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Delta Foundation

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATIONDATE: 11-16-95
TIME: _____

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO

NAME David Gibson
COMPANY/FIRM _____
CITY _____
STATE _____
TELECOPIER NUMBER (715) 341-4095

Joel Berg —
Harry just wants
them annotated
& faxed back to
him. He'll make
the necessary changes.
We're getting on a plane
to DC — as we speak.

FROM:

NAME Harry J. BauriDELTA FOUNDATION, INC.
819 MAIN STREET
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 38702

TELECOPIER NUMBER: (601) 335-5291

WE ARE TRANSMITTING 5 PAGES
(INCLUDING THIS COVER LETTER).IF TRANSMISSION IS INCOMPLETE
PLEASE CALL: (601) 335-5291OPERATOR'S NAME Laron Johnson

WE ARE TRANSMITTING ON XEROX 7007

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PREAPPLICATION FOR 1996 AMERICORPS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

COVER PAGE

Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity	Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance (MDEZA)
Name of Contact Person	Harry Bowie, Co-Chair
Name of Person Who Will Provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Members	To Be Determined
Address of Entity	c/o The Delta Foundation 819 Main Street Greenville, MS 38701
Counties in Which the Work Will Take Place	Bolivar, Holmes, Humphreys, Leflore, Sunflower and Washington
Congressional Districts in Which the Work Will Take Place	Second Congressional District
Telephone	(601) 335-5291
Fax	(601) 335-5295

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AMERICORPS PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Notes: In light of the fact that MDEZA will be granted only three (3) AmeriCorps Volunteers instead of the six (6) initially requested, our revised objectives have been designed to accommodate this reality.

OBJECTIVE ONE: TO ORGANIZE AND DEVELOP A LOCALLY-DRIVEN, CITIZEN-LEAD GRANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AmeriCorps Volunteers will recruit and organize a council representing organizations with the resources and capabilities to train citizens in the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone to write proposals for community-based projects and initiatives. These proposals will then be submitted to the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance, foundations, and government entities to fund projects consistent with MDEZA's strategic plan.

Notes: This objective is consistent with MDEZA's plan of work as submitted in conjunction with the final draft of its projected benchmarks and activities. (See Description of Major Activities Required to Implement MDEZA's Grant Request System, Item 6, "Develop Grant Assistance Program.")

Without the full, open, and enthusiastic participation of EZ citizens in the grant application process, MDEZA will not be able to fulfill its goals and objectives with respect to its regional development strategy.

A. The Work To Be Done Within the 1700 Hours of the AmeriCorps Work Year

1. Identify, recruit and train ten (10) organizations with grant-writing expertise, experience and capability to form the MDEZA Technical Support Council. Members of this Council shall include but not be limited to university institutions, planning and development districts, foundations and economic assistance agencies, and community action agencies.
2. The Council shall design a curriculum for a one-two day workshop in grant-writing.
3. This Council shall train EZ-certified Community Educators and other interested citizens to conduct grant-writing workshops for citizens and community groups based within the Empowerment Zone.

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B. Means of Measuring the Quality of the Product or Impact of the Service

1. At least 20 Community Educators shall be trained to conduct grant-writing workshops.
2. At least 10 citizen volunteers shall be trained to conduct grant-writing workshops.
3. At least two (2) workshops shall be conducted in each of the counties included within the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone.
4. For each workshop conducted, at least five (5) proposals shall be submitted for funding by MDEZA, existing foundations or government entities.
5. The success rate of proposals submitted shall be at least 50%.

C. Standard of Quality or Impact that the Program Hopes to Meet

Proposals shall be of high quality and shall be successful in targeting and obtaining funds needed to revitalize the impoverished communities within the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone. More importantly, citizens will feel a greater sense of empowerment as they gain the skills and tools needed to help develop their communities and witness the tangible results of their efforts.

D. Number of Service Recipients

The estimated number of service recipients is 150. This is based upon an average attendance of ten persons at each of the workshops to be conducted within the Zone. It also includes the Community Educators and citizens involved in conducting the grant-writing workshops.

OBJECTIVE TWO: TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT THROUGH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AND IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

AmeriCorps Volunteers will work with local and county-level government officials to assist them in providing improved services at lower or existing costs to their constituencies through greater cooperation and sharing of information. Local and county governments are key players in the community and economic development process. Improving their capacity to do

more with less will also enhance the quality of life experienced by their constituencies. Resistance to inter-governmental cooperation in the Delta has been strong historically. Therefore, goals for this objective shall be conservative in nature in order to insure greater success.

Note: This objective is consistent with at least two recommendations in the MDEZA strategic plan--to strengthen cooperation within and among communities and institutions (p. 6 of the benchmarks and activities final draft) and to maintain/improve local and county government (p. 51 of the benchmarks and activities final draft).

A. The Work To Be Done Within the 1700 Hours of the AmeriCorps Work Year

member
AmeriCorps Volunteer(s) shall support city and county level officials in at least one county included within the Empowerment Zone for the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to citizens in the Zone.

B. The Result of the Work

City and county-level officials in this county shall identify, design and develop at least one cooperative endeavor in the area of water resources delivery and management.

C. Means of Measuring the Quality of the Product or Impact of the Service

City and county-level governments shall provide a regionally coordinated water resources delivery and management system and shall thereby enjoy a reduction in the costs currently incurred by municipalities for systems currently operated and maintained on a city-by-city basis.

D. Standard of Quality or Impact that the Program Hopes to Meet

Water quality in the impacted area will be higher, services more efficiently managed and consistent with EPA water quality standards, and citizens shall enjoy reduced costs for the water they use.

E. Number of Service Recipients

This shall depend upon the county in which this project is implemented the number of zone residents residing in the impact area. An initial projected figure is 2,000 persons.

Revised still

NO

EZ MS45-7

1. MID-DELTA EMPOWERMENT ZONE ALLIANCE

Preapplication for 1996 AmeriCorps Program Participation

- a. Name of EZ/EC Applicant Entity:** Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance
- b. Name of Contact Person:** Harry Bowie, President and CEO
- c. Name of Person who will provide Supervision for AmeriCorps Member:**
To be Determined
- d. Address of Entity:** 819 Main Street, Greenville, MS 38701
- e. Counties in which the Work Will Take Place:** Bolivar, Washington, Sunflower, Leflore, Humphreys and Homes
- f. Congressional Districts in which the work will take Place:** District 2
- g. Telephone:** 601/335-5291 **FAX:** 601/335-5295

a. Community Organization/Resident Participation.

The work to be performed is to organize regular meetings of the citizens of the 16 EZ communities to provide up to date information to citizens on a regular basis on EZ activities and opportunities. Citizens will be provided an opportunity and be encouraged to have input in the decision-making process relative to the expenditure of EZ funds.

Citizens will be provided technical assistance in the development of projects and application for funding for specific projects in their community. This includes for profit and non-profit efforts.

Measure: The number of resident participants in community meetings and the number of proposals submitted to the MDEZA committee for consideration.

Standard to measure success: the extent to which resident input to the MDEZA committee is considered and action taken to implement citizen recommendations.

Number of Service Recipients: 20

b. Application for Non-MDEZA Funds

Work to be performed is to assist local residents to package applications for federal, state and private funds for specific projects to benefit the community. Both for profit and non-profit entities will be assisted in the development of projects and seeking funds to support the projects.

It is expected that projects to create jobs and provide for expanded small enterprise opportunities will result from the work of the AmeriCorps Member.

The number of new enterprises that are assisted will be one measure of success. The other will be the number of jobs created. The number of applications submitted versus the number funded, as well as the number of enterprises that do not require funding to be successful, will be the benchmark for the achievement of this objective.

Standard: 6-10 enterprises and/or programs being assisted in each town. This includes both for profit and non-profit activities.

Number of Service Recipients: Expected to be 12. This results in a success rate in excess of 50% per locality.

3. Assist Local Communities with Day to Day Needs

Each community has its own set of local problems and concerns that have to be dealt with in order for the community to address the priorities of the MDEZA. Addressing these legitimate concerns is a primary objective of the program.

Small and large problems will be addressed on a day to day basis. This include problems of the locality and its citizens that are viewed as urgent and pressing.

Measure: Problem solving. Appropriate documentation will be made to establish the extent to which problems are addressed. This includes both the nature and extent of the problem and the solutions impact on the problem made.

Standard: To improve the quality of life for local residents. While it may not be possible to solve all problems, any major impact on the problems will be considered a success.

Number of Service Recipients: the entire community for problems solved for the towns. The number of individual recipients is estimated at 40 per town.

d. Provide Additional Staff Assistance

Each town in the MDEZA has a shortage of staff. The objective is to supplement said staff with the AmeriCorps Member.

Result: Greater efficiency and overall operation of the town. A person is needed to assist in all areas of the operation of the town.

Measurement: The presence of the Member. The fact that an extra person is available is the strength of the program. This person will keep a log of the activities undertaken.

Quality of the service: A direct result of the level of supervision and access to information provided to the AmeriCorps Member. It is also a function of the ability of the Member to respond to local concerns. These items will be addressed in the training element of the project.

Number of Service Recipients: Entire town. The nature of this objective is that it is difficult to identify individual beneficiaries. Consequently, none are considered

No

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

November 16, 1995

To: Mr. Harry Bowie, Co-Chair, Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA *JB*

Subject: Revisions Still Needed in MDEZA AmeriCorps Objectives

David Gibson has forwarded your revised AmeriCorps objectives to me for review. Unfortunately, they still need to be dramatically overhauled in order to meet the requirements of the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which authorizes AmeriCorps.

Proposed objective number one is impermissible because AmeriCorps Members may not write grants, raise funds, or train other individuals to do so. Proposed objective number two is impermissible because AmeriCorps Members may not serve as generic aides to "city and county level officials;" rather, Members of the program can only perform specific community service projects that are precisely planned in advance and do not duplicate the existing functions of any level of government.

Please be clear that we are not challenging the value of the projects you are proposing. We certainly understand --- and agree --- that it is vitally important to your area to teach citizens to write grants and to generally provide more help to local governments. We are simply stating that AmeriCorps is not the proper delivery mechanism to perform such work.

AmeriCorps Members must perform direct service providing human services, protecting the environment, fighting crime, and/or improving education. Please re-write the objectives immediately based on the previous materials, sent to you by David Gibson, which specify both permissible and prohibited activities for AmeriCorps Members.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David at 715-241-0023 or myself at 202-720-6350.

I thank you for your continuing cooperation as we work together to benefit the citizens of the Mississippi Delta.

RECD AmeriCorps

FAXPHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATIONDate: 02/08/96Number of pages including cover
sheet: _____**To:**Joel Berg

Phone: _____

Fax phone: _____

CC: _____

From:David GibsonPhone: 715-345-7676Fax phone: 715-345-7669**REMARKS:**☐

Urgent

☒

For your review

☐

Reply ASAP

☐

Please comment

Attached are some brief comments on the new reporting format. Wish that I could have received them in time to affect the output. There are parts I don't feel are user friendly; others inconsistent.

I still am very bothered by the fact that they are being sent out without a form designed for the Members. A Member reporting form is a powerful self-evaluation and archival tool. State Contacts may or may not have the background adequate to design such an instrument. The sense I get from the document is that Member development and self-accountability has been sacrificed to the reductionist bean counters. I know that is not your intent.

You all did a fantastic job of summarizing the objectives and merging data and forms. Nicely customized.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

January 30, 1996

To: AmeriCorps USDA State Coordinators
Through: FCS, FS, FSA, NRCS, and RECD National AmeriCorps Coordinators
From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA **JB**
Subject: **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AMERICORPS QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Send to where?

As promised, enclosed is the quarterly progress report format for you to use each reporting period for the rest of the year. Even if you have already completed the first quarter report in the old format, please take a few minutes to adopt the information to the new format.

Changes in the New Format

Also as promised, the new format should take considerably less time and effort to complete. We have made questions 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, and 23 optional.

Rather than continuing to require each operating site and/or cluster to complete lengthy written narratives, the new format will focus more on obtaining accurate numerical data for the entire state, as certified by each agency's state AmeriCorps coordinator.

Individual Site Progress Reports

Because your state reports should include basic Member enrollment and community service objective progress information for each operating site, we no longer require that you submit individual reports for sites within the state. However, you may, on your own, chose to require your sites to complete all or part of the new report format in order to help you compile the state report. In particular, you may want to fax or mail each of your sites site the instructions for question 13, as well as that site's question 13 chart for reporting progress on the community objectives. You may find this process useful in your state for your own internal evaluation and continuous improvement efforts, but we again stress that we are no longer requiring you to collect such individual site reports.

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SECTION III - MEMBER DATA:

10. Attached are sheets concerning AmeriCorps Member data. The first ^{give name} type of sheet lists each Member, by operating site, for whom the USDA Office of National Service has received at least a Member enrollment form. The sheet will also list the number of slots allotted to that site and the number of enrollment forms received by the Department; you will need to fill in the number of Members actually enrolled. The sheets give the Member's name, social security number, and enrollment status. Please review the data and check for:

- a. Correct spelling of the name;
- b. Accuracy of the Social Security Number;
- c. Service type (F= Full-time member; P= Part-time member);
- d. Program Status (A = Active; C = Completed; E = Ended Service Early)*
- e. Trust Status (A = Earning Award; B = Earned Award; C = Did Not Earn Award; D = On Hold by the Corporation for National Service; E = Under Review).

Alongside each name, give the total number of hours served (includes training time) by the Member this reporting period. Do this even if the Member has terminated during the reporting period. For Members who are on the list but have terminated or had their service type or status changed, just cross out the old status and print the new one alongside it. Make your corrections directly on this sheet and submit it along with the other portions of your progress report.

The second type of sheets give an Operating Site ID number and the name of the site supervisor but has no Member names listed. That is because the USDA Office of National Service has not received Enrollment forms for any Members from these sites. Please print the necessary information for each member on the appropriate sheet and submit an Enrollment form to the Department. If a Member began service but terminated, we still need a form for that person --- indicate their status as terminated. Also note whether or not the site sent the enrollment form directly to the Corporation for National Service. It is hoped that by now everyone understands that all forms (except health and child care) should come directly to the USDA Director of National Service and NOT--- repeat NOT --- the Corporation for National Service.

REMEMBER:

- a. ALL members should be listed even though they only served ^{a day?} a few weeks. If an enrollment form was submitted for a Member who then terminates either by officially notifying you or simply by walking away from the program, an End of Term of Service Form MUST be submitted for the Member.
- b. If Members are serving at an operating site and their name does not appear on the list for that site, first check to see if the Member is listed under a different operating site; if not, then an Enrollment Form must be submitted so the person can be enrolled in the program.
- c. List all the hours a Member served during the reporting period regardless if they terminated or if they started in the middle of the period.

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2/05/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

OP SITE ID: R04E

Site Supervisor: Steven Colantuoni
Agency/Org Name: Nogales/Santa Cruz Dev. Fond. EC 168b
City: Nogales AZ

PHONE: 520-761-7800
FAX: 5207617843

STATE:

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 1

Member Name

SSN

Service Program
Type Status Trust Status
SER PGM TRT
STAT STAT STAT

HOURS
1st 2nd 3rd 4th Total
Rpt Rpt Rpt Rpt
Cumulative?

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 1

No. of Active Members Whose Enrollment Forms were recieved at USDA (not including terminations): 0

No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Recieved*: 1

ENTER the number of vacancies that you intend to fill in the next reporting period: _____
Will not fill

ENTER the number of vacancies you intend to relinquish for the program year: _____

* If the number of Members allocated is greater than the number of forms received, there are four options: 1. There are Members enrolled in programs whose forms have not been submitted to the USDA Director of National Service. If that is the case, list the names, SSN, Status and hours of the missing members on the back of this sheet and send the enrollment forms to the USDA Director of National Service. 2. The enrollment forms were sent directly to the Corporation. If that is the case, send copies to the USDA Director of National Service immediately. 3. There are vacancies in your program you intend to fill in the next reporting period. If that is the case, enter the number of vacancies on the appropriate line. 4. There are vacancies that you can not fill and you are relinquishing them.

REMEMBER, MEMBERS WHOSE FORMS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT USDA ARE NOT CONSIDERED ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM AND THEIR BENEFITS (EDUCATION AWARD, ETC.) ARE JEOPARDIZED!!!

If the number of members for whom forms have been received is greater than the number of members allocated resulting in a negative number appearing in the "No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Received" line, you have enrolled more members in your program than authorized. Please explain this over enrollment. It may be that some members have terminated, in which case, change their status on this form and submit the proper end of term of service form to the USDA Director of National Service.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

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where?

02/08/96 08:54am 715 341 4095
02/06/96 11:39

RECD

-->12022204614

ECM Pg. 04/08
NO. 899 Feb/94

11. Please list the total number of volunteers who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by all the Members in the state during this period.

1st Qtr. 2nd Qtr. 3rd Qtr. 4th Qtr. Total

12. Please list the total number of hours of community service completed by the volunteers cited above during this period. (In question 18, briefly explain what these volunteers accomplished)

1st Qtr. 2nd Qtr. 3rd Qtr. 4th Qtr. Total

SECTION IV - PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

13. **Original Community Service Objectives:** Attached are sheets summarizing the community service objectives that were originally approved for each operating site. In cases where a single objective may take an entire year to complete, that objective may have a sub-objective listed. You need to fill in the column marked "1st QTR Quantity" and the column marked "1st QTR Success" -- as well as any column that is blank, has a zero, or has a question mark -- for EVERY operating site. Each chart should have the following columns:

"State" - The standard two-letter code for your state

"Obj No" - Each community service objective for each site is assigned an individual number

"Op Site" - Each site's unique operating site identification

"PGM Code" - Each type of service has been assigned a unique code to describe that type of service. See the appendix to this report entitled "Community Service PGM Code List"

"Obj/Impact Statement" - A few words verbally summarizing the community service objective

"Year's QTY Target" - The year's numerical goal for the people or things to be aided

"Target Unit of Measurement" - The unit of measure used in the previous column

"1st QTR Quantity" - Provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Year's QTY Target"

"Year's Success Target" - Number for a way of measuring quality of service provided --- if this column is blank, has a question mark, or has a zero, please replace it with the accurate information

"Success Unit of Measure" - Explanation of the number in the previous column --- if this column is blank, has a question mark, or has a zero, please replace it with the accurate information

"1st QTR Success" - Provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Year's Success Target"

AWK!

unplanned activities
for MLK Day, etc.

IE, STEPS ACCOMPLISHED TOWARDS
THE GOAL.

14. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

THE NEXT available #

Use this section to report progress towards completing additional new objectives — those objectives in addition to the main objectives of each project listed on the preceding page. Please fill in all columns for all objectives. It is important to make sure that each objective is listed with its own "OP site" (Operating site) code; this ensures that we know precisely what service is performed at each site. Please fill in all columns for each objective. Under "Obj No.," please give each new objective a number different from the number used for any of the objectives on the preceding page. Under "PGM Code," please use a one-letter and three-digit code to describe the service from the code list provided at the end of this report. Under "Obj/Impact statement," provide a several-word summary of the nature of the service project -- this verbal summary should roughly match the "PGM Code" listed in the previous column. Under "Year's QTY Target," provide a hard number for the people or things aided. Under "Target Unit of Measurement," specify what unit of measure was used in the previous column -- such as miles, number of people served, acres, etc. Under "1st QTR Quantity," provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Year's QTY Target" that was accomplished during this reporting period. Under "Year's Success Target," provide a hard number for a way of measuring how well the service was provided. Under "Successes Unit of Measure," specify exactly what the number in the previous column meant. Under "1st QTR Success," provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Year's Success Target" that was accomplished during this reporting period.

State Op Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact statement	Year's QTY Target	QTY Unit of Measure	1st QTR Quantity	Year's Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	1st QTR Success
---------------	---------	----------	----------------------	-------------------	---------------------	------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------	-----------------

{SAMPLE:}

CA	Y05A	18 EN96	Constructing whale nesting boxes	3	Boxes	1	90	% meeting stand.	95%
----	------	---------	----------------------------------	---	-------	---	----	------------------	-----

Needs more room

ON WHAT BASIS ARE these new numbers developed?

Just pulled out of the air? Arbitrarily ASSIGNED.

Do the letters & #'s mean anything?

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

15. **Community Service Objectives Narrative (optional):** If you feel it is necessary and/or helpful, you may use this space to describe in more detail accomplishments towards the original community service objectives reported in question 13 and/or your additional community service objectives reported in question 14. Please make sure you include the Operating Site ID Number in each narrative description so we can be clear which accomplishment is matched to which site.

