



AmeriCorps Washington

FFY25 State Competitive Grants NEW/RECOMPETE RFGA

September 12, 2025 9:00am

Please sign-in via the chat box:

- Name(s)
- Organization/Program
- City/County

Welcome

- House Keeping Items
 - **Please Sign-in!** Name, organization, county in the chat box
 - Call is intended for NEW and RECOMPETE applicants
 - Silence phones, use webinar features, closed caption available
 - Recording
- Agenda
 - Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding
 - Eligibility
 - Process and Timeline
 - RFGA/NOFO Key Highlights
 - PHA Specifics
 - Helpful Tips and Tricks
 - Q & A



National Service in WA



[AmeriCorps.gov/WashingtonState](https://americorps.gov/WashingtonState)

SERVE WASHINGTON



AmeriCorps

<https://americorps.gov/national-service-report/wa>



AmeriCorps Funding

“...brings people together to tackle pressing challenges through national service...AmeriCorps helps make service a cornerstone of our national culture...”

Competitive Funding (fall competition)

- Larger programs (20+ MSYs)
- Meet National Priorities
- Single Focus Area (or well established multi effort)
- Moderate to Strong Evidence

Formula Funding available in the spring.



AmeriCorps Funding

Historic Focus Areas

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families



AmeriCorps Funding

Priority Funding Areas

- Underrepresented/Underserved Communities
- Evidence-Based Interventions
- Veterans and Military Families, Caregivers, and Survivors
- Environmental Stewardship
- Workforce Pathways
- Enhance Member Experience
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Second Chance Youth
- Civic Bridge Building
- *Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Services*
- *American Climate Corps*
- *Specific Public Health Priority (review in Mandatory Supplemental Information for eligibility)*

Use NOFO/Supplemental Guidance to see specifics in each area and then simply list in narrative section.



AmeriCorps Funding

Priority Funding Areas in WA

- Strategies driven by community
- Organizations that reflect those served
- AmeriCorps members that reflect those served
- AmeriCorps members with high school credentials or informal education
- Career pathway models
- Models that show commitment to DEIA
- Models that engage older adults, tribes, rural and other underrepresented communities



AmeriCorps Funding

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

B.1. Estimated Available Funds

AmeriCorps expects a highly competitive AmeriCorps grant competition. Given limited funding, AmeriCorps may prioritize funding existing grantees instead of making new awards. The actual level of funding depends on annual appropriations.

B.2. Estimated Award Amount

Award amounts will be different depending on the scope of the projects.

B.3. Period of Performance

AmeriCorps plans to make three-year grant awards. AmeriCorps generally makes an initial award for the first year of the three-year period of performance. Applicants must submit a one-year budget. Applicants may propose any project start date that fits their program design. The period of performance may not start before July 1, 2025. Continuation awards for future years are not guaranteed; they depend upon future appropriations and satisfactory performance.



AmeriCorps Members

- Engage in Direct Service
 - Minimum 70% Direct Service
 - Maximum 20% Training
 - Maximum 10% Fundraising
- Do Not Duplicate or Displace
 - Service should not duplicate activities already in locality of program
 - Position can't supplant paid employees or volunteer positions
- Are Not Employees
 - "Participant" in national service position, perform service, serve, have a position description
 - Avoid terms such as "work," "job," or "job description"



Budget Tips

Cost-Reimbursement: (app instructions pg. 22)

- Fully explain the calculations used for each amount in the budget “narrative”
- Ensure the budget “narrative” mathematically adds up to the actual amount in the associated line item
 - Staff Travel to Meeting X = \$1,186
 - Narrative = Airfare \$650, Ground Transport \$50, Lodging Two Nights \$400, Per Diem Two Days \$86 (all equals \$1,186)
 - Registration Fees = Training (not travel)
- Itemize
 - Salary and Fringe Benefits categories are per person/role, not one lump item in each category
 - Don't be overly vague or general



Budget Tips

...cont. Cost-Reimbursement: (app instructions pg. 22)

