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USDA/AmeriCorps - Clinton Library Copies - FY96 RECD [Received] - Service Objectives [4]

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Applicant: Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

Contact Person: Patricia Lundstrom

Supervisor: Patricia Lundstrom

Address:

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments
208 West Coal
Gallup, NM 87301-6306

Counties: McKinley and Cibola

Congressional Districts: 4 & 6

Telephone: 505-722-4327

FAX: 505-722-9211

AmeriCorps Project Objectives Statement

a. **Work To Be Done** -- The AmeriCorps volunteer will implement specific project development tasks in designated low-income neighborhood communities in Gallup, Milan, and Grants, pursuant to the development strategies outlined in (and subsequently modified from) the federal *Enterprise Community* Strategic Plan prepared and submitted by the Council of Governments to USDA in June 1994.

b. **What Will Result From The Work** -- As a result of this service, the following results are anticipated:

- 1) By the recruitment and/or identification of potential local entrepreneurs, 10 new enterprises will start up, employing 30 low-income residents. This will be enabled by the use of a revolving loan fund capitalized by the NWNM CDC as well as by linking the potential entrepreneurs with other local business support services.
- 2) In order to increase the effectiveness of neighborhood organizations in attaining their goals, the Member will create and distribute a manual which identifies, explains, and directs access to state, local, and federal resources of critical value.

3) Work Force Development -- Member will assist the creation of five "empowerment centers" within the target EZ/champion communities. These centers will provide literacy training, linkages to vocational and job assistance, and a one-stop center for human services.

These results can only be achieved through the synergistic efforts of many individuals and agencies within and outside of the Council of Governments organization; however, the volunteer can provide essential catalytic, hands-on, and technical/research assistance in moving these initiatives forward.

c. **Measurement of Quality and Success of the Work** -- The volunteer's work will be measured against the purposes and start-up tasks outlined in the Enterprise Community Strategic Plan, as modified, tailored and specified in the light of current circumstances, ancillary resources available, and skills of the AmeriCorps volunteer.

d. **Standard of Quality/Success for Program Accomplishment** -- Each sub-objective above will have its own parameters and standards for measurement of success, with such details to be worked out with the specific volunteer assigned. In general, the following standards are expected:

(1) **Interpersonal Interaction**: We look for interactions with a broad range and diversity of individuals, both at the neighborhood level and in the institutional/professional community. Qualities to be evaluated include: an outgoing approach which builds confidence in the working relationship; an attitude of respect and responsiveness, with an emphasis on listening more so than exposition; a commitment to empowerment in acknowledgment of the role of local citizens in their own problem-solving and community development.

(2) **Project Development**: In this technical assistance arena, we look for attention to detail with respect to the various components of project planning and development; timely and accurate research related to factors affecting the project; consistent and reliable follow-through in the prosecution of identified tasks; orientation to the achievement of results via discrete steps and milestones; appropriate coordination with the individuals and agencies needing to be involved; and well-organized, timely, and thorough documentation of project details.

(3) **Written Communications**: As implied in the documentation requirements for Project Development, we look for strong writing skills, with attention to: high level of clarity, accuracy, and grammatical and stylistic quality of the information being presented; appropriate tone, style, and level of detail for the type of documentation; and sensitivity to the "audience" of various communications.

e. **Number of Service Recipients** -- The EZ/champion communities have a total population of 12,784, with 4,924 in the Gallup/McKinley County portion of the target area and 7,860 in the Milan/Grants area. The number of persons living below the poverty threshold in each area is 1,433 in Gallup and 1,585 in Milan/Grants, for a total of 3,703. This estimate of 3,703 comprises the primary population to be served by the volunteer.

3. **How The Project Will Accomplish the Objectives**

a. **Supervisor of Work To Be Done** -- Executive Director Patricia Lundstrom will serve as direct supervisor of the work to be done by the volunteer. Deputy Director Jeffrey Kiely will provide technical oversight and guidance throughout the project.

b. **Resources Required**. The Council of Governments will provide in-kind resources of the following types: office space, including furniture, access to computers and files, telephone, etc.; access to general office services, including photocopying, mailing, phone messaging, etc.; access to reference information, statistical data, and program materials as needed; and in-region travel expenses related to the project.

The staff of the COG and of its development partners are available to assist and advise.

The volunteer should plan on using his/her own vehicle for project travel, with the COG reimbursing gasoline/usage expenses at 25 cents per mile.

c. **Quarterly Action Plan of Accomplishments**

The project timelines for the AmeriCorps volunteer project is included on the following page.

**AmeriCorps Program-Oregon
Revised Community Service Objectives
Grand Ronde**

The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde

The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde is a rural community whose local economy is driven by forest products, agriculture, and tourism. The Tribe is currently in the process of building a gaming facility that will create \$7-11 Million annually and will provide jobs for a vast number of tribal members. Because the gaming center will bring thousands of visitors each year, the Tribe is actively planning for the increased demand for tribal services through managed growth in the form of land acquisitions, construction of new facilities and expansion of existing facilities, housing developments, and construction of physical infrastructure and related utilities. The Member will provide a direct service to the Tribe by means of the following 2 objectives:

Objective 1: Tribal Sewer System

Work to be done:

To work with the Public Works Department staff and consultants to update and upgrade the current sewer system by providing the help and expertise needed with easement agreements, user fees, inspections, engineering design, and the development of contract specifications for the construction of the sewer system. To locate alternative sources of grant money to finance the sewer system and future projects.

Result of the work:

The Member is able to expedite the completion of the updating and upgrading of the current sewer system in order to provide for the Tribe's planned business development center and housing subdivision.

Means of measuring the quality the service:

The completion of a sewer system that is consistent with the development plans for the Grand Ronde Tribe Reservation.

Standard of quality:

The sewer system complies with Federal, State, and local laws including those concerned with zoning regulations, health and sanitation standards, and control of water pollution.

Number of recipient:

One tribe of 3,000 people will benefit from the upgrade of the sewer system.

Objective 2: Section 504 Rural Housing Repair Program***Work to be done:***

In FY95, no section 504 loans and/or grants were received from the Tribe. The Member will contact tribal members in order to increase knowledge in the community on the availability of Section 504 loans and grants for rural housing repairs. The Member will assist at least 10 low-income tribal residents to apply for RECD Section 504 loans and/or grants.

Result of the work:

Housing conditions at the Tribe will improve because of an increase in the use of Section 504 loans and grants.

Means of measuring the quality the service:

Written records account for the number of applications received for Section 504 loans and grants as a result of the Member's outreach at the Tribe. A 700% increase in the use of Section 504 loans and/or grants for tribal members.

Standard of quality:

At least 10 applications are received as a result of the Member's outreach. All 10 applicants are offered assistance in completing the application. At least 7 of the applications received are determined eligible and submitted to RECD for approval.

Number of recipient:

At least 7 low-income tribal members will benefit from RECD's Section 504 loans and/or grants.

**AmeriCorps Program-Oregon
Revised Community Service Objectives
Eugene**

OK

Objective 1: Section 504 Rural Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program

To provide outreach activities to promote the Section 504 Rural Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program. Low-income rural residents, especially the elderly, can benefit from the program. Outreach activities are needed to educate the public of the availability, uses, terms, eligibility requirements, and application process for the loans and grants. Contacts include meeting with housing authorities, community action agencies, community leaders, development organizations, minority groups, senior citizen groups, and other housing interest groups. At least 7 applications will be received because of Member outreach as determined from an oral survey of all applicants. These 7 applicants will be offered assistance in completing the application and at least 5 out the 7 will be submitted for approval.

Work to be done:

Contact members of the rural community in order to increase knowledge in the community on availability of loans and grants for rural housing repairs. Assist at least 7 low-income residents of Lane County to apply for a Section 504 loan and/or grant.

