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Application for Summer of Service [1]

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FNS Participation in Secretary's Initiative for Summer 1994

Secretary Espy has expressed the desire to begin a National Service Program-like initiative in the District of Columbia this coming summer. To that end, he was scheduled to speak with Mayor Kelly on April 19, to secure her commitment to and support for such an initiative. In preparation for his conversation with Mayor Kelly, he requested that the National Service Programs office pull together a tentative proposal that would utilize members of the D.C. Youth Service Corps in USDA-sponsored programs that will be operating in the District this summer.

FNS involvement in this project is certainly feasible, as long as the basic administrative structure of our programs is not jeopardized. Therefore, we are working with the Child Nutrition Division, the MidAtlantic Regional Office, and the District of Columbia's Public Schools' Food Services Branch to try and make use of 5 to 10 Youth Service Corps members in the 1994 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). No definite commitments in terms of staffing or temporary hires for the SFSP have been made, but it has been made clear to FNS that this initiative is a priority with the Secretary, and is one for which he would like to have the Agency's full support.

We are also exploring the possibility of placing perhaps 5 Youth Corps members with the new WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) in the District, to help with a variety of tasks that will be necessary to the FMNP's start-up process. These are really the only 2 FNS programs that would be appropriate for involvement of the Youth Corps on such short notice. Food Stamp outreach efforts are another possibility, but there is such a heavy emphasis on this area in the formal grant proposal being submitted to the Corporation for National Service to begin in September, that it would probably be better to wait until the fall to include the Food Stamp component.

Fiscal obligations for the State agency/ies would be minimal: \$147 per week per participant. The Mayor's Office would be responsible for obtaining the funds necessary to provide each participant with a \$1,000 scholarship at the end of the 8-10 week period of service. We have made it very clear to the National Service Programs Office, with the concurrence of the Office of General Counsel, that FNS' involvement in this initiative would have to be through the District of Columbia's State agency operations; FNS would under no circumstances be in a position to hire 10-15 Youth Corps members and detail them to the District's programs. Essentially, hiring these youths would be similar to hiring temporary staff through a temporaries' agency; the State agency could send its payments to the D.C. Youth Service Corps office, and that office could then pay the individuals directly.

Our involvement hinges upon the willingness of the School Food Service and WIC Directors to participate in this effort. We will, however, do whatever we can to encourage them to take part in this initiative.

USDA APPLICATION FOR TWO SUMMER OF SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Overall Coordinator for Both Projects:

United States Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW, Washington, DC 20250

Joel Berg, National Service Coordinator

Signature and date:

Joel Berg 3/14/94

Co-Coordinator for Chicago Project:

United States Department of Justice
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Jack Nadol, Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Signature and date: (fax copy attached -- hard copy in mail)

Overall request for CNCS funds: \$307,228

PROJECT #1 - CHICAGO

Applicant: Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences
3807 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60655, Barbara H. Valerious, Principal
Signature and Date: (fax copy attached -- hard copy in mail)

Partners: Chicago Housing Authority, USDA Soil Conservation Service, USDA Extension Service and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Forest Service, and USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Federal funds requested from Subtitle D
\$192,148 in CNCS funds requested
\$43,432 amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture matching funds
\$29,782 amount of non-federal match

50 participants will receive stipends
200 volunteers will not receive stipends

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Justice, will run an AmeriCorps program in Chicago in which a socio-economically diverse group of recent high school graduates will work on urban agriculture and community policing projects and then supervise a larger group of younger at-risk youth who will volunteer part time on similar projects in high crime areas. Both groups of youth will participate in urban farming, urban tree planting, environmental education, and conflict resolution projects that will help reduce violent crime and that will create safe places for other community activities at public housing projects and other public sites. The project will foster community policing, restore safety to public spaces, promote youth-as-resources, reduce the vulnerability of children and youth, and perform critical urban environmental restoration work.

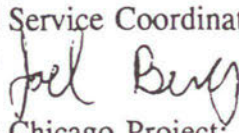
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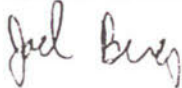
PROJECT #2 - ARIZONA

Federal Coordinator:

United States Department of Agriculture

14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW, Washington, DC 20250

Joel Berg, National Service Coordinator

Signature and date:  3/14/94

Applicant: Volunteer Council for the Arizona Dept. of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation (DYTR)

1624 West Adams, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Joel Blumenthal, Project Director, ASU/DYTR Partnership

Signature and date: (fax copy attached -- hard copy original in mail)

Partners include: USDA Forest Service, Maricopa County Juvenile Court, Phoenix Union School District

Federal funds requested from Subtitle D

\$ 115,080 in CNCS funds requested

\$ 24,727 amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture matching funds

\$ 30,076 amount of non-federal match

35 participants will receive stipends

100 volunteers will not receive stipends

A partnership between Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, will run a AmeriCorps program that will combine a socio-economic mix of youth committed to DYTR, youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, local high school students, and Arizona State University students in conservation work on the Tonto and other national forests. The AmeriCorps participants will then work a larger group of younger at-risk youth to supervise their volunteer activities in environmental restoration work and in restoring safety to public spaces. The project will have the following goals: rehabilitating delinquent youth; creating safer environments in at-risk neighborhoods, providing conflict resolution instruction for a diverse group of delinquent, at-risk, and college attending youth; providing mentoring and pro-social modeling of delinquent and at-risk youth; and engaging youth in productive conservation work on national forests and environmental work in urban areas; creating and nurturing community leadership and service skills; and building a continuing partnership where college students tutor delinquent youth. This project will incorporate youth-as resources programs, restoring safety to public spaces, and youth safety initiatives.

PROJECT #1 -CHICAGO

Specific Needs in Project Area

Street gang activity has caused the wide-spread destruction of lives and property in many low-income Chicago neighborhoods. The statistics are staggering. According to a December report by the National Institute of Justice, between 1987 and 1990, there were 17,085 reported criminal offenses in Chicago classified by the police as street gang-related. These included 288 homicides, 8,828 nonlethal violent offenses, and 5,888 drug offenses. About 38,000 mostly young people are active in Chicago's 40 major street gangs. To make matters worse, many young Chicagoans are engaged in criminal activity independent of gangs. As a result, the state of Illinois ranks 20th among states for the death rate of children ages 1 - 14. In addition, the state ranks 19th in the number of juveniles (10-17 years of age) arrested for violent crimes.

The City of Chicago is also in great need of the kind of urban gardening and forestry projects that would increase the green space in the city.

Representatives of the Chicago Housing Authority, the Chicago Cooperative Extension Service, and the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences were involved in identifying neighborhoods that meet the criteria of need for summer youth programming and also contained locations of vacant lots and community areas that could be used or made usable for community garden projects.

The locations selected have high populations of elementary school youth who will be recruited by corps members and neighborhood advisory committee members to participate in providing service to their communities.

One center for project activities will be the Elliott Donnelley Youth Center, which serves the African American Community on Chicago's southside. The neighborhoods served by this center include Douglas, Fuller Park, and Grand Boulevard.

To further target high-need areas, corps members, as part of their initial assignments, will canvass neighborhoods to ascertain extent of need, interest, and to recruit youth and adult members of neighborhood advisory councils for this project.

Program Objectives

The purpose of this project is fivefold: to stem the rising tide of Chicago youth involved in violent crimes by engaging at-risk youth at an early age in productive and safe community activities; to aid community policing initiatives; to engage a socio-economic mix of participants working with younger at-risk youth on environmental projects critical to the city; to promote awareness and appreciation of the benefits of land restoration in an urban environment; and to create safe spaces for community gardening and vacant lot projects to allow community residents to engage in other activities at that site.

To meet those purposes, the projects will have two specific goals: 1) to engage 50 full-time, stipended corps members and at least two hundred volunteers in creating urban farms and planting trees at four public housing projects and in reclaiming vacant lots for community gardens and quiet spaces at no less than five other sites throughout the city; and 2) to help community police efforts to maintain these eight sites as safe places. Byproducts of these efforts will be the positive development and enhancement of self-esteem of both corps members and the children involved. Students will also learn conflict resolution strategies.

Given that more than half the students majoring in agricultural and natural resources in post-secondary institutions today come from non-farm backgrounds, this project can play an important role in encouraging some youths to prepare for eventual careers in agriculture.

Four days a week, corps members and the children with whom they work will be involved in site clean-up and preparation, planning, maintenance, and harvesting.

In addition, two hours each day, corps members will actively engage the youth in the community in recreation and personal development activities. Every day corps members will bolster community policing activities.

Appropriateness of Summer Program

At each site, a youth advisory committee will be organized to provide input and direction to gardening and clean-up projects, select topics for personal and leadership development, and determine appropriate supplemental activities. By canvassing neighborhoods, corps members will research prospective sites within the neighborhood even before the school vacation begins. This in itself will prove to be a valuable learning experience for corps members. Thus, the neighborhoods will have significant input in determining whether the summer program is appropriate to meet the community's needs.

Neighborhood support is essential to involve youth from the neighborhoods and to develop pride and respect for the efforts that are expended. Previous experience teaches us that when neighborhood members are involved, incidents of vandalism, harassment, etc. are significantly reduced and volunteer recruitment is significantly bolstered. To perpetuate some of the program's activities beyond the summer program, volunteer structures will be created to keep the gardens open and safe throughout the remainder of the year.