- If you change a line item in section I or II, be sure to recalculate section III – admin/indirect rate
- Do you have a federally approved ICR? Use it!
- The de minimis indirect rate is now 15%
 - This means you might get slightly more match with the de minimis than with the Corporation fixed 5%/10% option
 - Don't forget that once you use the de minimis rate on a Federal grant, you will be expected to use it on ALL Federal grants
 - The de minimis also has other limitations in its application compared to other options
- Don't forget Source of Funds section which is an explanation of funds used for grantee share – the two totals should match
- Be sure to include fingerprinting and background check costs



Budget Tips

Fixed-Amount: (app instructions pg. 33)

- Instructions to use “allowance rate” column
 - List member slots under Mbrs w/o living allowance
- Be transparent with MSY calculations
- Don’t forget Source of Funds section which is an explanation of additional funds used – this total should match the total you under “other revenue” in the demographics section

*Checklist on pg. 35 applies to all budget types



Eligible Applicants

Applications

- Minimum 20 MSYs
- Begin No Earlier Than August 1, 2025 and No Later Than January 1, 2026

Eligible Entities

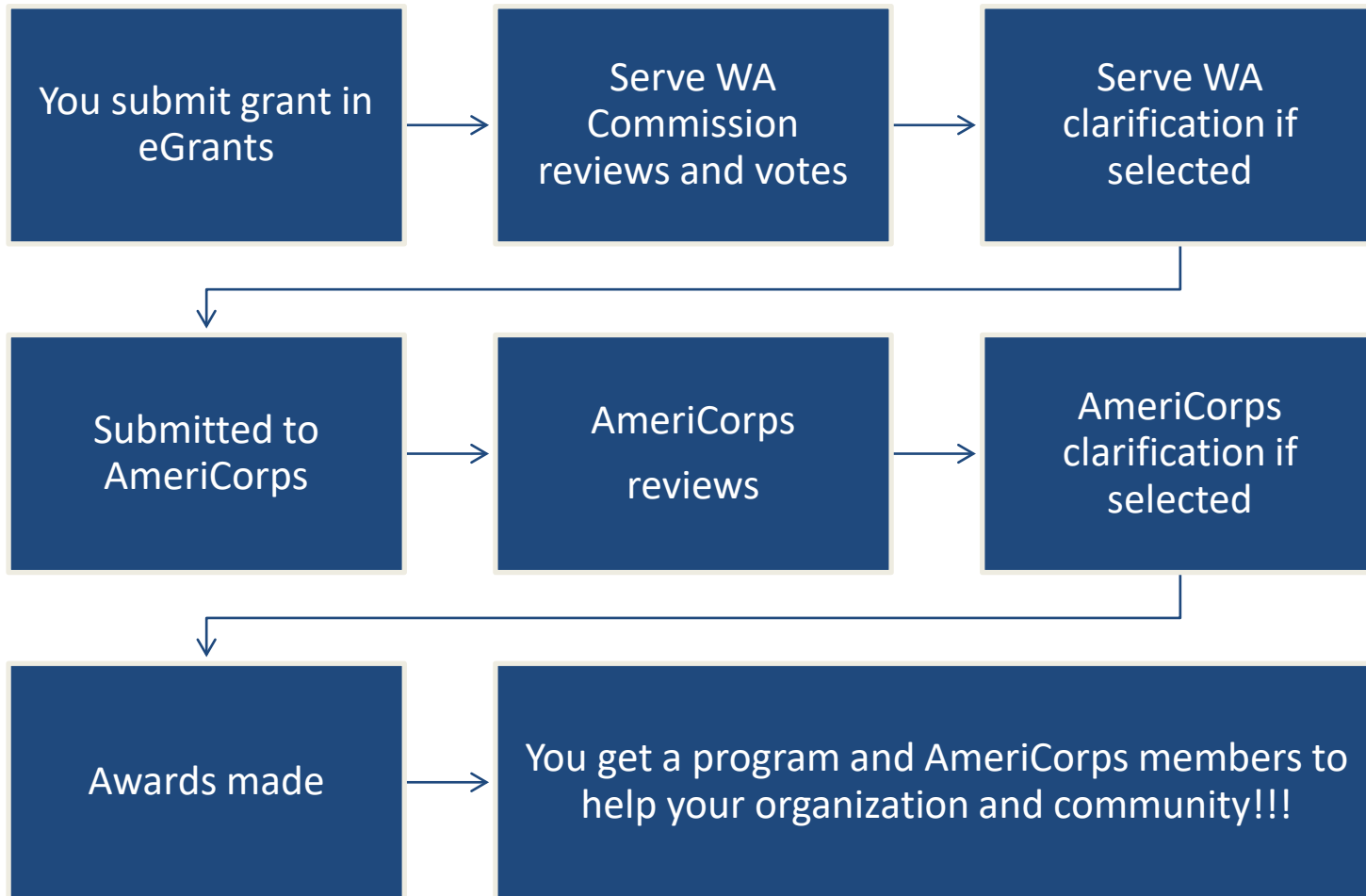
- Nonprofits
- Institutions of Higher Ed
- State and Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
 - Federally Recognized Tribes apply to AmeriCorps the Federal Agency
 - Non-Federal Tribes apply to Serve WA

