2027-2028 AmeriCorps state competitive grant application new and recompete scoring rubric

Name of reviewer: _____

Grant applicant name: _____

Each application should be reviewed and evaluated based only on the following criteria as outlined in the NOFO and the Application Instructions. Please make specific comments (including page numbers) on areas that are missing or unclear. Additionally, if there are any areas within the application that are outstanding, please note that as well.

Section of application	Points awarded	Points available
A. Executive Summary		0
B. Program Design		50
C. Organizational Capability		25
D. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy		25
Total		100

A. Executive summary (0 points but required)

Applicant should use the template below to complete the Executive Summary. The applicant should not deviate from the template below (bold text added for emphasis only).

"The **[Name of the organization]** will have **[Number of]** AmeriCorps members in **[the locations the AmeriCorps members will serve, e.g. – City, State or State(s)]**. AmeriCorps members will **[service activities the members will do]**. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for **[anticipated outcome of project]**. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage **[number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable]** who will be engaged in **[what the leveraged volunteers will be doing]**.

Cost reimbursement grant applicants:
The AmeriCorps investment will be matched with $[amount of projected match], $[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds] in public funding and $[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding."

Fixed amount grant applicants e.g., EAP, full-cost fixed, no cost slots:
In addition to the AmeriCorps investment, **$[amount of local, state, and Federal Funds]** in public funding and **$[amount of non-governmental funds]** in private funding will support the project."

Criteria	Yes	No
The applicant followed the template provided.	☐	☐

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY COMMENTS**:** _____

_____

_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: _____(out of 0)
*Put the points awarded here in the first table on Page 1.

B. Program Design

Community and Logic Model (20 points)

The application provides a detailed summary of the community problem, including:	Yes	No
The community need that the program activities, or interventions, are designed to address. Include relevant data to establish the scope and impact of the problem.	☐	☐
The primary program activities, including the roles of AmeriCorps members and, if applicable, community volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members.	☐	☐
How the applicant's intervention(s) will lead to the outcomes identified in the organization's Logic Model.	☐	☐

COMMUNITY COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

The Logic Model describes:	Yes	No
The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including but not limited to: ○ Locations or sites in which members will provide services ○ Setting and community condition where the intervention is delivered. ○ Number of AmeriCorps members who will deliver the intervention ○ Characteristics of AmeriCorps members, including specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required to implement the intervention.	☐	☐
The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including: ○ Length of each activity (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention) ○ The dosage of each activity (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week) ○ The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)	☐	☐
The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e. number of beneficiaries served, types and number of activities conducted, equity gaps closed). If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators.	☐	☐
Outcomes that demonstrate changes in knowledge/skill, attitude, behavior, or condition that occur as a result of the intervention. If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as outcome indicators.	☐	☐
Does not exceed 8 pages.	☐	☐

***Note:** Programs should include short, medium or long-term outcomes. Applicants are not required to measure all components of their Logic Model. The applicant's performance measures should be consistent with the program's Logic Model and should represent significant program activities.
Applicants with multiple interventions should include the above information for each intervention in the Logic Model.

LOGIC MODEL COMMENTS: _____
_____
_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR COMMUNITY & LOGIC MODEL: _____(out of 20)

Evidence Base (20 points)

Criteria	Points awarded	Points available
Evidence tier: • Summarize the study design and key findings of the evidence documents submitted, plus, if applicable, the evaluation report from their last three-year grant cycle; and • Describe any other evidence that supports their program, including past performance measure data and/or other research studies that inform their program design.		12
Evidence quality: Standards for scoring in the Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong evidence tiers: Submitted evidence documents: • Are of satisfactory methodological quality and rigor for the type of evaluation conducted e.g., adequate sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, appropriate use of control or comparison groups, etc.; • Describe evaluations that were conducted relatively recently, preferably within the last six years; and • Show a meaningful and significant positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest. Standards for scoring in the Pre-Preliminary evidence tier: • The applicant uses relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, to inform their proposed program design; • The described evidence is relatively recent, preferably from the last six years; and • The evidence described by the applicant indicates a meaningful positive effect on program beneficiaries or AmeriCorps members in at least one key outcome of interest.		8

EVIDENCE BASE COMMENTS: _____
_____
_____
_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR EVIDENCE BASE: _____(out of 20)

Notice priority (4 points, but required)

Criteria	Yes	No
The applicant's proposed program fits within one or more of the AmeriCorps funding priorities.	☐	☐

COMMENTS: _____

POINTS AWARDED FOR NOTICE PRIORITY: _____(out of 0)

Member experience (6 points)

This section contains the following elements:	Yes	No
Describe how AmeriCorps members will be provided opportunities for skill attainment, personal growth and connection to the community they are serving in support of a lifetime of civic participation.	☐	☐

MEMBER EXPERIENCE COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR MEMBER EXPERIENCE: _____(out of 6)

Program design scoring section	Points awarded	Points available
1. Community and Logic Model		20
2. Evidence Base		20
3. Notice Priority		4
4. Member Experience		6
Total		50

*Put the points awarded in this table in the first table on Page 1.

