

AMERICORPS APPLICATION SCORE FORM (Summary Score Page)

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/WFD

SFN – 59540 (05/10)

Reviewer Name:**Page 1 of 13**

Narratives	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
Executive Summary:	0	0
1. Rationale and Approach/Program Design (50pts)		
a) Problem/Need	2	
b) Intervention	3	
c) Theory of Change & Logic Model	19	
d) Evidence Base	12	
e) Notice Priority	3	
f) Member Training	4	
g) Member Supervision	2	
h) Member Experience	3	
i) Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification	2	
2. Organizational Capability (25pts)		
a) Organizational Background and Staffing	10	
b) Compliance and Accountability	15	
3. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25pts)		
a) Cost Effectiveness	18	
b) Budget Adequacy	7	
Total Points	100	

Applicant's Legal Name:**Project Title:****Reviewed by:****Date:**

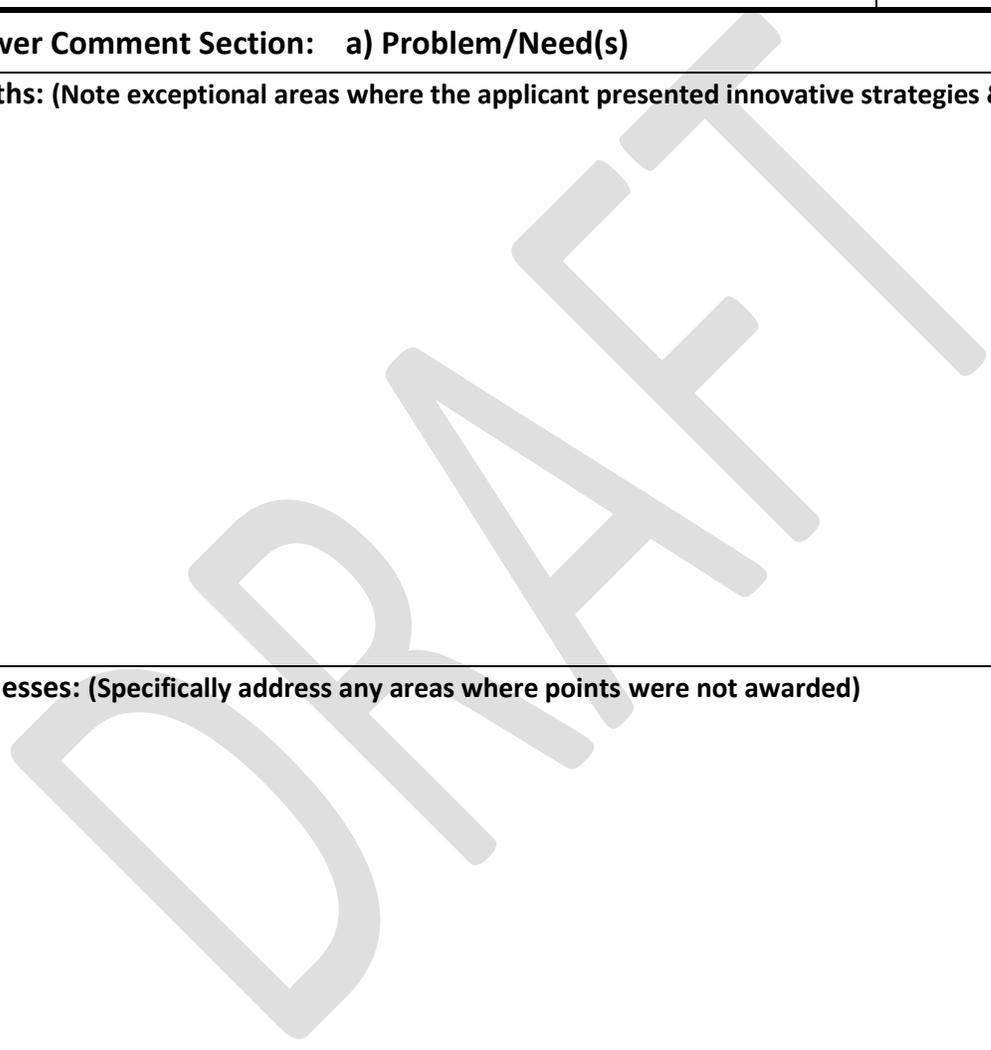
1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN

a) Problem/Need(s)	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
The community need is prevalent and severe in communities where members will serve and has been documented with relevant data.	2	
Sub-Total Points	2	