Result of the work:

At least 5 low-income residents will receive a loan and/or grant for housing repair. Housing conditions in the rural area will improve because of an increase in use of Section 504 RH loans and grants.

Means of measuring the quality of service:

An oral survey will be taken by RECD staff to find out how they knew about the Section 504 Loan and Grant Program. The survey will be used to assess the number of applications received as a result of Member outreach.

Standard of Quality

At least 7 applications are received as a result of Members outreach. All 7 applicants are offered assistance in completing the application. At least 5 of the applications received are determined eligible and are submitted for approval.

Number of recipients:

At least 5 Section 504 loans and/or grants are submitted for approval.

Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorps Program Participation

1. Sunny Valley/Wolf Creek designated Rural Enterprise Community (Sunny Wolf)

a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity: Sunny Valley/Wolf Creek

b. Name of Contact Person: Al Koski, **Adjustment Initiative Coordinator, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SORED)**

c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:
Karen Schilberger, director, Sunny Wolf Community Response Team

d. Address of Entity: P.O. Box 127, Wolf Creek, OR 97497

e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place: Josephine County

f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place: District 2

g. Telephone: 503/886-2520 **FAX:** 503/866-2402

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AmeriCorps Program-Oregon
Revised Community Service Objectives
Wolf Creek

Objective 1: Section 504 Rural Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program

To provide outreach activities to promote the Section 504 Rural Housing Repair Loan and Grant Program. Outreach activities are needed to educate the public of the availability, uses, terms, eligibility requirements, and application process for the loans and grants. A minimum of 7 applications will be received because of Member outreach as determined from an oral survey of all applicants. All applicants will be offered assistance in completing the application and at least 5 out the 7 are determined eligible and are submitted for approval. In addition, the Member will locate additional sources of housing repair funds to supplement the available Section 504 Program funds.

Work to be done:

Contact members of Sunny Valley and Wolf Creek in order to increase knowledge in the community on availability of loans and grants for rural housing repair. Locate additional sources of money to supplement Section 504 Program funds.

Result of the work:

Housing conditions in Sunny Valley and Wolf Creek will improve because of an increase in use of Section 504 loans and grants.

Means of measuring the quality of service:

An oral survey will be taken by the Member to find out how they found out about the Section 504 Loan and Grant Program. The survey will be used to assess the number of applications received as a result of Member outreach. At least 1 other source of money for housing repair is found.

Standard of Quality

At least 7 applications are received as a result of Members outreach. All 7 applicants are offered assistance in completing the application. At least 5 of the applications received are determined eligible and are submitted for approval.

Number of recipients:

At least 5 low-income residents will benefit.

Objective 2: Wolf Creek Community Center

The Wolf Creek Community Center is the only public facility in Wolf Creek and is used by over 800 residents of Wolf Creek and Sunny Valley. The Community Center is where the lunches for local senior citizens are prepared and served and where meetings of the Fire Department, Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Community Response Team are held. The building needs serious repairs. The roof is leaking, one side of the building is closed because of structural damage, and the well, from which the water for the building and the senior lunches comes from, is contaminated. Further, Wolf Creek also needs an outside public access water hydrant so that people can get water during the summer when their wells run dry. The Enterprise Community Coordinating Council has allocated sufficient funds for the repairs. The Member will work with the Wolf Creek Civic Association, a group composed of local volunteers, to ensure the completion of the repairs and new additions. The Member will get estimates from engineers, acquire bids from local contractors, locate a new source of clean uncontaminated water, get water rights, formulate agreements, and monitor the project.

Work to be done:

To work with the Wolf Creek Civic Association to ensure the completion of the repairs and new additions to the Wolf Creek Community Center.

Result of the work:

The 800 local residents that use the Wolf Creek Community Center will enjoy a new roof, safe building structures, and clean potable water. Local residents will be able to get water during the summer months.

Means of measuring the quality of service:

All repairs are completed within the time proposed. Water quality tests are administered.

Standard of Quality:

All repairs done will meet Federal, State, and local guidelines. Water quality will comply with safe drinking requirements.

Number of recipients:

800 local residents of the communities of Wolf Creek and Sunny Valley that use the facility will benefit.

Objective 3: Youth Job Skills Development

The Member will work with the contractor in charge of the repairs and new additions to the Wolf Creek Center to develop a Youth Job Skills Program in Wolf Creek. At least 5 unemployed local youths will learn new job skills by working under the guidance of the contractor in the repairs to the building. They will learn metal roofing and other skills, while earning some money during the summer. Depending on the amount of people needed for the completion of the repairs, the project may also allow for the retraining of local unemployed adults and the involvement of other volunteers.

Work to be done:

To develop a Youth Job Skills Program in Wolf Creek.

Result of the work:

At least 5 local unemployed youths will be trained in metal roofing and other building construction skills.

Means of measuring the quality of service:

The completion of the repairs. Job skills assessments prior to training and competency tests during and upon completion of training.

Standard of Quality:

All repairs will be made to the specifications of the contractor and local building standards.

Number of recipients:

At least 5 local youths will benefit.

1. Champion Communities

Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorps Program Participation

- a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity:** Fay-Penn Economic Development Council
- b. Name of Contact Person:**
- c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:**
Allen Compt and Kimber Vanry
- d. Address of Entity:** P.O. Box 2101, Uniontown, PA 15401-1701
- e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place:** Fayette County
- f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place:** District 12 & 20
- g. Telephone:** 412-437-7913 **FAX:** 412-437-7315

by fax

2 October 1995

To: Joel Berg, USDA AmeriCorps

From: Allan Comp, PA/USDA Americorps

Subject: Reworked Objectives 3 pp

thanks for the approval call to Congressman Murtha's office!

II. Pennsylvania AmeriCorps Project Objectives

INTRODUCTION

Fayette County's primarily rural population of just over 145,000 residents faces some of the harshest economic realities in Pennsylvania. Since 1980, the county has experienced a 9% decline in population while the unemployment rate has hovered over 10%. Income levels rank as the lowest in the state with 20.7% of the county's residents and 17.6% of its families living below the poverty level. Nearly one-fifth of the county's population is elderly, and more than 14% of the elderly live below the poverty level. over 27% of the county's residents receive some form of public assistance.

The joint development program for all three agencies is geared to aggressive county-wide recovery through the identification and development of sites and resource infrastructure. The program includes fostering a strong partnership among private and public agencies, as well as small community-based groups. An important aspect of this linkage plan is the development of rail-trail and heritage corridors which will encourage intensive tourism-based heritage development in the county's rural communities.

Objectives and Outcomes

Objective 1: *Encourage appropriate tourism-related heritage development within the Youghiogheny River Trail and the National Road Heritage Park (Route 40) corridors.*

A. Design and execute a survey of land owners in both corridors to determine development patterns associated with the two corridors and the potential for appropriate community projects. Complete two community projects, one on each corridor.

Design and execute a survey of land and road usage at major access points in the Youghiogheny River Trail and the National Road Heritage Park. Present results to the community and encourage appropriate development.

C. Organize methods of gaining the most educational benefit for area school children from the YRT and the National Road and provide educational programs for both.

Outcomes: Organize volunteer efforts to conduct three residential facade improvement projects that directly impact the access routes to the YRT or the National Road. Increase tourism-related income in Fayette County by linking the various corridors and organizing service efforts. Complete 16 school visits that educate students about the YRT and the National Road and create a curriculum to continue the education about these valuable resources and the job opportunities resulting from them.

Objective 2: *Support and coordinate local initiatives focused on the remediation of visual and environmental pollution of historic, trail and waterway corridors.*

A. Develop a comprehensive dump site clean-up for Fayette County by identifying priority project areas, volunteer groups, community resources, zoning ordinances and other regulations.

