

Serve Alaska Conference Call
January 6, 2012
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM.

Meeting Facilitator: Patricia O'Neil, Grants Administrator II

Commissioners Present: Chair Dawn Grossmann, Vice Chair Ron Yeager, Barb Nickels, Becky Judd, Denise Morris, Elaine Dahlgren, Joelle Hall, Judy Bredberg, Justin Fantasia, Kathryn Dodge, Kirsten Franklin-Temple, Kirsten Vesel, Lebron McPhail, Leona Grishkowsky, Melora Gaber, Rory Schneeberger, Tracey Burke.

A quorum was established.

Overview of the 2012 AmeriCorps NEW Competitive proposals:

BIRCH Fixed Grant (An 8 year sub grantee applying for a Fixed Grant, previously Competitive)
AmeriCorps Members will be recruited from villages and will work closely with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and Behavioral Health Aides (BHAs) and they will focus on resiliency in youth, within village communities. Three factors contribute to resiliency: Connectedness to people and places, Meaningful Engagement – involvement in activities that give life meaning and purpose, and Life Skills and Social Competencies – personal awareness and social and life skills. Studies show that building resiliency in youth will reduce substance abuse and suicides, the end goal of BIRCH's program. They are requesting 15 MSYs, with 15 slots and a fixed grant budget of \$195,000.

Chair Grossmann asked for a motion to move the BIRCH fixed grant forward to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Commissioner Dahlgren moved. Commissioner Burke seconded. With no further discussion the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

SAGA Connections: They have been a sub grantee for 5 years.

SAGA Connection members will work in government agencies, public schools, and non-profit organizations. The members will be focused on improving the school success of young people, to address Alaska's high dropout rate in schools. To accomplish their goal, members will provide young people with service and active learning experiences, positive interactions with peers and authorities, and opportunities to feel successful. Although some questions were not answered within the proposal, they did strengthen their proposal significantly, and Serve Alaska staff feels the proposal is strong enough to move to the national competition. They are requesting 30 MSYs and 30 slots with a fixed grant budget of 384,000.

SAGA Alaska Corps (AC): SAGA ASC has been a sub grantee for 3 years, but they have merged two previous grants into one Alaska Corps, essentially creating a "new" program.

The Alaska Corps will focus on recruiting Alaskan youth from the ages of 17-24 for their Summer Season program, focusing on disconnected youth. The Full Season program will focus on backlogged projects for Dept. of Interior, National Parks and DOT. Again, although some questions were not answered within the proposal, they did strengthen their proposal significantly, and Serve Alaska staff feels the proposal is strong enough to move

to the national competition. SAGA AC is requesting 32.64 MSYs and 86 slots with a grant budget of \$423,943 and a match of \$507,790.

Chair Grossmann asked for a motion to move the SAGA Connections and the SAGA Alaska Service Corps programs forward to national competition. Commissioner Fantasia recused himself from the vote. Commissioner Morris moved. Commissioner Grishkowsky seconded. With no further discussion the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Sitka: 4 year sub-grant in our Formula funds, now applying for Fixed Amount funds.

Sitka's program has a lot of merit and has had a positive impact on Sitka. However, due to a poorly written application, we recommend that they are not moved forward to a national competition, but instead revise their proposal to compete in Serve Alaska's Formula Grant.

They are requesting 18 MSYs and 18 slots with a fixed grant budget of \$226,800.

Chair Grossmann asked for a motion to not move Sitka's program forward to national competition, but instead revise their proposal to compete in Serve Alaska's Formula Grant. Commissioner McPhail moved. Commissioner Dahlgren seconded. With no further discussion the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Overview of the 2012 AmeriCorps Continuation Applications: these grants are operating in their 1st or 2nd year of the 3 year grant cycle. They only add continuation changes to the application from their original, funded proposal. These grants are only reviewed by staff.

RurAL CAP's RAVEN (Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network)

The Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN) AmeriCorps Program improves environmental conditions in 20 remote, rural Alaskan communities by recruiting an AmeriCorps member from within the community and engaging at-risk youth in positive, community service activities that strengthen youth developmental assets and resiliency. RAVEN members address environmental needs in Alaskan villages by implementing projects that include waste backhaul systems, energy efficiency home improvements, community clean-ups, recycling, gardening, and environmental education. RAVEN is requesting 20 MSY with 20 Slots and a grant budget of \$313,642 and a match of \$210,220.

Nine Star's Learn and Earn

Nine Star Education and Employment Services is a local, statewide, and national leader in the area of Education and Employment services to under- and unemployed Alaskans. With their key partners they serve a large population of ex-offenders, provide 100% of the adult and literacy education in Anchorage, 100% of the service to clients on temporary assistance (welfare), 100% of the senior employment placements, 90% of the youth employment placements, and its high school program is the sixth largest (in student numbers) in a city of 300,000 people. The nature of the project is with Nine Star as an intermediary for the express purpose of community resource sharing and wrap around services. Its design provides under- and unemployed Alaskans with access to many community resources and services as well as centralized case management, job placement, and follow-up. Nine Star is requesting 37 MSYs and 39 slots with a grant budget of \$481,000 and a match of \$325,068.

Chair Grossmann asked for a motion to move RurAL CAP's RAVEN program and Nine Star's Learn and Earn program continuation applications forward. Commissioner Morris moved. Commissioner Bredberg seconded. With no further discussion the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Overview of the EAP (Education Award Program) grant: this grant is a Continuation Application and only reviewed by staff.

RurAL CAP's Students in Service (SIS)

The Students In Service (SIS) AmeriCorps Program engages University of Alaska students, primarily from the Schools of Social Work and Nursing, in community service through their practicum placements and other volunteer opportunities. Students In Service members serve their practicum with local social service agencies, hospitals, clinics and schools. They address wellness needs in Alaska by partnering with community agencies to implement projects such as health fairs, community clean-ups and other wellness events. SIS is requesting 9.26 MSYs and 35 slots with a grant budget of \$7,408 and a match of \$zero (no match is required of EAP programs.)

Chair Grossmann asked for a motion to move the Education Award Program continuation applications forward. Commissioner Burke recused herself from the vote. Commissioner McPhail moved. Commissioner Bredberg seconded. With no further discussion the MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35AM