Recruitment of Participants

Five teams of 10 high school youth (with at least half coming from the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences and from Chicago Housing Authority residences) will be recruited by both entities. Neighborhood corps members will be recruited by the local advisory committees. Each applicant will then be screened through a personal interview with the project staff; the interview will inform the prospective participants of both the benefits and tough challenges of the program, as well as assess the genuine enthusiasm of the applicant for engaging in difficult community service work. The project director will then be responsible for ensuring that the final mix of participants is balanced by gender and economic status and fully reflects the African-American, Caucasian, and Latino population of the Chicago metropolitan area. Every effort will be made to recruit a mix of economically and socially disadvantaged youths, college-bound youths, and disabled youths.

Training of Participants

Before beginning project work, participants will receive extensive training and education in conflict resolution, urban agriculture and forestry, community policing, team-building, work habits, and citizenship. Each Friday, corps members will participate in developing learning activities in leadership development, building self-esteem, decision making, developing interpersonal skills, and setting personal goals. Curriculum will be selected from a number of available sources identified by the National 4-H Youth Development Office of USDA, the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, and the Chicago Housing Authority.

Impact on Participants

For both the AmeriCorps participants and the volunteers the goals are to improve the spirit of citizenship, decrease the likelihood that participants will engage in illegal activities, improve knowledge of farming, gardening, and urban restoration issues, improve their ability to work together with peers from diverse backgrounds, boost their knowledge of potential careers in agriculture, and obtain an increased understanding of the need for public safety in their neighborhoods.

Participant Safety

The University of Illinois Police Training Institute will help design safety programs for each project. The U.S. Department of Justice will also work with the local law enforcement agencies to design safety plans. Each project will have a detail hazard analysis developed. Each crew leader will be responsible for discussing the hazard analysis with these crew before work is started. Daily safety sessions will be held. Additional safety information will be included in the overall development of each participant's working experience.

Child Care

The project will contract out for child care services for any participant who needs them.

Liability and On-The-Job Injury Coverage

The project will purchase liability and on-the-job injury insurance.

Service Activities

Participants will engage in urban farming, urban forestry, and environmental education projects at the following four public housing projects:

1) Cabrini-Green is nationally-known as one of the country's most infamous examples of public housing. With a population of 6,935, Cabrini is located on 16 acres on Chicago's near north side. The project already has a fresh vegetable and herb garden, which could be dramatically expanded by the Summer of Safety project.

2) The Robert Taylor Homes, located on 95 acres on Chicago's south side, has 12,320 residents and is the largest public housing development in the world. This development is very much in need of greening.

3) The Henry Horner Homes house 3,057 people on Chicago's west side and were the site for the award-winning book and subsequent television movie *There Are No Children Here*. Because of its location adjacent to train tracks and within a desolate and poverty-stricken area, Horner would benefit tremendously from a greening program.

4) Ida B. Wells, located on the City's south side, has a population of 5,660, living in 2,788 units. Wells is a target site for the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed & Seed Program and has received substantial assistance in both law enforcement and prevention efforts ranging for recreational to educational activities. The Wells development would benefit greatly from beautification activities through the Summer of Safety program. There are several local youth organizations that could be tapped for volunteers.

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences would also help obtain the rights to use up to 15 city-owned vacant lots in the Roseland area of Chicago, as well as a vacant lot in 34th Ward and one in the Ninth Ward.

Project participants would reclaim and/or upgrade vacant lots in order to establish them as safe places for:

1) Farms/Gardens

- urban farming of foods
- flower gardening
- specific crop growing for local sale

Proposed community garden projects will include:

- A. Children's garden - 25 - 30, 4' x 4' raised vegetable, flowers and herbs beds.
- B. Adults garden - 25 - 30, 4' x 8' raised beds. Parents of youth and other adults in neighborhood would be assigned individual plots.
- C. Market garden - maintained by youth and adults; vegetables and herbs to be sold through Windows for Opportunity, Inc., Farmers Market Nutrition Program at Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Robert Taylor Homes.
- D. Educational - Meeting area - front of the garden will be seeded or sodded with turf; flowers, shrubs and small trees will be planted with picnic tables available for meetings, or programs.
- E. Windowbox gardening -- Public housing residents will learn how to grow flowers or small plants in their windows.

2) Quiet Corners

- newly built and installed benches
- play areas for small children
- open community centers for arts and crafts and other displays
- open spots for farmer's markets, healthy baby festivals, etc.

3) Tree Planting

- Tree planting at public housing developments
- Tree planting at vacant lots
- Joint agreements to plant and maintain trees in front of homes

These fifty full-time participants will then help recruit 200 younger, at-risk, youth volunteers to help with conservation and environmental work, further reclaim lands, and develop a calendar of activities and set up appropriate exhibits in quiet corners. The Chicago Public Housing Authority will help recruit volunteers from its housing developments.

With training and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, and under the direct supervision of local law enforcement agencies, the full-time participants would then help organize community crime patrols around these sites in tandem with local community policing initiatives. To reduce crime in areas plagued by violence, corps members partner with police officers engaged in community policing. The corps members are trained by the police department in problem-solving and conflict resolution, trained by the staff from other city agencies in identifying and accessing city resources, and trained by community groups in neighborhood organizing and leveraging neighborhood resources. The corps members work alongside community policing officers, but may also coordinate "safe haven" activities for youth, staff community policing substations, hold crime prevention workshops for community businesses and residents, organize block parent networks, and assist with community outreach.

The Chicago Police Department is already actively engaged in community policing activities designed to address community crime and disorder problems. Summer of Safety participants could be integrated into this effort. Chicago has a distinct training program for law enforcement officers designated to deal with the community on specific public safety problems. Summer of Safety participants could help bring together law enforcement officials with citizens and other representatives of local government in order to address and analyze how to address and analyze how to address a particular crime and disorder problem.

The program will be designed to identify specific crime and violence related problems through canvassing neighborhoods, attending community meetings, and setting up meetings with community groups. Corrective action will follow by focusing projects. Drug and other illegal activities will be discouraged and an opportunity to utilize these spaces for constructive activities will be gained. Parks, playgrounds, and public areas will be cleaned up and properly utilized, under the supervision participants and adults who will act as positive role models for those involved. Surveys will track progress and serve to measure the diminishment of fear in the community. Perhaps most importantly, a positive relationship between law enforcement and the youth of the community will be enhanced.

The participants will help conduct surveys to determine local residents' perception of the nature of local crime problems so that the community policing initiatives can help redress those problems.

The participants can help assist the police in developing crime prevention strategies, including D.A.R.E., safe havens, and the Midnight Basketball League.

Number of Participants

There will be fifty full-time participants receiving stipends for the ten weeks., Their goal will be recruiting an additional 200 volunteers, and then setting up a volunteer infrastructure to continue upkeep of the community gardens and safe spaces after the summer program ends.

Assignment Criteria

It is essential to obtain neighborhood input and support before any project is initiated. Local and state agencies, existing service groups, community center and housing authority committees, fire safety associations, youth agencies and organizations, and local businesses and unions will be encouraged to have input and collaborate.

Project Training

In addition to the general training at the beginning of the program, each participant will receive specific technical training in agriculture, forestry, and/or crime prevention before beginning each specific task. Such training will be provided by employees of USDA, the Illinois Extension Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, and/or local law enforcement agencies.

The Weed and Seed site will utilize all available resources and necessary funds to provide training and technical assistance in community policing activities including partnering with local law enforcement entities and providing technical assistance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice.

Project Supervision

Each crew of ten corps members will be supervised by an older crew leader, who will either be an USDA employee or a Forest Service environmental education intern. Crew leaders will be selected based on experience in youth development, knowledge of agriculture and forestry, and nonformal education. Crew leaders must be able to demonstrate working knowledge of experiential learning, experience in interacting in multicultural settings, and in dealing with at-risk youth. Further training in specific curriculum will be provided to team leaders during the month of June. The first priority will be in working with corps members in local resource and needs identification and assessment.

Displacement Considerations

Since neither the AmeriCorps participants nor the volunteers will engage in any work currently conducted by government employees, there is no possibility of worker displacement.

Continuation

While most of the objectives of the program will be accomplished during its ten-week length, special care will be given to create volunteer infrastructures that can maintain the gardens and safe spaces year-round.

At the end of the summer program, the AmeriCorps participants will sign-over ceremonial (non-legal) "leases" to the volunteers who will then maintain the sites.

Sustaining Strategies/Priorities

The single greatest priority following the summer program will be continuing community activities to protect the newly created safe places.

Resources

The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, the Chicago Housing Authority, USDA, the U.S. Department of Justice, returned Peace Corps volunteers, and the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences all will take responsibility for continuing management of the volunteer programs.