Reviewer Comment Section: a) Problem/Need(s)

Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)

Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)



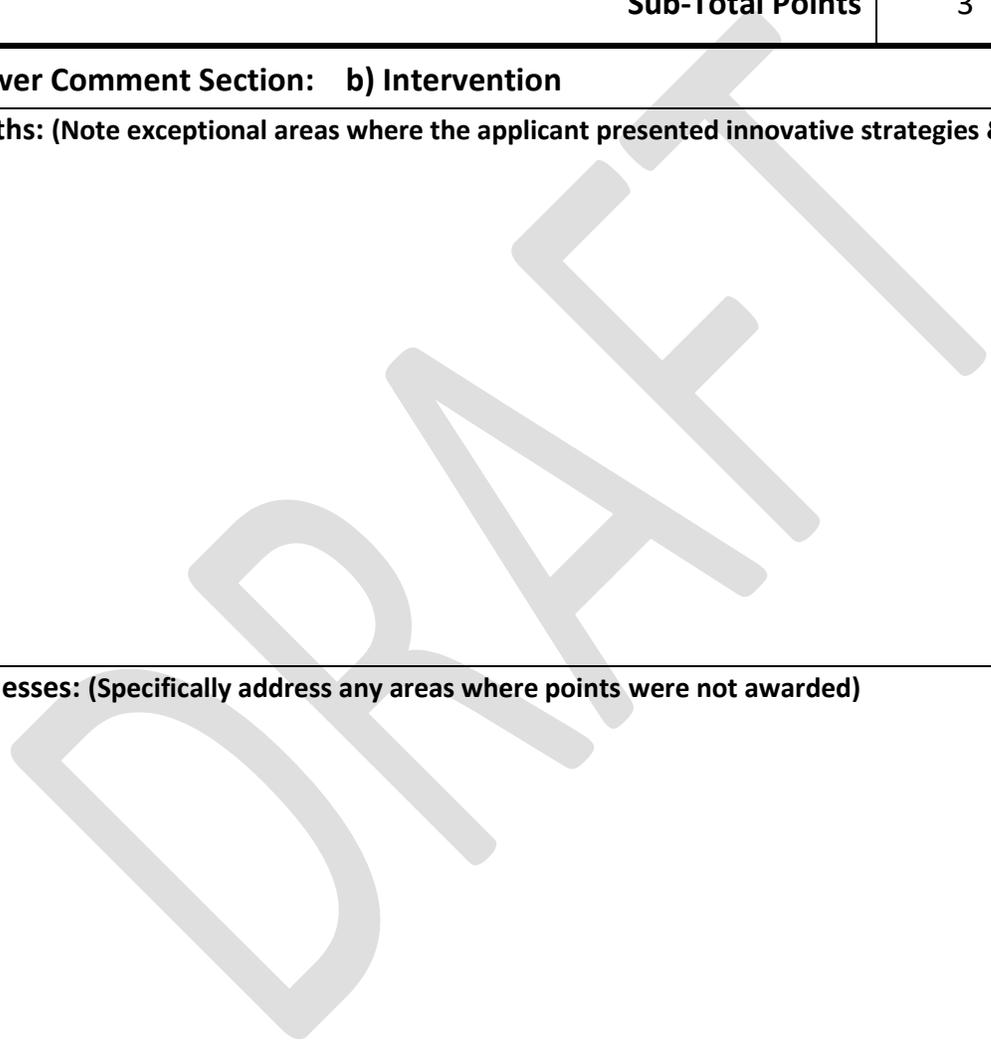
1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN

b) Intervention	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
The proposed intervention is clearly described	1	
The proposed intervention aligns with the identified community need	2	
Sub-Total Points	3	

Reviewer Comment Section: b) Intervention

Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)

Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)



1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)

