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REC'D

Florida

RDT

21
DATE: 4-18-95
TO: Joel Berg
FAX #: 202 / 720-4614
PAGES:
FROM: Karen Prentiss, Executive Director
RE:

Joel -

Please advise, per our
phone conversation - Do we
have a fit?

Karen Prentiss

referred Please note - The City of
Marianna and the
County of Jackson (2 of the
host organizations are "Champion
Communities"



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 21 1995

MAR 27 1995

Honorable Pete Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0902

Dear Congressman Peterson:

Thank you for your letter concerning placement of Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorps Rural Development team members in Florida. We apologize for the delay in responding.

Unfortunately, because our first class of AmeriCorps members had already begun work, we were not able to directly fund Rural Development team members in Florida last year. However, USDA would be pleased to provide advice and information to any other AmeriCorps programs related to rural development that may be funded in Florida by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). In addition, if we are able to expand our AmeriCorps programs next year, we will give full consideration to placing AmeriCorps Rural Development, Anti-Hunger, and/or Environmental Teams in Florida.

Because we are only in the first year of operating our AmeriCorps programs -- and because we wanted to be careful not to harm or duplicate existing local initiatives -- there are many States in which we are unable to place programs. In addition, as you know, in creating the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, Congress limited funds granted through Federal agencies such as USDA. Our ability to use USDA appropriations also was limited. Consequently, USDA proposed a handful of pilot projects throughout the country. Subsequently, our pilot project proposals were selected by CNCS after a vigorous national competition among 15 Federal agencies. I assure you that I am aware of the community development needs of rural areas throughout Florida. USDA will continue to seek ways through AmeriCorps and our many other rural development programs in order to meet those needs.

Please contact Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service, at 202-720-6350, to discuss how Florida projects may obtain our advice and information on seeking funding for programs this year. We look forward to working with you to expand AmeriCorps opportunities throughout Florida and the remainder of the Nation.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. ROMINGER
Acting Secretary

PETE PETERSON
2D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES
ON
NATIONAL SECURITY
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0902

April 6, 1995

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Ms. Karen Prentiss
Executive Director
Florida State Rural Development Council
443 Collins Building
107 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2000

Dear Karen:

Enclosed is a copy of the reply I received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in response to my September 29, 1994 letter regarding the Department's decision to select 29 states for AmeriCorps team pilot programs without any competition.

Karen, it took six months and two letters to elicit this response which is disappointing in its general nature. Nevertheless, I thought you might like a copy for your files. In the meantime, I have learned of the Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations' application for a Americorp National Service Grant. Recognizing the value of such a grant to North Florida, I remain hopeful the Department will see the wisdom of approving that application.

My staff assistant, Eve Young, has told me of your recent meeting with various Congressional staffers and the projects which you presented. As always, I am impressed with your organization, professionalism, and enthusiasm. The State of Florida is indeed fortunate to have someone of your caliber in a position to assist our rural communities.

In closing, let me remind you that my office is always open to you, so you should never hesitate to call on me whenever you feel I might be of service.

Sincerely,



Pete Peterson, M.C.

DBP:ey

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

A 1993 statewide rural needs survey report, targeted to community and business leadership in Florida's 31 rural counties stated the following resources needs as a top need priority: A.) A lack of information regarding what resources are available to address local community needs; and B.) Lack of available and trained individuals, volunteers and staff to respond to grant and other resources development opportunities which address community service needs.

These needs were reiterated during a meeting held in January 1995, between representatives from rural Florida's rural northern communities, Governors Commission on Community service, Florida State Rural Development Council and the Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations. A strategy response to the needs identified during that meeting was the development of this grant proposal by a coalition comprised of the attending organizations from that meeting. Seven host organizations recognized that their respective needs could not be painted with the same brush. The needs of the individual organizations/communities were unique in many ways. These groups knew what their particular local area struggles were and knew what would be of greatest help. This led FANO and the FSRDS to reaffirm what many others across the country were currently saying - namely that generic rural community development strategies must be accompanied by targeted initiatives to have the greatest impact. The proposed program comprised composed of various targeted initiatives and does not take the

"cookie cutter" approach to solving communitiy problems.