Workplan/Timeline (all dates 1994)

By March 21: Begin organizing overall advisory committee

By April 1: Obtain notification of funding from CNCS

By April 10: Finalize details of recruitment plan

By April 12: Hold first meetings of overall advisory committee and sign cooperative agreement among all participating partners

By April 15: Begin recruitment activities at Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences and throughout targeted neighborhoods

By April 22: Finalize selection of crew leaders

By April 30: Applications for participation due

By May 1: Recruitment of corps members finalized and leadership team attends national training and technical assistance workshop

By May 2: Begin screening of applicants

By May 10: Make final selections of program participants

By May 15: Deposit private contributions in the banks account of "Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences"

By May 20: Obtain written permission for use of public housing land and vacant lots and finalize plans for work projects

By May 25: U.S. Department of Justice and local law enforcement agencies finalize community policing projects

By May 30: All uniforms, tools, and equipment obtained

By June 7: Begin week-long training program for crew leaders and other project staff

June 13: Participant training and orientation begin

By June 15: Original evaluation interviews begin

June 21: Program is formally launched and agriculture and forestry work projects begin

By June 25: Volunteer recruitment begins

By July 1: Participants begin aiding community policing programs

July 4: Citywide kick-off for joint AmeriCorps volunteer activities

By July 5: First program evaluation provided to staff

By July 1: Specific plans for year-round program continuation by volunteer infrastructure created

By July 19: Second program evaluation provided to staff

By July 21: USDA and U.S. Department of Justice make surprise monitoring visit to project

By August 10: Third program evaluation provided to staff

August 24: Program formally ends

August 25: Volunteer infrastructure takes over management of sites

By August 31: High-profile graduation ceremony held in which AmeriCorps participants are

honored and sites are ceremonially transferred to neighborhood volunteers

By September 1: Evaluation interviews completed

By October 1: Evaluation report completed

Institutional Capacity

The lead partner in running this program will be the non-profit foundation of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences. A recent feature in the Washington Post describes the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences as "a rare and remarkable success story in one of the nation's most troubled public school systems." According to the article, last year's graduation rate of almost 90 percent was far above the city average, and graduating seniors won a total of \$1.4 million in college scholarships.

On January 5, 1994, the Chicago Tribune editorialized that the school "is a notable success, one of the precious few among Chicago public high schools." Claiming the school's program has captured the financial and moral support of the Chicago Board of Trade and other businesses, the editorial calls the curriculum "innovative" and the spirit of the staff and students "exhilarating."

The school's foundation, which will formally receive and administer the grant, has a demonstrable track record of success in administering financial and payroll procedures.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has visited the school, spoken to its commencement exercise, and has generally been extremely impressed by its remarkable achievements. He has pledged that he will provide any institutional support possible to the school.

Staff Experience

Barbara H. Valerious, Principal of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, will be the project director. She has been honored widely for her work in building one of the most successful magnet schools in the entire Chicago school system. A 38-year employee of the Chicago Board of Education, she received the Principal of Excellence Award in 1992.

Joel Berg, Director of Public Liaison and National Service for USDA, will coordinate the government resources involved in the project. He has studied national service and visited successful youth corps since 1989, and helped design the national service demonstration project title of the National and Community Service Act of 1990. He also served on President-Elect Clinton's national service transition team.

Terrence S. Donahue, Deputy Director, Executive, Office of Weed and Seed, U.S. Department of Justice, will coordinate program interface with local law enforcement agencies. With 23 years in law enforcement experience, he played a key role in developing the National Drug Policy Boards's "Strategy for High Risk Youth," and the Department's criminal justice intervention and prevention strategy, "Weed and Seed" program.

Working Relationships

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Science, the Illinois Extension Service, the Chicago Housing Authority, the Soil Conservation Service, and the "Weed and Seed" program all have extensive interactions with community groups.

Law Enforcement Relationship

The project will contract with the University of Illinois Police Training Institute, which has already assisted in the development of numerous public safety programs adapted to specific youth audiences.

The Institute will run educational programs for the project staff and the AmeriCorps participants that focus on personal safety, the action and reaction factors of both peer-to-peer and police-to-citizen force, conflict resolution, a law enforcement career opportunities.

The U.S. Department of Justice will coordinate project interactions with local law enforcement agencies. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice, through its local Weed and Seed site, at Ida B. Wells housing development, has established an ongoing relationship with the local police. The Chicago Police Department has created and staffed a sub-station within Ida B. Wells, and has cultivated a positive relationship with the residents. The community police have created an open dialogue with residents, and have obtained the trust of community. This program can serve as a model for similar projects at other AmeriCorps summer sites.

Applicant Experience

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences already runs successful urban farms. Other partners include the USDA, with many field offices in the Chicago region. The USDA Soil Conservation Service helped run the original U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps and now runs the successful "Earth Team" volunteer program nationally. The USDA Extension Service helps run 4-H, the largest volunteer program in the world.

The Illinois Extension Service and the Chicago Housing Authority already run successful community volunteer programs in Chicago. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Justice has extensive experience in promoting community policing initiatives.

Certification of Participants

This project is wholeheartedly committed to promoting one national identity to the President's AmeriCorps program. All uniforms and promotional materials will use the AmeriCorps logo. All press releases, promotional literature, and public events will reference the national program.

As much as possible, all training activities and team-building activities will be tied into national initiatives. The program will enthusiastically participate in national opening and/or closing ceremonies.

Commitment of Each Partner

The Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences will run the overall program. The organization will take prime responsibility for recruiting and screening participants and providing the payroll mechanism for the living wage stipend.

The school will also provide secretarial support, classroom space, and use of audio-visual equipment. The school will also take prime responsibility for locating and obtaining use of vacant lots.

An overall program advisory committee chaired by Barbara Valerious, Principal of the High School, high school faculty members, participating agency representatives, and representatives from neighborhood advisory committees will be convened to provide program oversight, determine measurable outcomes and progress in achieving the identified outcomes.

The U.S. Department of Justice will take responsibility for coordination with local law enforcement agencies and community policing initiatives.

The Office of Public Affairs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide general federal government coordination, serve as a liaison with the Corporation for National and Community Service, production of recruitment and promotional, and public affairs and electronic communications support.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service will provide one employee on detail, and staff specialist assistant as required, to provide on-site soils interpretive information, general soil information training, coordinating and cost estimates for work projects, and team building training. The Soil Conservation Service will also provide \$5,000 in direct funding.

The USDA Forest Service will provide college-level interns who can serve as crew leaders and environmental education instructors. The agency will also provide urban forestry and ecosystem training and curriculum materials.

The Forest Service will coordinate with state and city agencies to provide technical assistance on urban forestry issues. The Forest Service will also work to identify possible donors of tree seedlings, containers, and soil. The Forest Service will also provide \$2,500 in direct funding.

The USDA Extension Service will provide training and educational materials, and help with program evaluation. The Extension Service will also provide \$2,500 in direct funding.

The USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will provide one employee on detail to teach agriculture techniques and serve as a crew leader.

The Illinois Extension Service will aid in participant training and education and help locate and obtain use of vacant lots. The Chicago Housing Authority will provide land for farms, will help recruit volunteers, and will aid community policing activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation Progress

National service staff from the Washington offices of the Department of Agriculture and Justice will make at least one unannounced visit to the project within its first month of operation. The local project staff will also use both an ongoing process evaluation and an impact assessment. In-depth interview and observation data will be gathered to keep track of the implementation process of the Summer of Safety Project.

The project director, crew supervisors, a representative sample of the AmeriCorps participants, Justice and Agriculture Department personnel, high school staff, and families will be interviewed at the start-up of the project and weekly intervals throughout the project. Interviews will be semi-structured: some questions will be used throughout the project and some time will be allowed for respondents to describe their experiences in and feelings about the project. Direct observations of the service projects will also be conducted regularly. These interviews with a wide range of project players will facilitate the ongoing monitoring of the project implementation and the meeting of project goals. The evaluation will be especially sensitive to the creative modification of project goals and their effect, as well as unanticipated effects of the project.

The evaluator will provide reports to the staff during week 3, 5, and 7 of the project to allow for consultation with the Corporation for National and Community service about what modifications could be made if problems arise. In other words, the monitoring will work to fix identify and fix problems as they occur. Demographic and other relevant background data will be gathered from the original application materials and other means about both the AmeriCorps participants and the younger volunteers. To assess the impact at the end of the program, start-up interviews and post-project interviews with samples of the project managers will be used to assess changes in the participant views of citizenship, community service, and their place in the community before and after service. Follow-up with local law enforcement officials will be used to determine the project's impact upon community policing and other public safety projects. Interviews with the appropriate forestry personnel and community leaders will assess the value of the conservation and environment work performed.

Commitment to National Evaluation

The project will take every step needed to provide access and data needed by national evaluators.

USDA CHICAGO
FY 94 SUMMER OF SERVICE BUDGET

1. Participant Stipends			
50	\$147	10	73,500.00
# of Participants	Minimum \$147 a week	# of Weeks	
2. Total Salaries			
Project Director	8,694		
Project Staff	15,000		23,694.00
3. Participant Training			
	39,495		39,495.00
4. Other Expenses			
	Trees, Tools, Lumber		
	Health & Safety		
	Soil, Debris Removal		126,573
5. National Training & Travel			
			2,100.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS			265,362.00
6. NON-CORPORATION CONTRIBUTIONS			
Matching Funds	29,782		
In-Kind Contributions			
Other Federal Funds	43,432	Total:	73,214.00
7. FUNDS REQUESTED FROM THE CORPORATION			
			192,148.00

USDA APPLICATION FOR TWO SUMMER OF SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTSOverall Coordinator for Both Projects:

United States Department of Agriculture

14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW, Washington, DC 20250

Joel Berg, National Service Coordinator

Signature and date:

Co-Coordinator for Chicago Project:

United States Department of Justice

Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20530

Signature and date:

Overall request for CNCS funds: \$297,828

PROJECT #1 - CHICAGO

Applicant: Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences

3807 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60655, Barbara H. Valerious, Principal

Signature and Date:

Partners: Chicago Housing Authority, USDA Soil Conservation Service, USDA Extension Service and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Forest Service, and USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Federal funds requested from Subtitle D

in CNCS funds requested

\$43,432 amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture matching funds

\$29,782 amount of non-federal match

50 participants will receive stipends

200 volunteers will not receive stipends

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Justice, will run an AmeriCorps program in Chicago in which a socio-economically diverse group of recent high school graduates will work on urban agriculture and community policing projects and then supervise a larger group of younger at-risk youth who will volunteer part time on similar projects in high crime areas. Both groups of youth will participate in urban farming, urban tree planting, environmental education, and conflict resolution projects that will help reduce violent crime and that will create safe places for other community activities at public housing projects and other public sites. The project will foster community policing, restore safety to public spaces, promote youth as-resources, reduce the vulnerability of children and youth, and perform critical urban environmental restoration work.