c) Theory of Change & Logic Model	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
The applicant’s proposed intervention is clearly articulated including the design, target population, and roles of AmeriCorps members and (if applicable) leveraged volunteers.	3	
The applicant’s intervention is likely to lead to the outcomes identified in the applicant’s theory of change. The theory of change should be either evidence-informed or evidence-based, meaning that the proposed intervention is guided by the best available research evidence that supports its effectiveness, as described in the Evidence Base section below.	3	
The proposed outcomes articulated in the application narrative and Logic Model represent meaningful progress in addressing the community need identified by the applicant. <u>Applicants should provide rationale for selecting output and outcome targets. Note, recompeting applicants proposing to significantly increase or decrease output and outcome targets from their previous grant must provide a justification for this change.</u>	3	
The applicant’s AmeriCorps members will produce significant contributions to existing efforts to address the stated problem.	3	
<p>The Logic Model shall depict:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (1 point): A summary of the community problem/need outlined in the narrative. ➤ (1 point): The inputs or resources that are necessary to deliver the intervention, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of locations or sites where members will provide services ▪ Number of AmeriCorps members that will deliver the intervention ➤ (2 points): The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will implement or deliver, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The duration of the intervention (e.g. total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention). ▪ The dosage of the intervention (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). ➤ (1 point): The measurable outputs that result from delivering the intervention (i.e. number of beneficiaries served.) If applicable, identify which National Performance Measures will be used as output indicators. ➤ (2 points): 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. 	7	
Sub-Total Points	19	
Reviewer Comment Section: c) Theory of Change & Logic Model		
Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)		
Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)		

1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)

d) Evidence Base	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
<p>Applicants will be awarded <u>up to 12 points</u> for providing evidence that their proposed intervention will lead to the outcomes identified in the logic model. Applicants must 1) state the evidence tier in which they think they qualify; 2) clearly indicate and describe the evidence that supports the highest evidence tier for which they are eligible and 3) describe the complete body of evidence that supports their program intervention including evidence from lower tiers. Applicants should pay particular attention to the requirements for each tier of evidence. More points are awarded for higher tiers of evidence. (Evidence Base Scoring Rubric is Shown on Pages 6, 7 & 8)</p>	0 to 12	
Sub-Total Points	0 to 12	

Reviewer Comment Section: d) Evidence Base

Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)

DRAFT

Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)

1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)**d) Evidence Base Scoring Rubric**

Applicants classifying their evidence as preliminary who propose to replicate an identical or similar evidence-based intervention, as well as applicants classifying their evidence as either moderate or strong evidence should reference the information about the evidence tiers provided below.

All applicants must include as much detailed information as possible in the Evidence section of the application. Applicants that have collected relevant performance measurement data must describe this data. Applicants that have conducted evaluations of their own program or that are replicating other evidence-based programs must describe these evaluations as outlined in the evidence tier descriptions. Applicants are advised to focus on presenting high-quality evidence from up to two of the strongest and most relevant studies while also summarizing the remaining body of evidence that exists for the program. Studies must be evaluations of specific programs or interventions. Research that does not focus on a specific program or intervention, but rather focuses on a broader issue area or population, will not be considered applicable and will not be reviewed or receive any points.

When describing research studies or evaluations in the application narrative, applicants must include the following information in order to earn points:

- 1) The date the research or evaluation was completed, and the time period for which the intervention was examined
- 2) A description that shows the study's relevance to the proposed intervention
- 3) A description of the target population studied (e.g. the demographics)
- 4) The methodology used in the study (e.g.; outcome study, random assignment, regression discontinuity design, propensity score matching, etc.)
- 5) A description of the data, data source, and data collection methods
- 6) The outcomes or impacts examined and the study findings
- 7) The strength of the findings (e.g. effect size, confidence level, statistical power of the study design and statistical significance of findings).

Reviewers will examine the descriptions using the following criteria:

- a) How closely the intervention evaluated in the studies matches the one proposed by the applicant;
- b) The methodological quality and rigor of the studies presented (e.g., sample size and statistical power, internal and/or external validity, use of control or equivalent comparison groups, baseline equivalence and study attrition, etc.);
- c) Strength and consistency of the findings, with preference given to findings that show a meaningful and persistent positive effect on participants demonstrated with confidence levels; and
- d) The date of the study, with a preference towards studies that have been conducted within the last six years.

If the evidence referenced as part of an application does not describe a well-designed and well-implemented evaluation, the applicant may be considered for a lower tier of evidence and related point values. Applicants must meet all requirements of the evidence tier in order to be considered for that tier. Applicants that do not meet all requirements will be considered for a lower tier.

Requirements associated with the five evidence tiers are described next.

No evidence (0 points) means that the applicant has not presented evidence in the application narrative that they have systematically collected any qualitative or quantitative data to date.

Applicants in this tier must describe how their program design is evidence-informed. An evidence-informed program uses the best available knowledge, research and evaluation to guide program design and implementation, but does not have scientific research or rigorous evaluation of the program itself.