Is this member or state contact?

These are not to be confused with the objectives section.

16. **Community Building Objectives Narrative (optional):** Briefly describe how projects have brought together diverse groups of people, empowered communities to solve their own problems, built long term structures that will last beyond each AmeriCorps Member's term of service, and generally improved the abilities of local citizens to help improve their own lives.

NO FORMATS TO COLLECT THIS INFO.

These are not objectives.

17. **AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative (optional):** Briefly describe how the AmeriCorps Members themselves have benefited from serving in the program, particularly in regard to expanding their own educational opportunity and increasing their own ethic of personal responsibility. Describe specific skills learned by Members through either their service or training. Describe any Members that earned a GED or otherwise advanced their education. Describe any Members that left public assistance to join AmeriCorps. Relate how AmeriCorps allowed Members to continue college or graduate school. Describe how Members may have changed their ethic of work, citizenship, or community volunteerism.

NO FORMATS TO COLLECT THIS INFO.

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SECTION V - SUCCESS STORIES:

18. **Unique Successes or Great Stories :** Briefly describe one or two unique and/or exceptional success stories, a program highlight, or a 'great story' from your state. Please explain any instance in which AmeriCorps Members recruited non-AmeriCorps community volunteers for projects. Please include all media coverage, including original newspaper clips, videotapes of TV coverage, and cassette tapes of radio coverage; any letters of support or thank you letters; "before and after" photographs, brochures, posters, and newsletters created by the project; and other types of creative documentation.

How collected?

SECTION VI - CHALLENGES

19. **Difficulties Faced by the Program:** Use this section to report on any problems your Members have encountered in the program this period. These should be significant issues which were related to achieving objectives, significant delays in implementation, administrative problems, or any other expectations, events or incidents that have caused the Members concern. State the problem concisely and how the issue has, or has not been resolved. Be sure to outline the steps taken and identify any resources needed to assist in resolving the problem.

How collected?

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United States
Dept. of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

KS-IRM-5
Rev. 12/94

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

Date: 1-18-96

Transmittal + _____ pages

To: Joel Berg
Team USDA
National Service Program

Phone: _____

FAX: 202 720 4614

From: Jim Meisenheimer

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642

Phone: _____

FAX: (913) 823-4540
Transmittal Problem - Call (913) 823-4515

Message: Thanks for calling back
this morning. I hope that you have
had a chance to speak to the members.
The letter is my account of what has
happened - as I understood it.

Jim

NRCS
KANSAS



**USDA/AmeriCorps**

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642
(913) 823-4500
FAX (913) 823-4540

January 18, 1996

Mr. Joel Berg
USDA/Office of Communications
Nat'l Service Division
14th & Independence SW
Room 540-A
Washington, D.C. 20250
FAX: (202) 720 4614

COPY
PRESERVATION

Re: **URGENT REQUEST FOR HELP** with the FSA Kickapoo AmeriCorps Team

Dear Joel:

At 8:00 p.m., January 17 I received a phone call from Kickapoo AmeriCorps Member Kristen Mitchell. As mentioned, during our discussion a few hours earlier, Kristen was again depressed with her situation. She said that both her and AmeriCorps Member Chaline Owings have been called vulgar and degrading names. The man whom they are helping with the teenagers, in the room adjacent to the one you met them in, was asked "Why are you letting white women work here?" In addition, Kristen said that Chaline's kids were being harassed on the bus. The antagonists on the bus have been spitting on her kids and pulling their hair. I also learned that whenever Kristen and Chaline go into the tribal office headquarters, no one will speak to them. During my session with Kristen, we discussed the possibility of her going to Southeast Kansas to serve with Katrina, at least for a while.

During the 8:00 p.m. phone call, I learned that the following language, which I will paraphrase, was used against Chaline during the time Kristen was in Salina on January 17. "You f_____g white bitches are not wanted...you had better watch your butts." Chaline is now more upset with the whole situation and would like out of the project, as would Kristen.

Kristen has a job awaiting her. As mentioned, Kristen would also go, at least for a while to serve with the Southeast Kansas team. We could also place her on the nearby NRCS Topeka team. Chaline, with her two kids, is in a different situation. During my conversation with her on the 17th, she mentioned that she has no money and that her kids missed Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, she stated that someone responsible for putting them in their situation with the Kickapoo should be held accountable; that person should have known that the previous AmeriCorps team leader had been fired and that nothing worked.

I told Chaline that I was the one who was responsible for their being there, that the project was based on information we had received from the previous tribal AmeriCorps leader and council members. Furthermore, even if I had gone to the reservation to review the situation, I would not have known in a day visit that her project was doomed.

In retrospect, during my discussions with the tribal council members about the problems the team was having in late October, early November, they asked the members to stay as there was much for them to do.

Is there any emergency money to help a person in Chaline's situation relocate to another project? I told Chaline and Kristen, during my 9:00 p.m. phone call, to dissociate themselves with the teenagers, and if possible, leave the reservation during working hours until I had a chance to speak with you. They did say that they are going to meet with officials at the Brown County Historical Society today. They have also told me of the good response they have received from the Horton school teachers. In contrast, the response they have gotten from the personnel at the all Indian School in the area is negative.

If the Brown County Historical Society and the Horton Schools could use Chaline's services for the remainder of her term, would it be possible to keep her in the area? That would negate her having to make a major move with her kids for the second time in a school year. I have also thought about giving her a thousand dollars from my own account in order to help her move, not that I can really afford to do that after my auto accident.

Side note, on the 17th you asked which jobs I had applied for with the Corporation? Those positions are:

Announcement Number: 95-APS-28, Senior Program Officer, NY-4
Office of the Executive Director, Southwest
Cluster

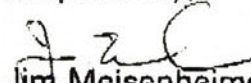
Announcement Number: 95-APS-29, Program Officer, NY-3 Office of
the Executive Director

Announcement Number: 95-APS-30, NY-3 Office of the Executive
Director, Southwest Cluster

Any good word to the Corporation for a position would be appreciated.

A copy of Todd Tiahrt's letter accompanies this request for help.

Respectfully,


Jim Mcisenheimer
Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA

Attachment 

PHOTOCOPY
RESERVATION



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**NUMBER OF SLOTS IN FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS
PUBLIC LANDS PROJECTS, BY REGION**

Pacific Southwest - 146

Pacific Northwest - 96

Southern - 82

Intermountain - 38

Rocky Mountain - 36

Eastern - 36

Southwestern - 20

Northern - 0

Alaska - 0



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

February 7, 1996

To: Patty Morris

From: Joel Berg

Subject: **Successes Documented by the USDA/AmeriCorps First Annual Report**

Attached is the first annual report of the USDA/AmeriCorps, which documents remarkable accomplishments of the program. Some highlights:

*** USDA AmeriCorps Members in nutrition and anti-hunger projects cooked and served 40,155 meals at soup kitchens, implemented 51 new sites for the Summer Food Service Program that fed 40,912 children, provided 391,542 people with donated food, gave food safety and nutrition presentations to 25,257 students and senior citizens, helped 152 community gardens, and aided gleanng efforts.**

* USDA AmeriCorps Members in environmental projects performed flood recovery work on 75,300 acres, constructed or maintained 715 miles of trail, improved 6,176 acres of wildlife habitat, provided 885 landowners with water quality assistance, built or repaired 76 campground sites, planted 110,400 trees, made 42 recreation sites accessible for the disabled, restored 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and protected 67,483 acres of coastal land.

* USDA AmeriCorps Members serving in rural development projects helped 390 low-income families secure new homes, 3,484 families obtain running water or modern bathrooms for the first time, 867 families repair health and safety hazards in their homes, and over 100 counties improve their emergency preparedness and response.

* The 1,200 USDA AmeriCorps Members recruited 14,176 non-compensated volunteers to serve in community service projects. Thus, each AmeriCorps Member, on average, recruited more than 11 non-compensated volunteers. These non-compensated volunteers provided a total of 134,899 hours of service.

* The AmeriCorps Members directly provided services to over 828,000 citizens and performed environmental work on over 234,000 acres of land. For each person assisted by anti-hunger and rural development projects, the Federal government spent only \$17. For each acre of land on which the environment was improved, the Federal government spent only \$62.

USDA

DEC 18 1995

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and Consumer
Service

Mid-Atlantic Region

Mercer Corporate Park
300 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, N.J. 08861-1598



Ms. Abby Gage
6 Pemicksville Drive
Cleveland, SC 29635

Dear Ms. Gage:

Hurricane Marilyn's devastation of the U.S. Virgin Islands this past September left the residents of the territory in need of help. All of us at the Food and Consumer Service's Mid-Atlantic regional office worked day and night to bring some measure of dignity and comfort to Marilyn's victims. That is our duty.

We had some help. Americorps' all-star team, of which you were a member, landed in the Virgin Islands and took it as your duty to live up to the Americorps motto, "getting things done."

The team that worked with FCS staff made a difference: some of you helped by working in the Food Distribution warehouse, unloading trucks and bagging food for families. Others worked day after day data-entering emergency food stamp cases. Without any prior experience, Americorps members picked up a backlog of food stamp data-entry cases and single-handedly took care of the problem, working long hours and getting the job done.

Though I didn't have the opportunity to meet you personally during my stay in the Virgin Islands, I've heard wonderful reports about your work ethic, attitude, and willingness to tackle any task, no matter how complicated.

Although the satisfaction of having done something well is its own reward, I want to commend you and thank you on behalf of my staff and the people of the Virgin Islands for putting your heart and soul, as well as your mind, in helping the territory recover from nature's blow.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. MARTIN
Administrator
Mid-Atlantic Region

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

To	Donna Hines	From	Pat Curiskey-Seto
Dept./Agency	Americorps	Phone #	609-259-5088
Fax #	202-720-4614	Fax #	609-259-5147
NSN 7540-01-37-7388		5099-101	
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION			



The Food and Consumer Service, formerly the Food and Nutrition Service

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

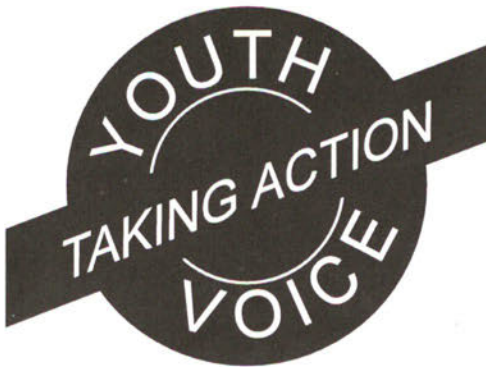
This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

YOUTH VOICES

December 1995



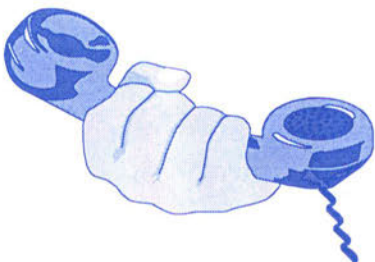
What is Youth Voice?

We are a group of young people, ages 12 to 25, who care about what is going on in our communities and want to take action to make positive changes.

Youth Voice is real—it's about young people talking to young people, it's about standing up and saying how you feel, it's about getting off the couch and doing something!!!

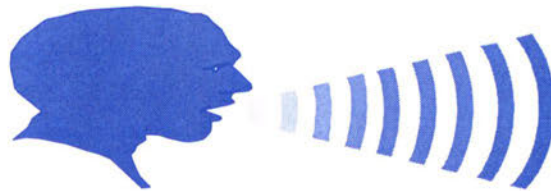
So what are you waiting for? To be a Youth Voice member and become hooked into the network, all you have to do is fill out an application. To find out more information about Youth Voice or to receive an application, call 1-800-820-GIVE.

by Josh White



Youth Voice Standing Committee members worked together to cross a ropes course during a retreat.

YLA: A WAY TO GET YOUR VOICE HEARD



The 26th Youth Legislative Assembly, better known as YLA, will be held on March 24-27 in Raleigh at the Radisson Hotel. YLA is a mock legislative assembly where 250 students gather to talk about issues concerning youth in North Carolina today.

Committees range from Human Sexuality to Civil Rights and debate bills range from education funding to recycling programs.

One great thing about YLA is that

you get your voice heard. When YLA is finished, a final report is given to legislators and state officials. Some YLA bills have become laws in North Carolina. YLA is also fun—you get to meet other young people and there's an awesome dance on Saturday.

For information call the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office at 919-733-9296.

by Josh White, Wake Forest

FLORIDA

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Water Conservation Initiative
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Florida
E. County of Duty Station:	Dade
F. Names of counties served (Up to 15)	Dade
G. Congressional District:	17th & 23rd
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Doug Ulmer
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	15600 SW 288th St. Suite 402 Homestead, FL 33033 Ph: (305) 242-1218 FAX: (305) 242-1292
J. Name of St Project Director:	Jerry Joiner
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	Federal Bldg, Room 248, 401 S.E. 1st Ave Gainesville, FL 32601 Ph: (904) 338-9506 FAX: (904) 338-9574
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	5

APP1. DOC

Florida

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Dade County, Florida.

Location

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Homestead Field Office in Dade County, Florida.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
15600 SW 288th St., S-402
Homestead, FL 33033

Needs To Be Met

The needs to be met relate to conserving and protecting the natural environment. Specifically, this project will help protect the drinking water supplies in Dade County upon which 1.9 million people rely.

Key Elements of Design

The project will employ five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) technicians on the existing South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD) MIL.

Administering Organization and Primary Partners

The administering organization is the NRCS. The primary partner is the SDSWCD. The South Florida Water Management District is an additional partner.

Mission

The project mission is to conserve and protect the drinking water supply of Dade County, Florida. To help accomplish this, five full time Rural Development Corps participants will serve as assistants to the South Dade MIL and to other SDSWCD projects.

Annual Objectives

- 1) Recruit a diverse workforce.
- 2) Train participants in water conservation issues.
- 3) Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation.
- 4) Conduct on-site landscape irrigation system evaluations, assist the SDSWCD in their composting project and other projects.

Budget

All operating costs such as training, transportation, equipment, supplies and office space will be provided by the administering organization or through additional grant funds from partner agencies. Estimated value of these contributions is \$38,000 per year.

PROJECT SETTING

Location

The AmeriCorps project will serve Dade County, which is located on the Southeast coast of Florida.

Dade County is the third largest county in the state and has a total area of 1,945 square miles.

Economic Profile

Dade County is a land of extremes. Intermingled throughout areas of tremendous wealth are areas of tremendous poverty. These socioeconomic contrasts lead to tension and conflict. South Florida, especially Dade County, is known for the viciousness of criminal attacks, especially by youths, who lash out because they foresee a bleak future for themselves and their community.

Attempting to understand the actions of the despairing youth is not difficult when considering that Dade County has an unemployment rate of 7.7 percent, which is compounded by a 14.2 percent poverty level. The existence of an AmeriCorps project will assist young adults to create a better life for themselves.

Groundwater Resources

Dade County is underlain by two major aquifer systems: the Biscayne and the Floridan.

Because the deeper Floridan aquifer in this area, contains nonpotable water due to a high dissolved mineral content, the Biscayne aquifer is the principal water-bearing aquifer for Dade

County as well as the entire Southeast coast of Florida. The Biscayne aquifer varies in thickness from 40 to 150 feet. It occurs at or near the land surface in some places and is located under urbanized areas of Dade County. It is comprised of numerous limestone cavities, and is estimated to yield up to 7,000 gallons per minute from large public supply wells. Because the Biscayne aquifer is considered to be one of the most permeable aquifers in the world and extremely vulnerable to contamination, and it is the sole source of drinking water for more than 4 million people in Southeast Florida, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated it as a "sole-source aquifer" under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-523). Unfortunately, the Biscayne aquifer has been directly contaminated in some places by industrial discharges, landfill leachates, and fuel spills.

Hydrology

Rainfall patterns in this region are highly seasonal and average 54 inches annually. Approximately 65 percent of the annual rainfall amount occurs during the wet season (June through October) when demands are moderate. Only 35 percent occurs during the dry season (November through May) when demands are largest due to the influx of tourists and winter residents.

Because of the variability in rainfall, there is a need for large water storage reservoirs in this area. These reservoirs are called Water Conservation Areas, which are an integral part of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF), the regional water management system. The C&SF Project was originally designed to provide drainage for agricultural and urban development, flood protection, and water supply. During recent droughts the system has not been able to meet existing urban and agricultural demands, resulting in water shortages. The C&SF water management system is also used to recharge coastal aquifers by regulating the flow of water in canals during periods of low rainfall and drought. Flow infiltrates back and forth between canals to the aquifer, depending upon water levels.

Population Growth & Water Demands

Dade County is the most populous county in the state having over 1.9 million residents and is projected to increase 21 percent to over 2.3 million by the year 2010.

The present total demand for all freshwater uses in Dade County is approximately 579.1 million gallons per day (MGD) and is projected to increase to 796 MGD by the year 2010.

Irrigation Water Use

Irrigation water use consists of four categories: agriculture, commercial landscaping, residential landscaping, and golf

courses. Agricultural use includes water used to irrigate all crops, nurseries, improved pasture, and livestock watering. Irrigation accounts for approximately 40 percent of the total freshwater withdrawals. Figure 1 illustrates the exorbitant amount of water that is utilized for irrigation purposes. The proportion of water used for irrigation is unnecessarily high and is mainly a result of improper irrigation.

WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY PROBLEMS

Introduction

The consequences of a century of development confront Dade County. Pavement covers land that once soaked rain into aquifers, and during the winter months when water supplies are falling, millions of tourists arrive. Current water demands place a tremendous strain on ecosystems and exacerbates existing water quality problems. The unique hydrologic features in this area; which consist of a thin soil layer, high water table, and porous limestone coupled with rapid population growth; contribute to a high incidence of groundwater contamination. As the struggle for water continues, fragile ecosystems; including the Biscayne Bay, confront a dismal future. Water that used to flow freely toward such ecosystems is now channeled to urban areas for water supply purposes and for the prevention of saltwater intrusion into wellfields and canals.

Irrigation Runoff

Improper irrigation practices in urban and agricultural sectors effect water quality in this region. The use of pesticides and fertilizers in combination with irrigation systems on crops and landscapes result in nutrient laden runoff, which endanger fragile ecosystems and ever decreasing potable water supplies.

Biscayne Bay

The entire ecosystem in Dade County has been drastically altered to allow humans to control the flow of water south to the populated areas. As the region's farms and cities expand, the flow of water increases toward populated areas, while it trickles into fragile ecosystems in ever decreasing, ever more polluted amounts. The Biscayne Bay is significantly affected by canal discharges from the Miami River, which is contaminated by nutrients, pesticides, coliform bacteria, and has one of the highest metals enrichments in the state of Florida. Pollutants such as these flow into Biscayne Bay and consequently threaten the natural habitat.

Saltwater Intrusion

Landward intrusion of seawater has been, and continues to be, the primary threat to public drinking water supplies to coastal Dade County. Increasing pumping of the Biscayne aquifer and recent drought conditions have accentuated this problem. Increasing chloride concentrations, which predict the encroachment of saltwater in wells, are commonplace in this area. Once saltwater invades freshwater supply wells, drinking water becomes nonpotable and virtually useless.

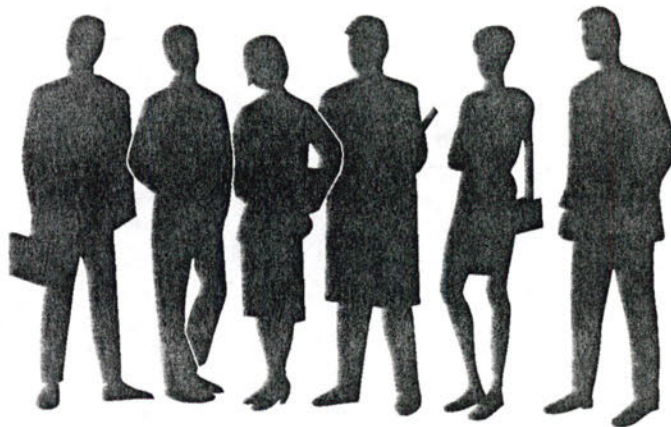
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Control structures were constructed in all major canals to regulate inland water levels in hopes to retard saltwater intrusion. Despite such measures, increasing pumping due to the rising water demands is causing the progression of saltwater intrusion.

Increased population growth in coastal areas led to the construction of wellfields near the coast, which has also contributed to the saltwater intrusion problem by further lowering water levels locally.

