



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 30, 2009

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Administration: Governor's Section 13.10 Requests for the Use of Federal Economic Stimulus Funding for National and Community Service Board Grants -- Agenda Item III

### REQUEST

The Governor has submitted a request dated June 10, 2009, for approval of the use of federal stimulus funding for National and Community Service Board (NCSB) and AmeriCorps. The Governor has asked for approval of \$572,886 under the FED-continuing NCSB administration appropriation [s. 20.505(4)(o)] in 2008-09, and \$1,382,619 in 2008-09 under the FED-continuing NCSB grants appropriation [s. 20.505(4)(p)]. The State Budget Office indicates that all funding should have been requested under the grants appropriation.

#### Formula Grants

The Federal Recovery Act provides funding for various AmeriCorps grants. Wisconsin will receive \$572,886 under the formula grants, which represents the state's share of \$29.3 million of federal grants, based on population. Formula grant recipients were chosen by NCSB and submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service for approval. The Department of Administration indicates that the three grants would be provided from the amounts provided for administration: (a) \$348,918 to the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation; (b) \$64,000 to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh; and (c) \$159,968 to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Like the competitive grants, the federal government requires that these grants must be awarded to current grant recipients.

Funding provided to the Marshfield Clinic Foundation would be used to place AmeriCorps members with nonprofit agencies that are working to address one of the priorities identified under the Department of Health Services' *Healthier Wisconsin 2010* plan: (a) access to primary and

preventive health services; (b) adequate and appropriate nutrition; (c) alcohol and other substance abuse and addiction; (d) environmental and other occupational health hazards; (e) existing, emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases; (f) high risk sexual behavior; (g) intentional and unintentional injuries and violence; (h) mental health and violence; (i) overweight, obesity and lack of physical activity; (j) social and economic factors that influence health; and (k) tobacco use and exposure.

Funding for UW-Oshkosh would be targeted at engaging "local members and community volunteers in effort that will stimulate the economy of the Fox Valley with a focus on nonprofit capacity building." AmeriCorps members would serve in Fox Valley nonprofit organizations that would include food pantries, boys and girls clubs, libraries, human service organizations and recreation departments. The members would teach classes, supervise activities, implement programs and events and work on projects for the nonprofits.

Funding for DPI would be provided for the Department's Recovery Service for Learning and Life Program. Funds would be used for tutoring and mentoring students as well as training AmeriCorps members for recruiting volunteers to support community service projects, tutoring and mentoring, and after-school programs.

### **Competitive Grants**

The Corporation for National and Community Service awarded \$38.3 million of grants to 137 organizations nominated by state service commissions. In Wisconsin, 14 recipients nominated by the NCSB where awarded grants totaling \$1,382,619. The Department indicates that competitive grants would be provided to 14 existing AmeriCorps grantees. The following table shows the name of the competitive grant recipient, the amount awarded, and the number of positions that would be funded.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Corps Member Positions</u>
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee	\$269,289	38
Dane County Human Services	130,625	10
Easter Seals of Wisconsin	18,741	4
Indianhead Community Action Agency	31,704	2
Milwaukee Christian Center	88,788	11
Milwaukee Teacher Education Center	27,500	25
Operation Fresh Start	100,000	0
Partners in Community Development	52,400	4
Public Allies	312,759	10
United Way of Dane County	72,894	6
Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association	122,592	19
Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council	31,499	2
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection	58,548	2
YMCA of Metro Milwaukee	<u>65,280</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	\$1,382,619	139

The agencies would provide the following services:

- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee would provide tutoring, child literacy, environmental education, and youth leadership training for economically disadvantaged youth.
- Dane County Human Services would work with youth in Dane County in an effort to reduce unemployment rates.
- Easter Seals Wisconsin would work on the shortage of respite care and qualified individuals to care for the disabled, including the need for vocational rehabilitation in rural areas, and recreational opportunities and disaster preparedness in economically disadvantaged areas.
- Indianhead Community Action Agency, Inc. positions would be responsible for managing on construction sites, in the classroom, and on other scheduled service projects for the Wisconsin Fresh Start Youth Corps Program.
- Milwaukee Christian Center funding would be used on "skills training, educational development, financial literacy, and basic life skills," as well as providing work for local construction subcontractors.
- Milwaukee Teacher Education Center funding would be used to train and certify teachers for Milwaukee Public Schools.
- Operation Fresh Start funding would be used to partially pay for site supervisors, staff wages and fringe benefits. The site supervisors would train young people in the skills needed to build or renovate affordable, energy efficient housing.
- Partners for Community Development would fund position for providing weatherization and other energy conservation services in the Sheboygan area to low income family dwellings.
- Public Allies, Inc. members would provide assistance to Milwaukee residents that are unemployed, homeless, or in need of food.
- United Way of Dane County members would tutor children who are struggling academically in high school, particularly in the area of math. The students are disproportionately low-income, children of color and or English language learners.
- Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association youth members, would receive on-site mental health and life skills counseling, work readiness skills, residential construction experience, industry recognized credits in solar and other renewable energy applicant or in construction and GED/HSED tutoring through local are technical colleges.
- Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council members would develop and

implement a financial literacy curriculum for homeowners and other agency clients. Members would also work on developing and enhancing volunteer recruitment and services for the Fresh Start Program.

- Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection funding would be used to support member assistance in the Financial Literacy for Farm Families program, which would include financial literacy education to farm families and services to help them to avoid foreclosure or deal with it in an informed manner. Members would also help farm families to connect to assistance resources.
- YMCA of Metro Milwaukee members would provide youth and adults with access to health centered programs.

## **CONCLUSION**

The National and Community Service Board is administratively attached to DOA. The Board was created under 1993 Wisconsin Act 437 and is made up of 16 voting members (non-voting members may be added). A national service program is defined in statute as program that addresses unmet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs and receives financial assistance from the federally-established Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps is one of the national service programs that it provides funding for community service and volunteer programs. A total of \$2,679,259 was requested by eligible grant recipients, of which the Corporation for National and Community Service approved or awarded grants to those agencies totaling \$1,955,505 as described above. If funding were moved from one program to another, the Department would have to resubmit a grant application to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The Governor's request for the use of \$1,955,505 FED in federal stimulus fund for AmeriCorps formula and competitive grants satisfies a requirement in 2009 Wisconsin Act 2 that a plan be submitted to Committee for the expenditure of such funds. Since the federal government has specified the recipients of the competitive grants (\$1,382,619) and approved the NCSB's recommendations for formula grants (\$572,886) any amendment to the current grant recipients would have to be approved by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

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