1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)**d) Evidence Base Scoring Rubric (continued)**

Pre-preliminary evidence (1-2 points) means the applicant has demonstrated data collection experience testing or tracking at least one aspect of its logic model. For example, the applicant has collected systemic and accurate data on one or more of the following: the community need the proposed intervention will address, the program intervention's activities and services delivered, participation in the intervention by the target population, and/or participant outcomes (for example, performance measurement data or a process evaluation assessing implementation of the intervention.)

In order to qualify for this tier, the applicant must have collected data about their own program. The data collection process and results must be described fully and the applicant should explain the link between data collection and the relevant component(s) of its logic model. Applicants should describe evidence for the pre-preliminary tier in the Evidence section of the application.

Preliminary evidence (3-6 points) means the applicant has presented data from at least one outcome study of their own intervention that yielded promising results for the proposed intervention or that the applicant proposes to replicate a similar intervention with fidelity to the evaluated program model. The ways to demonstrate preliminary level of evidence are as follows:

Preliminary with Outcome Study The applicant must describe at least one outcome study that was conducted of their own intervention. This must include a detailed description of the outcome study data from pre and post-tests without a comparison group or post-test comparison between intervention and comparison groups. In some cases, a retrospective pre-posttest may be considered, but its use must be justified. This description should explain whether the outcome study was conducted internally by the applicant organization or by an entity external to the applicant. An outcome study includes data beyond that which is collected as part of routine performance measurement. In addition to describing up to two outcome studies of their own program or intervention, applicants must describe the performance measurement data they have collected and how the outcome study data goes beyond performance measurement.

Preliminary with Replication

- The applicant must describe and reference at least one randomized controlled trial study or quasi-experimental evaluation (e.g. propensity score matching) that found positive results for the same intervention that the applicant plans to replicate. The applicant must describe how the intervention studied and the applicant's proposed approach are the same and how the applicant will replicate the intervention with fidelity to the program model. The study must have been conducted by an entity external to the organization whose program was studied. An applicant may be eligible for more points if a description is presented in the narrative of how evidence from a process evaluation was implemented and replicated with fidelity. The process evaluation should be described but not submitted.
- Applicants who do not reference or describe fully how they are replicating the evidence-based program with fidelity will be considered for a lower tier.

For the purposes of this Notice, "replicate" means that the key elements of the applicant's intervention are implemented as the evidence-based program model describes (e.g., in terms of content or curriculum, delivery process, and target population), and the applicant's adaptations are relatively minor. For example, an applicant implementing an intervention using certified teachers to administer the curriculum would not be considered replicating that program with fidelity if it replaces teachers with AmeriCorps members who are not certified teachers, because the documented success of the intervention relied on the specialization of certified teachers.

1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)**d) Evidence Base Scoring Rubric (continued)**

Applicants proposing to replicate an evidence-based program with fidelity must describe how their program is the same as, or very similar to, the program they will replicate in the following areas:

- Characteristics of the beneficiary population
- Characteristics of the population delivering the intervention
- Dosage (frequency, duration) and design of the intervention
- Training for the AmeriCorps members and/or other individuals, such as volunteers, delivering the intervention
- The context in which the intervention is delivered
- Outcomes of the intervention

Applicants must also describe how they will assess whether they are implementing the intervention with fidelity to the intervention they are replicating.

Moderate evidence (7-9 points) means the applicant has referenced up to two well-designed and well-implemented studies of their own program that evaluated the same intervention described in this application and identified evidence of effectiveness on one or more key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. Evidence of effectiveness (or positive findings) is determined using experimental design evaluations (i.e., Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)) or quasi-experimental design evaluations (QED) with statistically matched comparison (i.e., counterfactual) and treatment groups. The ability to generalize the findings from the RCT or QED beyond the study context may be limited (e.g., single-site). The studies were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention. Applicants classifying their evidence as **Moderate** must reference up to two evaluation reports from external entities or evaluations published in peer-reviewed articles.

Strong evidence (10-12 points) means the applicant has demonstrated that the intervention described in the application has been tested nationally, regionally, or at the state-level (e.g., multi-site) using a well-designed and well-implemented QED or RCT of their own program. Alternatively, the proposed intervention's evidence may be based on multiple (up to two) well-designed and well-implemented QEDs or RCTs of their own program in different locations or with different populations within a local geographic area. The overall pattern of study findings is consistently positive on the key desired outcomes of interest as depicted in the applicant's logic model. Findings from the RCT or QED studies may be generalized beyond the study context. The studies were conducted by an independent entity external to the organization implementing the intervention. Applicants classifying their evidence as **Strong** must reference up to two evaluation reports from external entities or evaluations published in peer-reviewed articles.