The proposed program to be operated under the general administration of the Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations, in coordination with Florida State Rural Development Council will have: 1.) a general focus on developing resources, specific projects and community capacity building in the four national Americorp areas: public safety, environment, human needs and education, and 2.) a targeted focus on planning and developing resources which support: 1.) direct service delivery mechanisms and 2.) implementation of specific projects which fall into the four national priority areas.

The target area for the proposed program is a geographically clustered group of local governments and nonprofit organizations located in northern rural Florida. The program will include one rural city, three rural counties, and one urban county which has rural unincorporated areas. The program will place thirteen AmeriCorp participants, with seven host organizations, into full-time positions for a twelve month period.

These host organizations include: the City of Marianna, Marianna Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson County, Wakula County, Coastal Housing Coalition, Wakula County Senior Citizen's Council and Leon County. The program mission is to develop community resources, services and leadership which helps rural citizens improve their own lives and their communities in areas where poverty prevails and race divides. We will have a targeted focus in investing in

training and technical assistance resources and assistance for community leaders and change agents, who work "on the ground" to better their communities. AmeriCorp participant work placement categories which will be recruited for will include: Resource Development Specialist, Community Development Specialist, Circuit Rider and Strategic Planner.

Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Florida State Rural Development Council and the host organizations will develop a program work plan to build the necessary technical training, and communication infrastructure to connect activities and resources to support the program related work effort of participating host organizations and their AmeriCorps participants. Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations will work with the Florida State Rural Development Council and the host organizations to recruit participants. Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations in coordination with the Florida State Rural Development Council will: 1.) develop descriptive materials and an application for the program; and 2.) will distribute them with the help of the host organizations. Participants of this program will be required to at least hold high school diploma or equivalent. Information and applications will be sent to post-secondary institutions in or near the host organization's geographic service areas. Packets will be sent to financial aid counselors, placement officers, deans and student organizations. Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations will target news strategies and public service announcements in student media. Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations will attempt to hold recruitment seminars

on key campuses. Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations will develop an Americorp partnership needs profile for each participating host organization and a skills bank and inventory of potential participants. All assignments for participants will be mutually agreed upon by Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and the participating host organizations.

Participants will be provided, through the vehicles of Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Florida State Rural Development Council, with a number of key contact people who can be continuing resources to them in whatever areas of interest are identified as problematic during the provision of technical assistance and training services. Curriculums for teaching participants in leadership development, volunteerism, resource and networking development, organization management, communication skills and understanding of basic business principles will be developed by the Florida Associations of Nonprofit Organizations. Participants will receive one day regional training workshops four times a year. This may happen in a seminar format that includes elements of direct education, experience, sharing and practical debriefing sessions where participants provide and are provided input regarding lessons learned, problems overcome and other significant information.

Florida Association of Nonprofit program coordination staff will maintain ongoing contact with participants and their on-site host organization supervisors throughout the year's assignments in order to answer questions, offer guidance, make necessary arrangements

and help solve any problems that may arise. The Florida Association of Nonprofit Organization's staff will provide both on-site as well as telephone technical assistance during the regular working day to project participants who are seeking such assistance. Additionally, direct technical assistance will be provided through written materials which will include correspondence when a technical assistance recipient desires a written response.

The Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations will administer the proposed program, from its offices in Miami Lakes and Tallahassee. The program will be budgeted and identified as a separate project. Staffing will be provided by existing Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations staff who will be assigned to the supervision of the participant in coordination with of all the participating host organizations. Participants will be provided office space, computer equipment, social support, travel support and office support from the participating host organizations.

The Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Florida State Rural Development Council foresee a primary source for national identification being provided through their respective newsletters. These statewide publication provide up to date local, state, and national resource information. Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Florida State Rural Development Council will designate a section of their newsletters to frequently asked questions regarding AmeriCorps, and the respective host

organizations and the respective host organizations and their AmeriCorps related projects. Additionally, a document will be developed and published where the process which was developed for program implementation will be disseminated to other communities on a state and national basis who are interested in developing a similar program.