03/14/94 13:35 202 710 204

USDA APPLICATION FOR TWO SUMMER OF SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Overall Coordinator for Both Projects:

United States Department of Agriculture

14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW, Washington, DC 20250

Joel Berg, National Service Coordinator

Signature and date:

Co-Coordinator for Chicago Project:

United States Department of Justice

Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20530

Jack Nadol, Acting Director of Bureau of Justice Assistance

Signature and date: *Elliott A. Brown for*

3/14/94

Overall request for CNCS funds:

PROJECT #1 - CHICAGO

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3807 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60655, Barbara H. Valerious, Principal

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The Chicago Housing Authority

March 14, 1994

Board of Commissioners

Vincent Lane
Chairman

Artensa Randolph
Vice-Chairman

Arthur M. Brazier
Milton Davis
Isaac S. Goldman
Handy L. Lindsey, Jr.
Daniel Solis

Robert Whitfield
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.
Deputy Chief Operating Officer

F. Willis Caruso
General Counsel

Ms. Catherine Milton
Director
Corporation for Community and National Service
1100 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Ms. Milton:

I am writing in support of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Justice's application to the Corporation for funding of a Summer of Safety program within four Chicago Housing Authority developments.

Providing productive and educational activities for CHA children over the summer is a major priority, particularly in communities with few resources for recreational alternatives. This program will also complement the Authority's community policing and tenant patrol programs, both of which work closely with teens in an effort to dissuade them from involvement with gangs and drugs.

We will support this program by assisting in identification of both team members and volunteers from CHA developments. Providing stipend as well as volunteer opportunities for CHA residents is extremely important in order for the community to be full participants. In addition, we would be glad to provide some of the leadership skills and conflict resolution training through program staff currently providing such services to our youth.

The Authority will also donate use of equipment and landscaping personnel to assist with the urban gardens within our communities, as well as administrative personnel to coordinate activities with other Summer of Safety partners.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this unique effort and hope you will look favorably upon the USDA and Department of Justice's application. Please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Anderson, Director of External Affairs at (312) 791-8513, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Vincent Lane
Chairman

VL:KK/lw

PROJECT #2 - ARIZONA (duplicate of project #2 cover sheet)

Applicant: Volunteer Council for the Arizona Dept. of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation (DYTR)

1624 West Adams, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Joel Blumenthal, Project Director, ASU/DYTR Partnership

Partners include: USDA Forest Service, Maricopa County Juvenile Court, Phoenix Union School District

Federal funds requested from Subtitle D

\$ 112,980 in CNCS funds requested

\$ 24,727 amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture matching funds

\$ 28,076 amount of non-federal match

35 participants will receive stipends

100 volunteers will not receive stipends

A partnership between Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, will run a AmeriCorps program that will combine a socio-economic mix of youth committed to DYTR, youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, local high school students, and Arizona State University students in conservation work on national forests. The AmeriCorps participants will then work with a larger group of younger at-risk youth to supervise their volunteer activities in environmental restoration work and in restoring safety to public spaces. The project will have the following goals: rehabilitating delinquent youth; creating safer environments in at-risk neighborhoods, providing conflict resolution instruction for a diverse group of delinquent, at-risk, and college attending youth; providing mentoring and pro-social modeling of delinquent and at-risk youth; and engaging youth in productive conservation work on national forests and environmental work in urban areas; creating and nurturing community leadership and service skills; and building a continuing partnership where college students tutor delinquent youth. This project will incorporate youth as resources programs, restoring safety to public spaces, and youth safety initiatives.

✓ Joel Marie Blumenthal

3/14/94

Fax Copy 3/14/94

Original in the Mail

PROJECT #2 - ARIZONA

Specific Needs in Project Area

While much of Arizona is increasingly under siege because of violent crime, the juvenile offenders that will participate in this program are particularly devastated by the cycle of crime, poverty, and violence. Youth in poor neighborhoods of Arizona frequently commit illegal activities and end up in secure facilities, only to be eventually released back to neighborhoods afflicted with poverty, unemployment, dysfunctional families, gangs, drugs, crime, racism, violence, inadequate housing, lack of access to health care, and underperforming school systems.

Consequently, it should not be surprising that the incidence of youth involvement in violent offenses in Arizona has virtually exploded during the past few years (Table 1). In 1991, the most recent year for which Uniform Crime Report data are available, Arizona's rate of arrests for juvenile violent crimes per 100,000 was exceeded by only 10 states. In Maricopa County, youthful arrests for murder have doubled in the past five years. Much of the violence is associated with gang activity. Phoenix has been identified by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as one of the nation's ten greatest gang problem cities.

Table 1. Juvenile Involvement in Arizona Violent Crime
(arrests per 100,000 youth below the age of 18)

Year	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault
1984	12	23	207	652
1985	9	36	219	775
1986	23	56	207	824
1987	10	51	205	710
1988	17	37	233	906
1990	19	67	433	1,359
1991	31	77	490	1,495

Source: Uniform Crime Reports, 1982-1991, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Data from the Organized Crime Division of the Arizona Department of Public Safety estimate the number of gangs in Arizona at more than 775 with an estimated membership of 10,000 persons. According to this report, there are more than 400 gangs in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Results of recent studies show that an estimated 71 percent of African American youth in Maricopa County will have at least one arrest by the time they reach 18, and 49 percent of all youth will have been arrested by age 18 in Maricopa County.

Furthermore, the Tonto and other national forest lands in Arizona are in great need of volunteer support in order to improve and maintain their resources and facilities. Urban neighborhoods in Phoenix are in great need of additional trees, gardens, and food farms.

Program Objectives

A partnership between Arizona State University (ASU) and the Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation (DYTR), in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), will run a program that will combine a socio-economic mix of youth committed to DYTR, youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, local high school students, and University students in conservation. The program has the following goals: rehabilitating delinquent youth; creating safer environments in at-risk neighborhoods, providing conflict resolution instruction for a diverse group of delinquent, at-risk, and college attending youth; providing mentoring and pro-social modeling of delinquent and at-risk youth; and engaging youth in productive conservation work on national forests and environmental work in urban areas; creating and nurturing community leadership and service skills; and building a continuing partnership where college students tutor delinquent youth.

This Summer of Safety AmeriCorps project would combine youth committed to Arizona's juvenile corrections system, youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, at-risk high school youth, and ASU students in an environmental work project. Technical supervision for this project will be provided by USDA/Forest Service. The ten-week program has the following short-term goals: the rehabilitation of delinquent youth; conflict resolution instruction for delinquent and at-risk youth; mentoring and pro-social role-modeling of delinquent and at-risk youth; productive work experiences; clean-up and maintenance of the country's natural resources (National Forest Lands); and the creation and nurturing of leadership and community service skills. Long-term benefits of the project are: the reduction of juvenile crime; continued protection of the environment; safer environments in high-risk neighborhoods; the creation of indigenous leadership in dysfunctional neighborhoods; intervention with at-risk youth at an impressionable age; continued mentoring by university students with at-risk youth.

This project will incorporate youth as resources programs, restoring safety to public spaces, and youth safety initiatives. The program will aim at the following three concrete achievements:

- 1) recruiting a socio-economically mixed group of 35 full-time participants -- including some juvenile offenders -- and 100 at-risk youth for volunteer activities that will engage them in productive community work;
- 2) performing 6,475 person-hours of conservation and environmental work in the Tonto and other national forests in Arizona;
- 3) and working at environmental and rehabilitation projects at three sites, at least, in Phoenix to reclaim them as safe spaces for community use.

Eighteen youth under the jurisdiction of the Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation and the juvenile court, eight high school youth, and ten ASU students will receive training in violence reduction, conflict mediation, environmental preservation education, pro-social mentoring, community service instruction, and neighborhood improvement education.

Thus, to achieve the goals of both this project and of AmeriCorps, the project will recruit half of its participants from the juvenile system and half from either Arizona State University or local high schools. The participants will be mixed by race, income, and gender.

Urban environmental projects will be completed in an urban Phoenix area of approximately 40 square miles. Critical conservation work will also be completed on National Forest land.

Appropriateness of Summer Program

In order to elevate the problem of juvenile crime in the Phoenix area and rebuild the communities in which that crime is perpetuated, youth have to learn both pro-social, non-violent behavior, respect for their environment, the knowledge and skills to improve their neighborhood environment, and the leadership skills to rebuild their communities. University students, many of whom already possess the role-modeling and leadership skills, do not have the practical experience of working in active and productive roles within communities-in-need. The work that is done on this project during the summer will continue as the youth return to their home environment and work under the direction of the ASU/DYTR partnership project to improve their communities and make them safer and more secure places to live.