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Dade County, Florida

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Applicant Name: USDA - NRCS
 Program Name: AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Dade
County, Florida
☐ Aggregate ☐ Program (if applicable)

	Corporation Share (CNCS) Funds Requested from the Corporation	Grantee Share Other Federal/State/ Local/Private Funds	Total Total Program Funding
A. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS			
Training and Education	_____ + 1,200	=	_____
Uniforms	_____		_____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____		_____
Subtotal	_____		_____
B. STAFF			
Salaries	_____ 16,000		_____
Benefits	_____ 3,000		_____
Training	_____ 2,000		_____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____		_____
Subtotal	_____		_____
C. OPERATIONAL			
Travel	_____ 2,000		_____
Transportation	_____ 6,000		_____
Supplies	_____ 1,800		_____
Equipment	_____ 6,000		_____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____		_____
Subtotal	_____ 38,000		_____
D. INTERNAL EVALUATION MONITORING	_____		_____
E. ADMINISTRATION	_____		_____
	(may not exceed 5% of Corporation funds, A-F)		
(in dollar amounts) Total A-E	+ =		
Percentages	_____ % + _____ % = 100%		
(Corporation maximum 75% + Grantee minimum 25% = 100%)			

BUDGET FORM AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

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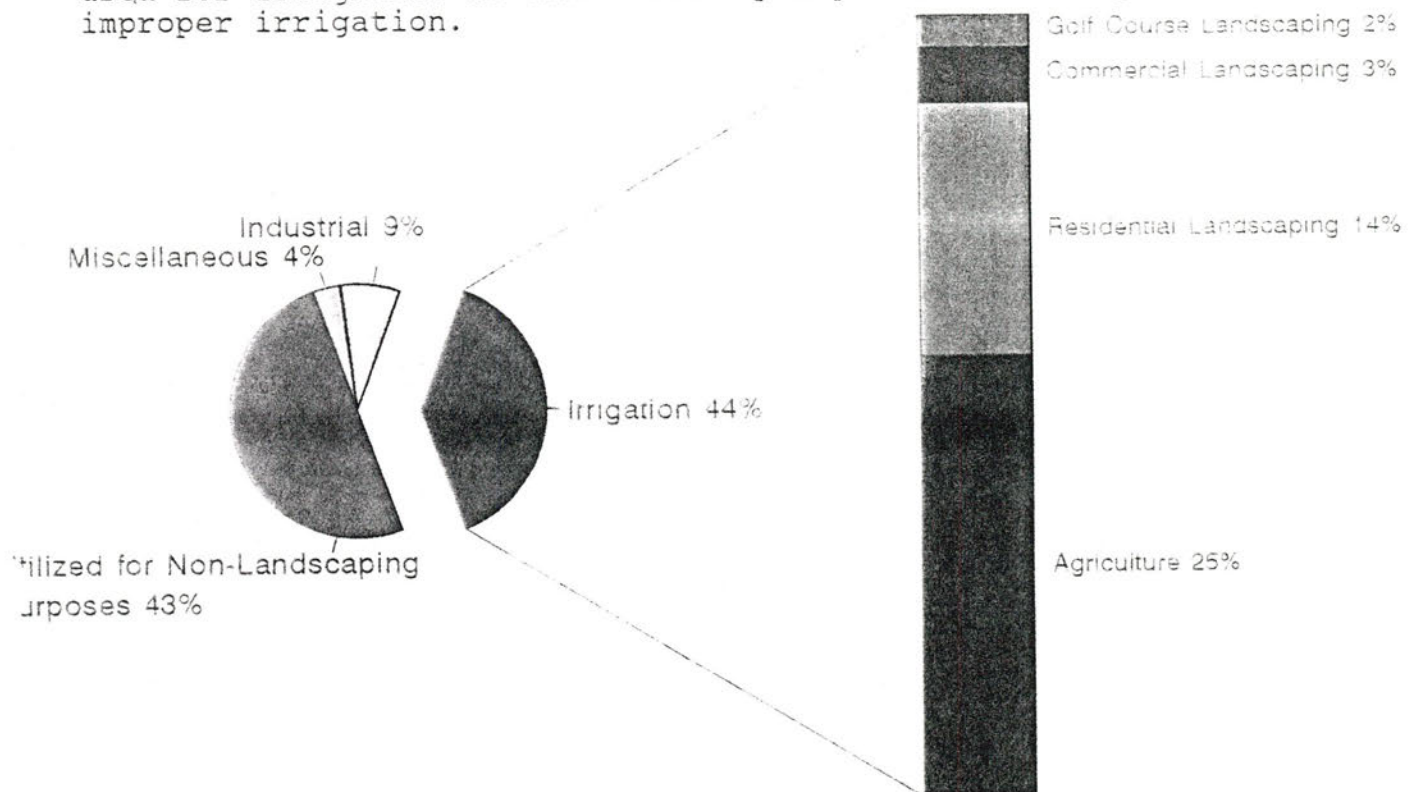
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100
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30'
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PROCESS

Identification

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Several agencies and groups in Florida have been cooperating solve the problems described above. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), as well as the other four water management districts in Florida is developing water supply plans which are intended to set a framework around water use decisions in order to ensure an adequate supply of water while maintaining the functions of natural systems and the overall quality of water resources. All of these plans contain water conservation elements.

Important tools to help achieve water conservation objectives are Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs). MILs conduct on-site evaluations of irrigation system efficiency and make improvement recommendations to the irrigation system operator. MILs have proven to be a popular and effective means of achieving water conservation in urban and agricultural settings. Currently there are nine MILs operating in the SFWMD and several more have been proposed. All government agencies in Florida are facing severe budgetary restrictions making it difficult to fully fund new initiatives such as MILs. Therefore, almost all MILs are funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations.

The partnership members are continually searching for additional partners and recognize that the AmeriCorps Program may offer an opportunity to expand the partnership and build a more diverse base of support for water conservation in Florida.

Establishment of Specific Objectives

The interagency planning process established the following objectives:

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* Educate residents and businesses about water use and environmental impacts in the South Florida ecosystem.
- * Provide an on-site irrigation system evaluation service which gives detailed specific instructions on how an individual can help protect the environment by conserving water.

* Facilitate a composting project involving yard and food waste and promote other projects as assigned, such as the South Florida Urban Community Assistance Program, Rails to Trails, landfill beautification, wetland restoration, and recycling projects.

* Develop a cadre of young Floridians with an understanding of the complex South Florida ecosystem.

* Nurture the environmental, service, learning and work ethics of the participants by providing them with a meaningful and challenging way to contribute to society.

Benefits

The Rural Development Corps participants will receive an educational stipend, which will be provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The participants will work 1,812 hours for \$12,000 and have 9 holidays with 40 hours of personal leave each year when in service. The living allowance, FICA, health insurance, child care, and support costs will be funded by the NRCS National Office.

The Rural Development Corps participants will develop valuable working skills which can be used throughout their lives. These include public speaking, ability to analyze data, teamwork, writing, organizing, and professional work ethics. In addition they will gain exposure to the landscape irrigation industry and knowledge of the environmental issues facing Florida.

Likewise, the community benefits through the reduced threat of water shortage and contamination. The community will become educated in wise use of landscape irrigation practices.

DESIGN

Structure

This AmeriCorps project will consist of five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice MIL technicians on the existing South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD) MIL. The existing MIL conducts about 25 percent of its evaluations on urban irrigation systems. The addition of the apprentices will allow the MIL to place additional emphasis on urban water conservation.

The existing MIL currently has two operators. These operators will serve as the mentors for the AmeriCorps participants. After the training period, the five Rural Development Corps participants, in two teams of two, will conduct the irrigation system evaluations. The membership on the MIL team will rotate among all five participants. This will allow for one person to work in the office to input and evaluate data as well conduct routine office functions such as filing and time keeping.

Other activities that participants might undertake are assisting the SDSWCD in other projects such as the South Florida Urban Community Assistance Program, Rail to Trails development, recycling projects, landfill beautification, wetland restoration and other projects as required. Training and supervision for each of these special projects would be provided by the SDSWCD.

Specific Activities

The Rural Development Corps team will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the established objectives.

- 1) Receive on-the-job training from the mentors about water usage and environmental impacts in South Florida. This will include observing the existing MIL team in action as well as an orientation to the groundwater hydrology and environmental issues in South Florida.
- 2) Provide information to the public by staffing information booths at street fairs and malls, making presentations at elementary schools and homeowners association meetings as well as other community events.
- 3) Conduct field evaluations of urban irrigation systems. These evaluations consist of the following steps:
 - a) Visual inspection of the system
 - b) Pressure variation check
 - c) Flow variation check
 - d) Distribution uniformity check
 - e) Landscape evaluation
 - f) Make recommendations
- 4) Receive specialized training for participation in other special projects as needed by the SDSWCD.

Location

The headquarters for the AmeriCorps project MIL will be the Homestead Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The address is:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
15600 S.W. 288th Street Suite 402
Homestead, FL 33033-1239

Partnerships

The existing South Dade MIL is funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations including the SFWMD, the SDSWCD and the NRCS. These partners are actively seeking additional partners such as private water purveyors and municipalities. The existence of an AmeriCorps project in the county will allow the partners to further leverage their funds and facilitate inclusion of additional partners.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring of the MIL component of this project will be done according to the criteria of the NRCS Progress Reporting System and the Automated Data System for Water Quality. The evaluation of the progress and performance of the AmeriCorps participants will be done using a performance appraisal and employee development system similar to the one used by the NRCS.

Typical Week

Approximately one day per week will be spent in a staff meeting or training session. The staff meeting will deal with organizational details. The training session will deal with the following:

- × Technical issues involved with MIL evaluations (including on-the-job-training in the field).
- × Broader "context" issues to provide the participants with a more complete understanding of the environmental issues facing South Florida.
- × Social issues in order to foster civic values.

The rest of the week will be spent performing duties such as educating residents about water conservation, conducting MIL evaluations and providing follow up assistance.

Training Plan

An ad hoc committee is currently developing a statewide training plan for all AmeriCorps MIL operators. It will be completed before any AmeriCorps participants are hired. The training plan will address the technical aspects of conducting a MIL evaluation such as checking water pressure, water distribution uniformity, collecting, and evaluating data and making recommendations.

Recruitment, Placement and Supervision

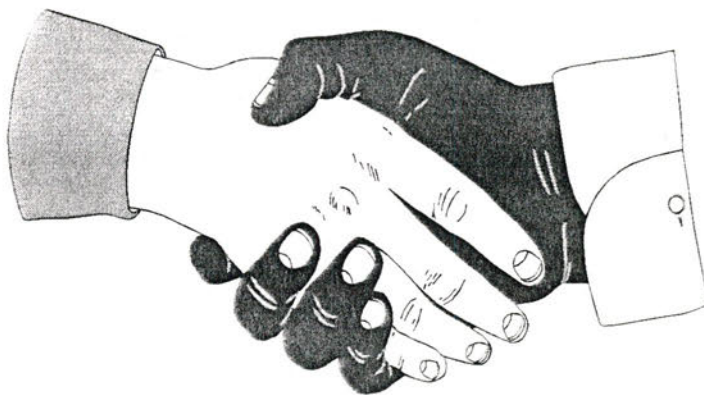
Because of the necessity to collect and evaluate numerical data, and the intense interaction with the public, Rural Development Corps participants are needed to ensure the success of this AmeriCorps project.

The District Conservationist will get the word out by conducting a wide spread media campaign. In addition, the District Conservationist will network with leaders from the various communities in South Florida. This will include elected officials, clergy, social service providers, academic advisors and others. This project will be open to applicants to a local AmeriCorps pool of applicants.

All participants will be at the same level with regard to salary, benefits, and responsibility. The existing MIL operators will be mentors and provide much of the on-the-job training. The District Conservationist will provide official supervision.

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Duval County, Florida

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Duval County, Florida.

Location

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Jacksonville Field Office in Duval County, Florida.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
5542 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Needs to be Met

The needs to be met relate to protecting the natural environment. Specifically, this project will help protect the drinking water supplies in Duval County upon which approximately 800,000 people rely.

Key Elements of Design

The project will employ five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) technicians on the proposed Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) MIL. While performing MIL tasks, the participants will inform residents about the Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program.

Administering Organization and Primary Partners

The administering organization is the NRCS. The primary partner is the DSWCD. Additional partners consist of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Mission

The project mission is to conserve and protect the drinking water supply of Duval County. It will do this by recruiting and training the participants to educate residents about landscape water conservation and threats to groundwater quality from abandoned home fuel oil tanks.

Annual Objectives

- 1.) Recruit a diverse workforce.
- 2.) Train participants in water conservation issues.
- 3.) Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation and the home fuel oil recovery program.
- 4.) Conduct on-site MIL evaluations.

Budget

All operating costs such as training, transportation, equipment, supplies, and office space will be provided by the partner agencies. The estimated value of this contribution is \$47,450 per year.

Applicant Name: USDA - NRCS
 Program Name: The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Duval County, Florida
☐ Aggregate ☐ Program (if applicable)

	Corporation Share (CNCS) Funds Requested from the Corporation	Grantee Share Other Federal/State/ Local/Private Funds	Total Total Program Funding
A. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS			
Training and Education	_____	+ 1,200	= _____
Uniforms	_____	_____	_____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____	_____	_____
B. STAFF			
Salaries	_____	16,000	_____
Benefits	_____	3,000	_____
Training	_____	2,000	_____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____	_____	_____
C. OPERATIONAL			
Travel	_____	5,000	_____
Transportation	_____	1,500	_____
Supplies	_____	12,250	_____
Equipment	_____	6,500	_____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal	_____	47,450	_____
D. INTERNAL EVALUATION MONITORING	_____	_____	_____
E. ADMINISTRATION	_____	_____	_____
	(may not exceed 5% of Corporation funds, A-F)	_____	_____
(in dollar amounts) Total A-E		+	=
Percentages	_____ %	+ _____ %	= 100%
(Corporation maximum 75% + Grantee minimum 25% = 100%)			

BUDGET FORM: AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

PROJECT SETTING

Location

The AmeriCorps project will serve Duval County, which is located on the Northeast coast of Florida and has a total area of 774 square miles.

Economic Profile

Duval County youth are confronted with a poverty level of 9.8 percent. They are also subject to a per capita income of \$19,011, which is relatively low when considering that Duval County is a major transportation center and the headquarters for large corporations. With few opportunities for technical training, Duval County's youth have limited access to employment in the surrounding industries. As a result, many young people edge ever closer to the poverty level. Foreseeing a dismal future for themselves and their communities, they often resort to desperate measures, such as crime. This may be one reason why Duval County has an exceptionally high rate of both violent and nonviolent crime. The existence of an AmeriCorps project will assist those young adults who yearn for something better.

Hydrology

Groundwater accounts for 99 percent of total freshwater withdrawals in Duval County, while the remaining 1 percent is derived from surface water sources. The Floridan aquifer system underlies all of Florida, and parts of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. In Duval County the Floridan aquifer system is the principal water supply source and supplies 91 percent of the total groundwater withdrawals. Duval County is comprised of poorly drained soils, which are impermeable and subsequently allow no recharge to the Floridan aquifer. Unfortunately, the existence of impermeable soils does not prevent the aquifer from being contaminated by industrial discharges, landfill leachates, and fuel spills.

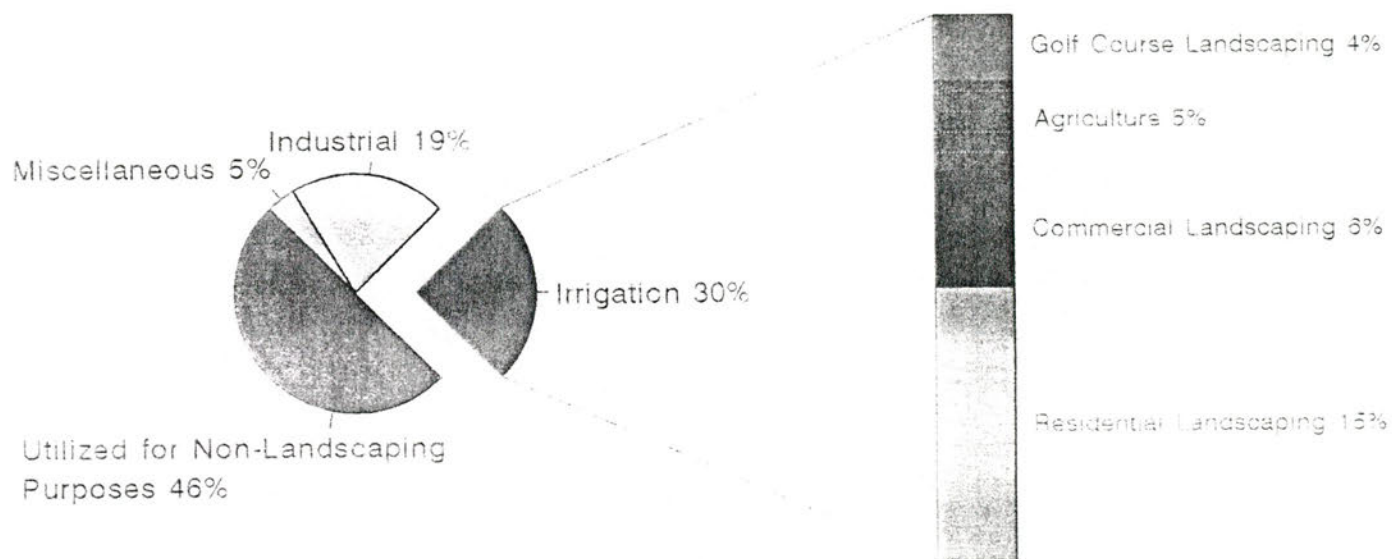
Population Growth & Water Demands

Duval County's current population is approximately 700,000, and is the 7th most populous of 67 counties in Florida. Duval County's population is projected to increase by 19 percent to over 800,000 by the year 2010.

Currently, total freshwater withdrawals to serve Duval County average 156 million gallons per day (MGD). The tremendous population growth in Duval County will result in a 221 MGD of freshwater withdrawals by the year 2010. Huge water withdrawals in Duval County already result in temporary water restrictions, and in some instances render privately owned wells inoperable for several days, because of the decline in groundwater levels.

Irrigation Water Use

Irrigation water use consists of four categories: agriculture, commercial landscaping, residential landscaping, and golf courses. Agricultural use includes water used to irrigate all crops, nurseries, and improved pasture. Irrigation accounts for approximately 30 percent of the total freshwater withdrawals. Figure 1 illustrates the exorbitant amount of water that is utilized for irrigation purposes. The proportion of water used for irrigation is unnecessarily high and is mainly a result of improper landscape irrigation.



WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY PROBLEMS

Introduction

Population increases are affecting the quantity and quality of ground and surface waters in Duval County. Increasing groundwater withdrawals are hastening the intrusion of saltwater into the freshwater zones of the Floridan aquifer. Increasing groundwater withdrawals are also reducing the flow from springs, which sustain the St. Johns River. The potential for contamination of the Floridan aquifer from abandoned home fuel oil tanks continues to threaten drinking water sources.

Saltwater Intrusion

Population growth in Duval County is causing increased water withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer, which subsequently is causing a decline in the water levels of the Upper Floridan aquifer. In recent years the water level surface has been steadily

declining at a rate of about one-third to three-fourths foot per year. This is directly attributed to increased pumping in Duval County. Water level declines of more 20 to 40 feet have occurred in Duval County as a result of increased pumping. This is accelerating the intrusion of saltwater in the freshwater zones of the Floridan aquifer. The incidence of saltwater intrusion is expected to continually increase as population growth causes greater withdrawals on groundwater resources. This is important because recharge to the aquifer from precipitation is negligible in Northeast Florida.

Irrigation Runoff

Improper irrigation practices in urban and agricultural sectors are prevalent in Northeast Florida. The use of pesticides and fertilizers in combination with irrigation systems on crops and landscapes result in nutrient laden runoff, which endanger fragile ecosystems and ever decreasing potable water supplies.

St. Johns River

Pollutants such as nutrients, pesticides, toxins, and bacteria occur in continually increasing amounts in the St. Johns River and surrounding tributaries. Increasing groundwater withdrawals threaten to decrease spring discharges into the St. Johns River, which may consequently diminish the river's flow. This will exacerbate existing water quantity and quality problems.