Additionally

- UEI number, EIN, SAM registration



RFGA Process



RFGA Timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| Serve WA Request for Grant Applications Released | September 3, 2024 |
| Serve WA Technical Assistance Call for Applicants | September 12, 2024 |
| Completed Applications Due from Applicants | October 3, 2024, 5:00pm |
| Serve WA Staff Review for Compliance | October 9-10, 2024 |
| Serve WA Grant Review Committee Application Review | October 11 - November 4, 2024 |
| Serve WA Grant Review Committee Meeting Note: Applicants must be available by phone on this day in the event the GRC needs additional information or clarification. Interviews will not be conducted. | November 5, 2024 |
| Serve WA Clarification/Revision Period for Some Applicants | Beginning On/Around November 8, 2024 |
| Serve WA Commissioners Vote on Grant Review Committee Recommendation | December 5, 2024 |
| Serve WA Notification to Applicants Regarding Vote | Week of December 9, 2024 |
| Serve WA Clarification/Revision Period Continues for Selected Applicants | Notification – December 16, 2024 |
| Serve WA Submits Applications to AmeriCorps (by) | January 9, 2025, 2:00pm |
| AmeriCorps Notifies Successful Applicants | mid-April 2025 – ASN |
| AmeriCorps Clarification/Revision Period | TBD (after notification, before award) |
| AmeriCorps Issues Awards | mid-July 2025 – ASN |



Defining Terms

NOFO vs. RFGA

NOFO:

Released by AmeriCorps for National Directs and State Commissions apps

RFGA:

Released by Serve Washington for Competitive and Formula apps

Competitive vs. Formula

National Competition held every fall

State Competition held most springs

Cost-Reimbursement vs. Fixed Amount

New applicants, line-time budget, match required and reported

Need permission, flat rate based on MSY, match not reported

New vs. Recompete vs. Continuation

New – first time applicants

Recompete – reapplying for new 3-year grant

Continuation – entering year 2 or 3 of current cycle



Key Highlights

NOFO Items that **DO NOT** apply to Serve Washington applicants:

- Dates – instead, **follow the dates in the RFGA**
- **DO NOT** send additional documents to AmeriCorps – instead, **follow RFGA** and send to serveva@ofm.wa.gov



Key Highlights

NOFO Items that **DO** apply to Serve Washington applicants:

- Page Limits – 11 – application; logic model 8 (changed)
- Narratives (changed)
- Cost Share (match) - change -

| AmeriCorps Funding Year | Years 1,2, and 3 | Years 4,5, and 6 | Years 7,8, and 9 | Years 10 + |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Grantee Share Requirements | 24% | 26% | 28% | 30% |