Recruitment of Participants

DYTR youth will be chosen by the Department from the population of paroled youth who are within the ASU/DYTR catchment area (South Central Phoenix, zip codes 85006, 85008, 85014, 85016, 85034, and 85040). They are youth who have successfully completed their treatment in a secure facility and have been returned to their community for paroled supervision.

Maricopa Juvenile Court youth will be chosen by the Court from a population of youth who live within the catchment area but are still under the jurisdiction of the court and on probation. The Phoenix Union High School District students will be recruited, in part, by the district. The ASU students will be chosen by the ASU/DYTR staff and will have completed some mentoring training.

Training of Participants

Conflict resolution training, community service training, urban and forestry conservation practices, and social skills training will be provided through established programs at ASU and the Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation. Environmental training and forestry skills training will be provided by the USDA Forest Service.

Impact on Participants

The summer experience will help develop pro-social, non-delinquent behavior in the committed population of youth. It will help them acquire a sense of paying back their community instead of victimizing it. Focusing on the environmental improvement of their neighborhoods will sensitize youth to the need for improving their surroundings.

For those youth in the juvenile justice system, it will also focus their attention on the consequences of their prior illegal activities. For all the participants, work done on the Forest Service lands will help build skills, the work ethic, and self-esteem. Groups that combine ethnic and age groups will provide pro-social role-modeling for the delinquent youth and a sense of accomplishment for the ASU students.

The project will foster a sense of community involvement and provide leadership skills to all of the participants. The neighborhood will not only receive a sense that it can help itself become a safer and better place to live, but will also realize that productive and positive relationships can be built with youth who have been perceived as dangerous and undesirable in the past. Given that more than half the students majoring in agricultural and natural resources in post-secondary institutions today come from non farm backgrounds, this project can play an important role in encouraging some youths to prepare for eventual careers in agriculture and forestry.

Participant Safety

The Forest Service will provide extensive safety training for each project performed in the forests. Each urban project will have a detail hazard analysis developed in conjunction with the City of Phoenix Police Department. Each crew leader will be responsible for discussing the hazard analysis with these crew before work is started. Daily tailgate safety sessions will be held. Additional safety information will be included in the overall development of each participants working experience.

Child Care

The project will contract out for child care services for any participant who needs them.

Liability Coverage

Participants from ASU will be covered by existing policies of the university on work study students. DYTR youth will be covered by existing state policies. All participants will be covered for work on Forest Service lands.

On The Job Injury Coverage

Current state policies and procedures which apply to youth enrolled in the treatment and rehabilitation program will remain in affect for participants working under this partnership.

Service Activities

During the first four weeks of the program -- in order to learn work skills, job discipline, and bond together as a corps and as crews -- the corps members will engage in conservation work on the Tonto and other national forests in Arizona. They will perform some or all of the following activities: trail maintenance, recreation management, fish and wildlife management, timber management, facility construction and maintenance, water and soil work, range and forage management, watershed protection, range vegetation management, reservoir rejuvenation and enhancement, stream bank stabilization, and protection and enhancement of required habitats for endangered or threatened species.

In the first week of the program, the participants will spend most of their time in training and will each complete only 10 hours of conservation work in the forests. In the second week, with the training continuing, each participant will complete twenty hours of conservation work on the forests.

In the third and fourth weeks, each participant will perform 30 hours of conservation work in the forests, with the remainder of the time used for educational workshops, community meetings, career counseling, and a period for journal writing and critical reflection.

The remainder of the weeks the participants will work approximately half time in continuing conservation projects in the Tonto and other national forests and the other half working with younger, at-risk, volunteers in environmental and public safety work in Phoenix.

The participants will reclaim at least three vacant lots and turn them into quiet corners and community farms and also engage in tree planting projects in parks.

Participants will also plant trees in targeted neighborhoods at homes of residents who sign agreements to maintain the trees provided for them. The participants will provide training in tree maintenance for such residents.

Participants will also teach environmental education to the younger youth.

Number of Participants

A socio-economic mix of 35 participants will work full-time and receive stipends. They will work to recruit an additional 100 volunteers.

Assignment Criteria

Work assignments in the national forests will be determined by highly experienced Forest Service employees. The urban assignments will be determined by the ASU/DYTR partnership, in consultation with the City of Phoenix, the USDA Forest Service, Maricopa County Juvenile Court, the Phoenix Union School District, and neighborhood residents.

Project Training

In addition to the general training at the beginning of the program, each participant will receive specific technical training in agriculture, forestry, and/or crime prevention before beginning each specific task. Such training will be provided by employees of USDA, the Illinois Extension Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, or local law enforcement agencies.

Project Supervision

The 35 corps participants will work in five crews of seven people each. The entire project will be supervised by a full-time project director. Each crew will be supervised by an older crew leader, who will be hired by the ASU/DYTR Partnership. The crew leaders will receive extensive training, both in working with youth and the specific environmental skills needed to work on national forests.

The crews leaders' daily work will be supervised National Forest Service employees who are highly experienced in working with youth.

Displacement Considerations

Since neither the AmeriCorps participants nor the volunteers will engage in any work currently conducted by government employees, there is no possibility of worker displacement.

Continuation

While most of the objectives of the program will be accomplished during its ten-week length, special care will be given to create volunteer infrastructures that can maintain the gardens and safe spaces year-round. At the end of the summer program, the AmeriCorps participants will sign-over ceremonial (non-legal) "leases" to the volunteers who will then maintain the sites.

Sustaining Strategies/Priorities

The single greatest priority following the summer program will be continuing community activities to protect the newly created safe places.

Resources

THE ASU/DYTR Partnership will take lead responsibility for continuing management of the volunteer programs. The partnership has already undertaken work similar to this under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and will continue such work after the summer of service program is completed. ASU students mentoring delinquent youth will play an important role in helping maintain the safe spaces.

Workplan/Timeline (all dates 1994)

By April 1: Obtain notification of funding from CNCS

By April 10: Finalize details of recruitment plan

By April 12: Sign cooperative agreements between all participating partners

By April 15: Distribute recruitment materials throughout targeted populations and neighborhoods

By April 15: Finalize selection of crew leaders

By April 30: Applications for participation due

By May 1: Leadership team attends national training and technical assistance workshop

By May 2: Begin screening of applicants

By May 10: Make final selections of program participants

By May 15: Deposit private contributions in the appropriate bank accounts

By May 20: Obtain written permission for use of vacant lots

By May 25: Finalize plans for work projects on national forests

By May 30: All uniforms, tools, and equipment obtained

By June 1: Begin two week-long training for crew leaders and other project staff

June 13: Participant training and orientation begin

By June 15: Original evaluation interviews begin

June 21: Program is formally launched and forestry work projects begin

By June 25: Volunteer recruitment begins

By June 30: City-wide kick-off for joint AmeriCorps volunteer activities

By July 1: Specific plans for year-round program continuation by volunteer infrastructure created

By July 5: First program evaluation provided to staff

By July 19: Second program evaluation provided to staff

By July 21: USDA national staff make surprise monitoring visit to project

By August 10: Third program evaluation provided to staff

August 24: Program formally ends

August 25: Volunteer infrastructure takes-over management of sites

By August 31: High-profile graduation ceremony held in which AmeriCorps participants are honored and sites are ceremonially transferred to neighborhood volunteers

By September 1: Evaluation interviews completed

By October 1: Evaluation report completed

Leadership Training

The project director and team leaders will receive two weeks of safety and group dynamics training, as well as environmental training, prior to the start of the project from DYTR staff, Forest Service staff, and ASU community service faculty and staff.

Institutional Capacity

The ASU/DYTR is a successful and innovative partnership that already has received \$956,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The partnership is already running volunteer programs in urban gardening. DYTR, a department with a \$34 million budget and over 800 employees, will handle payroll and accounting. The project will also have access to the extensive resources of ASU, a major research university. The USDA Forest Service, including the districts in Arizona, has a long and successful record of engaging youth in conservation activities in its forests. The Forest Service in Arizona has in the past successfully supervised delinquent youths.

Staff Experience

Project consultant Joel Marie Blumenthal is a management consultant, business executive, communications and public affairs specialist, and educator with over twenty-five years, of corporate and government experience in planning, management, teaching, training, agency and legislative liaison, research and writing under high pressure circumstances. She is currently Project Director of the ASU/DYTR Partnership and Chief of Volunteer Intern Services for DYTR. She has a Master's Degree in education and is currently a candidate for a Doctorate of Public Administration at ASU.

Joel Berg, Director of Public Liaison and National Service for USDA, will coordinate the Departmental resources involved in the project. He has studied national service and visited successful youth corps since 1989, and helped design the national service demonstration provisions of the National and Community Service Act of 1990. He also served on President-Elect Clinton's national service transition team.

Working Relationships

The ASU/DYTR Partnership and the USDA Forrest Service already have successful working relationships with local community organizations and public agencies.

Law Enforcement Relationship

The Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation, the Maricopa County Juvenile Court, and the Forest Service will coordinate closely with the Phoenix Police Department. These entities already work together.

Applicant Experience

Both the Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation and the USDA Forest Service already run successful volunteer programs.

Certification of Participants

This project is wholeheartedly committed to promoting one national identity to the President's AmeriCorps program. All uniforms and promotional materials will use the AmeriCorps logo. All press releases, promotional literature, and public events will reference the national program. As much as possible, all training activities and team-building activities will be tied into national initiatives.