B. Coordinate efforts with the local PA Cleanways association, Adopt-A-Highway sponsors, environmental agencies and community groups to organize volunteers and execute clean-up projects.

C. Locate significant acid mine drainage (AMD) sites effecting the streams and rivers throughout Fayette County. Create educational program about AMD to teach students and visitors about the cause and effect of AMD and help organize volunteer remediation project.

Outcomes: Organization of service clubs and volunteers to clean-up 5 dumping sites affecting 40 miles of trails, 40 miles of historic highway corridors and 100 miles of rivers and streams. Organize AMD clean-up project using volunteer services. Incorporate an educational program addressing AMD issues into the 16 school visits listed in Objective 1.

Objective 3: *Develop an historic interpretation program for the Youghiogheny River Trail.*

A. Complete a survey of historic resources within the Fayette County portion of the YRT corridor, including all structures, archeological sites, historic events and natural landmarks.

B. Work with area school groups, community organizations and historical societies to develop a comprehensive interpretive plan for the Fayette County segment of the YRT based on the resource survey.

Outcomes: Documentation of 12 significant sites and creation of interpretive materials and programs (brochures, signage, tours, etc.) for the YRT corridor. Creation of trail-based educational programs for 500 school children, 250 community members and other visiting trail users.

Objective 4: *Develop and coordinate trail corridor activity linking Washington, DC to Pittsburgh through existing and proposed Fayette County trail corridors.*

A. Organize trail groups, local governments, economic development organizations and the members of communities along the rail-trail corridor running through Fayette County from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh.

B. Work with community-based heritage organizations in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Washington, DC, to identify and develop tourist experiences based on specific historic themes.

Outcomes: Creation of new multi-state association of 75 member organizations representing 250 miles of trails. Increase number of Fayette County tourist trail-users by 20% over a five-year period, resulting in increased local small-business and job opportunities. Develop 3 cooperative trail clean-up projects that help build cross-boundary communication.

III. Accomplishing AmeriCorps Project Objectives

AmeriCorps members will be assigned to complete each of the four objectives listed above. The five-member AmeriCorps team will receive direction and supervision from a Steering Committee comprised of designated representatives from Fay-Penn, SPHPC and Penn's Corner RC&D, with Dr. T. Allan Comp of the SPHPC serving as Project Supervisor. Office space, equipment, supplies and technical support will be provided by the Steering Committee and other members of an Advisory Committee including the National Road State Heritage Park, the trail organizations of the county, the National Park Service and others. Quarterly evaluation and monitoring of progress will be accomplished through Advisory Committee review of completed planning documents and projects.

OK SC

Colleton County (Walterboro)

Objective Statement:

One of the major down falls of the Rural Economic and Community Development(RECD) mission area is that in the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Programs new and existing owners do not have the proper educational training to implement the dynamics of **Home Ownership Management**. It will be the purpose of the Americorps Members to initiate and implement a training course for all new and a percentage of existing home owners of the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Program. Special emphasis will be placed on those individuals who may have slow payment history or request assistance in their own home ownership practices. In addition to the establishment of the **Home Ownership Management Training** the Americorps Members will be required to do outreach to the community in which they are assigned for all of the RECD programs on an on going and as needed basis. Proper training will be provided through the state, district and county offices to enable each Americorps Member to have a talking knowledge of all the RECD programs. This is being done to improve the economic conditions in the RECD State Directors targeted areas of high poverty and high unemployment.

1. Home Ownership Management Training:

The work to be done - The Americorps Members will develop a training module that will be presented to home owners either in a group setting or individually at their home or location of their choice. This training module will include information on taxes, insurance, maintenance, utilities, and individual property rights. The individual will come away from the training with the distinct knowledge of the differences between home ownership and tenant possession of property. This will allow them to maintain and keep their property. Some discussion will be held concerning the legal impact on the individual and property if the owner does not take personal responsibility for the ownership of the real estate property financed by RECD/RBCDS.

What will result from the work - The state's actual delinquency rate of 15.2%/annually and foreclosure rate of 1045/annually as of 9/1/95 will be reduced to 14.0% and 900 respectively due to the benefits of the **Home Ownership Training**. Also, an on going relationship will be established between RECD, community organizations, and the home owners who participate in this training that will open up better lines of communications and prevent unexpected problems.

How will you measure the quality or success of the work - with a benchmark established as the number of housing caseload for that specific county (**Colleton = 1297**) and the gradual reduction in the percentage delinquency rate and foreclosure rate previously stated.

The standard of quality or success the program hopes to meet - Each county will establish independently from each other training that will best meet the needs of the local community that they serve. The trainees will respond favorably through evaluation form that will be presented to them after the completion of the training.

The number of service recipients - We will require a minimum of 10%(130) of the caseload of the county to be trained in home ownership practices. This figure is not to be less than 100 units that are trained and followed up on a regular basis. It is expected that approximately 50% of the caseload will be trained but the threshold that we have set is as referenced above.

Additional Benefits - The community will be better informed of the RECD programs that are available to them through the education they receive in addition to the Home Ownership Training. Brochures and information will be made available to the participants during the training sessions on all RECD programs. This will provide for better working relationships with RECD and the local community. The financial benefit to the government will be determined by the cost savings attributed to each reduction in foreclosure rate which cost approximately \$2000.00/borrower times an estimated 145 borrowers = \$290,000. The estimate savings on the delinquency rate is base upon \$500.00 with approximately a 1.2% rate reduction equal to 356 borrowers x (\$500) = \$178,000. The total estimate savings for this project is \$290,000 + \$178,000 = \$468,000. This money will be redirected into the rural housing funds for use in other areas of the housing program in order to provide additional housing to rural residence. This specific county will share in this total savings by 1.2% of 1297 = 16 x \$500 = \$8,000, plus an estimated foreclosure rate of 3 x \$2,000 = \$6000 for a total of \$14,000. This **Home Ownership Training Program** that is developed is to be utilized by the whole state to achieve the total state savings as quoted above once it is developed by the **Americorps Members**.

Marion County

Objective Statement:

One of the major down falls of the Rural Economic and Community Development(RECD) mission area is that in the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Programs new and existing owners do not have the proper educational training to implement the dynamics of **Home Ownership Management**. It will be the purpose of the Americorps Members to initiate and implement a training course for all new and a percentage of existing home owners of the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Program. Special emphasis will be placed on those individuals who may have slow payment history or request assistance in their own home ownership practices. In addition to the establishment of the **Home Ownership Management Training** the Americorps Members will be required to do outreach to the community in which they are assigned for all of the RECD programs on an on going and as needed basis. Proper training will be provided through the state, district and county offices to enable each Americorps Member to have a talking knowledge of all the RECD programs. This is being done to improve the economic conditions in the RECD State Directors targeted areas of high poverty and high unemployment.

1. Home Ownership Management Training:

The work to be done - The Americorps Members will develop a training module that will be presented to home owners either in a group setting or individually at their home or location of their choice. This training module will include information on taxes, insurance, maintenance, utilities, and individual property rights. The individual will come away from the training with the distinct knowledge of the differences between home ownership and tenant possession of property. This will allow them to maintain and keep their property. Some discussion will be held concerning the legal impact on the individual and property if the owner does not take personal responsibility for the ownership of the real estate property financed by RECD/RBCDS.

What will result from the work - The state's actual delinquency rate of 15.2%/annually and foreclosure rate of 1045/annually as of 9/1/95 will be reduced to 14.0% and 900 respectively due to the benefits of the **Home Ownership Training**. Also, an on going relationship will be established between RECD, community organizations, and the home owners who participate in this training that will open up better lines of communications and prevent unexpected problems.

How will you measure the quality or success of the work - with a benchmark established as the number of housing caseload for that specific county (**Marion = 599**) and the gradual reduction in the percentage delinquency rate and foreclosure rate previously stated.