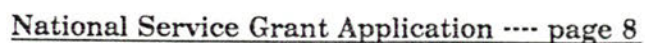
II. PROGRAM NEEDS

Information relating to the need for the program described in this application is located in Table A and B. The proposed program will have:

- 1.) a general focus on developing resources, specific projects, and community capacity building in the four national AMERICORP priority areas; public safety, environment, human needs and education.
- 2.) a targeted focus on planning and developing resources which support 1.) direct service delivery mechanisms and 2.) implementation of specific projects which fall into the four national priority areas.

The target area for the proposed program, including a coalition of seven host organizations, is a geographically clustered group of local governments and nonprofit organizations located in northern rural Florida. The program will include one rural city, three

MAP A: Program Geographic Service Area



(Joel, Here's the planning
Component)

III. Participant Action Plan

A. Planning

Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Florida State Rural Development Council will develop a program work plan to build the necessary technical, training, and communication infrastructure to connect activities and resources to support the program related work effort of targeted participating host organizations' and their AMERICORPS participants. The following information, broken down into components for readability, describes the planning activities for our proposed program. The program will place thirteen Americorp participants, into seven host organizations, into full-time positions for a twelve month period.

Component 1:

Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations, in coordination with the Florida State Rural Development Council, will host an initial meeting in Tallahassee to present an overview to participating host organizations for the refinement of a the 12 month program work plan. The plan will be oriented to their involvement and responsibility for each component of the program. Specific issues addressed will include time frames, collection of participant and outcome data, site locations for participant meetings, public participation, evaluation and administrative/programtic task work, resource commitment to the process, training as appropriate, and general correspondence.

Component 2:

Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations and Florida State

Rural Development Council, in coordination with the participating host organizations, will coordinate at least one meeting in each host organization's geographic location during the first two months of the program. Each meeting will provide those in attendance with an overview of the program and will address any concerns or changes which may need to be made prior to program implementation. Meeting attendees may assist in determining how to develop a plan for the participant to work on specific projects. Resource availability, technical issues and the availability of training and or volunteers and professionals to assist participants will be discussed.

Component 3:

Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Florida State Rural Development Council and participating host organization groups will meet twice in Tallahassee during a two month period to assimilate all information obtained from each of the host organizations's initial planning meetings into the program. The participating host organization meeting information will be compiled into a planning document to be incorporated into a "road map" for program implementation.

B. RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND PROCESS

1. PARTICIPANT JOB CATEGORIES

The proposed program will place and utilize twenty (20) full time Americorps volunteers during a twelve month period

Table #C and #D provides specific participant action information.

Table E: PROGRAM TIMELINE

[illegible]

Table F. Program Management Capacity Data

Supervisors and Host Organization Name:	Background and Experience:	Program related responsibilities:
Karen Prentiss Florida State Rural Development Council, Program Technical Advisor	MSW, MPH, 25 years experience in community and economic development	responsible for planning and developing all aspects of program including the provision of training and technical assistance activities
Marina Pavlov Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations Program Administrator	MS, 20 years of teaching and 10 years of administrative and development experience.	responsible for planning, developing and general administration of all aspects of programs
Cynthia Demos Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations Program Coordinator and Public Relations Director	BA, Public relations specialist with extensive experience, in organizing, planning and program evaluation and surveys.	responsible for daily administration and program implementation including evaluation, reporting, training and technical assistance activities.
Wyatt Popes Senior Citizen Council Wakula County Host Organization	PhD with over ten years of community development executive currently county commissioner	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp
Becky Porter Wakula County Host Organization	20 years administrative experience, 4 years local government supervisor	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp
Ken Bass Coastal Housing Coalition Wakula County Host Organization	BA, 10 years experience in low income housing, certified building contractor	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp
John McCue Leon County Host Organization	over 5 years of community development experience	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp
Janice Rhoads Jefferson County Host Organization	Over 5 years of resource development experience	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp
Elly Johnson City of Marianna Host Organization	BS, 25 years of municipal government experience	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp
Wendell Taylor Marianna Chamber of Commerce Host Organization	Over 5 years of community development experience	responsible for program and administrative activities relating to participants and AmeriCorp