Contamination

The advanced deterioration of home fuel oil tanks pose a considerable threat to the Floridan aquifer. Tens of thousands of abandoned underground oil tanks remain filled or partially filled with oil in Duval County. The risk of aquifer contamination is alarming because just one gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water. If the oil is not removed, ground and surface water contamination will inevitably occur as the tanks deteriorate and oil leaks into the soil.

PROCESS

Identification

Several agencies and groups in Florida have been cooperating to solve the problems described above. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), as well as the other four water management districts in Florida are all developing water supply plans which are intended to set a framework around water use decisions in order to ensure an adequate supply of water while maintaining the functions of natural systems and the overall quality of water resources. All of these plans contain water conservation elements.

1 7 Important tools to help achieve water conservation objectives are Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs). MILs conduct on-site evaluations of irrigation system efficiency and make improvement recommendations to the irrigation system operator. MILs have proven to be a popular and effective means of achieving water conservation in urban and agricultural settings. Currently there are nine MILs operating in Florida and several more have been proposed. All government agencies in Florida are facing severe budgetary restrictions making it difficult to fully fund new initiatives such as MILs. Therefore, almost all MILs are funded by partnerships of sponsoring organizations.

The partnership members are continually searching for additional partners and recognize that the AmeriCorps Program may offer an opportunity to expand the partnership and build a more diverse base of support for water conservation in Florida. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD), and the SJRWMD are currently cooperating to establish an MIL in Duval County.

Concern for water quantity is compounded by efforts to sustain water quality in Duval County. The DSWCD has received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to establish a Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program (HFORP), which will provide a valuable service for communities by recovering and recycling home fuel oil from abandoned underground or above ground tanks. This service will directly contribute to the protection of ground and surface water sources in Duval County.

Establishment of Specific Objectives

The interagency planning process established the following objectives:

- * Educate residents and businesses about water use and environmental impacts in the Northeast Florida ecosystem.
- * Provide an on-site irrigation system evaluation service which gives detailed specific instructions on how the individual can help protect the environment by conserving water.
- * Inform residents about the risks to groundwater from abandoned home fuel oil tanks and how the HFORP can prevent groundwater contamination.
- * Develop a cadre of young Floridians with an understanding of the complex Northeast Florida ecosystem.
- * Nurture the environmental, service, learning and work ethics of the participants by providing them with a meaningful and challenging way to contribute to society.

Benefits

The Rural Development Corps participants will receive an educational stipend, which will be provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The participants will work 1,812 hours for \$12,000 and have 9 holidays with 40 hours of personal

leave each year when in service. The living allowance, FICA, health insurance, child care, and support costs will be funded by the NRCS National Office.

The participants will develop valuable working skills which can be used throughout their lives. These include public speaking, ability to collect and analyze data, teamwork, writing, organizing, and professional work ethics. In addition they will gain exposure to the landscape irrigation industry and knowledge of the environmental issues facing Florida.

Likewise the community benefits through the reduced threat of water shortage and contamination. The community will become educated in wise use of landscape irrigation practices and the potential risks from abandoned home fuel oil tanks.

DESIGN

Structure

This AmeriCorps project will consist of five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice MIL technicians on the proposed DSWCD MIL. While performing MIL tasks, the participants will inform residents about the HFORP. A majority of the MIL evaluations will be conducted on urban irrigation systems.

The DSWCD currently has two employees. The employees will serve as the mentors for the AmeriCorps participants. After the training period, the five Rural Development Corps participants, in two teams of two, will conduct irrigation system evaluations and provide information about the HFORP to landowners. The membership on the MIL team will rotate among all five participants. This will allow for one person to work in the office to input and evaluate data as well as conduct routine office functions such as filing and record keeping.

Specific Activities

The Rural Development Corps team will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the established objectives.

- 1) Receive on-the-job training from the mentors about water usage and environmental impacts in Northeast Florida. This will include working with the DSWCD MIL team in action as well as a basic orientation to the groundwater hydrology and environmental issues in Northeast Florida.

- 2) Provide information to the public about MILs and the availability of the HFORP by staffing information booths at street fairs and malls, making presentations at elementary schools and homeowners association meetings as well as other community events.

- 3) Conduct field evaluations of urban irrigation systems. The evaluations consist of the following steps:

- a) Visual inspection of system
- b) Pressure variation check
- c) Flow variation check
- d) Distribution uniformity check
- e) Landscape evaluation
- f) Make recommendations for irrigation system improvement

Location

The headquarters for the MIL will be the Jacksonville Field Office of the NRCS. The address is:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
5542 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32118

Partnerships

The proposed MIL will be funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations including the SJRWMD, the DSWCD and the NRCS. The partners are actively seeking additional partners such as private water purveyors and municipalities. Currently, the FDEP is a partner in the HFORP. The existence of an AmeriCorps project in the county will allow the partners to further leverage their funds and facilitate inclusion of additional partners.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring of the MIL component of this project will be done according to the criteria of the NRCS Progress Reporting System and the Automated Data System for Water Quality. The evaluation of the progress and performance of the Rural Development Corps participants will be done using a performance appraisal and employee development system similar to the one used by the NRCS.

Typical Week

Approximately one day per week will be spent in a staff meeting or training session. The staff meeting will deal with organizational details. The training session will deal with the following:

- * Technical issues involved with MIL evaluations and the HFORP (including on-the-job training in the field).
- * Broader "context" issues to provide the participants with a more complete understanding of the environmental issues facing Northeast Florida.
- * Social issues in order to foster civic values.

The rest of the week will be spent performing duties such as informing residents about the HFORP, educating landowners about water conservation, conducting MIL evaluations, and providing follow up assistance.

Training Plan

An ad hoc committee is currently developing a statewide training plan for all MIL operators. It will be completed before any AmeriCorps participants are hired. The training plan will address the technical aspects of conducting a MIL evaluation such as checking water pressure, water distribution uniformity, collecting, and evaluating data and making recommendations. Participants will receive orientation about the HFORP from district staff in order to properly inform residents.

Recruitment, Placement, and Supervision

Because of the necessity to collect and evaluate numerical data, and the intense interaction with the public, Rural Development Corps participants are needed to ensure the success of this AmeriCorps project.

The NRCS District Conservationist will get the word out by conducting a wide-spread media campaign. In addition the District Conservationist will network with leaders from the various communities in Northeast Florida. This will include elected officials, clergy, social service providers, academic advisors and others. This project will be open to applicants to the national AmeriCorps pool of applicants. The NRCS District Conservationist will be responsible for the selection of the Rural Development Corps participants for this project.

All participants will be at the same level with regard to salary, benefits and responsibility. The existing MIL operators will be mentors and provide much of the on-the-job training. The District Conservationist will provide official supervision.

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Florida

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE: Dade County, Florida

SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer

PHONE: (305) 242-1218

COUNTY: Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation.

1. What will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Staff information booths at fairs and make presentations to schools and homeowners associations.

2. What do you expect to be the result of the work/activities described above?
Increase community awareness about the extreme environmental risks, such as saltwater intrusion, associated with tremendous demands on the Biscayne aquifer & other drinking water resources.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
An informal census taken at functions, a poll will be given by Members to participants.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
Tracking the number of interested customers and the demand by communities to conduct these public information activities at different functions.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
10,000 County residents

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Dade County, Florida
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer **PHONE:** (305) 242-1218 **COUNTY:** Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site landscape irrigation system evaluations.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Conduct field evaluations and evaluations on urban irrigation systems and prepare reports for the irrigation users on the MIL recommendations.

2. How will you measure the quantity of the work/activities described above?
Users learn efficient operation of their irrigation systems and save millions of gallons of water per year.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By measuring the actual water savings per year (AWS).

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
NRCS will calculate the AWS, with 54 million gallons per year as a baseline.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
2,100 people

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Dade County, Florida
SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer **PHONE:** (305) 242-1218 **COUNTY:** Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the SDSWCD in their composting project and other projects.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Members will collect, transport, process, package compost materials and market the compost products.

2. How do you estimate the extent of the work activities described above?
Members will estimate the amount of waste going to landfills & volume of fertilizer products.

3. How will you estimate the quality of your product or impact of your service?
Members will develop procedures to estimate the amount of waste that has been diverted from landfills and the amount of fertilizer replaced.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
By the amount of landfill space preserved and the amount of commercial fertilizer used.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Over 1,000 customers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 4

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer

SITE: Dade County, Florida

PHONE: (305) 242-1218

COUNTY: Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the SDSWCD in the Rails to Trails project.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Will convert defunct railroad beds to bicycle trails; they will dispose of litter and clear undergrowth.

2. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
We will measure the amount of trails prepared and by the number of users.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
Comparison to other rails to trails projects, the amount of trails prepared and by the number of users.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
By tracking the number of users.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Eight hundred people.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 5

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Doug Ulmer

SITE: Dade County, Florida

PHONE: (305) 242-1218

COUNTY: Dade

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site nutrient management assessments.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Educate participants on fertilizer usage through interviews, e.g., landowners to develop a plan to properly utilize fertilizers and emphasizing the use of compost.

2. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By assessment of risk to ground and surface water contamination from nutrient runoff from overuse of fertilizer.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By assessment of the amount of fertilizer used before plan development and after plan development.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
NRCS Technical Guide and a 5% reduction of fertilizer use.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Approximately 2,100 people.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 6

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct public information activities on landscape.

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1. How will you deliver that service? Activities with your participants engage in?
The service will be delivered via the presentation to schools and homeowners associations.
 2. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
The quality of the service will be measured by the number of participants who attend the presentation, the number of sales or inquiries, and the number of participants who will be able to protect their drinking water resources.
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
An informal census taken at functions, a poll will be given by Members to participants.
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
Tracking the number of interested customers and the demand by communities to conduct these public information activities at different functions.
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
10,000 county residents

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 7

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

SITE: Duval County, Florida

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duval

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site MIL evaluations.

1. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By measuring the actual water savings per year (AWS).
Participants will perform on-site MIL evaluations on existing irrigation systems and prepare reports for the landowner to use for recommendations.

2. By what standard will you gauge success?
NRCS will calculate the AWS, with 54 million gallons per year as a baseline.
Participants will assist landowners in the evaluation of their irrigation systems and save millions of gallons of water per year.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By measuring the actual water savings per year (AWS).

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
NRCS will calculate the AWS, with 54 million gallons per year as a baseline.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
2,100 people

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 8

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the Duval Soil & Water Conservation District (DSWCD) with their Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program (HFORP) by providing public information activities.

How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
Activities described above?

Residents will be more knowledgeable regarding the risks of home fuel oil tank deterioration.

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

By tabulating the number of residents that have taken advantage of this DSWC service and by the gallons of home fuel oil that has been retrieved as a result of the HFORP.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Noting the number of interested customers who request the HFORP services.

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

Will inform hundreds of residents about the HFORP and thereby involving the community in protection of their water resources. Potential 10,000 county residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 9

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site nutrient management assessment.

How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
By assessment of the amount of fertilizer used before plan development and after plan development.

How will you gauge success?
NRCS Technical Guide and 5% reduction in fertilizer use.

How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Approximately 2,100 people

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Water Conservation Initiative
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Florida
E. County of Duty Station:	Duval
F. Names of counties served (Up to 15)	Duval
G. Congressional District:	3rd, 4th & 6th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Allen Moore
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	5542 Dunn Ave. Jacksonville, FL 32118 Ph: (904) 232-2871 FAX: (904) 765-7172
J. Name of St Project Director:	Jerry Joiner
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	Federal Bldg, Room 248, 401 S.E. 1st Ave Gainesville, FL 32601 Ph: (904) 338-9506 FAX: (904) 338-9574
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	5

FLORIDA

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Water Conservation Initiative
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Florida
E. County of Duty Station:	Dade
F. Names of counties served (Up to 15)	Dade
G. Congressional District:	17th & 23rd
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Doug Ulmer
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	15600 SW 288th St. Suite 402 Homestead, FL 33033 Ph: (305) 242-1218 FAX: (305) 242-1292
J. Name of St Project Director:	Jerry Joiner
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	Federal Bldg, Room 248, 401 S.E. 1st Ave Gainsville, FL 32601 Ph: (904) 338-9506 FAX: (904) 338-9574
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name

The AmeriCorps Water Conservation Initiative in Duval County, Florida.

Location

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Jacksonville Field Office in Duval County, Florida.

Natural Resources Conservation Service 5542 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Needs to be Met

The needs to be met relate to protecting the natural environment. Specifically, this project will help protect the drinking water supplies in Duval County upon which approximately 800,000 people rely.

Key Elements of Design

The project will employ five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) technicians on the proposed Duval Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) MIL. While performing MIL tasks, the participants will inform residents about the Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program.

Administering organization and Primary Partners

The administering organization is the NRCS. The primary partner is the DSWCD. Additional partners consist of the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Mission

The project mission is to conserve and protect the drinking water supply of Duval County. It will do this by recruiting and training the participants to educate residents about landscape water conservation and threats to groundwater quality from abandoned home fuel oil tanks.

Annual Objectives

- 1.) Recruit a diverse workforce.
- 2.) Train participants in water conservation issues.
- 3.) Conduct public information activities on landscape irrigation and the home fuel oil recovery program.
- 4.) Conduct on-site MIL evaluations.

Budget

All operating costs such as training, transportation, equipment, supplies, and office space will be provided by the partner agencies. The estimated value of this contribution is \$47,450 per year.

PROJECT SETTING

Location

The AmeriCorps project will serve Duval County, which is located on the Northeast coast of Florida and has a total area of 774 square miles.

Economic Profile

Duval County youth are confronted with a poverty level of 9.8 percent. They are also subject to a per capita income of \$19,011, which is relatively low when considering that Duval County is a major transportation center and the headquarters for large corporations. With few opportunities for technical training, Duval County's youth have limited access to employment in the surrounding industries. As a result, many young people edge ever closer to the poverty level. Foreseeing a dismal future for themselves and their communities, they often resort to desperate measures, such as crime. This may be one reason why Duval County has an exceptionally high rate of both violent and nonviolent crime. The existence of an AmeriCorps project will assist those young adults who yearn for something better.

Hydrology

Groundwater accounts for 99 percent of total freshwater withdrawals in Duval County, while the remaining 1 percent is derived from surface water sources. The Floridan aquifer system underlies all of Florida, and parts of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. In Duval County the Floridan aquifer system is the principal water supply source and supplies 91 percent of the total groundwater withdrawals. Duval County is comprised of poorly drained soils, which are impermeable and subsequently allow no recharge to the Floridan aquifer. Unfortunately, the existence of impermeable soils does not prevent the aquifer from being contaminated by industrial discharges, landfill leachates, and fuel spills.

Population Growth & Water Demands

Duval County's current population is approximately 700,000, and is the 7th most populous of 67 counties in Florida. Duval County's population is projected to increase by 19 percent to over 800,000 by the year 2010.

Currently, total freshwater withdrawals to serve Duval County average 156 million gallons per day (MGD). The tremendous population growth in Duval County will result in a 221 MGD of freshwater withdrawals by the year 2010. Huge water withdrawals in Duval County already result in temporary water restrictions, and in some instances render privately owned wells inoperable for several days, because of the decline in groundwater levels.

Irrigation Water Use

Irrigation water use consists of four categories: agriculture, commercial landscaping, residential landscaping, and golf courses. Agricultural use includes water used to irrigate all crops, nurseries, and improved pasture. Irrigation accounts for approximately 30 percent of the total freshwater withdrawals. Figure 1 illustrates the exorbitant amount of water that is utilized for irrigation purposes. The proportion of water used for irrigation is unnecessarily high and is mainly a result of improper landscape irrigation.

WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY PROBLEMS

Introduction

Population increases are affecting the quantity and quality of ground and surface waters in Duval County. Increasing groundwater withdrawals are hastening the intrusion of saltwater into the freshwater zones of the Floridan aquifer. Increasing

groundwater withdrawals are also reducing the flow from springs, which sustain the St. Johns River. The potential for contamination of the Floridan aquifer from abandoned home fuel oil tanks continues to threaten drinking water sources.

Saltwater Intrusion

Population growth in Duval County is causing increased water withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer, which subsequently is causing a decline in the water levels of the Upper Floridan aquifer. In recent years the water level surface has been steadily declining at a rate of about one-third to three-fourths foot per year. This is directly attributed to increased pumping in Duval County. Water level declines of more 20 to 40 feet have occurred in Duval County as a result of increased pumping. This is accelerating the intrusion of saltwater in the freshwater zones of the Floridan aquifer. The incidence of saltwater intrusion is expected to continually increase as population growth causes greater withdrawals on groundwater resources. This is important because recharge to the aquifer from precipitation is negligible in Northeast Florida.

Irrigation Runoff

Improper irrigation practices in urban and agricultural sectors are prevalent in Northeast Florida. The use of pesticides and fertilizers in combination with irrigation systems on crops and landscapes result in nutrient laden runoff, which endanger fragile ecosystems and ever decreasing potable water supplies.

St. Johns River

Pollutants such as nutrients, pesticides, toxins, and bacteria occur in continually increasing amounts in the St. Johns River and surrounding tributaries. Increasing groundwater withdrawals threaten to decrease spring discharges into the St. Johns River, which may consequently diminish the river's flow. This will exacerbate existing water quantity and quality problems.

Contamination

The advanced deterioration of home fuel oil tanks pose a considerable threat to the Floridan aquifer. Tens of thousands of abandoned underground oil tanks remain filled or partially filled with oil in Duval County. The risk of aquifer contamination is alarming because just one gallon of oil can contaminate one million gallons of water. If the oil is not removed, ground and surface water contamination will inevitably occur as the tanks deteriorate and oil leaks into the soil.

PROCESS

Identification

Several agencies and groups in Florida have been cooperating to solve the problems described above. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), as well as the other four water management districts in Florida are all developing water supply plans which are intended to set a framework around water use decisions in order to ensure an adequate supply of water while maintaining the functions of natural systems and the overall quality of water resources. All of these plans contain water conservation elements.

Important tools to help achieve water conservation objectives are Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs). MILs conduct on-site evaluations of irrigation system efficiency and make improvement recommendations to the irrigation system operator. MILs have proven to be a popular and effective means of achieving water conservation in urban and agricultural settings. Currently there are nine MILs operating in Florida and several more have been proposed. All government agencies in Florida are facing severe budgetary restrictions making it difficult to fully fund new initiatives such as MILs. Therefore, almost all MILs are funded by partnerships of sponsoring organizations.

The partnership members are continually searching for additional partners and recognize that the AmeriCorps Program may offer an opportunity to expand the partnership and build a more diverse base of support for water conservation in Florida. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Duval Soil and Water

Conservation District (DSWCD), and the SJRWMD are currently cooperating to establish an MIL in Duval County.

Concern for water quantity is compounded by efforts to sustain water quality in Duval County. The DSWCD has received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to establish a Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program (HFORP), which will provide a valuable service for communities by recovering and recycling home fuel oil from abandoned underground or above ground tanks. This service will directly contribute to the protection of ground and surface water sources in Duval County.

Establishment of Specific objectives

The interagency planning process established the following objectives:

1. Educate residents and businesses about water use and environmental impacts in the Northeast Florida ecosystem.
2. Provide an on-site irrigation system evaluation service which gives detailed specific instructions on how the individual can help protect the environment by conserving water.
3. Inform residents about the risks to groundwater from abandoned home fuel oil tanks and how the HFORP can prevent groundwater contamination.
4. Develop a cadre of young Floridians with an understanding of the complex Northeast Florida ecosystem.
5. Nurture the environmental, service, learning and work ethics of the participants by providing them with a meaningful and challenging way to contribute to society.

Benefits

The Rural Development corps participants will receive an educational stipend, which will be provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The participants will work 1,812 hours for \$12,000 and have 9 holidays with 40 hours of personal leave each year when in service. The living allowance, FICA, health insurance, child care, and support costs will be funded by the NRCS National Office.

The participants will develop valuable working skills which can be used throughout their lives. These include public speaking, ability to collect and analyze data, teamwork, writing, organizing, and professional work ethics. In addition they will gain exposure to the landscape irrigation industry and knowledge of the environmental issues facing Florida.

Likewise the community benefits through the reduced threat of water shortage and contamination. The community will become educated in wise use of landscape irrigation practices and the potential risks from abandoned home fuel oil tanks.

DESIGN

Structure

This AmeriCorps project will consist of five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice MIL technicians on the proposed DSWCD MIL. While performing MIL tasks, the participants will inform residents about the HFORP. A majority of the MIL evaluations will be conducted on urban irrigation systems.