The standard of quality or success the program hopes to meet - Each county will establish independently from each other training that will best meet the needs of the local

community that they serve. The trainees will respond favorably through evaluation form that will be presented to them after the completion of the training.

The number of service recipients - We will require a minimum of 10%(60) of the caseload of the county to be trained in home ownership practices. This figure is not to be less than 100 units that are trained and followed up on a regular basis. It is expected that approximately 50% of the caseload will be trained but the threshold that we have set is as referenced above.

Additional Benefits - The community will be better informed of the RECD programs that are available to them through the education they receive in addition to the Home Ownership Training. Brochures and information will be made available to the participants during the training sessions on all RECD programs. This will provide for better working relationships with RECD and the local community. The financial benefit to the government will be determined by the cost savings attributed to each reduction in foreclosure rate which cost approximately \$2000.00/borrower times an estimated 145 borrowers = \$290,000. The estimate savings on the delinquency rate is base upon \$500.00 with approximately a 1.2% rate reduction equal to 356 borrowers x (\$500) = \$178,000. The total estimate savings for this project is \$290,000 + \$178,000 = \$468,000. This money will be redirected into the rural housing funds for use in other areas of the housing program in order to provide additional housing to rural residence. This specific county will share in this total savings by 1.2% of 599 = 7 x \$500 = \$3,500, plus an estimated foreclosure rate of 3 x \$2,000 = \$6000 for a total of \$9,500. This **Home Ownership Training Program** that is developed is to be utilized by the whole state to achieve the total state savings as quoted above once it is developed by the **Americorps Members**.

O.K.

Williamsburg (Kingstree)

Objective Statement:

One of the major down falls of the Rural Economic and Community Development(RECD) mission area is that in the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Programs new and existing owners do not have the proper educational training to implement the dynamics of **Home Ownership Management**. It will be the purpose of the Americorps Members to initiate and implement a training course for all new and a percentage of existing home owners of the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Program. Special emphasis will be placed on those individuals who may have slow payment history or request assistance in their own home ownership practices. In addition to the establishment of the **Home Ownership Management Training** the Americorps Members will be required to do outreach to the community in which they are assigned for all of the RECD programs on an on going and as needed basis. Proper training will be provided through the state, district and county offices to enable each Americorps Member to have a talking knowledge of all the RECD programs. This is being done to improve the economic conditions in the RECD State Directors targeted areas of high poverty and high unemployment.

1. Home Ownership Management Training:

The work to be done - The Americorps Members will develop a training module that will be presented to home owners either in a group setting or individually at their home or location of their choice. This training module will include information on taxes, insurance, maintenance, utilities, and individual property rights. The individual will come away from the training with the distinct knowledge of the differences between home ownership and tenant possession of property. This will allow them to maintain and keep their property. Some discussion will be held concerning the legal impact on the individual and property if the owner does not take personal responsibility for the ownership of the real estate property financed by RECD/RBCDS.

What will result from the work - The state's actual delinquency rate of 15.2%/annually and foreclosure rate of 1045/annually as of 9/1/95 will be reduced to 14.0% and 900 respectively due to the benefits of the **Home Ownership Training**. Also, an on going relationship will be established between RECD, community organizations, and the home owners who participate in this training that will open up better lines of communications and prevent unexpected problems.

How will you measure the quality or success of the work - with a benchmark established as the number of housing caseload for that specific county (Williamsburg=797) and the gradual reduction in the percentage delinquency rate and foreclosure rate previously stated.

The standard of quality or success the program hopes to meet - Each county will establish independently from each other training that will best meet the needs of the local community that they serve. The trainees will respond favorably through evaluation form that will be presented to them after the completion of the training.

The number of service recipients - We will require a minimum of 10%(80) of the caseload of the county to be trained in home ownership practices. This figure is not to be less than 100 units that are trained and followed up on a regular basis. It is expected that approximately 50% of the caseload will be trained but the threshold that we have set is as referenced above.

Additional Benefits - The community will be better informed of the RECD programs that are available to them through the education they receive in addition to the Home Ownership Training. Brochures and information will be made available to the participants during the training sessions on all RECD programs. This will provide for better working relationships with RECD and the local community. The financial benefit to the government will be determined by the cost savings attributed to each reduction in foreclosure rate which cost approximately \$2000.00/borrower times an estimated 145 borrowers = \$290,000. The estimate savings on the delinquency rate is base upon \$500.00 with approximately a 1.2% rate of 29,706 borrowers reduction equal to 356 borrowers x (\$500) = \$178,000. The total estimate savings for this project is \$290,000 + \$178,000 = \$468,000. This money will be redirected into the rural housing funds for use in other areas of the housing program in order to provide additional housing to rural residence. This specific county will share in this total savings by 1.2% of 797 = 10 x \$500 = \$5,000, plus an estimated foreclosure rate of 3 x \$2,000 = \$6,000 for a total of \$11,000. This **Home Ownership Training Program** that is developed is to be utilized by the whole state to achieve the total state savings as quoted above once it is developed by the **Americorps Members**.

Orangeburg County

Objective Statement:

One of the major down falls of the Rural Economic and Community Development(RECD) mission area is that in the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Programs new and existing owners do not have the proper educational training to implement the dynamics of **Home Ownership Management**. It will be the purpose of the Americorps Members to initiate and implement a training course for all new and a percentage of existing home owners of the 502/504 Rural Housing Loan Program. Special emphasis will be placed on those individuals who may have slow payment history or request assistance in their own home ownership practices. In addition to the establishment of the **Home Ownership Management Training** the Americorps Members will be required to do outreach to the community in which they are assigned for all of the RECD programs on an on going and as needed basis. Proper training will be provided through the state, district and county offices to enable each Americorps Member to have a talking knowledge of all the RECD programs. This is being done to improve the economic conditions in the RECD State Directors targeted areas of high poverty and high unemployment.

1. **Home Ownership Management Training:**

The work to be done - The Americorps Members will develop a training module that will be presented to home owners either in a group setting or individually at their home or location of their choice. This training module will include information on taxes, insurance, maintenance, utilities, and individual property rights. The individual will come away from the training with the distinct knowledge of the differences between home ownership and tenant possession of property. This will allow them to maintain and keep their property. Some discussion will be held concerning the legal impact on the individual and property if the owner does not take personal responsibility for the ownership of the real estate property financed by RECD/RBCDS.

What will result from the work - The state's actual delinquency rate of 15.2%/annually and foreclosure rate of 1045/annually as of 9/1/95 will be reduced to 14.0% and 900 respectively due to the benefits of the **Home Ownership Training**. Also, an on going relationship will be established between RECD, community organizations, and the home owners who participate in this training that will open up better lines of communications and prevent unexpected problems.

How will you measure the quality or success of the work - with a benchmark established as the number of housing caseload for that specific county (**Orangeburg = 1054**) and the gradual reduction in the percentage delinquency rate and foreclosure rate previously stated.

The standard of quality or success the program hopes to meet - Each county will establish independently from each other training that will best meet the needs of the local

community that they serve. The trainees will respond favorably through evaluation form that will be presented to them after the completion of the training.

The number of service recipients - We will require a minimum of 10%(105) of the caseload of the county to be trained in home ownership practices. This figure is not to be less than 100 units that are trained and followed up on a regular basis. It is expected that approximately 50% of the caseload will be trained but the threshold that we have set is as referenced above.

