



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of July 10, 2010**

**DATE:** June 28, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of a continuation grant and appropriation of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia AmeriCorps State program.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Accept a one-year grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia's AmeriCorps State Program (101.364900) in the amount of \$76,833.00, and appropriate that money to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources' FY 2011 operating expenses (101.83024), and authorize 4.8 temporary FTE's.
2. Authorize the County Manager to sign both a letter accepting the grant and a contract between the County Board and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Social Services, subject to the approval of the contract by the County Attorney's Office.

**ISSUES:** County Board action is needed to accept a state grant to recruit and train AmeriCorps members to apply best management practices in abating invasive plant species throughout the Four Mile Run Watershed. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** This grant will improve and increase the County's capacity to control invasive plant species within the Four Mile Run watershed and help the County continue efforts to rehabilitate the natural environment. The program participants will receive a living stipend and money for college.

**BACKGROUND:** The AmeriCorps program is the Federal Government's pre-eminent domestic volunteer program with 386 full-time and part-time members currently serving throughout Virginia, and contributing \$9,255,519 in services. The present continuation grant represents one of only two AmeriCorps programs in the state to use members to address environmental issues. The continuation grant will be the second year of a three-year grant program that the County Board initially accepted November 14, 2009.

**DISCUSSION:** The AmeriCorps continuation grant will provide the County with its second cadre of six AmeriCorps members, most of whom will be recent graduates recruited primarily from the local area, for a period of one year with options for renewal for one (1) additional year. AmeriCorps members will work on removing invasive plants and restoring native vegetative environments in parks, with particular attention to stream valleys throughout the Four Mile Run

County Manager: MB

County Attorney: SM/BRC

Staff: Miguel Ortega, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

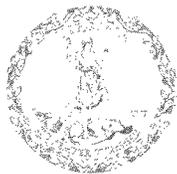
42.

watershed. This continuation grant will fund 80 percent of the \$14,500 living stipend, and all of the personal protective equipment for six full-time AmeriCorps members, who will be trained by the staff of the Division of Parks and Natural Resources to recognize and remove English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, Java dropwort, Norway maple, Japanese wisteria, Japanese stilt grass, Russian olive and numerous other invasive plants and restore natural habitat in the County; primarily within the Four Mile Run Watershed.

Upon the completion of his or her required 1,700 service hours, each AmeriCorps member will be eligible to receive a \$5,350 Segal Education Award, paid entirely by AmeriCorps. The Segal Award can be used to repay existing qualified student loans or for educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education. Ninety-one colleges and universities around the country provided for a full or partial match for the Segal Education Award.

For payroll purposes, the six positions of 1,700 hours each provided by the grant are accounted as a total of 4.8 temporary FTE's.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No new net tax support is required to support this grant and the temporary FTEs. The County must provide a \$35,156 cash match which will be taken from account number 830-24 for invasives. The County also must provide \$105,150 in in-kind contributions, which will be provided by current staff in the course of their invasive plant abatement activities.



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

May 26, 2009

Mr. Miguel Ortega, Program Director  
Arlington Board  
AmeriCorps Four Mile Run Restoration  
2700 South Taylor Street  
Arlington, VA 22206

RE: Letter of Intent to Contract  
AmeriCorps\*State 2010-2011

Dear Mr. Ortega:

Thank you for participating in the AmeriCorps\*State Program during the 2009-2010 program year. The Virginia Department of Social Services Office on Volunteerism and Community Service is pleased to notify Arlington County of our intent to provide funding for the 2010 -2011 program year, as well.

Contingent upon approval of funding by the Corporation for National and Community Service for the 2010 – 2011 program year and completion of all precontract requirements, the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service will offer a contract to Arlington County for an amount not less than \$76,833.00. This contract will require a cash/in-kind match. Our expectation is that the match will be not less than \$140,306. We expect that the 2010-2011 contract will be effective on or about October 16, 2010, and will have a duration of one year.

This funding will be used to implement a 2010-2011 AmeriCorps Program consistent with the County's application, including recruiting up to six full-time service members or the equivalent.

Please confirm the County's acceptance of this tentative grant award by having the appropriate individual sign all three originals of this letter, and returning them to us.

Mr. Miguel Ortega  
May 26, 2010  
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Please contact Stephen Whitman at 804-726-7068 or [stephen.whitman@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:stephen.whitman@dss.virginia.gov) if you have any questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nikki Nicholau in cursive script, followed by a vertical line and the initials "ASA".

Nikki Nicholau  
AmeriCorps\*State Director

Confirmed for Arlington Board:

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Name

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Title

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Date

NN/sp

**CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZATION**

**RE: OVCS AmeriCorps\*State Grant**

GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: Arlington County Government

Michael B. Brown, being first duly sworn, does hereby certify that he/she is the Chief Executive Officer of the above-  
(Name of Chief Executive)  
noted organization, and that for the purpose of this AmeriCorps grant: (A) only the following individuals are authorized to sign the contract (and any amendments) between this organization and the Virginia Department of Social Services; and (B) only the following individuals are authorized to sign the Periodic Expense Reports for reimbursement by the Virginia Department of Social Services:

**A: Contract Signatories**

Michael B. Brown \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title (please type) Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title (please type) Signature (required)

**B: Periodic Expense Report Signatories**

Miguel Ortega \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Program Director (please type) Signature (required)

Charlene Gardner \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Financial Manager (please type) Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Alternate (please type) Signature (required)

The affiant does further state that all payments made by the Department of Social Services pursuant to AmeriCorps should be made only to the named payee and address below, which the affiant certifies to be authorized to receive such funds at the address below:

PAYEE (Grantee): Arlington County Treasurer/Parks Division  
(Grantee Organization's Legal Name)

Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Room 201

City, State, Zip: Arlington, Virginia 22201

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Federal Identification Number (FIN) for this account is: 546001123

CERTIFIED by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Arlington County Manager  
Title

Sworn and subscribed before me, a Notary Public, in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification of Availability of Funds**

GRANTEE ORGANIZATION: Arlington County Government

By my signature below, I certify that this organization, Arlington County Government, is obligating at least

\$ 140,306.00

toward implementation of its 2010-2011 AmeriCorps Grant. This amount includes match funds of \$ 35,156.00 and inkind services with a value of at least \$ 105,150.00.

Michael B. Brown  
Name

Arlington County Manager  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*This certification must be signed by an individual who has the legal authority to obligate funds for the organization.*

Sworn and subscribed before me, a Notary Public, in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_