The DSWCD currently has two employees. The employees will serve as the mentors for the AmeriCorps participants. After the training period, the five Rural Development Corps participants, in two teams of two, will conduct irrigation system evaluations and provide information about the HFORP to landowners. The membership on the MIL team will rotate among all five participants. This will allow for one person to work in the office to input and evaluate data.

Specific Activities

The Rural Development Corps team will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the established objectives.

1) Receive on-the-job training from the mentors about water usage and environmental impacts in Northeast Florida. This will include working with the DSWCD MIL team in action as well as a basic orientation to the groundwater hydrology and environmental issues in Northeast Florida.

2) Provide information to the public about MILs and the availability of the HFORP by staffing information booths at street fairs and malls, making presentations at elementary schools and homeowners association meetings as well as other community events.

3) Conduct field evaluations of urban irrigation systems. The evaluations consist of the following steps:

- a) Visual inspection of system
- b) Pressure variation check
- c) Flow variation check
- d) Distribution uniformity check
- e) Landscape evaluation
- f) Make recommendations for irrigation system improvement

Location

The headquarters for the MIL will be the Jacksonville Field office of the NRCS. The address is:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
5542 Dunn Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32118

Partnerships

The proposed MIL will be funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations including the SJRWMD, the DSWCD and the NRCS. The partners are actively seeking additional partners such as private water purveyors and municipalities. Currently, the-FDEP is a partner in the HFORP. The existence of an AmeriCorps project in the county will allow the partners to further leverage their funds and facilitate inclusion of additional partners.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring of the MIL component of this project will be done according to the criteria of the NRCS Progress Reporting System and the Automated Data System for Water Quality. The evaluation of the progress and performance of the Rural Development Corps participants will be done using a performance appraisal and employee development system similar to the one used by the NRCS.

Typical Week

Approximately one day per week will be spent in a staff meeting or training session. The staff meeting will deal with organizational details. The training session will deal with the following:

- 1) Technical issues involved with MIL evaluations and the HFORP (including on-the-job training in the field).
- 2) Broader "context" issues to provide the participants with a more complete understanding of the environmental issues facing Northeast Florida.
- 3) Social issues in order to foster civic values.

The rest of the week will be spent performing duties such as informing residents about the HFORP, educating landowners about water conservation, conducting MIL evaluations, and providing follow up assistance.

Training Plan

An ad hoc committee is currently developing a statewide training plan for all MIL operators. It will be completed before any AmeriCorps participants are hired. The training plan will address the technical aspects of conducting a MIL evaluation such as checking water pressure, water distribution uniformity, collecting, and evaluating data and making recommendations. Participants will receive orientation about the HFORP from district staff in order to properly inform residents.

Recruitment, Placement, and Supervision

Because of the necessity to collect and evaluate numerical data, and the intense interaction with the public, Rural Development Corps participants are needed to ensure the success of this AmeriCorps project.

The NRCS District Conservationist will get the word out by conducting a wide-spread media campaign. In addition the District Conservationist will network with leaders from the various communities in Northeast Florida. This will include elected officials, clergy, social service providers, academic advisors and others. This project will be open to applicants to the national AmeriCorps pool of applicants. The NRCS District Conservationist will be responsible for the selection of the Rural Development Corps participants for this project.

All participants will be at the same level with regard to salary, benefits and responsibility. The existing MIL operators will be mentors and provide much of the on-the-job training. The District Conservationist will provide official supervision.

Service Activities

The Rural Development Corps team will undertake the following activities in order to achieve the established objectives.

1) Receive on-the-job training from the mentors about water usage and environmental impacts in South Florida. This will include observing the existing MIL team in action as well as an orientation to the groundwater hydrology and environmental issues in South Florida.

2) Provide information to the public by staffing information booths at street fairs and malls, making presentations at elementary schools and homeowners association meetings as well as other community events.

3) Conduct field evaluations of urban irrigation systems. These evaluations consist of the following steps:

- a) Visual inspection of the system
- b) Pressure variation check
- c) Flow variation check
- d) Distribution uniformity check
- e) Landscape evaluation
- f) Make recommendations

4) Receive specialized training for participation in other special projects as needed by the SDSWCD.

Location

The headquarters for the AmeriCorps project MIL will be the Homestead Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The address is:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
15600 S.W. 288th Street Suite 402
Homestead, FL 33033-1239

Partnerships

The existing South Dade MIL is funded by a partnership of sponsoring organizations including the SFWMD, the SDSWCD and the NRCS. These partners are actively seeking additional partners such as private water purveyors and municipalities. The existence of an AmeriCorps project in the county will allow the partners to further leverage their funds and facilitate inclusion of additional partners.

Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring of the MIL component of this project will be done according to the criteria of the NRCS Progress Reporting System and the Automated Data System for Water Quality. The evaluation of the progress and performance of the AmeriCorps participants will be done using a performance appraisal and employee development system similar to the one used by the NRCS.

Typical week

Approximately one day per week will be spent in a staff meeting or training session. The staff meeting will deal with organizational details. The training session will deal with the following:

1. Technical issues involved with MIL evaluations (including on the-job-training in the field).
3. Broader "context" issues to provide the participants with a more complete understanding of the environmental issues facing South Florida.
3. Social issues in order to foster civic values.

The rest of the week will be spent performing duties such as educating residents about water conservation, conducting MIL evaluations and providing follow up assistance.

Training Plan

An ad hoc committee is currently developing a statewide training plan for all AmeriCorps MIL operators. It will be completed before any AmeriCorps participants are hired. The training plan will address the technical aspects of conducting a MIL evaluation such as checking water pressure, water distribution uniformity, collecting, and evaluating data and making recommendations.

Recruitment, Placement and Supervision

Because of the necessity to collect and evaluate numerical data,, and the intense interaction with the public, Rural Development Corps participants are needed to ensure the success of this AmeriCorps project.

The District Conservationist will get the word out by conducting a wide spread media campaign. In addition, the District Conservationist will network with leaders from the various communities in South Florida. This will include elected officials, clergy, social service providers, academic advisors and others. This project will be open to applicants to a local AmeriCorps pool of applicants.

All participants will be at the same level with regard to salary, benefits, and responsibility. The existing MIL operators will be

mentors and provide much of the on-the-job training. The District Conservationist will provide official supervision.

* Nurture the environmental, service, learning and work ethics of the participants by providing them with a meaningful and challenging way to contribute to society.

Benefits

The Rural Development Corps participants will receive an educational stipend, which will be provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The participants will work 1,812 hours for \$12,000 and have 9 holidays with 40 hours of personal leave each year when in service. The living allowance, FICA, health insurance, child care, and support costs will be funded by the NRCS National Office.

The Rural Development Corps participants will develop valuable working skills which can be used throughout their lives. These include public speaking, ability to analyze data, teamwork, writing, organizing, and professional work ethics. In addition they will gain exposure to the landscape irrigation industry and knowledge of the environmental issues facing Florida.

Likewise, the community benefits through the reduced threat of water shortage and contamination. The community will become educated in wise use of landscape irrigation practices.

DESIGN

Structure

This AmeriCorps project will consist of five full time Rural Development Corps participants who will serve as apprentice MIL technicians on the existing South Dade Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD) MIL. The existing MIL conducts about 25 percent of its evaluations on urban irrigation systems. The addition of the apprentices will allow the MIL to place additional emphasis on urban water conservation.

The existing MIL currently has two operators. These operators will serve as the mentors for the AmeriCorps participants. After the training period, the five Rural Development Corps participants, in two teams of two, will conduct the irrigation system evaluations. The membership on the MIL team will rotate among all five participants. This will allow for one person to work in the office to input and evaluate data.

Other activities that participants might undertake are assisting the SDSWCD in other projects such as the South Florida Urban Community Assistance Program, Rail to Trails development, recycling projects, landfill beautification, wetland restoration and other projects as required. Training and supervision for

each of these special projects would be provided by the SDSWCD.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 6

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct public information activities on landscape.

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

Staff information booths at fairs and make presentations to schools and homeowners associations.

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

Promote a community awareness about the extreme environmental risks, such as saltwater intrusion, associated with tremendous demands on the Floridan aquifer & other drinking water resources.

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

An informal census taken at functions, a poll will be given by Members to participants.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Tracking the number of interested customers and the demand by communities to conduct these public information activities at different functions.

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

10,000 county residents

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 7

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE: Duval County, Florida

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duval

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site MIL evaluations.

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

Conduct field evaluations and evaluations on urban irrigation systems and prepare reports for the irrigation users on the MIL recommendations.

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

Users learn efficient operation of their irrigation systems and save millions of gallons of water per year.

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

By measuring the actual water savings per year (AWS).

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

NRCS will calculate the AWS, with 54 million gallons per year as a baseline.

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

2,100 people

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 8

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist the Duval Soil & Water Conservation District (DSWCD) with their Home Fuel Oil Recovery Program (HFORP) by conducting public information activities.

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

Conduct public information activities on the HFORP, make presentations to schools and homeowners association and other community events. Development and distribution of pamphlets & displays.

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

Residents will be more knowledgeable regarding the risks of home fuel oil tank deterioration.

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

By tabulating the number of residents that have taken advantage of this DSWC service and by the gallons of home fuel oil that has been retrieved as a result of the HFORP.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Noting the number of interested customers who request the HFORP services.

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

Will inform hundreds of residents about the HFORP and thereby involving the community in protection of their water resources. Potential 10,000 county residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Objective 9

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Water Conservation (5 Members - RDT)

SITE: Duvall County, Florida

SITE SUPERVISOR: Allen Moore

PHONE: (904) 232-2871

COUNTY: Duvall

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct on-site nutrient management assessment.

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

Assess the fertilizer usage of urban landscape managers by interviewing them. They will help develop plans to properly utilize nutrients.

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

A reduced risk of ground and surface water contamination from nutrient runoff from overuse of fertilizer.

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

By assessment of the amount of fertilizer used before plan development and after plan development.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

NRCS Technical Guide and 5% reduction in fertilizer use.

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

Approximately 2,100 people

GEORGIA

TITLE PAGE

A. Title of Project: :	Atlanta Environmental Corps
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Georgia
E. County of Duty Station:	Cobb
F. Names of counties served	Cobb, Fulton, Clayton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Rockdale, Henry, Walton
G. Congressional District:	3, 4, 5, 6, 7,, & 10
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Cindy L. Haygood
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	1738 County Farm Road, Suite 275 Marietta, GA 30060-4012 Ph: (404) 528-2218 FAX: (404) 528-2212
J. Name of St Project Director:	James Ford
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	355 E. Hancock Avenue Athens, GA 30601-2769 Ph: (706) 546-2272 FAX: (706) 546-2145
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	10

GEORGIA

SUMMARY PAGE

A. Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members?

Members have been given individual project responsibilities throughout the second quarter. This has allowed them to develop greater leadership and planning abilities. The community service objectives are being met through small team approach as well as the entire team.

Water quality is one of our community service objectives. Two corps members monitor thirty locations each month within the Big Creek watershed. This information is entered into a computer and sent to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources annually. All of the storm drains in the city of

have been stenciled. Three inner city parks have been cleaned. As a result of these clean-ups, ten dump truck loads of trash were carried away, three waterbars were installed, 1/2 acre was seeded (inside an inner city common area). Approximately 600 feet of nature trails have been installed at three different locations. Streambank stabilization work has been done on the Chattahoochee River - approximately 500 square feet. The team learned first hand about bioengineering techniques.

Conservation Education was the second of our community service objectives. Participants coordinated 12 sponsors for "fall into recycling" activities this year. They assisted with the Christmas tree recycling programs in Dekalb County. Five dump truck loads of mulch were distributed to county parks as a result. AmeriCorps members assisted with creating fliers, organizing individual events, handing out seedlings, buttons, instructions, and environmental literature. (Forty thousand trees were chipped in Dekalb as a result!) An environmental education library has been initiated. Videos, tapes, cassettes, recycling and litter brochures, flyers, books, magazines, and journals will be available for "checkout". The plan is to have "pick-up" environmental tips in libraries, banks, grocery stores, and other public places. Educational programs have been done at fifteen schools and daycare centers. Fifteen inner city groups have been assisted with gardens. Ten schools have been assisted. Approximately 100 students have been taught about composting and urban gardening.

Plant materials is our final community service objective. The construction of the greenhouse is complete. The 5,000 square feet of nursery area has been tilled and raked clean to provide suitable nursery area for the PMC. The nature trail has been cleaned of undesirable species and mulched. All plant materials on campus have been located on a preliminary map and assigned numbers for logging.

B. The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project performed by the members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

The second year of AmeriCorps will be handled somewhat differently than

this year. The first year has been a learning experience and through this, it has been discovered that the members function much better throughout the field offices and a smaller team will be needed as a result. They will be able to benefit by working directly with the field office staffs and can be more closely supervised as well. Ten AmeriCorps positions will be needed (instead of the twenty needed last year). These positions should be Rural Development Team positions, so we can hire more experienced personnel to perform more technical activities. The service projects will remain the same. Water quality monitoring and stream stabilization (using bioengineering techniques), environmental education, and plant materials will be our key objectives. These objectives will be met through field office organized activities as well as some team activities. The concept of using "sponsors" will not be pursued next year.

Georgia

OBJ. Doc

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Atlanta, Georgia
Urban Conservation Program (10 Members - RDT)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Cindy Haygood **PHONE:** (404) 528-2218 **COUNTY:** Cobb

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Operate the Satellite Plant Materials Center established year one.

Will you get plant materials.

Will you get plant materials established over?
Will you get plant materials established over?

Will you get plant materials established over?
Will be measured by the staff agronomist and the State Plant material specialist.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
80% of plants live.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Urban Conservation Program (10 Members - RDT)

SITE: Atlanta, Georgia

SITE SUPERVISOR: Cindy Haygood

PHONE: (404) 528-2218

COUNTY: Cobb **SITE SUPERVISOR:**

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Educate the public on conserving and managing natural resources.

How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
Increased awareness of natural resources.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
Acceptance by schools and quizzes given to students.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
At least 1,000 students.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SITE: Atlanta, Georgia

Urban Conservation Program (10 Members - RDT)

SITE SUPERVISOR: Cindy Haygood

PHONE: (404) 528-2218

COUNTY: Cobb

PROJECT: Water Quality Improvement.

The project is a water quality improvement project in the Atlanta area. It involves the installation of a storm drain system to collect and transport storm water runoff from the area. The project is designed to improve water quality and reduce the risk of flooding in the area.

The project is a water quality improvement project in the Atlanta area. It involves the installation of a storm drain system to collect and transport storm water runoff from the area. The project is designed to improve water quality and reduce the risk of flooding in the area.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
Stabilization of streambanks and an improvement in water quality.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Thousands of people.

APP1, DOC

Idaho

IDAHO HOME*A*SYST PROJECT

A Homestead Assessment System for Environmental and Drinking
Water Protection

AmeriCorps FY 96 Project Application
USDA-NRCS
Idaho

SUMMARY

AmeriCorps Participants will assist with the implementation of the Idaho Home*A*Syst environmental and drinking water protection program. Participants from diverse backgrounds will be important, as will the ability of participants to work with individuals from diverse background. The National Farm*A*Syst program and the Idaho Home*A*Syst program provide an organized process for working directly with local residents and communities to providing education, pollution-risk assessments, and recommendations.

Specific needs to be met include: 1) receiving educational training and associated skills on the Home*A*Syst Program and the specifics of the pollution-risk assessment as well as providing educational opportunities for local citizens enabling them to better understand their impacts on the environment and their drinking water; 2) increased assistance to citizens within local communities, especially low-income, elderly or disabled citizens, and available assistance programs identified to provide financial or technical support; 3) protection of domestic drinking water supplies by assessing pollution-risk as they relate to activities within and around individual home sites and correcting at risk activities or conditions; 4) eliminating environmental hazards by educating the public, evaluating pollution-risk, and correcting at risk activities or conditions.

An Idaho a Home*A*Syst planning committee was formed in 1993 and is key to the site design as well as the overall success of the project. The committee includes representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare-Division of Environmental Quality, Idaho Health Districts, University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, Consolidated Farm-n Services Agency and Idaho Soil Conservation Commission.

An EPA 319 grant proposal was submitted and approved for FY 1995 funding to complete a number of task, but most importantly to hire a full-time project specialist for two years. This position is currently being filled and will be housed at the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Office. This will hopefully encourage a better acceptance of the program within local Soil Conservation Districts and communities than might otherwise occur if the position were housed under a state or federal agency.

Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist. The participants will be supervised and administered by project NRCS and District personnel, with overall supervision coming directly from the Home*A*Syst Project

Specialist. The Home*A*Syst Planning Committee will provide assistance where necessary.

By completing the Home*A*Syst process the participant will provide a direct service to those individuals they are able to work with and likewise to the community as a whole. Quantifiable services will include the completed assessment, program evaluations forms, and recommendations for correcting at risk activities.

The number of AmeriCorps participants requested is up to 20 (see attachment #1). Twenty of the forty water quality projects are jointly located in one office. Each position is for the most part independent of the other, therefore any number less than 20 will accomplish individual project goals.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Idaho Home*A*Syst Mission Statement

To protect and enhance Idaho's environment and drinking water sources by providing rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments.

Annual Objectives

Increase public awareness of the availability of an environmental/water quality, voluntary assessment tool called Home*A*Syst.

Increase the knowledge and awareness of rural citizens and communities on activities that impact the environment and water quality.

Assist rural citizens and communities with voluntary assessments.

Assist rural citizen and communities in implement management practices that will benefit the environment, water quality, and public health.

NARRATIVE

Needs to be Met

Assist with the implementation of the Idaho Home*A*Syst environmental and drinking water protection program.

To protect rural America's water, Farm*A*Syst (Farmstead Assessment System) has been established as a national cooperative program. This program has been proven to be instrumental in bringing about a greater awareness of environmental concerns while providing a mechanism for protecting rural America's drinking water with a voluntary homestead pollution risk assessment. Idaho has modified appropriate materials, is currently in the process of hiring a Home*A*Syst Project Specialist and now faces the task of implementing the program across the state in local communities needing assistance.

Idaho currently has 38 State Agricultural Water Quality Projects, 1 USDA Hydrologic Area Project and 1 USDA Demonstration Project. These projects are located in rural agricultural areas with identified water quality problems. The objective of these projects is to install water quality protection practices. Project resources provide the ability to demonstrate, promote, and install BMP'S, however, no provisions exist for working one-on-one with community and rural citizens for protection of individual drinking water systems.

Needs

The AmeriCorps Program would provide rural communities with a greater ability to implement the Home*A*Syst program by sponsoring an individual within the local community that can reach and work directly with individual citizens needing assistance.

Education: The relationship of this AmeriCorps Project to the educational priority area is two-fold. 1) AmeriCorps participants would receive educational training on the Home*A*Syst Program and the specifics of the pollution-risk assessment. 2) AmeriCorps participants would then be able to provide educational opportunities for local citizens enabling them to better understand how activities around their home can impact the environment as well as their immediate source(s) of drinking water.

Human Needs: Human needs will be met by providing assistance to citizens within local communities, especially low-income, elderly or disabled citizens. In addition, once pollution-risk assessments are completed, available assistance programs may be identified to provide financial or technical support to correct any critical problems.

Public Safety: Protection of domestic drinking water supplies is the primary goal of the Home*A*Syst program. By assessing pollution-risk as they relate to activities within and around individual home sites and correcting at risk activities or conditions via best management practices or recommended modification, domestic drinking water supplies will be protected.

Environment: Environmental hazards will be eliminated by educating the public, evaluating pollution-risk, and correcting at risk activities or conditions via best management practices or recommended modification.

Process

Environmental and wellhead protection programs have been around for a long time. The National Farm*A*Syst program and the Idaho Home*A*Syst program provide an organized process for working directly with residents and communities to providing education, pollution-risk assessments, and recommendations.

The National Program Staff located in Madison, Wisconsin provide support to individual states. In Idaho a Home*A*Syst planning committee was formed in 1993. This committee still exist and will continue to exist throughout the life of this project. The committee includes representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare-Division of Environmental Quality, Idaho Health Districts, University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, Consolidated Farm Services Agency and Soil Conservation Commission.

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AmeriCorps Participants will receive training and support directly from the Project Specialist and will receive additional support from the Home*A*Syst Planning Committee as well as the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Executive Director and Board of Directors. Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist.

Design

The Home*A*Syst Program has been established to provide rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments related to activities within and around their

home, for the protection of the environment and their domestic drinking water supply. The Home*A*Syst program consist of a series of 11 fact sheets and 13 worksheets designed to help residents assess how effectively their homestead practices protect the environment and their drinking, water.