Additional Benefits - The community will be better informed of the RECD programs that are available to them through the education they receive in addition to the Home Ownership Training. Brochures and information will be made available to the participants during the training sessions on all RECD programs. This will provide for better working relationships with RECD and the local community. The financial benefit to the government will be determined by the cost savings attributed to each reduction in foreclosure rate which cost approximately \$2000.00/borrower times an estimated 145 borrowers = \$290,000. The estimate savings on the delinquency rate is base upon \$500.00 with approximately a 1.2% rate reduction equal to 356 borrowers x (\$500) = \$178,000. The total estimate savings for this project is \$290,000 + \$178,000 = \$468,000. This money will be redirected into the rural housing funds for use in other areas of the housing program in order to provide additional housing to rural residence. This specific county will share in this total savings by 1.2% of 1054 = 13 x \$500 = \$6,500, plus an estimated foreclosure rate of 3 x \$2,000 = \$6000 for a total of \$12,500. This **Home Ownership Training Program** that is developed is to be utilized by the whole state to achieve the total state savings as quoted above once it is developed by the **Americorps Members**.

1. CITY OF DENMARK

Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorps Program Participation

- a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity:** City of Denmark, South Carolina
- b. Name of Contact Person:** Elona Carolyn Davis, Mayor
- c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:**
William R. Fudge
- d. Address of Entity:** 131 South Palmetto Avenue, Denmark, SC 29042
- e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place:** Bamberg County
- f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place:** District 6

Telephone: 803/ 793-3676 **FAX:** 803/793-5409

2. THE OBJECTIVE:

The objectives of the AmeriCorps program as it exists in Denmark are to support and aid with the implementation of various elements of the City's Strategic Plan:

THE WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED:

To coordinate the community Outreach Program by recruiting, organizing and training a staff of 10-15 volunteers to manage all aspects of the program. This will result in a participation level of between 55 and 75 young people. Said Program incorporates several elements of community and social development such as: after school tutoring of disadvantaged students; teaching of social skills; teaching of drug prevention attitudes, and teaching of proper parenting. This goal represents an increase in student participation by 20% over current volunteer levels.

THE RESULT OF THE WORK:

The AmeriCorps Member and volunteers work will result in a positive impact on the lives of 55-75 young people. The measurement of success will be gauged by participation levels in the program.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Work with the development of the community's cultural center. Specifically, the Member will assist with the scheduling of community functions in the facility, and will assist with logistics and implementation of events.

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS:

An attendance of 200 people for the grand opening, as well as 4 major public events during the year, attracting a minimum of 100 people each.

OBJECTIVE 3:

To implement a program for the repair of low and very low income housing.

MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS:

Five units of low and/or very low income housing will be rehabilitated.

1. ALLENDALE-BARNWELL REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INC.

Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorps Program Participation

- a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity:** Allendale-Barnwell Redevelopment Program, Inc.
- b. Name of Contact Person:** Charles E. Riley, Chairman of the Board of Directors
- c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:**
Charles E. Riley
- d. Address of Entity:** P.O. Box 343, Fairfax, SC 29827
- e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place:** Allendale & Barnwell
- f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place:** District 2
- Telephone:** 803/632-3693 **FAX:** 803/584-7042

2. AmeriCorps Project Objective Statement:

The Allendale-Barnwell Redevelopment Program (ABREP) seeks to improve the quality of life, significantly, during the next fiscal year. To accomplish this, AmeriCorps personnel will be used to achieve the following:

- a. The AmeriCorps Members' management of the ABREP office and Strategic Plan for 1996 including reasonable assistance in the execution of the second year's goals of the Plan which includes managing the application process, packaging and following-through with 5 proposals:

Objective One: Provide training to 100 local residents in entrepreneurship by conducting four workshops on feasibility analysis, financial management, and managerial skills. Pre and post tests will be administered to ensure that attendees have increased their knowledge of business management by 80%. It is anticipated that this will result in 10 new businesses that will provide a broader range of goods and services for the communities they serve as well as create over 50 new jobs.

Objective Two: Conduct two seminars and workshops, in conjunction with the local technical school, on alternative employment skills to facilitate unemployed workers movement into new employment. This will result in at least fifty local residents obtaining employment.

Objective Three:

Assist 10 low-income local families to obtain financing for the rehabilitation of their substandard housing, bringing it up to code.

The AmeriCorps personnel will work under the supervision of Mr. Charles E. Riley to accomplish this specific economic development goal from ABREP's EZ/EC Strategic Plan. Moreover, consultants from the 1890 Research and Extension Program of South Carolina State University will consult with the leadership of ABREP regarding fundable opportunities for employment.

The AmeriCorps Member will be given training in non-profit organization management, computerization, and grantsmanship by the SCSU Consultants. The Consultants will facilitate the readiness of the AmeriCorps personnel to staff the ABREP EZ/EC Strategic Plan and, perform the day to day work of the ABREP.

In addition to the daily supervision provided by Mr. Riley, the AmeriCorps personnel will report to the ABREP's Board of Directors monthly regarding achievement of goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Success: Proof of the success of this objective will be the attainment of 80% efficiency in the day to day operation of the office including the implementation of the proposals, when funded.

3. How Objectives Will Be Accomplished:

a. Supervision of work

Mr. Charles E. Riley will provide the overall supervision of the AmeriCorps Workers. He will be assisted by Mrs. Martha Felder, Vice Chair of the Allendale-Barnwell Redevelopment Program.

b. Required Resources

The AmeriCorps Personnel will need computers, telephones, photocopying service, paper, and the like. All of those services will be provided by ABREP and its affiliated towns and Members.

From time to time, travel will be required to attend training and other meetings at the request of Rural Economic and Community development Services. In such cases, funds for this type of travel should be furnished by AmeriCorps or RECD.

- a. **Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity:** Williamsburg Enterprise Community Commission, Inc
- b. **Name of Contact Person:** R. Gregg White
- c. **Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:**
Charles Rhodes, Acting.
- d. **Address of Entity:** P.O. Box 428, Kingstree, S.C. 29556
- e. **Counties in which the Work Will Take Place:** Williamsburg & Florence
- f. **Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place:** District 6
- g. **Telephone:** 803/ 345-7534 **FAX:** None

Objective Statement:

This community is a designated Enterprise Community (EC) of USDA with a comprehensive strategic plan in place. It will be the purpose of the AmeriCorps Members to help implement certain measurable benchmark activities as established in the strategic plan. Two of the three Members will work on the health care of elderly initiative and one Member will work on the parent participation in education initiative. The areas of focus will be as follows:

1. Health Care for the Elderly Below Poverty Level:

The work to be done - provide health screenings, nutrition, and medicine assistance to 10% of the senior citizens over age 65 and below the poverty level.

What will result from the work - a partnership will be established with the EC and the Department of Social Services, Health Departments, and Council of Aging to identify the greatest needs. A program will be designed and implemented to provide prescribed medicine assistance. A program will be designed and implemented to provide health screening and transportation. A food Bank will be established to meet the nutritional needs of the senior citizens.

How will you measure the quality or success of the work - Currently there are 1632 citizens in the EC who are below the poverty level and over 65 years old. Records will be kept to determine

that 10% or approximately 165 residents of the EC obtained health care assistance directly from the implemented programs of the EC.

The standard of quality or success the program hopes to meet - The programs, as they are established independently from each other, become self-sustaining and are perceived by the EC to be within the strategic plan. The residents who are served react positively through evaluation forms to the new services provided.

The number of service recipients - There are currently 1632 residences of the EC that are over 65 years old and are below the poverty level. At least 165 residents will be served through the establishment of these services.

2. An enriched Educational Environment with Greater Parent Participation and Adequate Facilities and Equipment:

The Work to be done - Establish a comprehensive parent involvement program in elementary schools that will facilitate the upgrading of school equipment and facilities to minimum state standards.

What will result from the work - Currently there are no parent teacher organizations within the EC elementary school system. This has led to little or no parent involvement in the school system. By assisting with the establishment of Parent Teacher Organizations/Associations, there will be more parental involvement in local decision-making and subsequently improved facilities and educational achievement standards.