1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)

e) Notice Priority	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
The applicant proposed program fits within one or more of the 2017 AmeriCorps funding priorities as outlined in the Funding Priorities section and more fully described in the Mandatory Supplemental Guidance.	1	
The proposed program meets all of the requirements detailed in the Funding Priorities section and in the Mandatory Supplemental Guidance.	2	
Sub-Total Points	3	
f) Member Training	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
AmeriCorps members will receive high quality training to provide effective service.	2	
AmeriCorps members and volunteers will be aware of, and will adhere to AmeriCorps requirements including the rules regarding prohibited activities (see Mandatory Supplemental Guidance)	2	
Sub-Total Points	4	
g) Member Supervision	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
AmeriCorps members will receive sufficient guidance and support from their supervisor to provide effective service.	1	
AmeriCorps supervisors will be adequately trained/prepared to follow AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.	1	
Sub-Total Points	2	
h) Member Experience	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
AmeriCorps members will gain skills and experience as a result of their training and service that can be utilized and will be valued by future employers after their service term is completed.	1	
AmeriCorps members will have access to meaningful service experiences.	1	
AmeriCorps members will have access to opportunities for reflection and connection to the broader National Service network.	.5	
The program will recruit AmeriCorps members from the geographic or demographic communities in which the programs operate.	.5	
Sub-Total Points	3	

1. RATIONALE AND APPROACH/PROJECT DESIGN (Continued)

i) Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification		
Members will know they are AmeriCorps members.	1	
Staff and community members where the members are serving will know they are AmeriCorps members.	1	
Sub-Total Points	2	

Reviewer Comment Section: 1. Rationale and Approach/Project Design
e) Notice Priority
f) Member Training
g) Member Supervision
h) Member Experience
i) Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification

Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)

Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)

2. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

a) Organizational Background and Staffing	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
The organization has the experience, staffing, and management structure to plan and implement the proposed program. (assume that each of the sub-topics such as experience, staffing and management structure are worth equal value and together will total 10 points)	10	
Sub-Total Points	10	
b) Compliance and Accountability		
The organization will comply with AmeriCorps rules and regulations including those related to prohibited and unallowable activities at the grantee, sub-grantee (if applicable), and service site locations.	5	
The applicant’s organization, in implementation and management of its AmeriCorps program, will prevent and detect compliance issues.	5	
The applicant will hold sub-grantees (if applicable) and service site locations accountable if instances of risk or noncompliance are identified.	5	
Sub-Total Points	15	

Reviewer Comment Section: 2. Organizational Capability

a) Organizational Background and Staffing

b) Compliance and Accountability

Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)

Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)

3. COST EFFECTIVENESS AND BUDGET ADEQUACY

a) Cost Effectiveness	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
The budget is sufficient to carry out the program effectively.	5	
The budget aligns with the applicant’s narrative.	4	
The applicant has raised or describes an adequate plan to raise non-CNCS resources to fully support the program.	6	
The applicant, if re-competing, has a lower cost per Member Service Year (MSY – see Mandatory Supplemental Guidance) than approved in previous grants, or provides a compelling rationale for the same or increased cost including why this increase could not be covered by the grantee share.	3	
Sub-Total Points	18	
b) Budget Adequacy	Maximum Point Values	Points Awarded
Budget is submitted without mathematical errors and proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award.	1	
Budget is submitted with adequate information to assess how each line item is calculated.	.5	
Budget is in compliance with the budget instructions.	.5	
Match is submitted with adequate information to support the amount written in the budget. (e.g. non-CNCS funding commitments, in-kind and/or cash)	1	
Note: Applicants must complete the budget and ensure the following information is in the budget narrative (requested information in the budget screen)		
Identify the non-CNCS funding and resources necessary to support the project, including for Fixed Price applicants.	2	
Indicate the amount of non-CNCS resource commitments, type of commitments (in-kind and/or cash) and the sources of these commitments.	2	
Sub-Total Points	7	
Reviewer Comment Section: 3. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy		
Strengths: (Note exceptional areas where the applicant presented innovative strategies & design)		
Weaknesses: (Specifically address any areas where points were not awarded)		

Strengths: (Specifically address each one of the three major sections and highlight notable areas that were clearly written and included strong program design in relation to proposed program performance measures)

Weaknesses: (Specifically address each one of the three major section(s) beginning with the section where the greatest number of points were not awarded)