One of the project task identified and funded under the EPA 319 grant is to develop and conduct a state-wide measurement plan that will be used to evaluate activity and outcome objectives for implementation of the Home*A*Syst Program. Completed evaluation worksheets and action plans will provide a direct measure of project results. In addition, a brief questionnaire will be developed to track pre- and post-evaluation results providing information on social attitudes and changes following project implementation.

Concept

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Implementation Strategies and Delivery Options:

Implement statewide to assist farmsteads and rural home owners to protect the environment and drinking water quality.

Delivery Options may include but are not limited to:

- One-on-one assistance on the farm.
- Group assessments with educational and technical assistance.
- Group orientation with follow-up.
- One-on-one assistance.
- Incorporation into other education programs.
- Self-assessments.

Delivery Team Members may include but are not limited to:

- AmeriCorps participants
- County health departments.
- County planning and zoning departments.
- Extension service.

State Agricultural Agency.
Natural Resources Conservation Service.
Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
Private sector (farm cooperatives, crop consultants,
petroleum representatives)
Water User Groups
Youth groups (4-H, FFA)
Trained volunteers
Vocational agriculture consultants (youth and adult)
Environmental groups
Producer associations
Lenders

Delivery may be incorporated into other educational programs including but not limited to:

USDA water quality demonstration and hydrologic unit projects.
State watershed projects.
State Agricultural Water Quality Projects (SAWQP).
Municipal wellhead protection efforts, Wellhead Protection Program (DEQ).
Idaho Ground Protection Plan implementation components
Drinking water education programs.
Water User Group educational programs.
Agricultural Industry and Commodity Group educational programs.
Environmental Consulting educational programs.
Whole farm assessments.
NRCS conservation planning.
IDA and UL-CES pesticide applicator training programs.
IDA Waste Pesticide Disposal Program.
Homemaker or family living education programs.
Adult education farm management training programs.
Club activity or program promotion by trained volunteers from youth groups, community service organizations, farm organizations, and environmental groups.
Youth farm management education programs
Program sponsorship by lending institutions and/or agribusiness's.
Programs targeted at nonfarmers

Service Activities

AmeriCorps Participants will assist with and conduct pollution-risk assessments using some or all of the Home*A*Syst work/fact sheets developed for Idaho. The first 11 work/fact sheets include: #1 Drinking Water Well Condition; #2 Pesticide Storage and Handling; #3 Fertilizer Storage and Handling; #4 Petroleum Products Storage; #5 Hazardous Waste Management; #6 Household Wastewater Treatment; #7 Livestock Waste Storage; #8 Livestock Yards Management; #9 Silage Storage; #10 Milking Center

Wastewater Treatment; and #11 Lawn and Garden Management. The final worksheets include: #11 Site Evaluation Worksheet; and Overall Summary Evaluation.

By completing the Home*A*Syst process the participant will provide a direct service to those individuals they are able to work with and likewise to the community as a whole. Demonstrateable services will include the completed assessment, program evaluations forms, and recommendations for correcting at risk activities.

A typical week for an AmeriCorps Participant would be to assist local home owners in conducting and completing 2-5 Home*A*Syst evaluations. In order to accomplish this successfully the participant would have received adequate training prior to completing any evaluations. The participant would contact each home owner in advance and arrange a site visit. During the site visit the participant would spend a few minutes introducing themselves, giving some background on their position and involvement, as well as some specifics about the Home*A*Syst Program. They would then ask some questions about the individuals home site and the type of management practices conducted. From this information they would then be able to determine which work/fact sheets would need to be discussed and completed. Once these sheets were completed the participant would assist the owner in completing the Site Evaluation Worksheet and the Overall Summary Evaluation. These worksheets will enable the participant to assess those activities or conditions on the home owners immediate setting that may negatively impact the environment or their drinking water, while pointing out best management practices or recommended modifications to correct these at-risk activities or conditions. The participant would make note of the worksheets that were completed and any recommendations that were made. Since the Home*A*Syst program is confidential the participant would leave the completed worksheets with the home owner along with a project evaluation form to be completed by the home owner and returned to the Home*A*Syst project office. The participant would thank the home owner for their participation and would return to the local conservation office. Any evaluations and recommendations would be summarized in a general form to track participant as well as project accomplishments.

Relation to need

The service activities provide direct information to local residents, assistance in completing a voluntary pollution-risk assessment, recommendations for correcting any identified problems. The participants activities will help protect and enhance Idaho's environment and drinking water sources.

Participant training and support

Training workshops will be developed to provide participants with

the background necessary to adequately perform the job responsibilities. State specialist that worked on the Farm*A*Syst modifications in Idaho will be utilized as trainers to transfer as much of their individual expertise as possible to participants. Actual field exercises will be used to provide hands-on training.

Participants will also have an invaluable opportunity to interact with different project personnel to gain additional training and experience on other aspects of water quality and environmental protection. It is optimistic that once the program has been established, local communities will provide a means for continuation.

With the knowledge gained from training and practical experience, the participant will have the background necessary to continue their education and/or move directly into the work force.

Participant placement and supervision

AmeriCorps participants will be trained in small groups. They may work in teams initially, but will eventually work individually. Local groups of participants will come together at a minimum of once a month to discuss and share their experiences (problems and successes). The Home*A*Syst Project Specialist and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Water Quality Specialist will work with local project offices to orient them and prepare them for the AmeriCorps participant. The participant will be supervised by project NRCS and District personnel, with overall supervision coming directly from the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist. The Home*A*Syst Planning Committee will provide assistance where necessary.

Attachment #1

**State Water
Quality Project**

Cedar Draw
E. Upper Deep Creek
W. Upper Deep Creek
Mission Sheep
Upper Hangman Creek
Tensed/Lolo Creek
Plummer Creek
Arkansas Basin
Lone Creek
Upper Rapid Creek
Badger Creek
Meadow Creek
Antelope Creek
Tex Creek
Conway Gulch
Sand Hollow West
S.F. Palouse River
Weatherstone
Aspendale/Potlatch
Weatherstone
Lenville
Weatherstone
Wide Hollow
Dairy Creek,
Daniels
N.E. Worley
Lake Creek
Bancroft
Upper Portneuf
Bedrock Creek
Lolo/Fords Creek
Upper Conant Creek
Squirrel Creek
Pine Creek
Vinyard Creek
Lapwal
Mission Creek
Crane Creek
Boulder Creek
Teton River
Lower Payette River

SCD

Balanced Rock
Balanced Rock
Balanced Rock
Benewah
Benewah
Benewah
Benewah
Portneuf
Portneuf
Portneuf
Eastside
Eastside
EastSide
Eastside
Canyon
Canyon
Latah

Latah

Latah

Oneida
Oneida
Oneida
Kootenai/Shos.
Kootenai/Shos.
Caribou
Caribou
Clearwater
Clearwater
Yellowstone
Yellowstone
Nez Perce
Northside
Lewis
Lewis
Weiser River
Valley
Teton
Payette

SCS Contact

Kevin Davidson
Kevin Davidson
Kevin Davidson
Mike Combs
Mike Combs
Mike Combs
Mike Combs
Ron Davidson
Ron Davidson
Ron Davidson
Dennis Hadley
Dennis Hadley
Dennis Hadley
Dennis Hadley
John Gleim
John Gleim
Ken Kouska

Ken Kouska

Ken Kouska

John Bechtold
John Bechtold
John Bechtold
David Brown
David Brown
Tim Schroeder
Tim Schroeder
Bruce Hanson
Brtice Hanson
Ken Beckmann
Ken Beckmann
Frank Gariglio
Tom Burnhai-n
Rob Fredrickson
Rob Fredrickson
Toi-n Yaiikey
Randy Phelan
Steve Ray
Mike Raymond

SCD Contact

Zena Cook
Zena Cook
Zena Cook
Arlene Grose
Arlene Grose
Arlene Grose
Arlene Grose
Amyllen Bodily
Amyllen Bodily
Amyllen Bodily
Marny Nelson
Marny Nelson
Marny Nelson
Marny Nelson
Debbie Comfort
Debbie Comfort
Nancy

Nancy

Nancy

Linda Daniels
Linda Daniels
Linda Daniels
Patricia Farrar
Patricia Farrar
Larry Lewis
Larry Lewis
Mike Hoffman
Mike Hoffman
Mark Hogen
Mark Hogen
Barry Holben
Rob Rogerson
Chuck Pentzer
Chuck Pentzer
Aleta Si-nith
Daryl Gallup
Darwin Josephson
Nancy Hutchinson

USDA Water Quality Projects

Snake River DEMO

Cassia
Minidoka

Jeff Bohr

Dyane Rigas

Payette River HUA

Payette
Canyon
Washington

Tii-n Stack

Nancy Hutchinson

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Participant Support Cost

Cost shown in this category include primarily training and educational support cost. Each participant will receive training most likely in the form of a workshop. The cost per individual is figured at \$50.00/day x 4 days x 20 participants = **\$4,000.00.**

Staff

Cost are associated with the amount of time existing NRCS, District staff, and the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist under the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts spend supervising and working with participants. Those cost are summarized as follows:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Cost based on Soil Conservationist GS 9 Step 3 (\$31,366/year) with an average of 21% in benefits.

$\$31,366/\text{year} / 26 \text{ pay periods} / 80 \text{ hours} = \$15.08/\text{hr}$

$\$15.08 \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$784.16 \times 20 \text{ participants} =$
\$15,683.00 (salary)

$\$15.08/\text{hr} \times 21 \% = \$3.17/\text{hr} \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$164.67 \times$
 $20 \text{ participants} =$
\$3293.47 (benefits)

Soil Conservation District

Cost based on District I & E Specialist at an average pay of \$8.00/hr.

$\$9.00 \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \$720.00 \times 20 \text{ participants} =$
\$14,400.00 (salary)

$\$9.00/\text{hr} \times 10\% = \$0.90/\text{hr} \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \72.00×20
 $\text{participants} =$ **\$1,440.00 (benefits)**

Home*A*Syst Project Specialist

Cost based on designated salary of \$25,000.00/year with 28% in benefits.

$\$25,000/\text{year}/2080 \text{ hours} = \$12.02/\text{hr}$

$\$12.02 \times 0.5 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$156.26 \times 20 \text{ participants} =$
\$3,125.20 (salary)

$\$12.02 \times 28\% = \$3.37 \times 0.5 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \43.75×20
participants = \$875.06 (benerits)

(This figure would include training workshops conducted by Project Specialist to train project participants)

	Salary	Benefits
NRCS	\$15,683	\$3,293
SCD	\$14,440	\$1,440
Project Specialist	\$3,125	\$ 875
Total	\$33,208	\$5,609

Operational

Travel: Cost are associated with minimum travel expenses supported by contributions from all agencies involved. Anticipated travel expenses are \$100.00/participant/year x 20 participants, for a total of **\$2,000.00.**

Transportation: This will be provided by the NRCS and is calculated on approximately 1000 mile/participant/year x \$0.30/mile x 20 participants = **\$6,000.00.**

Supplies: Supplies will be minimal and are calculated on \$100.00/participant x 20 participants = **\$2,000.00.**

Equipment: Primary equipment cost will be associated with copying and computer use. Copier cost is calculated at 1000 copies x \$0.05/copy x 20 participants = \$1000.00. Computer cost is calculated on \$100.00/participant x 20 participants = \$2,000.00. Copier (\$1000.00) + Computer (\$2,000.00) = **\$3,000.00.**

Internal Evaluation Monitoring

Evaluation of project and participant success will be accomplished primarily by the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist. These funds come directly from the EPA 319 grant proposal which was funded at \$10,000.00. the amount of time existing NRCS, District staff, and the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist under the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts spend supervising and working with participants. Those cost are summarized as follows:

Administration

Administrative cost are based on 3 % of all cost. \$61, 821 x 3 %
= \$1974.51.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

Room 124
3244 Elder Street
Boise, Idaho 83705-4711

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program FY 1996
Idaho Project Proposal

Date: January 27, 1995

To: Paula Cole Jones
AmeriCorps Program Manager
Community Assistance and Resource Development Division
NRCS, Washington, DC

File code: 360

Attached you will find a project proposal from Idaho for participation in the AmeriCorps Program:

* Idaho HOME*A*SYST (Homestead Assessment System) Project

Questions regarding this project may be directed to Acting Assistant State Conservationist (Land Resources) Robert H. Zinszer at (208) 334-1053.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

LINCOLN E. BURTON
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment

cc: (w/attachment)

Eugene E. Andreuccetti, West Regional Conservationist, NRCS, Washington, D.C.
Richard L. Gardner, Ph.D., Executive Director, Idaho Rural Development Council,
Statehouse, Room 122, Boise, ID 83720

Rod Robison, President, IASCD, 2697 W., 6300 S., Rexburg, ID 83440

Wayne Faude, Administrator, SCC, 1215 W. State St., Boise, ID 83720-7000

Robert H. Zinszer, Acting ASTC (LR), NRCS, Boise, ID

Dave DeTullio, ASTC (WR), NRCS, Boise, ID

Lee E. Brooks, ASTC (TS), NRCS, Boise, ID

Richard S. Waters, Acting ASTC (M&SP), NRCS, Boise, ID

James C. Wood, Water Quality Specialist, NRCS, Boise, ID



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts



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(208) 338-9537 FAX

Conservation - Development - Self-Government

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Hope, ID 83836

Director

Kyle Hawley
1180 Lewis Road
Moscow, ID 83843

January 26, 1995

Paula Cole Jones
Americorps Program Manager
Community Assistance and Resource Development Division

Dear Ms. Jones:

The Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) is proud to submit our support to the Idaho Home*A*Syst Program which has been initiated to assist Idahoans in the protection of our natural resources.

The Americorps program provides an excellent opportunity for us to enlist Americorps participants who will provide valuable assistance in accomplishing the objectives of the Idaho Home*A*Syst Program. Idaho Home*A*Syst is an effective and much needed environmental program uniquely structured under the auspices of the IASCD providing support to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the communities they serve.

The IASCD strongly supports and recommends the Idaho Americorps Home*A*Syst Application for FY 96 funding. We respectfully appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rod B. Robison, President

IDAHO HOME*A*SYST PROJECT

**A Homestead Assessment System for
Environmental and Drinking Water Protection**

**AmeriCorps FY 96 Project Application
USDA-NRCS
Idaho**

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AmeriCorps Participants will receive training and support directly from the Project Specialist and will receive additional support from the Home*A*Syst Planning Committee as well as the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Executive Director and Board of Directors. Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist.

Design

The Home*A*Syst Program has been established to provide rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments related to activities within and around their home, for the protection of the environment and their domestic drinking water supply. The Home*A*Syst program consist of a series of 11 fact sheets and 13 worksheets designed to help residents assess how effectively their homestead practices protect the environment and their drinking water.

One of the project task identified and funded under the EPA 319 grant is to develop and conduct a state-wide measurement plan that will be used to evaluate activity and outcome objectives for implementation of the Home*A*Syst Program. Completed evaluation worksheets and action plans will provide a direct measure of project results. In addition, a brief questionnaire will be developed to track pre- and post-evaluation results providing information on social attitudes and changes following project implementation.

Concept

The Home*A*Syst Program has been established to provide rural home owners with assistance in conducting voluntary pollution-risk assessments related to activities within and around their home, for the protection of the environment and their domestic drinking water supply.

AmeriCorps Participants will receive training and support directly from the Project Specialist and will receive additional support from the Home*A*Syst Planning Committee as well as the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Executive Director and Board of Directors. Participants will be located in local Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil Conservation District water quality project offices and will work with existing information & education specialist.

Implementation Strategies and Delivery Options:

Implement statewide to assist farmsteads and rural home owners to protect the environment and drinking water quality.

Delivery Options may include but are not limited to:

- One-on-one assistance on the farm
- Group assessments with educational and technical assistance
- Group orientation with follow-up one-on-one assistance
- Incorporation into other education programs
- Self-assessments

Delivery Team Members may include but are not limited to:

- AmeriCorps participants
- County health departments
- County planning and zoning departments
- Extension service
- State Agricultural Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Private sector (farm cooperatives, crop consultants, petroleum representatives)

Water User Groups
Youth groups (4-H, FFA)
Trained volunteers
Vocational agriculture consultants (youth and adult)
Environmental groups
Producer associations
Lenders

Delivery may be incorporated into other educational programs including but not limited to:

USDA water quality demonstration and hydrologic unit projects
State watershed projects
State Agricultural Water Quality Projects (SAWQP)
Municipal wellhead protection efforts, Wellhead Protection Program (DEQ)
Idaho Ground Protection Plan implementation components
Drinking water education programs
Water User Group educational programs
Agricultural Industry and Commodity Group educational programs
Environmental Consulting educational programs
Whole farm assessments
NRCS conservation planning
IDA and UI-CES pesticide applicator training programs
IDA Waste Pesticide Disposal Program
Homemaker or family living education programs
Adult education farm management training programs
Club activity or program promotion by trained volunteers from youth groups, community service organizations, farm organizations, and environmental groups
Youth farm management education programs
Program sponsorship by lending institutions and/or agribusinesses
Programs targeted at nonfarmers

Service Activities

AmeriCorps Participants will assist with and conduct pollution-risk assessments using some or all of the Home*A*Syst work/fact sheets developed for Idaho. The first 11 work/fact sheets include: #1 Drinking Water Well Condition; #2 Pesticide Storage and Handling; #3 Fertilizer Storage and Handling; #4 Petroleum Products Storage; #5 Hazardous Waste Management; #6 Household Wastewater Treatment; #7 Livestock Waste Storage; #8 Livestock Yards Management; #9 Silage Storage; #10 Milking Center Wastewater Treatment; and #11 Lawn and Garden Management. The final worksheets include: #11 Site Evaluation Worksheet; and Overall Summary Evaluation.

By completing the Home*A*Syst process the participant will provide a direct service to those individuals they are able to work with and likewise to the community as a whole. Demonstrateable services will include the completed assessment, program evaluations forms, and recommendations for correcting at risk activities.

A typical week for an AmeriCorps Participant would be to assist local home owners in conducting and completing 2-5 Home*A*Syst evaluations. In order to accomplish this successfully the participant would have received adequate training prior to completing any evaluations. The participant would contact each home owner in advance and

arrange a site visit. During the site visit the participant would spend a few minutes introducing themselves, giving some background on their position and involvement, as well as some specifics about the Home*A*Syst Program. They would then ask some questions about the individual's home site and the type of management practices conducted. From this information they would then be able to determine which work/fact sheets would need to be discussed and completed. Once these sheets were completed the participant would assist the owner in completing the Site Evaluation Worksheet and the Overall Summary Evaluation. These worksheets will enable the participant to assess those activities or conditions on the home owner's immediate setting that may negatively impact the environment or their drinking water, while pointing out best management practices or recommended modifications to correct these

at-risk activities or conditions. The participant would make note of the worksheets that were completed and any recommendations that were made. Since the Home*A*Syst program is confidential the participant would leave the completed worksheets with the home owner along with a project evaluation form to be completed by the home owner and returned to the Home*A*Syst project office. The participant would thank the home owner for their participation and would return to the local conservation office. Any evaluations and recommendations would be summarized in a general form to track participant as well as project accomplishments.

Relation to need

The service activities provide direct information to local residents, assistance in completing a voluntary pollution-risk assessment, recommendations for correcting any identified problems. The participants' activities will help protect and enhance Idaho's environment and drinking water sources.

Participant training and support

Training workshops will be developed to provide participants with the background necessary to adequately perform the job responsibilities. State specialists that worked on the Farm*A*Syst modifications in Idaho will be utilized as trainers to transfer as much of their individual expertise as possible to participants. Actual field exercises will be used to provide hands-on training.

Participants will also have an invaluable opportunity to interact with different project personnel to gain additional training and experience on other aspects of water quality and environmental protection. It is optimistic that once the program has been established, local communities will provide a means for continuation.

With the knowledge gained from training and practical experience, the participant will have the background necessary to continue their education and/or move directly into the work force.

Participant placement and supervision

AmeriCorps participants will be trained in small groups. They may work in teams initially, but will eventually work individually. Local groups of participants will come together at a minimum of once a month to discuss and share their experiences (problems and successes). The Home*A*Syst Project Specialist and the Natural

Resources Conservation Service Water Quality Specialist will work with local project offices to orient them and prepare them for the AmeriCorps participant. The participant will be supervised by project NRCS and District personnel, with overall supervision coming directly from the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist. The Home*A*Syst Planning Committee will provide assistance where necessary.