How will you measure the quality or success of the work - With a benchmark of zero parent/teacher organizations in place and no standard of parent participation available, the measurement will be made by the establishment of at least four PTO's in the school system and a roster of approximately 100 Members within these groups.

The Standard of Quality or Success the program hopes to meet - These PTO's will be self supporting with elected officers on a continuing basis once the AmeriCorps Members have completed their service time.

The number of service recipients - There are approximately 7500 enrolled students in the Williamsburg School District. It is hoped that by developing these parent/teacher organizations that all students, in some form, will receive service benefits. It may be through parent participation or through the improvement in equipment that may be provided through these organizations.

REVISED OBJECTIVES 9/6/95

ATTACHMENT 1

Rio Grande 2 POSITIONS

- A. The AmeriCorps employee assigned to our office will perform the following objectives:

1. The member will be performing outreach 90% of her time on 306C WWD GRANTS to the families in the Starr County colonias. This will consist of about 1,700 substandard homes that will be furnished sewer and water facilities. The member will conduct outreach by holding group meetings where she will provide the families information on the availability of RECD funding and the process for applying for such funding. We estimate that the americorp employee will contact 1,700 applicants and out of those 1,700 applicants an approximately 95% or 1,615 applicants will qualify for our program.

The member will perform 800 individual site visits for the RECD County Office to determine the adequacy of the construction needs and will conduct an individual interview of each applicant. During the individual outreach the member will provide information as to the availability of the other programs which will consist of 502 New Home loans, 502 Rehabilitation Loans, 502 Self Help Loans, 504 Repair Loans and Grants and Home Preservation Grants.

2. The member will spend 10% of her time organizing non-profit colonia organizations within the Starr County area. Blanca has already organized on organization (Colonias Unidas from Starr County). this organization empowers families within substandard subdivisions to control the development and improvements in their area. Blanca will work with two different groups to organize the people of different colonias in La Rosita and Alto Bonito areas.

- B. The measurement of impact:

1. The AmeriCorp employee impact will be measured by the actual applications processed for each individual program. A monthly record will be kept as to the actual amount of applications processed. The employee will be required to outreach 45 to 60 families per month resulting in a minimum of seventeen applications per week. We expect to assist 95% of the families contacted.

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 2

To	JOEL BERG	From	ALONZO PEREZ
Dept./Agency		Phone #	(210) 487-5576
Fax #	(202) 720-4614	Fax #	(210) 487-7882

2. Blanca has done an outstanding job of outreaching families in the Starr County area for Fiscal Year 1995. We have processed 180 306C WWD Grants and 104 504 Loan/Grants. She has also provided 181 citizenship applications where all applicants passed their citizenship test.

C. Our county office goal is to assist all the families that qualify for our 306C-WWD grants. Our goals for 1996 FY are as follows:

1. 306C-WWD Grants for water and sewer facilities. Community residents that will be assisted with the assistance of the Americorp Volunteers. (1,700 families will be assisted).

2. 502 New Homes Construction. (10 families will be assisted).

3. 504 Repair loans and grants. (90 families will be assisted).

4. 502 Repair loans. (10 families will be assisted)

A total of 1,700 families will be assisted with Americorp assistance.

If you need further information, please call me.

ALONZO PEREZ
County Supervisor, 51-14

OK + Falfurrias, TX)*
+ Hebbronville, TX)*

REVISED OBJECTIVES

AMERICORPS PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATION

* 1 POSITION
EACH

During the past ten years there has been an outbreak of subdivisions along the U.S. Mexico border. These colonias along the Rio Grande River do not have potable water and central sewer systems. These sub-standard subdivisions have been identified and labeled as colonias of which over 50 exist in the units' area.

Over 800 homes in these areas are homes which have no bathroom and kitchen plumbing. Approximately forty colonias (40) exist in Zapata and Webb County which are within the jurisdiction of this office and approximately 75% of all homes in these colonias are in need of these facilities as well as other weatherization items that need to be addressed.

The Americorps member's purpose will be to contact rural families to obtain low interest rate loans and grants to do necessary rehabilitation, and the construction of low income housing for residents in these colonias. The plan is to contact 500 families and process 260 loans and grants in FY '96.

The Americorps member will accomplish this thru an outreach program which will be put in place in coordination with other State and Federal agencies which are involved in rural housing initiatives. The Coordination will be with Community Action Agencies in each county, Department of Human Resources, Housing Authorities and other similar organizations.

1. What work will be done?

The primary objective of the Americorps member's job will be to provide outreach for rural residents in the four county area serviced by the Hebbronville unit. The communities to be serviced will be Lopeno, Falcon, San Ygnacio, Chihuahua, and some subdivisions in the Zapata County. The area to be served in Webb County will be the El Cenizo, Rio Bravo and Larga Vista colonias. Residents of Jim Hogg county will be served in the town of Hebbronville. Residents of Brooks county will be served in the communities of Falfurrias, Encino, and Rahcel. It is planned that an average of 10 families will be contacted per week or 40 per month to achieve the units goals

The residents of Brooks County will begin to be serviced by this unit starting in Oct. 1995 as a result of the reorganization of USDA agencies. This office will establish a sub-office in Falfurrias which is the county seat of Brooks

County. The proposal is to attain an Americorps member to be stationed in Falfurias to do outreach, assist applicants with application intake and provide general information about R.E.C.D. programs.

We propose to implement repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of approximately 260 dwellings which do not have adequate water waste disposal, and/or the removal of health hazards through R.E.C.D. loan/grant programs for families in the four counties serviced by the Hebbronville Unit. Approximately 5% or 14 new units will be financed in the areas considered colonias or substandard neighborhoods in the farm country area.

During FY '95 110 applications were generated thru the efforts of the Americorps member which 68 were approved for rehabilitation.

What service will your members engage in?

The Americorps member will engage in outreach efforts in these rural areas. It will involve application intake, outreach to people who are not aware of our R.E.C.D. programs, and targeting elderly and/or disabled residents who are not able to attend application intakes for 306c WWD grants, RH-502 RR loans, RH-504 loan/grant rehabilitation and RH-502 new construction loans.

The service will be addressed in the following manner:

- (A). Outreach, house to house visits. We estimate that 500 families will be visited in FY '96 of which 260 will result in loans or grants being approved.
- (B). Write newsreleases advertising R.E.C.D. programs in the following media:
 - 1. Newspapers in each county:
 - A.) Jim Hogg Co. Enterprise
 - B.) Hebbronville View
 - C.) Falfurias Facts
 - D.) Laredo Times
 - E.) Zapata News
 - 2. Community bulletin boards
 - 3. Radio Station: KUNO
 - 4. T.V. Channels 3,6,10
 - 5. Local, State, and Federal newsletters

- (C). Community group meetings to disseminate information and provide applications for those residents in order to start the process for loans and/or grants.
- (D). Meetings with local building material companies, contractors, and carpenters to explain the needs that exist in rehabilitating the homes of rural residents and redirecting some of these resources to helping this sector of the community.

In order to achieve this in each county we will need to have an Americorps employee in each county. Thus, the following applicants/current members are being recommended for selection/reinstatement.

Brooks County
Jim Hogg/Zapata
Webb County

Ms. Thalia Hinojosa
Mr. Albert Benavides
*Mr. Tomas Avila

The ability to obtain the goals specified will require that the above named individuals be selected and attached directly to this unit. As you can see the need is great and the projected success is minimal when compared to the number of substandard units in each county. *In the case of Mr. Avila he is currently stationed with South Texas Development Council (S.T.D.C.) and approximately 5% of his time is being given directly to R.E.C.D.. This I believe should change to have him work 100% of his time to R.E.C.D. in order to achieve our projections.

We will work on a plan to provide public access channel programming for a 5-10 minute program on the availability of R.E.C.D. programs for rural subscribers to the local cable company.

Community meetings with State and Federal Agency personnel will be video-taped and excerpts of this program will be televised in the public access channel.

