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Amendment Narrative

CIF PRIORITY FUNDING will address the Child Wellness Priority and, to a lesser degree, the Infrastructure Priority [ME received funding for the Opioid Priority in the prior cycle; an application under this priority will be submitted in Jan 2018].

While needs in both areas are high, program development to address Child Welfare needs requires

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greater outreach and planning efforts across a large number of agencies. We know, already, that ME is in the top ten states for the rate of child abuse per 1000 individuals and that, despite a small youth population, ME is in the top half of states in terms of the percent of youth in foster care.

Starting in Oct., Planning & Research Assoc. (P&R) will build on initial work on this application to contact key individuals and agencies to identify areas of the state most impacted and assist in the determination of likely lead applicants and potential partnering agencies that would support the applicant with information, training, monetary support and/or supervising members. Key contacts will include ME Office of Child & Family Services and members of ME Child Abuse Action Network, ME MCCS on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, ME Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, ME Coalition to End Domestic Violence.

This group will assist the MCCS in mapping current services and matching service points with geographic need. As with most community needs here, MCCS expects to see a mismatch between available services and distribution of need, especially in more rural areas.

P&R will determine the validity of this assumption and identify leverage points and intervention types most likely to lead to high impact and lasting change that can be delivered by one or more AmeriCorps programs.

This information will inform the selection of contractors with subject area expertise in the area of Child Abuse and the Foster Care system in ME. Subject area experts will assist staff in identifying intervention models and will work directly with identified applicants to craft a theory of change.

The Training Officer (T.O.) will follow up with key contacts and will form a planning & design group of members from this network and those they recommend. MCCS will invite identified agencies to participate in full day scoping meetings. The meetings will be co-facilitated by the T.O. and subject area consultants. Outcomes are to: A) establish which of the various needs are most appropriately met through AmeriCorps; B) determine the evidence-based AmeriCorps appropriate intervention(s) that are most likely to effectively address those need(s); C) develop strong connections that will form the basis of the coalition that will implement the intervention; and D) identify one or more applicants who will submit applications for AmeriCorps funding to address the priorities.

The T.O. will then work directly with identified lead applicant(s) to develop the Theory of Change and Logic Model into a fundable program Application.

The Infrastructure initiative will follow a similar pattern but assessment and distribution of need for infrastructure needs in the state is currently under a comprehensive review by the ME Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). This information will be shared and specific potential project activities

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will be identified in collaboration with MEMA and County EMA's. This team will identify likely applicant(s) and the T.O. and a consultant with expertise in the specific infrastructure category will assist in the development of their intervention model and application.

TIMELINE

Oct - mid-Dec of 2017: -- The P&R will conduct asset mapping to identify organizations, resources and other experts addressing the priority needs in ME and do a gap analysis to determine the service and geographic areas of greatest need.

By November 1st: MCCA will contract with 2 subject area experts, one with Child Abuse expertise and the other with Foster Care System expertise. Infrastructure Consultant hired by Dec 1st.

Nov - Dec: Consultants assist MCCA in identifying appropriate intervention models and applicant organizations.

Late Dec -- Jan: -- T.O. & Consultants host scoping meetings for key agencies and stakeholders to develop application concept(s).

Jan-March: -- Identified coalition(s) work with T.O. to craft high quality applications for AmeriCorps funding, including evidence-based interventions employed as part of a theory of change that will result in outcomes reducing or preventing child abuse, improve outcomes for youth aging out of the foster system and address one or more infrastructure needs. Work is comprised of individual coaching and scheduled program design sessions.

April -- Application submission and MCCA review followed by clarification leading to improvements in the application(s)

May -- Submission of final application(s) to CNCS for review

May-August -- Continued work by T.O. with submitting applicant(s) to improve recruitment, data collection and program management policy and procedures for effective implementation. AND, continued program development with potential applicants unable to meet the initial deadline for submission so that they can apply for the following competitive application round.

MCCA, as described above, has successfully used a program development design that engages collaborative groups in the development of a theory of change and which leads them to design AC Member distribution models that align with the intervention model chosen. Ongoing support is then provided to the identified applicant(s) focused on the specific program, member and financial management requirements needed.

The P&R and the T.O. are both current MCCA staff with experience and training specific to the roles outlined in this project development plan. The Consultants will be identified based on their knowledge

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and skills in intervention and program design in the specific priority areas.

Please see budget narrative for information related to cost criteria.