State Water Quality Project	SCD	SCS Contact	SCD Contact
Cedar Draw	Balanced Rock	Kevin Davidson	Zena Cook
E. Upper Deep Creek	Balanced Rock	Kevin Davidson	Zena Cook
W. Upper Deep Creek	Balanced Rock	Kevin Davidson	Zena Cook
Mission Sheep	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Upper Hangman Creek	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Tensed/Lolo Creek	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Plummer Creek	Benewah	Mike Combs	Arlene Grose
Arkansas Basin	Portneuf	Ron Davidson	Amyllen Bodily
Lone Creek	Portneuf	Ron Davidson	Amyllen Bodily
Upper Rapid Creek	Portneuf	Ron Davidson	Amyllen Bodily
Badger Creek	Eastside	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Meadow Creek	Eastside	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Antelope Creek	EastSide	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Tex Creek	Eastside	Dennis Hadley	Marny Nelson
Conway Gulch	Canyon	John Gleim	Debbie Comfort
Sand Hollow West	Canyon	John Gleim	Debbie Comfort
S.F. Palouse River	Latah	Ken Kouska	Nancy Weatherstone
Aspendale/Potlatch	Latah	Ken Kouska	Nancy Weatherstone
Lenville	Latah	Ken Kouska	Nancy Weatherstone
Wide Hollow	Oneida	John Bechtold	Linda Daniels
Dairy Creek	Oneida	John Bechtold	Linda Daniels
Daniels	Oneida	John Bechtold	Linda Daniels
N.E. Worley	Kootenai/Shos.	David Brown	Patricia Farrar
Lake Creek	Kootenai/Shos.	David Brown	Patricia Farrar
Bancroft	Caribou	Tim Schroeder	Larry Lewis
Upper Portneuf	Caribou	Tim Schroeder	Larry Lewis
Bedrock Creek	Clearwater	Bruce Hanson	Mike Hoffman
Lolo/Fords Creek	Clearwater	Bruce Hanson	Mike Hoffman
Upper Conant Creek	Yellowstone	Ken Beckmann	Mark Hogen
Squirrel Creek	Yellowstone	Ken Beckmann	Mark Hogen
Pine Creek	Nez Perce	Frank Gariglio	Barry Holben
Vinyard Creek	Northside	Tom Burnham	Rob Rogerson
Lapwai	Lewis	Rob Fredrickson	Chuck Pentzer
Mission Creek	Lewis	Rob Fredrickson	Chuck Pentzer
Crane Creek	Weiser River	Tom Yankey	Aleta Smith
Boulder Creek	Valley	Randy Phelan	Daryl Gallup
Teton River	Teton	Steve Ray	Darwin Josephson
Lower Payette River	Payette	Mike Raymond	Nancy Hutchinson

USDA Water Quality Projects

Snake River DEMO	Cassia Minidoka	Jeff Bohr	Dyane Rigas
Payette River HUA	Payette Canyon Washington Adams	Tim Stack	Nancy Hutchinson

Refer to the Title Page Instruction on page 26. Please type or print in black ink.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

1. APPLICATION TITLE: IDAHO HOME*A*SYST PROJECT

☐ Single-Site ☒ Multi-Site

2. LEGAL APPLICANT: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact Person's Name: Robert H. Zinszer

Address: 3244 Elder St., Rm. 124

City, State, Zip: Boise, ID 83705-4711

Telephone/Fax: (208) 334-1053 (208) 334-9230

Applicant's Congressional District: Congressional District #2

3. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION ☒ Federal Agency ☐ National Non-Profit Organization ☐ Professional Corps Prog. ☐ Multi-State Program

Employer's ID Number: 160160

4. PROJECT DIRECTOR: Currently being filled

Organization's Name: Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Address: 802 W. Bannock, Hoff Bldg.

City, State, Zip: Boise, ID 83702

Telephone/Fax: (208) 338-5900 (208) 338-9537

5. GRANT TYPE: ☐ Planning or ☒ Operating or ☐ Educational Awards Only

6. ISSUE AREA ☒ Educational

AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES: ☒ School Readiness

☐ School Success

☒ Human Needs

☐ Independent Living

☒ Community Revitalization

☒ Environment

☒ Neighborhood Environment

☐ Natural Environment

☒ Public Safety

☐ Violence Prevention

☐ Crime Control

7. AREA(S) TO BE SERVED: Statewide

☐ Urban

☒ Rural

☐ Other

Congressional District of primary area served: Congressional District #2

Congressional Districts of secondary areas served: Congressional District #1

8. PARTICIPANTS: # of Full-time Participants 15 # of Full-time Participants Needing Educational Awards 13
of Part-time Participants 5 # of Part-time Participants Needing Educational Awards 3
of Participants Needing Child Care 3 # of Expected National Recruitment Participants 2
of their Children needing Child Care 9
of Unfunded Participants

9. BUDGET: Corporation Funds Requested YR1 YR2 YR3
Total Budget Amount YR1 YR2 YR3

10. PROGRAM OPERATES in an area of need as identified by the Corporation? ☒ Yes or ☐ No
Which One? Primarily Environment

11. PROJECT DURATION: Start Date 10/1/95 End Date 9/30/96 Number of Program Terms 1

12. CERTIFICATION: The applicant certifies to the best of his/her knowledge and belief that the data in this application are true and correct and that the filing of the application has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and that the applicant will comply with the assurances required of applicants if the assistance is approved.

Date: Name: Title:

Telephone: Signature:

TITLE PAGE AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

Applicant Name: _____
 Program Name: _____

☐ Aggregate ☐ Program (if applicable)

	Corporation Share (CNCS) Funds Requested from the Corporation	Grantee Share Other Federal/State/ Local/Private Funds	Total Total Program Funding
A. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS			
Training and Education	_____	4,000	= _____
Uniforms	_____	N/A	= _____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____	-	= _____
Subtotal	_____	4,000	= _____
B. STAFF			
Salaries	_____	33,208	= _____
Benefits	_____	5,609	= _____
Training	_____	-	= _____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____	-	= _____
Subtotal	_____	38,817	= _____
C. OPERATIONAL			
Travel	_____	2,000	= _____
Transportation	_____	6,000	= _____
Supplies	_____	2,000	= _____
Equipment	_____	3,000	= _____
(please specify in Budget Narrative) Other	_____	-	= _____
Subtotal	_____	13,000	= _____
D. INTERNAL EVALUATION MONITORING			
	_____	10,000	= _____
E. ADMINISTRATION			
	_____	1,855	= _____
	(may not exceed 5% of Corporation funds, A-F)		
(in dollar amounts) Total A-E		+	67,792 =
Percentages	_____ %	+	_____ % = 100%
(Corporation maximum 75% + Grantee minimum 25% = 100%)			

BUDGET FORM AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Participant Support Cost

Cost shown in this category include primarily training and educational support cost. Each participant will receive training most likely in the form of a workshop. The cost per individual is figured at \$50.00/day x 4 days x 20 participants = **\$4,000.00**.

Staff

Cost are associated with the amount of time existing NRCS, District staff, and the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist under the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts spend supervising and working with participants. Those cost are summarized as follows:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Cost based on Soil Conservationist GS 9 Step 3 (\$31,366/year) with an average of 21 % in benefits.

$\$31,366/\text{year}/26 \text{ pay periods}/80 \text{ hours} = \$15.08/\text{hr}$

$\$15.08 \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$784.16 \times 20 \text{ participants} = \textbf{\$15,683.00 (salary)}$

$\$15.08/\text{hr} \times 21\% = \$3.17/\text{hr} \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$164.67 \times 20 \text{ participants} = \textbf{\$3293.47 (benefits)}$

Soil Conservation District

Cost based on District I & E Specialist at an average pay of \$8.00/hr.

$\$9.00 \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \$720.00 \times 20 \text{ participants} = \textbf{\$14,400.00 (salary)}$

$\$9.00/\text{hr} \times 10\% = \$0.90/\text{hr} \times 2 \text{ hrs/week} \times 40 \text{ weeks} = \$72.00 \times 20 \text{ participants} = \textbf{\$1,440.00 (benefits)}$

Home*A*Syst Project Specialist

Cost based on designated salary of \$25,000.00/year with 28% in benefits.

$\$25,000/\text{year}/2080 \text{ hours} = \$12.02/\text{hr}$

$\$12.02 \times 0.5 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$156.26 \times 20 \text{ participants} = \textbf{\$3,125.20 (salary)}$

$\$12.02 \times 28\% = \$3.37 \times 0.5 \text{ hrs/week} \times 26 \text{ weeks} = \$43.75 \times 20 \text{ participants} = \textbf{\$875.06 (benefits)}$

(This figure would include training workshops conducted by Project Specialist to train project participants)

	Salary	Benefits
NRCS	\$15,683	\$3,293
SCD	\$14,440	\$1,440
Project Specialist	\$3,125	\$ 875
Total	\$33,208	\$5,609

Operational

Travel: Cost are associated with minimum travel expenses supported by contributions from all agencies involved. Anticipated travel expenses are \$100.00/participant/year x 20 participants, for a total of **\$2,000.00**.

Transportation: This will be provided by the NRCS and is calculated on approximately 1000 mile/participant/year x \$0.30/mile x 20 participants = **\$6,000.00**.

Supplies: Supplies will be minimal and are calculated on \$100.00/participant x 20 participants = **\$2,000.00**.

Equipment: Primary equipment cost will be associated with copying and computer use. Copier cost is calculated at 1000 copies x \$0.05/copy x 20 participants = \$1000.00. Computer cost is calculated on \$100.00/participant x 20 participants = \$2,000.00. Copier (\$1000.00) + Computer (\$2,000.00) = **\$3,000.00**.

Internal Evaluation Monitoring

Evaluation of project and participant success will be accomplished primarily by the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist. These funds come directly from the EPA 319 grant proposal which was funded at **\$10,000.00**.

the amount of time existing NRCS, District staff, and the Home*A*Syst Project Specialist under the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts spend supervising and working with participants. Those cost are summarized as follows:

Administration

Administrative cost are based on 3% of all cost. $\$61,821 \times 3\% = \1974.51 .

F. OTHER PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS	Number of Participants	Corporation Share (maximum 85%)	Grantee Share (minimum 15%)	Total 100%
Living Allowance	17.5			
FICA and Workers' Compensation				
Health Care*				
Alternative Health Care** (\$1,200 per eligible participant)				

Total (F)

 + =

Total (A-F)

	Estimated Number of Children	Estimated Number of Eligible Participants	Corporation Share (maximum 100%)	Grantee Share	Total
G. CHILD CARE	9	20			

TOTAL (A-G)

H. EDUCATION AWARDS

	Number of Participants	Amount per Participant	Total
Full-Time Participants	13	\$4725	
Part-Time Participants	3	\$2363	

Total (H)

 x =

* If grantee is utilizing current policy meeting minimum benefits for eligible participants.

** If grantee is utilizing alternative health care policy to be made available.

Applicant Name: _____

Program Name: _____

IDAHO HOME*A*SYST PROGRAM

1. WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM'S MISSION STATEMENT ?

To protect and enhance Idaho's environment and
drinking water supply by providing rural home-
owners with assistance in conducting voluntary
pollution-risk assessments.

Each application must include statements of primary objectives in three areas: Community Service, Community Building, and Participant Development. Please use a separate copy of this form to describe your objectives in each area (i.e., Community Service, Community Building, Participant Development). In the case of community service, also use a separate form for each priority area, if you are working on more than one (i.e. education, environment, etc.)

2.

THIS PAGE APPLIES TO

☒ Community Service

☐ Participant
Development

☐ Community
Building

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Human Needs
- ☐ Environment

3. WHAT ARE YOUR ANNUAL OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA CHECKED ABOVE ?

List your three primary objectives.

A. Increase public awareness of the availability
of an environmental/water quality voluntary
assessment tool called HOME*A*SYST.

B. Increase the knowledge and awareness of rural
citizens and communities of activities that
impact the environment and water quality.

C. Assist rural citizens and communities with
voluntary assessments.

MISSION STATEMENT AND ANNUAL OBJECTIVES AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

Idaho

OBS. Doc

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

SITE: Idaho

SITE SUPERVISOR:

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Increase public awareness of the availability of an environmental/water quality, voluntary assessment tool called Home*A*Syst.

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

SITE: Idaho

SITE SUPERVISOR:

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Increase the knowledge and awareness of rural citizens
and communities on activities that impact the environment
and water quality.

(NOTE: Seems very similar to objective one. Please be sure we can differentiate.)

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

SITE: Idaho

SITE SUPERVISOR:

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist Rural citizens and communities with voluntary assessments.

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Home*A*Syst (15 FT Members & 5PT Members - RDT)

SITE: Idaho

SITE SUPERVISOR:

PHONE: ()

COUNTY:

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Assist rural citizens and communities in implementing management practices that will benefit the environment, water quality, and public health.

-
1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
 4. By what standard will you gauge success?
 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

ILLINOIS

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Chicago Environmental Action Project
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	PL&E
D. State of Duty Station:	Illinois
E. County of Duty Station:	Cook
F. Names of counties served: (Up to 15)	Cook, Lake, Dupage, and Will
G. Congressional District:	1
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Carzella Pritchett
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	4434 S Lake Park, Chicago, IL 60653 Ph: (312) 373-9956 FAX: (312) 373-9960
J. Name of St. Project Director:	Gary Parker
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	1902 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 Ph: (217) 398-5271 FAX: (217) 398-5310
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	20
M. Number of Members in RDT:	0

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	East St. Louis & Metro-East Environmental Project
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	PL&E
D. State of Duty Station:	Illinois
E. County of Duty Station:	St. Clair
F. Names of counties served: (Up to 15)	Madison and St.Clair
G. Congressional District:	12
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Rufus Williams
I. Address, phone & fax numbers:	601 James R. Thompson Blvd, East St. Louis IL 62201 Ph: (618) 271-9540 FAX: (618) 271-9737
J. Name of St. Project Director:	Gary Parker
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	1902 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 Ph: (217) 398-5271 FAX: (217) 398-5310
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	20
M. Number of Members in RDT:	0

Illinois

OBJ. Doc

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
(20 Members - PL&E)

SITE: Chicago Illinois

SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett

PHONE: (312) 373-9956

COUNTY: Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct workshops for community organizing with emphasis on utilizing resources that already exist in the community.

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

Help to organize & facilitate community organization meetings at 2 sites (one of our three sites has an existing model community organization) and two neighborhoods. This includes assisting with developing agendas, speaker and participant involvement, and the actual conducting of the meetings. The defined emphasis is improving the neighborhood's "natural" environment.

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

The development of community involvement & ownership of the "natural" environment of the neighborhood. This involvement will hopefully lead to long term maintenance of new urban green space & the further redevelopment of community vacant lots.

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

Feedback from community surveys & continued interest in urban agriculture & green space development.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A minimum of one community organizational meeting for each of the housing sites & community neighborhoods. The development of action plans to further organize & implement community involvement & environmental improvements. level of community involvement in objective 2.

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

Direct involvement - 100 community leaders. Indirect impacts - approximately 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago, IL
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Participants - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Conduct workshops for community control & utilization of vacant lots for green space

-
- 1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?**
Organize community training sessions for groups that develop & implement action plans to develop urban agriculture & green/safety sites. These training sessions include sharing of existing natural resource courses in a customized curriculum to meet the needs of specific communities. Members along with invited experts from partner agencies will conduct the workshops. See Objective 1.
 - 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?**
To develop local expertise among community residents to establish & maintain urban green space. Also to increase AmeriCorps' impact on the community.
 - 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?**
Feedback from the community & display of motivation to implement action plans.
 - 4. By what standard will you gauge success?**
Development of natural resource curriculums for each of the 5 communities. The completion of at least two primary courses & one hands-on training for at least one green site per community.
 - 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**
Direct involvement - 200 natural resource volunteers (this doesn't include public school students, see objective 4.) Indirect impacts - approximately 20,000-30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago Illinois
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Establish in-city plant materials sources as temporary use and ecological revitalization of vacant lots.

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

The creation of small city nursery sites on vacant lots or parts of larger lots. Members will help in the procurement of nursery stock, transplanting, and maintenance. We will also provide assistance in plans for community marketing of plant materials for private lands.

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

Utilization of vacant lots for local community owned nurseries to provide business opportunities & a source for plant materials that have survived the city environment. A parallel benefit is the soil improvements caused by planting, transplanting, and maintenance activities. Sites that have been utilized in this way will be ideal for long-term gardening & greening programs in the future.

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

Feedback from the community.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A minimum of one nursery site per community.

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

Direct involvement - 200 natural resource leaders volunteers; indirect impacts - approximately 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 4

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago, IL
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Provide environmental education, including hands-on activities, to primary and secondary school students.

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

Provide environmental education to public school students working as the direct link for existing programs with the Nature Conservancy, the Chicago Academy of Sciences & others. This includes activities during school hours & after-school programs including student service activities tied to objectives 1, 2, & 3.

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

Awareness & understanding of basic environmental principles & the importance of conservation & improvement of degraded "natural" environments. Increased student service activities to support the community.

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

Feedback from student & teacher surveys. Student & teacher involvement in community organized efforts to develop & maintain green sites.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

A minimum of two structured school activities for five high schools & their feeder elementary schools in the communities. Service activities from 2 classes in each of these schools.

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

Direct involvement - service activities: 5,000 students & 160 teachers.

Direct involvement - a minimum of two training sessions: an additional 15,000 students.

Indirect involvement - approximately 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 5

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago Illinois
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Encourage & assist schools with creation of outdoor environmental education classrooms.

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

Help teachers & students to plan & build an environmental education site near the schools in their community. This includes help in procuring physical elements of the green educational site & labor to help construct it.

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

This is planned as a reward to teachers & students that become involved in community service. This will hopefully teach students the value of community service & redevelopment of natural resources to improve the quality of life in the city.

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

Feedback from the teachers & students.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Level of involvement in this objective. A minimum of 2 classes per school involved. Criteria will be developed so teachers & students will know their progress.

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

Direct - 5,000 students & 160 teachers. Indirect - 20,000 - 30,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 6

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** Chicago, IL
Chicago Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Carzella Pritchett **PHONE:** (312) 373-9956 **COUNTY:** Cook

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Work with the Chicago Housing Authority to train & assist residents with improvements, weatherization, and maintenance.

-
- 1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?**
Additional remodeling & major structural repairs to apartments. Training & follow-up with new residents to maintain & repair their new homes. Provide basic remodeling training to residents as assisted with CHA.
 - 2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?**
Self reliance for minor repairs & upkeep on apartments by residents in cooperation with CHA.
 - 3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?**
Feedback from resident surveys & level of interest in training.
 - 4. By what standard will you gauge success?**
Remodeling of 50 apartments and major structural repairs to 6 apartments. One workshop held in three CHA home sites.
 - 5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?**
Direct involvement - 100 residents; indirect - app. 5,000 to 10,000 residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 1

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** East St. Louis Illinois
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams **PHONE:** (618) 271-9540 **COUNTY:** St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Restore 10 abandoned lots in residential settings & establish 5
community gardens.

1. What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?
Needs will be determined by a team of USDA, state/federal EPA & local professionals.

2. What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?
The 10 sites to be restored & 5 community gardens will be selected by a committee of the local Horticultural Council.

3. How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?
A plan for each site & garden will be developed, service recipients trained and assigned specific responsibilities, and a final assessment of the restoration conducted by the needs team.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?
Restoration will be completed on 100% of the lots & gardens will be operational on 100% of the sites with 100% passing the final assessment.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?
Direct impact upon the residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 2

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** East St. Louis, IL
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams **PHONE:** (618) 271-9540 **COUNTY:** St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Provide environmental/educational training for 5 community groups and 6th, 7th & 8th grade students.

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

Needs will be determined by a team of USDA (NRCS, FS, & CES), IL Dpt of Conservation, IL EPA, local professionals, & State Community College & Southern IL University.

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

The 5 community/neighborhood groups will be selected by a committee of the East St. Louis Ecosystem Council.

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

Plans for activities will be developed by AmeriCorps staff; service recipients will receive training, instruction, and be assigned duties; and upon completion of each training project an assessment will be conducted by the needs team.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Training of the groups will be 100% completed.

