~

Focus Area: Healthy Futures

Objective: Obesity and Food

No. of MSY's: 1.44

H10 Output:

(PRIORITY) H10: Number of individuals receiving emergency food from food banks/other organizations

Target: 1000 Individuals

Measured By: Client Database, Tracking Form

Described Instrument: Client Database maintained via quarterly reports submitted by the ABC Food Depot's partner agencies are documented through quarterly reports submitted to the ABC Food Depot and stored in order to be able to track aggregate numbers reached. Tracking form is used for ABC Food Depot food pantry to track food donations as well as lbs of food distributed to individuals in need. The client database and tracking form will only count individuals, for whom the distributed food is intended, the first time they are served. During the quarterly report review we will ensure that beneficiaries are only counted once. The client database and tracking form will distinguish individuals visiting the food banks for routine help vs. individuals with true emergency food assistance needs, such as their house burning down, a natural disaster, etc.

H12 Outcome:

(PRIORITY) H12: Number of individuals that reported increased food security

Target: ~~1000~~ 700 Individuals

Measured By: ~~Standardized Pre-Post Test~~ Survey

Described Instrument: The Standardized Pre-Post Test ~~Survey will be~~ distributed to ~~self-selected sample of participants~~ individuals from receiving community meals and other wrap-around services. The Standardized Pre- Post Test will include questions from the USDA's Household Food Security Survey. Individuals will be classified as food secure if they report two or fewer food-insecure conditions. Additionally it will assess increase in knowledge of where to access needed food assistance services, support services to end long-term hunger, participation in food assistance programs such as SNAP, use and benefit of referral services to ending hunger. The post-test will occur 3 to 6 months after the first one. Individuals must visit ABC Food Depot or one of its partner agencies to receive a meal and/or other education session about wrap-around services at least twice in order to be counted. ~~Survey distributed to ABC Food Depot partner agencies to determine observed impacts among clients, qualitative evidence of impact, and feedback about the program.~~

Focus Area: Healthy Futures

Objective: Obesity and Food

No. of MSY's: 1.15

H5-H6 Output:

H6: Number of children and youth receiving nutrition education with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity.
H5: Number of youth engaged in activities to reduce childhood obesity.

Target: 500 Children and Youth

Measured By: Activity Log, Attendance Log

Described Instrument: Activity logs will document each healthy eating & garden session and will include date, location, description of sessions' contents, and outcomes. These healthy eating and garden sessions are in addition to what the children and youth would have regularly received as part of planned school curriculum or afterschool activity. These sessions do not supplant existing activities. Attendance log will document number and age range of participants. The activity log and attendance log will only count children and youth the first time they are served. In these same logs, AmeriCorps members will record time spent with the children and youth who will receive at least 10 hours of healthy eating and garden sessions throughout the year.

OUTCM1236 Outcome:

Youth will demonstrate increased knowledge of healthy nutrition strategies
Number of participants introduced to nutritious meals and healthy foods

Target: 350 Children and Youth~~1000 Individuals~~

Measured By: Other

Described Instrument: A program-designed pre-post test instrument will be used to measure increased knowledge. Question topics will be based on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Youth will answer the same questions related to nutrition at the beginning and end of the series of healthy eating and garden sessions. One version of the tests will be used for elementary school youth ages 6 – 10 and one version for middle and high school youth ages 11 – 17. The results will be compared for each youth to determine if he/she demonstrated any increased knowledge by answering items correctly on the post-test that he/she did not answer correctly on the pre-test. Children and youth must participate in at least 10 hours of healthy eating and garden sessions in order to be counted. Attendance sheets at healthy meal/cooking sessions as well as community meals prepared for community members in need.