

Request for Proposals:

Campus Compact AmeriCorps Program Evaluation Plan

BACKGROUND

Campus Compact is seeking an evaluator to develop a plan to evaluate program outcomes of the Campus Compact AmeriCorps program (formerly Iowa College AmeriCorps Program). The goal of the program is to use AmeriCorps positions to support our campus partners in developing and implementing their civic action plans. As a result, our campus partners can experience strong community-campus partnerships that make impacts on communities and create learning opportunities for students. The foundation of the program is rooted in a recently published needs assessment, [“Perceptions of Partnership: A study on nonprofit and higher education collaboration.”](#) Funding for the evaluation is provided by Volunteer Iowa and the Corporation for National and Community Service.



About Campus Compact

Campus Compact is a national coalition of 1000+ colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. Campus Compact supports institutions in fulfilling their public purposes by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. As the largest national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement, we provide professional development to administrators and faculty to enable them to engage effectively, facilitate national partnerships connecting campuses with key issues in their local communities, build pilot programs to test and refine promising models in engaged teaching and scholarship, celebrate and cultivate student civic leadership, and convene higher education institutions and partners beyond higher education to share knowledge and develop collective capacity. Iowa Campus Compact is a state affiliate with 21 member colleges and universities. Visit www.iacampuscompact.org.



About Volunteer Iowa

The mission of Volunteer Iowa is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Our staff members provide technical assistance, support services and capacity-building resources to help organizations effectively utilize the time and talent of volunteers and national service members. Learn more at <https://www.volunteeriowa.org/>



About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs, made up of three primary programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Members commit their time to address critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, preparing for disasters, and more. Learn more at <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/what-ameri-corps>

PROJECT GOALS

The evaluator will be tasked with creating an evaluation plan to measure program outcomes of the Campus Compact AmeriCorps program. The evaluation plan can use qualitative, quantitative, or a mixture of methods. Key stakeholders of

the evaluation are Campus Compact staff and member institutions. Key stakeholders should be consulted throughout the evaluation planning process.

Program outcomes include;

- (1) Improving the capacity of our member campuses to implement their civic action plans.
- (2) Improved campus/community partnerships as based on the six recommendations to strengthen connections between campus and community identified in [“Perceptions of Partnership: A study on nonprofit and higher education collaboration.”](#)
 - a. Focus on quality over quantity
 - b. Move from reciprocity to co-creation
 - c. Establish and sustain organizational infrastructure
 - d. Strengthen student preparation and accountability
 - e. Build individual capacity for partnership
 - f. Explore other forms of partnership
- (3) Increasing the total number of beneficiaries directly or indirectly served by the campus.

Campus Compact is seeking additional funding that will support the implementation of the evaluation plan in 2019-2020.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

The deadline to submit proposals is March 29, 2019. Proposals should be submitted in writing to Justin Ellis by email (jjellis@compact.org) or mail (1111 9th St, Suite 225, Des Moines, IA 50314). Questions can be directed to Justin Ellis (jjellis@compact.org or 515-505-3670).

SELECTION

Iowa Campus Compact will use a variety of factors to select an evaluator for the project. Priority factors include cost, experience researching higher education and/or community engagement, realistic timeline to accomplish deliverables, and effective communication with Iowa Campus Compact staff.

TIMELINE

Proposal Deadline	March 29, 2019 (previously listed incorrect deadline of April 5, 2019)
Evaluator Selected	Week of April 8, 2019
Contract Issued	Date of notice
Contract completion date	November 30, 2019

ELEMENTS OF PROPOSAL

Proposals should at minimum address the following areas:

- Evaluator experience in the area of study
- Approach to engage key stakeholders in the evaluation planning process
- Proposed Timeline
- Proposed Deliverables
- Detailed Budget

BUDGET

Iowa Campus Compact will reimburse up to \$10,000 in allowable expenses.

Allowable expenses

- Applicants can refer to OMB Cost Principles 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E for additional requirements related to allowable expenses.

Unallowable expenses

- Costs incurred prior to the award
- Costs associated with preparing the application
- Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land
- Construction and renovation of buildings and structures
- Bad debt
- Gift Cards
- Lobbying, political and other governmental activities
- Entertainment and alcohol
 - a. No amusement, diversion, or social activity costs are allowed (such as tickets to shows or sports events, or meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, or gratuities connected with attending entertainment events)
- Indirect costs (administrative support)
- Tuition or scholarships
- Contributions to a contingency reserve or any similar provision
- Fines, penalties, damages, and other settlements resulting from violations (or alleged violates) of, or failure to comply with, Federal, State, local, or Indian tribal laws and regulations
- Organized fundraising, including financial campaigns, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions – regardless of the purpose for which the funds will be used
- Costs of goods or services for personal use of the employees – regardless of whether the cost is reported as taxable income to the employees
- Information technology systems that have a useful life of more than one year and that exceed \$5,000
- Costs of investment counsel and staff and other expenses incurred to enhance income from investments
- Political activities in accordance with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 1501-1508 ad 7324-7326)