



**Eastern District Innovative Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2005/2006
Application Form**

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of 11 point, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu, and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **Friday, March 31, 2006.**

Project must be completed by December 31, 2006, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

- 1. Project Title:** Winnebago County AmeriCorps Connects Member – 4-H Youth and Family Outreach
- 2. Funding Requested:** \$3,500
- 3. Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County):** René L. Mehlberg, Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development Educator
- 4. Signature:**

Grant Applicant/Lead

4. Project Description
a) Situation Statement

The Winnebago County 4-H Youth Development program has a long history of having a strong 4-H community club and community collaboration/outreach program. The need to build capacity in all youth continues. “Building Civic Capacity through Winnebago County” has been and continues to be a Plan of Work for this educator.

According to the article “Forum Focus – Youth Act: Community Impact”, young people want to be a catalyst for change in their lives, their families, and their communities. Change happens fastest when youth and community development works in tandem.

Over the past 2 years, 4-H AmeriCorps Members have worked with community partners (Oshkosh Area School District Webster Stanley Lighted School House and Neenah-Menasha YMCA) to create change in Winnebago County youth. 4-H AmeriCorps Members have been able to provide positive youth development programming to youth and families that may not otherwise be reached. Many of the youth and families reached are new audiences to UWEX 4-H Youth Development programs.

Delivering positive youth development programs has been the main focus of outreach. Yet, there is a higher level outcome to strive for: helping new audiences understand UWEX 4-H Youth Development programming and integrating them into on-going 4-H Youth Development programs. Achieving this outcome requires much time and effort. Continuing to have a staff member dedicated to this effort would maintain the momentum of the current efforts of change.

The main expense for this project is the site match to “purchase” a ½ time AmeriCorps member. Additional funding has been secured through the Winnebago County 4-H Leaders Association, and the Winnebago County UWEX budget. Additional funds are being sought from other community grants.

Through the 4-H AmeriCorps program, the potential exists to share program successes with others. It also exposes members to the UWEX organization, the broad scope of the 4-H Youth Development program, and potential careers in UWEX, especially in 4-H Youth Development.

b) Project Objectives/Expected Outcomes

Project Objectives:

- Continue programming with current collaborations for on-going 4-H Youth Development programming outreach efforts to offer a “long term” 4-H experience for participants.
- Explore potential collaborations with other community youth organizations specifically targeting the underserved areas of Neenah-Menasha.
- Work with the on-going 4-H community club program on the current identified priority of Welcoming New Members/Families.
- Incorporate civic-engagement activities with on-going and new 4-H audiences for youth and adults to work together as partners.
- Educate the AmeriCorps Connects member on UWEX and 4-H youth development.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase number of youth and families reached through UWEX 4-H Youth Development programming.
- Increased understanding of 4-H Youth Development programs by new audiences, especially new members and families in the 4-H community club program.
- Youth participating in civic-engagement activities report being valuable community resources.
- AmeriCorps Connects member will gain knowledge and understanding of UWEX and 4-H Youth Development programs.

c) Project Timeline (include planned responses/activities) September 2006 – August 2007

Planned Responses/Activities by Educator:

- Train, orient, and supervise 4-H AmeriCorps member on UWEX, 4-H Youth Development, and overall expectations and responsibilities throughout the programming year.
- Work with 4-H AmeriCorps member on developing and implementing a plan for sustainability of outreach efforts including integrating new members and families into on-going 4-H efforts.
- Identify other potential programs for 4-H AmeriCorp member to address based on skills and knowledge of the 4-H AmeriCorp member and the 4-H Youth Development priorities.

Planned Responses/Activities by 4-H AmeriCorps Member:

- Continue outreach efforts through developing and delivering 4-H Youth Development programming as part of current community collaborations.
- 4-H AmeriCorps member will learn about prior work with the priority of “Welcoming New Members/Families.” The member will develop and implement a plan to address the priority.
- Explore and establish new outreach methods for 4-H Youth Development programming.
- Work on additional identified tasks to support the 4-H Youth Development program.
- Documented program successes to be shared and potentially replicated with other youth serving professionals, including 4-H Youth Development staff.

d) Evaluation Plan

- Number of youth and families reached, both new and those on-going from outreach efforts.
- Narrative data (surveys, journal responses, etc.) of new youth and adult participants in 4-H programs of their experiences.
- Narrative data (surveys, journal responses, etc.) of youth and adult participants in civic-engagement activities of their experiences.
- Observation data by AmeriCorps member and other key individuals of participants throughout their experience.

5. Detailed budget breakdown (specifying the amount and purpose of funds requested from District Resource Management funds, and clarifying the source and amounts from other funds):

- \$3,500 Resource Management Funds to cover approximately 75% of the site match required to fund a half-time AmeriCorps Connects member.
- \$1,000 Winnebago County 4-H Leaders' Association fund to cover remaining 25% of the site match to fund a half-time AmeriCorps Connects member.
- \$500 Winnebago County would assist in covering supplies and food for programs.

6. If you have received Resource Management funds in the past, include the following information:

a) Describe your past experiences with resource management grants – project focus, funding received, project collaborators

b) What were the outcomes of your project efforts?

Winnebago County AmeriCorps Connects Member – 4-H Youth and Family Outreach for \$4,000; 2005

The district funding “purchased” the current half-time AmeriCorps member for the 2005-2006 AmeriCorps year. Her focus has included:

- Delivering after school programs as part of collaborations in Oshkosh and Neenah/Menasha to reach new audiences.
- Working with 4-H youth leaders on civic engagement activities for youth and adults to work together as partners.
- Extending 4-H Youth Development programming in both the community club and in outreach efforts that goes beyond the work of the current 4-H youth development staff.
- Participating in applicable professional development opportunities to learn more about the 4-H Youth Development program and UWEX as she has an interest in UWEX as a career.

4-H Winter Leadership Adventure for \$300; 2003

On behalf of NE District 4-H Youth Development staff, wrote and received a grant for \$300. Outcomes of the project included 32 middle-school youth and 5 adults from Northeast District receiving leadership skill training. Many participants went back to their counties to implement the skills and knowledge gained. The camp recently completed its 4th year.

c) How is this project proposal new or different?

While this project proposal is very similar to the one submitted last year, there are some differences. Last year’s grant expanded the time of the 4-H AmeriCorps member from 25% to 50%. The increase of funding not only helped expand 4-H Youth Development outreach efforts, but provided an opportunity for the member to be better connected to the ongoing 4-H Community Club program. Last year’s grant helped lay the groundwork for program delivery at new outreach sites. This proposal would focus more on program development and a move to sustainability of programs. It would also provide an opportunity to explore and develop better systems to link all parts of the 4-H program together, especially the outreach efforts with the on-going 4-H community club program.