C. Organizational capability

1. Organizational background and staffing (15 points)

This section contains the following elements:	Yes	No
The applicant details the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the staff that will be implementing, providing oversight, and monitoring the program.	☐	☐
The applicant describes their organization's mission and relevant experience in areas such as volunteer recruitment and management, community outreach, overcoming project implementation challenges, etc.	☐	☐
The applicant describes their organization's experience with managing grants, especially federal or state grants. Includes their past performance in meeting: • Grant goals and objectives. • Compliance and reporting requirements.* ~~*Note: If the applicant does not have experience with managing grants, they indicate that.*~~	☐	☐
The applicant has facilitated, partnered, or participated in educational or workforce development programs e.g. work experience or job training programs, etc.	☐	☐

**Note: If the applicant does not have experience with managing grants, they indicate that.*

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND & STAFFING COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND & STAFFING: _____(out of 15)

2. Member supervision (10 points)

This section contains the following elements:	Yes	No
The applicant describes how AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service. E.g., structure for member supervision: cadence and format of supervisor/AmeriCorps member check-ins, member and supervisor opportunities to assess strengths and opportunities for growth, member training plan, etc.	☐	☐
The applicant describes how AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations. E.g., structure for support of supervisors, training plan for supervisors related to supervision and AmeriCorps rules and regulations, cadence and format of AmeriCorps supervisors/their supervisors check ins, opportunities to assess strengthens and opportunities for growth of supervisors, etc.	☐	☐

MEMBER SUPERVISION COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR MEMBER SUPERVISION: _____(out of 10)

Organizational capability scoring section	Points awarded	Points available
1. Organizational Background & Staffing		15
2. Member Supervision		10
Total		25

*Put the points awarded in this table in the first table on Page 1.

D. Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

1. Member recruitment (8 points)

This section contains the following elements:	Yes	No
The applicant describes budget expenses to support recruitment of AmeriCorps members best suited to serve the community e.g. from geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.	☐	☐
The applicant describes how the AmeriCorps member living allowance and other benefits are adjusted within the maximum and minimum living allowance to accommodate for regional variations in contributing to cost of living including: housing, transportation, food, and other expenses. This may vary depending on a program's type of member slots, e.g. FT, PT, RPT, etc.	☐	☐

MEMBER RECRUITMENT COMMENTS: _____
_____
_____
_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR MEMBER RECRUITMENT: _____ (out of 8)

2. Member retention (9 points)

This section shall contain the following elements:	Yes	No
The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support retention of AmeriCorps members. E.g., additional member benefits such as paying above the minimum living allowance, supporting workforce pathways, certifications, coaching for members, resume building, individual benefit as well as community building, network building, member recognition, alumni programming, etc.	☐	☐

MEMBER RETENTION COMMENTS: _____
_____
_____
_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR MEMBER RETENTION: _____(out of 9)

3. Data collection (8 points)

This section shall contain the following elements:	Yes	No
The applicant provides a description of budget expenses to support data collection, continuous improvement activities, and evaluation of the interventions and impact on the community and the member experience.	☐	☐

DATA COLLECTION COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR DATA COLLECTION: _____(out of 8)

4. Serve Idaho specific budget items (0 points but required)

The budget contains the following items:	Yes	No
Travel to quarterly Program Director meetings for at least 1 staff member	☐	☐
Travel & Registration to America's Service Commission (ASC) Annual Training for at least 1 staff member	☐	☐
Serve Idaho Administrative/Indirect Costs	☐	☐
Travel & Registration to Serve Idaho Conference for staff.	☐	☐
Travel & Registration to Serve Idaho Conference for members	☐	☐
America Learns cost for member timesheets and files	☐	☐
Criminal History Check costs for any new staff listed on budget	☐	☐
Criminal History Check costs for members	☐	☐
Items are written in the form of an equation	☐	☐

SERVE IDAHO SPECIFIC BUDGET COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

_____

POINTS AWARDED FOR SERVE IDAHO SPECIFIC BUDGET ITEMS: _____(out of 0)

Cost-effectiveness and budget adequacy scoring section	Points awarded	Points available
1. Member Recruitment		8
2. Member Retention		9
3. Data Collection		8
4. Serve Idaho Specific Budget Items		0
Total		25

*Put the points awarded ~~here~~ in this table in the first table on Page 1.

Signature of reviewer: _____

Date: _____