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## ALTERNATIVE MATCH INSTRUCTIONS

Grantees are required to meet an overall matching rate that increases over time. You have the flexibility to meet the overall match requirements in any of the three budget areas, as long as the minimum match of 24% for the first three years, and the increasing minimums in years thereafter, are maintained. See 45 FCR §§ 2521.35-2521.90.

**Special Circumstances for an Alternative Match Schedule:** Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35% instead of 50% as specified in the regulations at §2521.60(b). To qualify, you must demonstrate that your program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined below.

- A. Rural County:** In determining whether a program is rural, CNCS will consider the most recent Beale code rating published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the county in which the program is located. Any program located in a county with a Beale code of 6, 7, 8, or 9 is eligible to apply for the alternative match requirement. See Attachment I for the Table of Beale codes.
- B. Severely Economically Distressed County:** In determining whether a program is located in a severely economically distressed county, CNCS will consider the following list of county-level characteristics. See Attachment I for a list of website addresses where this publicly available information can be found.
  - The county-level per capita income is less than or equal to 75 percent of the national average for all counties using the most recent census data or Bureau of Economic Analysis data;
  - The county-level poverty rate is equal to or greater than 125 percent of the national average for all counties using the most recent census data; **and**
  - The county-level unemployment is above the national average for all counties for the previous 12 months using the most recently available Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
  - The areas served by the program lack basic infrastructure such as water or electricity.
- C. Program Location:** Except when approved otherwise, CNCS will determine the location of your program based on the legal applicant's address. If you believe that the legal applicant's address is not the appropriate way to consider the location of your program, you must provide relevant facts about your program location if your request. CNCS will, in its sole discretion, determine whether some other address is more appropriate for determining a program's location.

If your program is located in one of these areas, see the instructions below for applying for this alternative match schedule. You must submit your request to the alternative schedule at least 60 days before the AmeriCorps application is due (**November 15, 2012**). OneStar and CNCS will review your request and notify you by December 24, 2012 if you qualify for the alternative schedule and provide instructions for entering your budget into eGrants under the Alternative Match Schedule.

If approved for the alternative schedules, programs will base their budget in the upcoming application on the approved alternative match. The alternative match requirement will be in effect for whatever portion of the project period remains or if applying as a new grantee, for the upcoming three-year grant cycle.

- D. Instructions for the Alternative Match Schedule:** Programs must send their requests to OneStar via email to [grants@onestarfoundation.org](mailto:grants@onestarfoundation.org) for review and approval by November 15, 2012. If approved by OneStar, it will then be forwarded to the Corporation for consideration.

**E-mail subject line:** AmeriCorps Alternative Match Request

Send your request in memo format. You must respond to each question below. Please include both the question and your response in your request.

**1. Basis of Request**

- a. Identify the basis for your request as either a rural county or a severely economically distressed community as described above.
- b. Describe where your program operates and include the address of the legal applicant.

**2. Rural Counties**

- a. Describe the economic conditions.
- b. Confirm that your county has a Beale code of 6, 7, 8, or 9.

**3. Economically Distressed Counties**

- a. Provide your county per-capita income, poverty and unemployment levels.
- b. Demonstrate that your county per-capita income, poverty, and unemployment levels are above or below the national averages. Identify the data source(s) used to make your determination.
- c. Provide any other statistics you deem relevant to demonstrate your county is economically distressed.

**4. Program Location:** If you believe the location of your program should not be based on the address of the legal applicant, describe your justification for requesting an alternative location(s).

**5. Other:** Provide any other justification and information for your request that is not presented in the responses to the above.