The program will enthusiastically participate in national opening and/or closing ceremonies.

Partnership Description

The ASU/DYTR will run the program. The partnership will take prime responsibility for recruiting and screening participants and providing the payroll mechanism for the living wage stipend. The partnership will provide an in-kind match of half time of one parole officer, who earns \$25,000 a year, for 10 weeks, and five percent of the ASU Student Services staff time for ten weeks, and ten percent of the time of the ASU/DYTR Project staff, whose pay averages \$30,000 per year, for 3 months. The Office of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy, will provide general federal government coordination, liaison with the Corporation for National and Community Service, production of recruitment and promotional, and public affairs and electronic communications support.

The USDA Forest Service will provide supervision and training for all work done on national forests. The Forest Service will also provide meeting space, office space, and use of tools. The agency will also provide urban forestry and ecosystem training and curriculum materials. The agency will coordinate with state and city agencies to provide technical assistance on urban forestry issues. The Forest Service will also work to identify possible donors of tree seedlings, whips, containers, and soil.

The USDA Extension Service will provide training and educational materials, and help with program evaluation.

The Maricopa County Juvenile Court and the Phoenix Union School District will help in recruiting and screening participants, as well as obtaining use of vacant lots in Phoenix. The Phoenix Police Department will help with crime prevention near sites.

Evaluating and Monitoring Progress

National service staff from the Washington office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will make at least one unannounced visit to the project within its first month of operation.

The local project staff will also use both on an ongoing process evaluation and an impact assessment. In-depth interview and observation data will be gathered to keep track of the implementation process of the Summer of Safety Project.

The Project Director, crew supervisors, a representative sample of the AmeriCorps participants, Forest Service personnel, parole officers, high school staff, and families will be interviewed at the start-up of the project and weekly intervals throughout the project.

Interviews will be semi-structured: some questions will be used throughout the project and some time will be allowed for respondents to describe their experiences in and feelings about the project. Direct observations of the service projects will also be conducted regularly. These interviews with a wide range of project players will facilitate the ongoing monitoring of the project implementation and the meeting of project goals. The evaluation will be especially sensitive to the creative modification of project goals and their effect, as well as unanticipated effects of the project. The evaluator will provide reports to the staff during weeks 3, 5, and 7 of the project to allow for consultation with the Corporation for National and Community Service about what modifications could be made if problems arise. In other words, the monitoring will identify and fix problems as they occur. Demographic and other relevant background data will be gathered from the original application materials and other means about both the AmeriCorps participants and the younger volunteers.

To assess the impact at the end of the program, start-up interviews and post-project interviews with samples of the project managers will be used to assess changes in the participant views of citizenship, community service, and their place in the community before and after service. Follow-up information from DYTR parole officers and youth families will help assess the potential impact of the service upon the youth on parole. Interviews with appropriate forestry personnel and community leaders will assess the value of the conservation and environment work performed.

Commitment to National Evaluation

The project will take every step necessary to provide access and data needed by national evaluators.

USDA ARIZONA
FY 94 SUMMER OF SERVICE BUDGET

1. Participant Stipends			
35	\$147	10	51,450.00
# of Participants	Minimum \$147 a week	# of Weeks	
2. Total Salaries			
Project Director	8,694		
Project Staff	17,250		25,944.00
3. Participant Training	15,143		15,143.00
4. Other Expenses	Tools, Transportation		
	Health & Safety		
			75,246
5. National Training & Travel			2,100.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS			169,883.00
6. NON-CORPORATION CONTRIBUTIONS			
Matching Funds	30,076		
In-Kind Contributions			
Other Federal Funds	24,727	Total:	54,803.00
7. FUNDS REQUESTED FROM THE CORPORATION			115,080.00

USDA APPLICATION FOR TWO SUMMER OF SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Overall Coordinator for Both Projects:

United States Department of Agriculture

14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW, Washington, DC 20250

Joel Berg, National Service Coordinator

Signature and date:

Joel Berg 3/14/94

Co-Coordinator for Chicago Project:

United States Department of Justice

Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20530

Jack Nadol, Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Signature and date: (fax copy attached -- hard copy in mail)

Overall request for CNCS funds: \$307,228

PROJECT #1 - CHICAGO

Applicant: Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences

3807 West 111th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60655, Barbara H. Valerious, Principal

Signature and Date: (fax copy attached -- hard copy in mail)

Partners: Chicago Housing Authority, USDA Soil Conservation Service, USDA Extension Service and the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Forest Service, and USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Federal funds requested from Subtitle D

\$192,148 in CNCS funds requested

\$43,432 amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture matching funds

\$29,782 amount of non-federal match

50 participants will receive stipends

200 volunteers will not receive stipends

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Justice, will run an AmeriCorps program in Chicago in which a socio-economically diverse group of recent high school graduates will work on urban agriculture and community policing projects and then supervise a larger group of younger at-risk youth who will volunteer part time on similar projects in high crime areas. Both groups of youth will participate in urban farming, urban tree planting, environmental education, and conflict resolution projects that will help reduce violent crime and that will create safe places for other community activities at public housing projects and other public sites. The project will foster community policing, restore safety to public spaces, promote youth-as-resources, reduce the vulnerability of children and youth, and perform critical urban environmental restoration work.

PROJECT #2 - ARIZONA

Federal Coordinator:

United States Department of Agriculture

14th Street and Independence Avenues, SW, Washington, DC 20250

Joel Berg, National Service Coordinator

Signature and date: *Joel Berg* 3/14/94

Applicant: Volunteer Council for the Arizona Dept. of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation (DYTR)

1624 West Adams, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Joel Blumenthal, Project Director, ASU/DYTR Partnership

Signature and date: (fax copy attached -- hard copy original in mail)

Partners include: USDA Forest Service, Maricopa County Juvenile Court, Phoenix Union School District

Federal funds requested from Subtitle D

\$ 115,080 in CNCS funds requested

\$ 24,727 amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture matching funds

\$ 30,076 amount of non-federal match

35 participants will receive stipends

100 volunteers will not receive stipends

A partnership between Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Youth Treatment and Rehabilitation, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture, will run a AmeriCorps program that will combine a socio-economic mix of youth committed to DYTR, youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, local high school students, and Arizona State University students in conservation work on the Tonto and other national forests. The AmeriCorps participants will then work a larger group of younger at-risk youth to supervise their volunteer activities in environmental restoration work and in restoring safety to public spaces. The project will have the following goals: rehabilitating delinquent youth; creating safer environments in at-risk neighborhoods, providing conflict resolution instruction for a diverse group of delinquent, at-risk, and college attending youth; providing mentoring and pro-social modeling of delinquent and at-risk youth; and engaging youth in productive conservation work on national forests and environmental work in urban areas; creating and nurturing community leadership and service skills; and building a continuing partnership where college students tutor delinquent youth. This project will incorporate youth-as resources programs, restoring safety to public spaces, and youth safety initiatives.

PROJECT #1 -CHICAGO

Specific Needs in Project Area

Street gang activity has caused the wide-spread destruction of lives and property in many low-income Chicago neighborhoods. The statistics are staggering. According to a December report by the National Institute of Justice, between 1987 and 1990, there were 17,085 reported criminal offenses in Chicago classified by the police as street gang-related. These included 288 homicides, 8,828 nonlethal violent offenses, and 5,888 drug offenses. About 38,000 mostly young people are active in Chicago's 40 major street gangs. To make matters worse, many young Chicagoans are engaged in criminal activity independent of gangs. As a result, the state of Illinois ranks 20th among states for the death rate of children ages 1 - 14. In addition, the state ranks 19th in the number of juveniles (10-17 years of age) arrested for violent crimes.

The City of Chicago is also in great need of the kind of urban gardening and forestry projects that would increase the green space in the city.

Representatives of the Chicago Housing Authority, the Chicago Cooperative Extension Service, and the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences were involved in identifying neighborhoods that meet the criteria of need for summer youth programming and also contained locations of vacant lots and community areas that could be used or made usable for community garden projects.

The locations selected have high populations of elementary school youth who will be recruited by corps members and neighborhood advisory committee members to participate in providing service to their communities.

One center for project activities will be the Elliott Donnelley Youth Center, which serves the African American Community on Chicago's southside. The neighborhoods served by this center include Douglas, Fuller Park, and Grand Boulevard.

To further target high-need areas, corps members, as part of their initial assignments, will canvass neighborhoods to ascertain extent of need, interest, and to recruit youth and adult members of neighborhood advisory councils for this project.

Program Objectives

The purpose of this project is fivefold: to stem the rising tide of Chicago youth involved in violent crimes by engaging at-risk youth at an early age in productive and safe community activities; to aid community policing initiatives; to engage a socio-economic mix of participants working with younger at-risk youth on environmental projects critical to the city; to promote awareness and appreciation of the benefits of land restoration in an urban environment; and to create safe spaces for community gardening and vacant lot projects to allow community residents to engage in other activities at that site.

To meet those purposes, the projects will have two specific goals: 1) to engage 50 full-time, stipended corps members and at least two hundred volunteers in creating urban farms and planting trees at four public housing projects and in reclaiming vacant lots for community gardens and quiet spaces at no less than five other sites throughout the city; and 2) to help community police efforts to maintain these eight sites as safe places. Byproducts of these efforts will be the positive development and enhancement of self-esteem of both corps members and the children involved. Students will also learn conflict resolution strategies.