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

Will directly affect residents & citizens of the community/neighborhood groups and indirectly the entire East St. Louis metro area.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 3

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** East St. Louis, Illinois
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams **PHONE:** (618) 271-9540 **COUNTY:** St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Improve the condition & public use of 10 of the city parks.

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

The conditions & needs will be determined by a team of East St. Louis metro Park District's personnel, National Park Service, and USDA (NRCS & FS) representatives.

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

The parks to be restored & renovated as part of the AmeriCorps project will be selected & prioritized by a committee of East St. Louis Ecosystem Council.

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

Assessments & plans will be conducted and developed, AmeriCorps members given instruction, training and then assigned specific duties, and a final assessment conducted by the needs team.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

The 10 parks will be 100% restored or renovated and pass the minimal standards set by the needs team.

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

Will directly affect several hundred users of the parks and indirectly affect the entire East St. Louis community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
Objective 4

GRANTEE: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service **SITE:** East St. Louis, IL
East St. Louis Environmental Project (20 Members - PL&E)
SITE SUPERVISOR: Rufus Williams **PHONE:** (618) 271-9540 **COUNTY:** St. Clair

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Begin the process of gaining the designation of Tree USA City for East St. Louis, Alorton, Centreville, & Lovejoy by utilizing the AmeriCorps members in the Urban Forestry component of the AmeriCorps project.

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

Assist in the development of a tree maintenance and planting plan

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

To gain the designation of Tree USA for the above cities.

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

The cities will be evaluated by the needs committee after the AmeriCorps project to insure they are making appropriate progress toward the standards for designations Tree USA City.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

One hundred percent (100%) of the cities will make appropriate progress.

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

Will directly impact the residents of entire area.

ILLINOIS
Chicago Environmental Action Project

SUMMARY PAGE:

A. Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members?

Major accomplishments towards member objectives is the successful establishment of primary liaison roles for the team leaders and other members. The number of partners that we work with is large and a team leader or member has the responsibility to be the liaison between USDA/AmeriCorps and each partner.

The Kennicott Park Facility has been designated by the Mayor's office as one of six Youth and Family Centers in Chicago. This partnership has become an opportunity to dovetail into this new city program.

The growth in individuals and community pride is the most gratifying reward of this program. Some of our team members have already found career opportunities directly related to our work.

Additional accomplishments are detailed in the AmeriCorps USDA, Chicago Environmental Action Notebook of Accomplishments under separate cover.

B. The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project performed by the members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

We will continue to assist existing community organizations such as the Chicago Youth Centers, Schools, community groups such as Neighbors Against Gang Violence, grass roots Advisory Councils and government agencies such as the Chicago Park District.

Continue urban greening and gardening, structural environmental improvements and educational objectives at three Chicago Housing Authority (TEA) Home Sites and two neighborhood areas of Little Valley and the Kennicott Park area.

In the first year we have reached out to as many partners as possible. We intend to evaluate our efforts to determine the most productive partners to work with in the future. Our focus will be greater community empowerment activities for long-term objectives to create, improve and maintain green spaces. This empowerment will involve students as well as community members and will hopefully increase our impact and improve our efficiency.

We will assist the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) to train and assist residents with improvements, weatherization and maintenance of apartments. Hopefully, this will lead to self reliance for minor repairs and upkeep on apartments by residents in cooperation with CHA.

Assist students and teachers to plan and build an environmental education

site near the schools in their community. This will include help in procuring physical elements and the labor to construct the education site.

There will be no major changes in the management structure or partner organizations at this operating site.

East St. Louis & Metro-East SUMMARY PAGE:

A. Exactly what specific accomplishments were achieved in the first half year of the project in meeting the community service objectives and boosting the personal development of the Members?

The East St. Louis Environmental Project of AmeriCorps has made the following progress during the Second Quarter:

10 of the 15 community garden sites have been prepared for planting.

75% of the 20 lots have been cleared of all minor debris and are ready for heavy equipment.

11 AmeriCorps Members attended Master Gardening Training. Members planted 100% of National Tree Trust trees (57) on the SCC campus.

Members conducted joint gardener training with Operation New Spirit staff.

Members conducted educational program with local elementary school.

Members have started hundreds of plants in SCC greenhouse and have transferred them to Jones Park Greenhouse for use by community groups.

Members have completed 50% of East St. Louis Senior High School greenhouse renovation.

Member teams have prepared 20% of flower beds on the SCC campus.

Members received chain saw training.

Member has scheduled community garden training session for first week in April.

Member team put together seed packets for community gardens.

Member has started preparing site signs.

Team has established a demonstration garden on the SCC campus using biodynamic gardening techniques.

Team has completed 75% of the work to renovate the landscape at the Dunbar Elementary School

The project has made giant strides in the areas of community service, community development, and member growth. Aside from the basic training necessary to complete the projects, members have been provided training in sexual harassment, civil rights, and chain saw usage. Members have assisted Operation New Spirit in getting local community gardeners prepared to begin spring planting, worked with a group of elderly citizens from Granite City to prepare for spring plantings, met with citizens about gardens and lots, and share their views about service and

their committees with guests and other residents. Members have met with all the local mayors, several local ministers, the chamber of commerce, and residents concerning heavy equipment needs and assistance with lot renovation.

B. The key elements of the program design for next year. Specifically describe each new service project performed by the members. Describe any major changes in management structure or partner organizations.

We will continue to work on community beautification through lot renovations, maintenance of lots and gardens and maintenance of landscape work started on the State Community College Campus. We plan to expand the project into Urban Forestry, career awareness and public parks rehabilitation.

Also, we plan to provide environmental/education training to 5 community/neighborhood groups and 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from the Lovejoy and East St. Louis schools.

The principal local partner on this project is State Community College. NRCS currently has a cooperative agreement with the college. Under this agreement, NRCS is providing the College \$70,000, and the college is providing the day-to-day site management. in FY 96, NRCS will provide the day-to-day site management. The principal partner will be the State Community College, but there will be no exchange of funds

APPL. DOC

Louisiana

AmeriCorps Program Application

Title of Project:

Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Corps

Name of Organization:

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302

Summary

Education

The socioeconomic environment in southeastern Louisiana does not typically impress upon many of our youth the importance of a sound education. This is especially true in the economically disadvantaged classes, as is the case in most regions. Employment opportunities exist mainly in commercial fisheries, marine fabrication, oil and gas production, services, and farming. Employment is primarily blue collar and service in nature. Programs that will reach out to young people to motivate and demonstrate the advantages of a good education and job skills could enhance socioeconomic attitudes and promote self esteem and individual strengths.

Human Needs

A majority of the people of southern Louisiana are dependent on the coastal areas and marshes for their livelihood. A large number of the inhabitants of this area are commercial fishermen. Young people graduating from high school usually continue the family tradition and go into the family business. Because of the deterioration of Louisiana's coastal marsh area, many of the family businesses are failing. People are leaving the area in search employment. An AmeriCorps program in this area would provide an opportunity for young and old to learn new skills, become part of the solution to the coastal erosion problem, and gain the ability to obtain a college education.

Environment

Environmental issues are of major concern in the coastal area of Louisiana. Louisiana's coastal wetlands are some of the most productive habitats in the world. These wetlands provide a national resource of important economic, ecological, and recreational value. But Louisiana's coastal marshes are disappearing at an alarming rate of 16,000 to 20,000 acres per year. Studies show that if this is not curtailed, the Gulf of Mexico may advance inland as much as 30 miles in the next 50 years¹ transforming productive marsh habitat into open water.

¹ Sherwood Gagliano, *An Environmental-Economic Blueprint for Restoring the Louisiana Coastal Zone: The State Plan*, Report of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities Science Advisory Panel Workshop, August 1994.

Louisiana. The program plan of work and accomplishments will be directed by the plant materials manager at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, Louisiana.

Program partners will include: Lafourche Parish schools, LafourcheTerrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District, The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish Police Juries, and Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry among others.

Mission and Objectives

Mission Statement

The mission of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Corps is to find vegetative solutions for the restoration, stabilization, and enhancement of Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

Annual Objectives

Objective 1 Recruit ten AmeriCorps participants within six weeks of beginning project. Conduct developmental and technical training within the first four weeks in order to develop skills necessary to assemble and propagate selected plant species addressing coastal erosion and protection. Hold weekly staff meetings with the environmental corps team supervisor to evaluate program objectives.

Objective 2 AmeriCorps participants, with assistance from local high schools and civic organizations, will collect plant species from wild populations and other available sources. Participants will clean, divide, and plant collected plants in plant containers. Participants will maintain and manage plants for optimum growth and health in greenhouses. At this point in the project year the AmeriCorps participants will become skilled in plant propagation and greenhouse operations.

Objective 3 Participants will vegetatively propagate selected plants to establish three cultural and management methods study fields and one conservation plant assembly. Five thousand containerized plants will be propagated and planted to quarter-acre plots to determine handling and management methods. A measure of success will be plant production technology development that can be used by wetland plant producers. Participants will organize one field day for parish elementary schools and one field day for middle schools to educate and inform students of the importance of coastal wetlands and wetland plants.

Public Safety

It is estimated that 60 to 70 percent of Louisiana's population lives within 50 miles of the coast. The population of the coastal zone of Louisiana has already been affected by wetland loss. Wetland loss has caused increased vulnerability to storm surges (high tides caused by storm events), coastal flooding, and shoreline erosion. This increased vulnerability results in increased damage to homes and businesses, loss of transportation, and possible loss of life as well as long-term degradation of critical resources, such as water supplies, during storm events.² It is estimated that one mile of marsh will provide one foot of storm surge protection. By working to restore Louisiana's marsh, AmeriCorps members will be working to protect the citizens of coastal Louisiana from damages caused by storm events. AmeriCorps participants will also provide information to the public on the importance of preserving coastal wetlands.

Key Elements of the Site Design

Project objectives will be carried out at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Golden Meadow, Louisiana. Vegetative plantings to establish and gather plant performance and adaptation documentation and propagation procedures will be conducted on and off the PMC.

Number of Participants

Ten individuals who desire to gain knowledge and experience relative to. 1) coastal wetland ecosystems and associated plant communities, 2) vegetative solutions for coastal erosion problems, and 3) plant sciences relating to wetland plant identification, propagation, greenhouse operations, and field establishment, management, and data gathering. One participant of the ten will be selected as a rural development corps member and will be assigned the task of group leader.

Administering Organization and Primary Program Partners

The program will be administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist's office in Alexandria,

² Donald F. Boesch, et al., *Scientific Assessment of Coastal Wetland Loss, Restoration and Management in Louisiana*, *Journal of Coastal Research*, Special Issue No. 20, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 1994, p. 45.

Objective 4 Participants will create a sand dune and stabilize blowing sand on Trinity Island, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, by establishing 3,000 linear feet of sand fence and planting 7,500 selected plants on two acres of dune. The result of this work will be to create 1,500 linear feet of dune measured by elevation changes and plant survival and performance. A deliverable product will be a standard and specification for barrier island dune creation and stabilization and promotional information that can be used by conservationists, environmental consultants, nurserymen, schools, and the public.

Objective 5 Participants will stabilize the Bayou Lafourche shoreline, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, and protect it from erosion caused by boat traffic and storms. Participants will propagate and plant selected plants on six miles of shoreline along Bayou Lafourche. Participants will develop plant performance and survival records to measure plant response and success relative to erosion control measures. Participants will organize civic organizations and school groups to plan, plant, and publicize conservation efforts on Bayou Lafourche. Measures of success will be community involvement. Results of the work will be six miles of valuable shoreline protected and enhanced by vegetation. Secondary benefits will be supportive documents to develop vegetative recommendations and information for use by others. Service recipients are innumerable to include parish residents, bayou businesses and users, tourists, Lafourche Parish Fresh Water District, Lafourche Port Authority, and more.

Narrative

A. Needs to be met and appropriateness for national service.

Need

Coastal erosion in Louisiana is a problem that significantly affects us all. Louisiana's coastal marshes are disappearing at alarming rates of 16,000 to 20,000 acres per year. It is estimated that by the year 2050 Louisiana will have lost more than one million acres of coastal wetlands.³ Louisiana's coastal wetlands are a natural resource of important economic, ecological, and recreational value. This national treasure deserves our attention, time, and the best stewardship possible.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, Louisiana, is charged with a responsibility to find vegetative solutions for coastal erosion, restoration, and protection. Due to a rapidly deteriorating coastal environment, there is a need to accelerate efforts to find suitable conservation plants. Native marsh grasses that have evolved in this dynamic and fragile ecosystem are being studied for their use as conservation plants. Plants that can be used successfully to restore, stabilize, and protect fragile marshes are very important to conserving our coastal wetlands.

The AmeriCorps national service program has common goals that meet a resource need for advancing the plant materials program in Louisiana's coastal area. There is a need to "get things done." Vegetative solutions for coastal erosion problems are needed now. Endemic marsh grasses have proven effective in combating soil erosion. Often suitable plants are removed from native marsh habitats for mitigation and restoration purposes. Unless we can establish and make available proven plant species and adapted ecotypes for marsh restoration, portions of marshes will be damaged or destroyed to create new marsh. The purpose of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Program is to develop tested and proven plants for conservation use. But there are limited resources available to accelerate efforts to find and test needed conservation plants.

3 Donald F. Boesch, et al., *Scientific Assessment of Coastal Wetland Loss, Restoration and Management in Louisiana*, *Journal of Coastal Research*, Special Issue No. 20, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 1994, p. 3.

National Service

Participants in an AmeriCorps environmental corps would gain valuable experience and knowledge of wetland functions and values. Close working relations with NRCS professionals and hands-on experience will provide educational benefits that participants will carry with them throughout their lives. The

knowledge gained from working experiences in the plant materials nursery and coastal marshes will foster individual awareness of coastal issues and environmental concerns. These experiences can also foster attributes such as leadership skills, community involvement, educational achievement, job skills, work ethic, and personal motivation and self worth.

B. Design

The program will address plant materials center needs that target special projects designed to accelerate vegetative trials for coastal wetland enhancement and protection. Participants will work closely with NRCS employees and partners to propagate, maintain, and transplant plant materials for conservation field trials. The workload will consist of working in the plant propagation facilities, greenhouses, plant increase fields and study plots on and off the center. Daily tasks may include facility and field maintenance activities that promote and sustain plant materials center operations. We will work with partners throughout the community that have a common interest in saving and protecting our coastal wetlands. Work related experiences will foster educational achievement relative to plant sciences, wetland ecosystems, coastal wetland issues and concerns, and job opportunities.

Project Evaluation Success

Project evaluation and success will be measured by getting plantings on the ground. Project evaluation is documented throughout the year in progress reports. Success of the project will be measured by community involvement and support, publications, news articles, participant motivation, and personal achievements.

Location/Partnerships

Materials Center, Golden Meadow, Louisiana. The program will involve local schools, soil and water conservation districts, and parish and city agencies. Program supervision will be provided by the plant materials center manager. Direct supervision will be provided by a PMC staff member.

Service Activities

Service activities will consist of tasks directed to propagating and establishing plant materials needed to meet program objectives. Daily tasks may include digging or clipping plant materials for propagation and increase, watering, weeding, and greenhouse maintenance. Field activities will include field increase and plot establishment and maintenance. Participants will participate in overall center operations needed to maintain a sanitary and safe working environment. Plant performance and evaluation trials will be established off the center. Participants will assist in gathering plant performance data. Miscellaneous tasks will be assigned as needed to carry out nursery operation. Daily tasks will foster team building, work ethic, educational opportunities, and interpersonal relations.

Training/Placement/Supervision

Participant training and support will be provided by NRCS professionals. In addition to on-the-job training, other training will include first aid and CPR, defensive driving, sexual harassment prevention, leadership skills, and ethics training. Training and safety is essential to Plant Materials Center functions.

Direction will be provided by the PMC manager. Direct guidance will be provided by an assigned PMC staff member. Service participants may be working together or working in small groups addressing different program needs. Organization of participants and PMC staff members is conducted through regular organizational staff meetings. Weekly meetings will address program needs. Time will be used to make work assignments, assign supervision. This is where all participants and staff members can address problems, solutions, and contribute to the success of the program. The program will strive to work with other organizations that will foster civic values and strengthen communities.

LOUISIANA

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project:	Dry Fire Hydrant Project
B. Name of Organization:	U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type:	RDT
D. State of Duty Station:	Louisiana
E. Parrish of Duty Station:	Lincoln
F. Names of parrishes served:	Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Jackson, Union, Webster, & Winn
G. Congressional District:	4th, 5th & 6th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	P. Ellzey Simmons
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	Trailblazer RC&D Area USDA, NRCS 302 Reynolds Drive Ruston, LA 71270 Ph: (318) 255-3554 FAX: (318) 251-9199
E. Parrish of Duty Station:	Franklin
F. Names of parrishes served:	Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, & West Carroll
G. Congressional District:	4th, 5th & 6th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Donna J. Remides
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	Northeast Delta RC&D Area USDA, NRCS P.O. Box 848 Winnsboro, LA 71295 Ph: (318) 435-7328 FAX: (318) 435-7436
E. Parrish of Duty Station:	Livingston
F. Names of parrishes served:	Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, & West Feliciana
G. Congressional District:	1st, 3rd, 4th, & 6th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Danny W. Clement
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	Capital RC&D Area USDA, NRCS 2191-B Tower Street P.O. Box 1296 Denham Springs, LA 70727 Ph: (504) 664-5368 FAX: (504) 664-7734
E. Parrish of Duty Station:	Natchitoches

F. Names of parrishes served:	Beauregard, Caddo, Desoto, Grant Natachitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, & Vernon
G. Congressional District:	4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	Benny R. Dobson
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	Twin Valley RC&D Area USDA, NRCS 428 Dixie Plaza Natchitoches, LA 71457 Ph: (318) 352-4946 FAX: (318) 352-5559
E. Parrish of Duty Station:	Jefferson Davis
F. Names of parrishes served:	Allen, Beauregarad, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, & Cameron
G. Congressional District:	7th
H. Name of Site Supervisor:	James D. Neveu
I: Address, phone & fax numbers:	Imperial-Calcasieu RC&D Area USDA, NRCS 317 North State Street, Suite 1 Jennings, LA 70546 Ph: (318) 824-9533 FAX: (318) 824-9684
J: Name of St Project Director:	Billie Moore
K. Address, phone & fax numbers:	3737 Government St Alexandria, LA 71302 Ph: (318) 473-7768 FAX: (318) 473-7682
L. Number of Members in PL&E:	0
M. Number of Members in RDT:	5

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project: Farm*A*Syst Project
B: Name of Organization: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type: RDT
D. State of Duty Station: Louisiana

E. Parrish of Duty Station: Jefferson Davis
F. Names of parrishes served: Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, & Cameron
G. Congressional District: 7th
H. Name of Site Supervisor: James D. Neveu
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: Imperial-Calcasieu RC&D Area
USDA, NRCS
317 North State Street, Suite 1
Jennings, LA 70546
Ph: (318) 824-9533
FAX: (318) 824-9684

E. Parrish of Duty Station: Madison (2 members)
F. Names of parrishes served: East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, & Tensas
G. Congressional District: 4th, 5th
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Anthony R. Bridgewater
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: Tallulah Field Office
USDA, NRCS
505 East Green Street
Tallulah, LA 71282
Ph: (318) 574-1606
FAX: (318) 574-1931

J: Name of St Project Director: Billie Moore
K. Address, phone & fax numbers: 3737 Government St
Alexandria, LA 71302
Ph: (318) 473-7768
FAX: (318) 473-7682

L. Number of Members in PL&E: 0
M. Number of Members in RDT: 3

TITLE PAGE:

A. Title of Project: Louisiana Coastal Wetlands
Environmental Corps
B: Name of Organization: U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS
C. Team Type: 9 PL&E/1 RDT
D. State of Duty Station: Louisiana
E. Parrish of Duty Station: LaFourche
F. Names of parrishes served: Cameron, Vermillion, Iberia, St.Mary,
Terrebonne, LaFourche, Jefferson,
Plaquemines, Orleans & St. Bernard
G. Congressional District: 1st, 2d, 3rd, & 7th
H. Name of Site Supervisor: Gary L. Fine
I: Address, phone & fax numbers: Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center
USDA, NRCS
438 Airport Road
Galliano, LA 70354
Ph: (504) 475-5280
FAX: (504) 475-6545
J: Name of St Project Director: Billie Moore
K. Address, phone & fax numbers: 3737 Government St
Alexandria, LA 71302
Ph: (318) 473-7768
FAX: (318) 473-7682
L. Number of Members in PL&E: 9
M. Number of Members in RDT: 1