The Americorps member will also provide the coordination of informational programs for 500 residents in the rural communities of our units: (Hebbronville, Bruni, Oilton, Aguilares, Mirando City, El Cenizo, Rio Bravo, Larga Vista, Falfurias, Encino, and Rachel).

Specific programs will involve the coordination of staff/personnel from other State and Federal Agencies to provide information of their respective programs. For example an applicant that may not have qualified with R.E.C.D. may be eligible under another State or Federal Agency. This will allow a more broad spectrum to assist low income rural residents.

These meetings will be scheduled monthly in the communities of Hebbbronville, Mirando City Civic Center, El Cenizo, and Falfurias. Other communities mentioned are within 5-10 miles of each other which will allow for this coordination to be effective.

2. What is hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

MEETING THE HUMAN NEEDS:

The intended result of the work is to upgrade the living conditions of the dwelling for these rural residents. The projected number of families to be assisted in FY '96 is 260.

IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT:

It is projected that the outreach effort will assist families who need assistance. We will be able to provide approximately 260 rural residents with acceptable bathroom and kitchen plumbing facilities, and the removal of health hazards such as leaking roofs, deteriorated floors, broken windows, doors, screens, and replacing old insulation. These health hazards will be addressed through R.E.C.D. 504 loan/grant programs to provide these families with a dwelling which will be safe of health and sanitary hazards at a low interest rate if determined eligible for a loan. Thus, improving the quality of life for these rural families as well as the environment in their community.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

DATA WILL BE COLLECTED INCLUDING:

The number and location of RH-504 loans, RH-504 grants, RH-502 (new construction), and 306c WWD grants in colonias that were awarded in FY 96.

During FY '95 68 loans and grants were approved, we anticipate to excel that figure in FY '96 with a projected loan and grant approval for 260 families. The quality of the work to be done will be measured by conducting inspections of the construction made by a contract inspector, or the County Supervisor with the assistance of the Americorps member. An initial inspection will be done to determine the nature and extent of the repair. A 50% inspection will be done to ensure progress of the proposed repairs. Finally, a 100% inspection will be made to ensure that the work is complete, satisfactory to the grantee/borrower, and the quality of the work done meets R.E.C.D. specifications and requirements for an acceptable dwelling/ repair. Approximately 500 dwellings will be

inspected as stated above. Statistical information will be collected on the number of residents contacted, the number who applied, the number who were approved, the amount of funds allocated, and the health hazards that will be removed. Each case will be documented in order to support the approval of each request. Data will be kept to determine the effectiveness of the different information activities employed in the dissemination of information in order to analyze which is the most effective.

During FY '96 the plans will be to interview 15 families per week of which if current funding continues will result in 20% or approximately 6 loans or grants being approved.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

The standard of quality of life will be measured by the implementation of R.E.C.D. and other programs utilized in the above areas. Also by providing assistance to these families a cleanliness appearance to individual households, neighborhoods, as well as the community as a whole will be another tool to gauge success. During FY '95 68 loans and grants were approved by this unit. It is projected that this figure will increase to 260 in FY '96.

The immediate impact will be the construction of the facilities and the long-term measurement will be realized in the decline of diseases associated with the proper disposal of waste products from the home. Statistical information will be available as previously stated to measure the quality and quantity of our efforts in gauging the success of the program. The objectives outlined for the different programs will be evaluated to determine whether the 260 units projected to be addressed have indeed been addressed.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your members perform?

We propose to assist approximately 260 families with the above programs in order that the standard of their dwellings be upgraded from substandard to standard dwellings.

The following is a projected percentage of substandard units to be serviced by the Americorps Members in FY 96 in accordance with information gathered from U.S. Census information for FmHA Rural Housing Programs. This will allow for a more accurate break down of what programs will be implemented in that area.

1990 Census Information	# SUB- STANDARD UNITS	% SUB- STANDARD UNITS IN RURAL AREA	PROJECTED 30% OF SUB- STANDARD UNITS	FAMILIES TO BE ASSISTED IN FY 96
COUNTY				
BROOKS*	419	16%	125	50
WEBB	1,229	70%	369	110
ZAPATA	561	19%	168	75
JIM HOGG	199	12%	<u>60</u>	<u>25</u>
			722	260

The following is a break down of the different programs that will be implemented in each county.

COUNTY	RH-502	504 Loan	504 Grant	306 Grant
BROOKS*	5	20	15	N/A
WEBB	5	20	15	70
ZAPATA	5	25	10	40
JIM HOGG	5	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N/A</u>
		175	50	110 = 260

* Effective Oct. 1, 1995

The proposed plan projects that over 500 families will be contacted by 3 Americorps members. Two members will be providing 100% of their time to this effort and 1 member who is attached to the Council of Government would be providing 20 % of his time to R.E.C.D.'s program outreach and 80% to the Council of Governments housing programs.

The number of families assisted in FY '95 was 68 with one full time Americorps member.

During FY '96 the projected families to be assisted is 260 families in a four county area.

OK

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Economic
and Community
Development

2514 S. I Rd. Suite 4
Edinburg, TX 78539
210-383-4928
FAX # 210-380-6458

October 5, 1995

SUBJECT: Community Service Objectives & Recruitment
RECD Office
Hidalgo County, Texas

TO: Joel Berg
Director of National Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE:

1. What work will be done? What service will your members engage in?

To increase the number of recipients of RECD 306C grant, 504 and 502 loan assistance in FY96, especially to underserved very low- and low income groups in rural communities and colonias. This work will take place in Hidalgo County served by the Edinburg RECD County Office. The County of Hidalgo is located in the southern part of Texas commonly referred to as the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The specifically targeted groups will be very low- and low income families and individuals living in rural areas and colonias. Of the 1,193 Texas colonias, Hidalgo County is home to 715 colonias or 60% of the State total. The population of Hidalgo County is 383,545 of which 109,337 live in colonias or 28.5% of the county population. The 71st Texas Legislature in 1989 passed comprehensive legislation that established the Economically Distressed areas Program (EDAP) of which Hidalgo County was affected. Hidalgo County was recently chosen for the USDA Empowerment Zone (EZ), which was introduced by President Clinton in the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1993. The EDAP and EZ programs are two examples of programs targeted to assist in improving the living conditions of low income families in this area.

The increase in recipients will be accomplished by:

- I. AmeriCorp members assisted RECD employees on outreach efforts and assisting in the application process.
- II. The utilization of the 502, 504 and 306 housing program allocations for Hidalgo County.

4. What is the hope for result of the work/activities described above?

With the assistance of the AmeriCorp members we will be able to improve the living conditions for rural areas and colonias by providing potable water supply and adequate sewage systems. Also, providing home improvement loans and grants to remove health hazards that exist in rural areas. With these RECD services, the quality of life will improve for rural and colonia residents.

3. How will you measure the performance of the Member in providing the service/How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

Our performance will be compared in fiscal years. Specifically, the numbers and types of loan/grants, dollar amounts of each loan/grant, and numbers of individuals benefiting from such aid for the pre-AmeriCorps base year (FY 95) will be compared with the same activity for such aid in FY 96.

Actual accomplishments in FY 94 (no AmeriCorp Members).

Program	#of loans/or grants	dollar amounts	number of individuals benefited
306C (water and waste disposal grants)	45	\$178,340	180
504 loan/grants	8	44,680	32
502 loans	<u>133</u>	<u>5,821,700</u>	<u>399</u>
TOTAL	186	\$ 6,044,720	611

Actual accomplishments in FY 95 (with two AmeriCorp members)

Program	#of loans/or grants	dollar amounts	number of individuals benefited
306C	121	\$ 580,800	484
504 loan/grants	40	46,730	160
502 loans	<u>105</u>	<u>5,042,200</u>	<u>315</u>
TOTAL	266	\$ 5,669,730	959

Our RECD activity should increase with continuation of the AmeriCorp program.