Given that more than half the students majoring in agricultural and natural resources in post-secondary institutions today come from non-farm backgrounds, this project can play an important role in encouraging some youths to prepare for eventual careers in agriculture.

Four days a week, corps members and the children with whom they work will be involved in site clean-up and preparation, planning, maintenance, and harvesting.

In addition, two hours each day, corps members will actively engage the youth in the community in recreation and personal development activities. Every day corps members will bolster community policing activities.

Appropriateness of Summer Program

At each site, a youth advisory committee will be organized to provide input and direction to gardening and clean-up projects, select topics for personal and leadership development, and determine appropriate supplemental activities. By canvassing neighborhoods, corps members will research prospective sites within the neighborhood even before the school vacation begins. This in itself will prove to be a valuable learning experience for corps members. Thus, the neighborhoods will have significant input in determining whether the summer program is appropriate to meet the community's needs.

Neighborhood support is essential to involve youth from the neighborhoods and to develop pride and respect for the efforts that are expended. Previous experience teaches us that when neighborhood members are involved, incidents of vandalism, harassment, etc. are significantly reduced and volunteer recruitment is significantly bolstered. To perpetuate some of the program's activities beyond the summer program, volunteer structures will be created to keep the gardens open and safe throughout the remainder of the year.

Recruitment of Participants

Five teams of 10 high school youth (with at least half coming from the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences and from Chicago Housing Authority residences) will be recruited by both entities. Neighborhood corps members will be recruited by the local advisory committees. Each applicant will then be screened through a personal interview with the project staff; the interview will inform the prospective participants of both the benefits and tough challenges of the program, as well as assess the genuine enthusiasm of the applicant for engaging in difficult community service work. The project director will then be responsible for ensuring that the final mix of participants is balanced by gender and economic status and fully reflects the African-American, Caucasian, and Latino population of the Chicago metropolitan area. Every effort will be made to recruit a mix of economically and socially disadvantaged youths, college-bound youths, and disabled youths.

Training of Participants

Before beginning project work, participants will receive extensive training and education in conflict resolution, urban agriculture and forestry, community policing, team-building, work habits, and citizenship. Each Friday, corps members will participate in developing learning activities in leadership development, building self-esteem, decision making, developing interpersonal skills, and setting personal goals. Curriculum will be selected from a number of available sources identified by the National 4-H Youth Development Office of USDA, the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, and the Chicago Housing Authority.

Impact on Participants

For both the AmeriCorps participants and the volunteers the goals are to improve the spirit of citizenship, decrease the likelihood that participants will engage in illegal activities, improve knowledge of farming, gardening, and urban restoration issues, improve their ability to work together with peers from diverse backgrounds, boost their knowledge of potential careers in agriculture, and obtain an increased understanding of the need for public safety in their neighborhoods.

Participant Safety

The University of Illinois Police Training Institute will help design safety programs for each project. The U.S. Department of Justice will also work with the local law enforcement agencies to design safety plans. Each project will have a detail hazard analysis developed. Each crew leader will be responsible for discussing the hazard analysis with these crew before work is started. Daily safety sessions will be held. Additional safety information will be included in the overall development of each participant's working experience.

Child Care

The project will contract out for child care services for any participant who needs them.

Liability and On-The-Job Injury Coverage

The project will purchase liability and on-the-job injury insurance.

Service Activities

Participants will engage in urban farming, urban forestry, and environmental education projects at the following four public housing projects:

1) Cabrini-Green is nationally-known as one of the country's most infamous examples of public housing. With a population of 6,935, Cabrini is located on 16 acres on Chicago's near north side. The project already has a fresh vegetable and herb garden, which could be dramatically expanded by the Summer of Safety project.

2) The Robert Taylor Homes, located on 95 acres on Chicago's south side, has 12,320 residents and is the largest public housing development in the world. This development is very much in need of greening.

3) The Henry Horner Homes house 3,057 people on Chicago's west side and were the site for the award-winning book and subsequent television movie *There Are No Children Here*. Because of its location adjacent to train tracks and within a desolate and poverty-stricken area, Horner would benefit tremendously from a greening program.

4) Ida B. Wells, located on the City's south side, has a population of 5,660, living in 2,788 units. Wells is a target site for the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed & Seed Program and has received substantial assistance in both law enforcement and prevention efforts ranging for recreational to educational activities. The Wells development would benefit greatly from beautification activities through the Summer of Safety program. There are several local youth organizations that could be tapped for volunteers.

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences would also help obtain the rights to use up to 15 city-owned vacant lots in the Roseland area of Chicago, as well as a vacant lot in 34th Ward and one in the Ninth Ward.

Project participants would reclaim and/or upgrade vacant lots in order to establish them as safe places for:

1) Farms/Gardens

- urban farming of foods
- flower gardening
- specific crop growing for local sale

Proposed community garden projects will include:

- A. Children's garden - 25 - 30, 4' x 4' raised vegetable, flowers and herbs beds.
- B. Adults garden - 25 - 30, 4' x 8' raised beds. Parents of youth and other adults in neighborhood would be assigned individual plots.
- C. Market garden - maintained by youth and adults; vegetables and herbs to be sold through Windows for Opportunity, Inc., Farmers Market Nutrition Program at Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Robert Taylor Homes.
- D. Educational - Meeting area - front of the garden will be seeded or sodded with turf; flowers, shrubs and small trees will be planted with picnic tables available for meetings, or programs.
- E. Windowbox gardening -- Public housing residents will learn how to grow flowers or small plants in their windows.

2) Quiet Corners

- newly built and installed benches
- play areas for small children
- open community centers for arts and crafts and other displays
- open spots for farmer's markets, healthy baby festivals, etc.

3) Tree Planting

- Tree planting at public housing developments
- Tree planting at vacant lots
- Joint agreements to plant and maintain trees in front of homes

These fifty full-time participants will then help recruit 200 younger, at-risk, youth volunteers to help with conservation and environmental work, further reclaim lands, and develop a calendar of activities and set up appropriate exhibits in quiet corners. The Chicago Public Housing Authority will help recruit volunteers from its housing developments.

With training and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, and under the direct supervision of local law enforcement agencies, the full-time participants would then help organize community crime patrols around these sites in tandem with local community policing initiatives. To reduce crime in areas plagued by violence, corps members partner with police officers engaged in community policing. The corps members are trained by the police department in problem-solving and conflict resolution, trained by the staff from other city agencies in identifying and accessing city resources, and trained by community groups in neighborhood organizing and leveraging neighborhood resources. The corps members work alongside community policing officers, but may also coordinate "safe haven" activities for youth, staff community policing substations, hold crime prevention workshops for community businesses and residents, organize block parent networks, and assist with community outreach.

The Chicago Police Department is already actively engaged in community policing activities designed to address community crime and disorder problems. Summer of Safety participants could be integrated into this effort. Chicago has a distinct training program for law enforcement officers designated to deal with the community on specific public safety problems. Summer of Safety participants could help bring together law enforcement officials with citizens and other representatives of local government in order to address and analyze how to address and analyze how to address a particular crime and disorder problem.

The program will be designed to identify specific crime and violence related problems through canvassing neighborhoods, attending community meetings, and setting up meetings with community groups. Corrective action will follow by focusing projects. Drug and other illegal activities will be discouraged and an opportunity to utilize these spaces for constructive activities will be gained. Parks, playgrounds, and public areas will be cleaned up and properly utilized, under the supervision participants and adults who will act as positive role models for those involved. Surveys will track progress and serve to measure the diminishment of fear in the community. Perhaps most importantly, a positive relationship between law enforcement and the youth of the community will be enhanced.

The participants will help conduct surveys to determine local residents' perception of the nature of local crime problems so that the community policing initiatives can help redress those problems.

The participants can help assist the police in developing crime prevention strategies, including D.A.R.E., safe havens, and the Midnight Basketball League.

Number of Participants

There will be fifty full-time participants receiving stipends for the ten weeks., Their goal will be recruiting an additional 200 volunteers, and then setting up a volunteer infrastructure to continue upkeep of the community gardens and safe spaces after the summer program ends.

Assignment Criteria

It is essential to obtain neighborhood input and support before any project is initiated. Local and state agencies, existing service groups, community center and housing authority committees, fire safety associations, youth agencies and organizations, and local businesses and unions will be encouraged to have input and collaborate.

Project Training

In addition to the general training at the beginning of the program, each participant will receive specific technical training in agriculture, forestry, and/or crime prevention before beginning each specific task. Such training will be provided by employees of USDA, the Illinois Extension Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, and/or local law enforcement agencies.

The Weed and Seed site will utilize all available resources and necessary funds to provide training and technical assistance in community policing activities including partnering with local law enforcement entities and providing technical assistance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice.

Project Supervision

Each crew of ten corps members will be supervised by an older crew leader, who will either be an USDA employee or a Forest Service environmental education intern. Crew leaders will be selected based on experience in youth development, knowledge of agriculture and forestry, and nonformal education. Crew leaders must be able to demonstrate working knowledge of experiential learning, experience in interacting in multicultural settings, and in dealing with at-risk youth. Further training in specific curriculum will be provided to team leaders during the month of June. The first priority will be in working with corps members in local resource and needs identification and assessment.

Displacement Considerations

Since neither the AmeriCorps participants nor the volunteers will engage in any work currently conducted by government employees, there is no possibility of worker displacement.

