New Jersey AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunity

Theory of Change Outline and Key Questions to be Addressed in the Narrative (March 2021)

I. **Community Problem/Need**: Community issue or concern that you need AmeriCorps members to help address.

   A. What, specifically, is the problem that your AmeriCorps members will work to address?

   B. For whom does the problem exist? Where does it exist? (*use statistics to describe this*)

   C. How pervasive is the problem? (*use statistics to describe this*)

   D. How serious is the problem? (*use statistics to describe this*)

   E. Why does this matter?

II. **Specific Intervention**: The most effective set of activities for your AmeriCorps members.

   A. What, specifically, will the AmeriCorps members do? With whom?

   B. How often will the activities occur (e.g., how many sessions a week)?

   C. How long will each activity/session be?

   D. How long will the intervention last (e.g., how many total weeks of sessions)?

III. **Intended Outcomes**: Changes you intended to see in the community (or targeted beneficiaries) because of your AmeriCorps members' service.

   A. What changes do you expect to see (and are supported by the evidence) because of the AmeriCorps members' service?

   Changes described may include:

   1. What knowledge, skills, attitudes, or abilities will change because of the AmeriCorps members' service?

   2. What behaviors will change because of the AmeriCorps members' service?

   3. What conditions, environments or policies will change because of the AmeriCorps members' service?

Description of the changes should include the order of the changes in the event that one change precedes the other (and may be dependent on the other change occurring first).

IV.   Evidence Tier and Quality

  A. In what tier (e.g., pre-preliminary, preliminary, moderate, strong) does the evidence you are about to describe fall?

V.   Evidence Quality

  A. If <u>pre-preliminary</u> tier:

    1. What relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, do you have to inform your proposed program design?

    2. When were your studies completed/published? Was it within the last 6 years?

    3. What meaningful positive effect on your program beneficiaries do your cited studies demonstrate? To which key outcome(s) from your logic model is this related?

  B. If <u>preliminary</u>, <u>moderate</u>, or <u>strong</u> evidence tier:

    1. What relevant evidence, including past performance measure data and/or cited research studies, do you have to inform your proposed program design?

    2. When were your studies completed/published? Was it within the last 6 years?

    3. To what extent is the intervention described by the evidence the same as your intervention?
        Note: If you plan to add an activity, remove an activity, or slightly adjust an activity, then your intervention is not the same.

    4. How were the studies you are submitting as evidence designed (e.g., non-experimental with pre-test/post-test, quasi-experimental, experimental with a randomized control trial)?

    5. How were data collected (e.g., the who, what, where, when, and how of the data collection)?

    6. What are the key findings/positive effects of the studies?

    7. Who conducted the study (i.e., provide the article title, authors, year of the study, and other details)?