4. How many individuals do you estimate will receive the benefit of the Member's service/By what standard will you gauge success?

Our goal will be either to meet or exceed FY 95 accomplishments, in the number of loans/grants approved in connection with the dollar amounts. We will also, compare the number of applications received during FY 95 to FY 96. Our success will be based on the actual loan/grants approved.

5. Please briefly describe how the Member will accomplish the service objectives in an average week?

We are under increasing pressure to provide effective and efficient services for housing of low income residents in rural areas/colonias. We are in constant demand by local governments, communities, non-profit organizations and colonias residents in providing presentations on our RECD programs. The biggest percent of the AmeriCorp member's time will be out in the field doing outreach, assisting applicants with applications, counseling residents in regards to improving their living conditions and assisting other state or local agencies in the delivery of RECD services in rural areas and colonias. Members will be provided training on the RECD programs and will accompany the site manager on home visits, during the construction or improvements of a home and outreach presentations. On a weekly basis, members will be required to report to the site manager their outreach efforts, number of colonias visited, number of applications received and the number of loans and grants approved. Detailed reports of all activities need to be improved by the AmeriCorp members. There has been very little interaction between the RECD AmeriCorp member in this area and we hope this can be improved. Also, the communication between the AmeriCorp members, site manager, District Manager to the State Coordinator needs to be improved.

Great strides have taken place this past FY 95 in improving the quality of life in the rural areas and colonias of Hidalgo County. The AmeriCorp members were very instrumental in this endeavor. Our RECD staff is limited and with the assistance of AmeriCorp members the delivery of our RECD programs can be a successful one.

If you have any questions concerning this, please call me.



JAKE SHEERAN
County Supervisor, 50-08
210-303 4928

Rural Economic & Community Development
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Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:
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Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorps Program Participation

- a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity:** City of Luling, Texas-Champion Community Census Tract 9607
- b. Name of Contact Person:** Linda S. Moore
- c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:**
Randy Thomas, City Manager
- d. Address of Entity:** P.O. Box 630, Luling, Texas 78648
- e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place:** Caldwell
- f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place:** District 14
- g. Telephone:** 210/875-9358 **FAX:** 210/875-5860

Objective One:

AmeriCorps Member will work on implementing a sustainable youth and adult recreation and education program, which was a primary objective of the Enterprise Community application of the Champion Community of Luling, including:

- Work directly with youth in the existing volunteer-supported program called RACK (Recreational Activities for Community Kids) which provides two part-time workers and supervised activities 10 hours per week during the school term and 15 hours per week during the summer, at the Luling Civic Center.
- Coordinate and develop improved activity plans and learning experiences for the youth.

Measuring the success:

The program will be judged successful based on the following anticipated results:

- The youth program typically serves 25 mostly disadvantaged youth on a regular basis, and 60 or more when special activities are planned. Improvements in the quality of the activities should improve attendance. Daily attendance figures will be reviewed quarterly by City

Manager and RACK volunteer advisors to determine the success in attracting 100% more youth to the program on a regular basis.

- Smoother scheduling of activities and coordinating with city staff regarding other uses of the Civic Center will be evaluated by the City staff and measured by the anticipated reduction in complaints and conflicts created by lack of coordination.
- Participating in renovating a separate building for the project. Will use supporting data to support grant applications. (Volunteers have some data collected and a preliminary architect's plan drawn.)
- By year end program will be sustainable with the help and input from Texas Rural Development Council resource participants, local community leaders, city and school administrators.

Accomplishing Objective One:

The Luling City Manager, Randy Thomas, and Community and Economic Coordinator Linda Moore will provide day-to-day supervision for the AmeriCorps Volunteer in conducting the activities described. The RACK volunteer board Members will meet regularly with the AmeriCorps volunteer, the City Manager and the current activity program part-time staff, for updates and planning. The RACK volunteers are Linda Moore, Moore Communications; James Nickels, Luling ISD; Debbie Miller, Luling Foundation Farm; Jackie Campbell Johnson, health care professional; and Mary French, real estate agent and former City Council Member. The two part-time staffers are Laurine McKinney, an employee of the Elks Foundation Childre's Diagnostic Center and Jennifer Bujnoch, Luling High School Student.

The City of Luling will provide office space, equipment and supplies necessary for the job to be done, either at the City Hall or at the Civic Center office. Resources of the Texas Rural Development Council and the Central Texas RC&D will be accessed. The RACK advisory board will offer resource support based upon their professional abilities. The City Manager and RACK Advisory Board will assess progress and update the action plan on a quarterly basis.

Objective 2:

A group of 20 to 30 local citizens, business and building owners will be organized into an association to address the issue of downtown revitalization. The association will meet regularly to receive training and organize to stem the deterioration of main street and specifically storefronts/facades. This effort will result in the creation of a working crew of volunteers who will renovate a significant portion of the downtown, seek donations to purchase and install antique street lamps, and build flower-planted islands.

The work to be done:

To recruit and organize a 25 member volunteer association made up of local citizens and business owners and/or landlords for the purpose of improving the physical appearance of the

downtown shopping area. Existing small organizations such as the Clean Luling Committee and the Paint Brush Committee will be brought into the effort as well.

The result of work:

The citizen group will work with University Extension architects and the Texas Historical Commission Main Street staff to design and implement a project which will carry out low-cost storefront renovations that will improve the storefront appearance in a way that will be sensitive to community character and historic considerations. Storefront renovations will be undertaken by teams of volunteers recruited from the community and will use materials donated by local civic organizations or provided by building owners. Windows will be cleaned, planters replanted, and antique lamps installed.

Means of measuring the quality of the product or impact of the service:

That at least 20 storefronts in the four block area are cleaned and renovated, and that customer satisfaction intercept survey indicated at least 80% of downtown shoppers approve of the renovations and feel they will be more likely to visit the downtown on a regular basis.

Standard of quality or impact that the program hopes to meet:

Storefront renovations are of high quality and are perceived by the shopping public to be consistent with the shopping aesthetics of the community and present an inviting appearance. This will result in local shoppers feeling more welcome to the downtown and will increase the frequency with which they patronize local businesses. Visitors who frequent the downtown's well known bar-b-q restaurant will have a more favorable impression of the community and be more likely to shop other downtown stores.

Number of recipients:

The estimated 2000 local residents and out-of-town visitors who will be shopping or visiting our downtown each week. The downtown will be seen by the travelers on US183 and US90, (estimated traffic 11,000 vehicles per day), bringing more travelers off the highways to shop in the downtown.

Accomplishing Objective 2:

The AmeriCorps volunteer will work directly with the Chamber of Commerce manager Ray Bailey, with oversight by the Luling City Manager. Efforts will be coordinated between the volunteers, City and Chamber by the Community and Economic Development Coordinator Linda Moore. The Chamber of Commerce will provide office space, equipment and supplies necessary to accomplish the tasks. Progress reports will be given to the City on a quarterly basis.

The AmeriCorps volunteer can bring the necessary communication and coordination time needed to pull together efforts that are presently underway by local volunteers whose time is extremely limited. Much work has already gone into the youth activities initiative and the planning for a better future by expanding the program into a dedicated facility to offer badly needed vocational and technical training, a priority identified in our Enterprise Community application. We believe the AmeriCorps volunteer will also benefit from working with community volunteers, city

government, school administrators, and state and federal agencies, and that the volunteer will gain valuable experience in community development that it has taken us years to learn.

The addition of a second AmeriCorps volunteer would enhance our ability to coordinate with the RECD office in Gonzales and the District Office in Seguin. Further, a second volunteer would assist in developing regional recreation and tourism opportunities that exist between the two Champion Communities of Luling and Gonzales.