Continuation

While most of the objectives of the program will be accomplished during its ten-week length, special care will be given to create volunteer infrastructures that can maintain the gardens and safe spaces year-round.

At the end of the summer program, the AmeriCorps participants will sign-over ceremonial (non-legal) "leases" to the volunteers who will then maintain the sites.

Sustaining Strategies/Priorities

The single greatest priority following the summer program will be continuing community activities to protect the newly created safe places.

Resources

The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, the Chicago Housing Authority, USDA, the U.S. Department of Justice, returned Peace Corps volunteers, and the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences all will take responsibility for continuing management of the volunteer programs.

Workplan/Timeline (all dates 1994)

By March 21: Begin organizing overall advisory committee

By April 1: Obtain notification of funding from CNCS

By April 10: Finalize details of recruitment plan

By April 12: Hold first meetings of overall advisory committee and sign cooperative agreement among all participating partners

By April 15: Begin recruitment activities at Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences and throughout targeted neighborhoods

By April 22: Finalize selection of crew leaders

By April 30: Applications for participation due

By May 1: Recruitment of corps members finalized and leadership team attends national training and technical assistance workshop

By May 2: Begin screening of applicants

By May 10: Make final selections of program participants

By May 15: Deposit private contributions in the banks account of "Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences"

By May 20: Obtain written permission for use of public housing land and vacant lots and finalize plans for work projects

By May 25: U.S. Department of Justice and local law enforcement agencies finalize community policing projects

By May 30: All uniforms, tools, and equipment obtained

By June 7: Begin week-long training program for crew leaders and other project staff

June 13: Participant training and orientation begin

By June 15: Original evaluation interviews begin

June 21: Program is formally launched and agriculture and forestry work projects begin

By June 25: Volunteer recruitment begins

By July 1: Participants begin aiding community policing programs

July 4: Citywide kick-off for joint AmeriCorps volunteer activities

By July 5: First program evaluation provided to staff

By July 1: Specific plans for year-round program continuation by volunteer infrastructure created

By July 19: Second program evaluation provided to staff

By July 21: USDA and U.S. Department of Justice make surprise monitoring visit to project

By August 10: Third program evaluation provided to staff

August 24: Program formally ends

August 25: Volunteer infrastructure takes over management of sites

By August 31: High-profile graduation ceremony held in which AmeriCorps participants are

honored and sites are ceremonially transferred to neighborhood volunteers

By September 1: Evaluation interviews completed

By October 1: Evaluation report completed

Institutional Capacity

The lead partner in running this program will be the non-profit foundation of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences. A recent feature in the Washington Post describes the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences as "a rare and remarkable success story in one of the nation's most troubled public school systems." According to the article, last year's graduation rate of almost 90 percent was far above the city average, and graduating seniors won a total of \$1.4 million in college scholarships.

On January 5, 1994, the Chicago Tribune editorialized that the school "is a notable success, one of the precious few among Chicago public high schools." Claiming the school's program has captured the financial and moral support of the Chicago Board of Trade and other businesses, the editorial calls the curriculum "innovative" and the spirit of the staff and students "exhilarating."

The school's foundation, which will formally receive and administer the grant, has a demonstrable track record of success in administering financial and payroll procedures.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has visited the school, spoken to its commencement exercise, and has generally been extremely impressed by its remarkable achievements. He has pledged that he will provide any institutional support possible to the school.

Staff Experience

Barbara H. Valerious, Principal of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences, will be the project director. She has been honored widely for her work in building one of the most successful magnet schools in the entire Chicago school system. A 38-year employee of the Chicago Board of Education, she received the Principal of Excellence Award in 1992.

Joel Berg, Director of Public Liaison and National Service for USDA, will coordinate the government resources involved in the project. He has studied national service and visited successful youth corps since 1989, and helped design the national service demonstration project title of the National and Community Service Act of 1990. He also served on President-Elect Clinton's national service transition team.

Terrence S. Donahue, Deputy Director, Executive, Office of Weed and Seed, U.S. Department of Justice, will coordinate program interface with local law enforcement agencies. With 23 years in law enforcement experience, he played a key role in developing the National Drug Policy Boards's "Strategy for High Risk Youth," and the Department's criminal justice intervention and prevention strategy, "Weed and Seed" program.

Working Relationships

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Science, the Illinois Extension Service, the Chicago Housing Authority, the Soil Conservation Service, and the "Weed and Seed" program all have extensive interactions with community groups.

Law Enforcement Relationship

The project will contract with the University of Illinois Police Training Institute, which has already assisted in the development of numerous public safety programs adapted to specific youth audiences.

The Institute will run educational programs for the project staff and the AmeriCorps participants that focus on personal safety, the action and reaction factors of both peer-to-peer and police-to-citizen force, conflict resolution, a law enforcement career opportunities.

The U.S. Department of Justice will coordinate project interactions with local law enforcement agencies. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice, through its local Weed and Seed site, at Ida B. Wells housing development, has established an ongoing relationship with the local police. The Chicago Police Department has created and staffed a sub-station within Ida B. Wells, and has cultivated a positive relationship with the residents. The community police have created an open dialogue with residents, and have obtained the trust of community. This program can serve as a model for similar projects at other AmeriCorps summer sites.

Applicant Experience

The Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences already runs successful urban farms. Other partners include the USDA, with many field offices in the Chicago region. The USDA Soil Conservation Service helped run the original U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps and now runs the successful "Earth Team" volunteer program nationally. The USDA Extension Service helps run 4-H, the largest volunteer program in the world.

The Illinois Extension Service and the Chicago Housing Authority already run successful community volunteer programs in Chicago. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Justice has extensive experience in promoting community policing initiatives.

Certification of Participants

This project is wholeheartedly committed to promoting one national identity to the President's AmeriCorps program. All uniforms and promotional materials will use the AmeriCorps logo. All press releases, promotional literature, and public events will reference the national program.

As much as possible, all training activities and team-building activities will be tied into national initiatives. The program will enthusiastically participate in national opening and/or closing ceremonies.

Commitment of Each Partner

The Friends of the Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences will run the overall program. The organization will take prime responsibility for recruiting and screening participants and providing the payroll mechanism for the living wage stipend.

The school will also provide secretarial support, classroom space, and use of audio-visual equipment. The school will also take prime responsibility for locating and obtaining use of vacant lots.

An overall program advisory committee chaired by Barbara Valerious, Principal of the High School, high school faculty members, participating agency representatives, and representatives from neighborhood advisory committees will be convened to provide program oversight, determine measurable outcomes and progress in achieving the identified outcomes.

The U.S. Department of Justice will take responsibility for coordination with local law enforcement agencies and community policing initiatives.

The Office of Public Affairs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide general federal government coordination, serve as a liaison with the Corporation for National and Community Service, production of recruitment and promotional, and public affairs and electronic communications support.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service will provide one employee on detail, and staff specialist assistant as required, to provide on-site soils interpretive information, general soil information training, coordinating and cost estimates for work projects, and team building training. The Soil Conservation Service will also provide \$5,000 in direct funding.

The USDA Forest Service will provide college-level interns who can serve as crew leaders and environmental education instructors. The agency will also provide urban forestry and ecosystem training and curriculum materials.

The Forest Service will coordinate with state and city agencies to provide technical assistance on urban forestry issues. The Forest Service will also work to identify possible donors of tree seedlings, containers, and soil. The Forest Service will also provide \$2,500 in direct funding.

The USDA Extension Service will provide training and educational materials, and help with program evaluation. The Extension Service will also provide \$2,500 in direct funding.

The USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will provide one employee on detail to teach agriculture techniques and serve as a crew leader.

The Illinois Extension Service will aid in participant training and education and help locate and obtain use of vacant lots. The Chicago Housing Authority will provide land for farms, will help recruit volunteers, and will aid community policing activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation Progress

National service staff from the Washington offices of the Department of Agriculture and Justice will make at least one unannounced visit to the project within its first month of operation. The local project staff will also use both an ongoing process evaluation and an impact assessment. In-depth interview and observation data will be gathered to keep track of the implementation process of the Summer of Safety Project.

The project director, crew supervisors, a representative sample of the AmeriCorps participants, Justice and Agriculture Department personnel, high school staff, and families will be interviewed at the start-up of the project and weekly intervals throughout the project. Interviews will be semi-structured: some questions will be used throughout the project and some time will be allowed for respondents to describe their experiences in and feelings about the project. Direct observations of the service projects will also be conducted regularly. These interviews with a wide range of project players will facilitate the ongoing monitoring of the project implementation and the meeting of project goals. The evaluation will be especially sensitive to the creative modification of project goals and their effect, as well as unanticipated effects of the project.

The evaluator will provide reports to the staff during week 3, 5, and 7 of the project to allow for consultation with the Corporation for National and Community service about what modifications could be made if problems arise. In other words, the monitoring will work to fix identify and fix problems as they occur. Demographic and other relevant background data will be gathered from the original application materials and other means about both the AmeriCorps participants and the younger volunteers. To assess the impact at the end of the program, start-up interviews and post-project interviews with samples of the project managers will be used to assess changes in the participant views of citizenship, community service, and their place in the community before and after service. Follow-up with local law enforcement officials will be used to determine the project's impact upon community policing and other public safety projects. Interviews with the appropriate forestry personnel and community leaders will assess the value of the conservation and environment work performed.

Commitment to National Evaluation

The project will take every step needed to provide access and data needed by national evaluators.