- Maximum Cost per MSY \$25,000
- FT Living Allowance **\$20,400-\$40,800** (increase)
- Criminal History Checks
 - Approx. budget (in WA) - \$68 per staff/member + out-of-state variable costs
- Prohibited and Unallowable Activities



Key Highlights

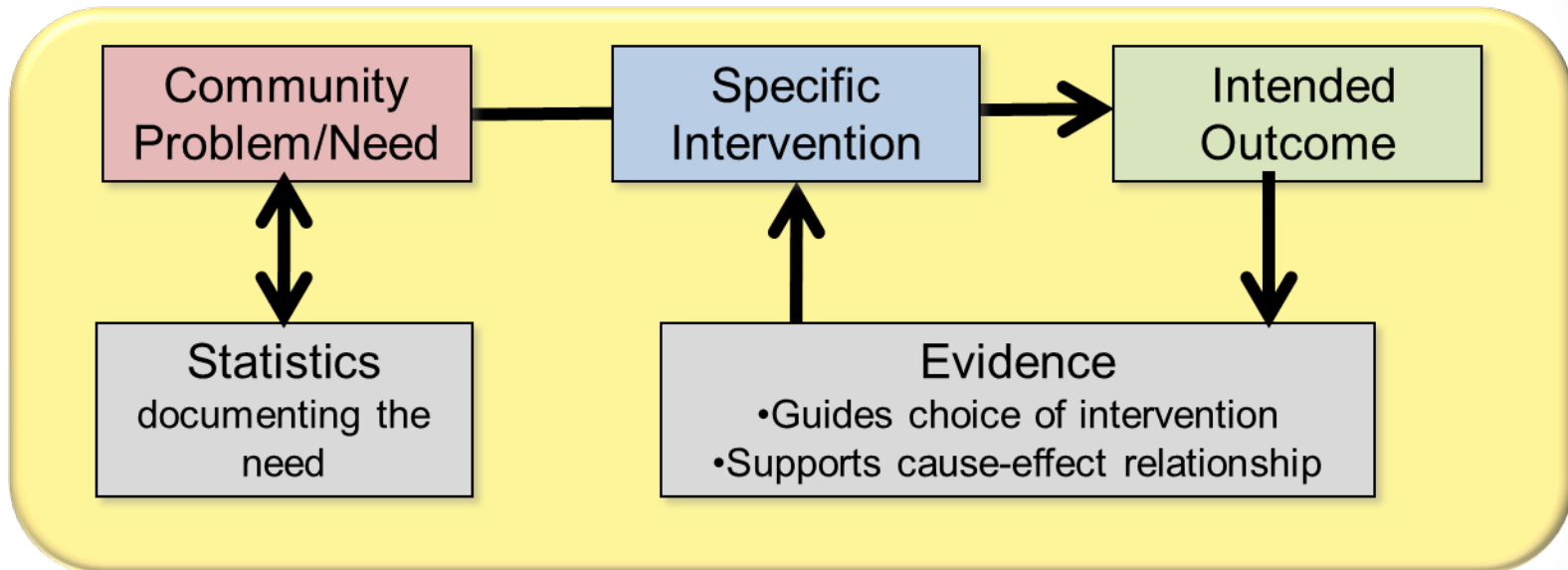
Application “Weight”

- (Do not assume all sub-criteria are of equal value.)

| Categories/Subcategories | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Executive Summary | 0 |
| Program Design | 50 |
| • Community and Logic Model | 24 |
| • Evidence Tier | 12 |
| • Evidence Quality | 8 |
| • Notice Priority | 0 |
| • Member Experience | 6 |
| Organizational Capability | 25 |
| • Organizational Background and Staffing | 15 |
| • Member Supervision | 6 |
| • Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility | 4 |
| Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy | 25 |
| • Member Recruitment | 8 |
| • Member Retention | 9 |
| • Data Collection | 8 |



Theory of Change



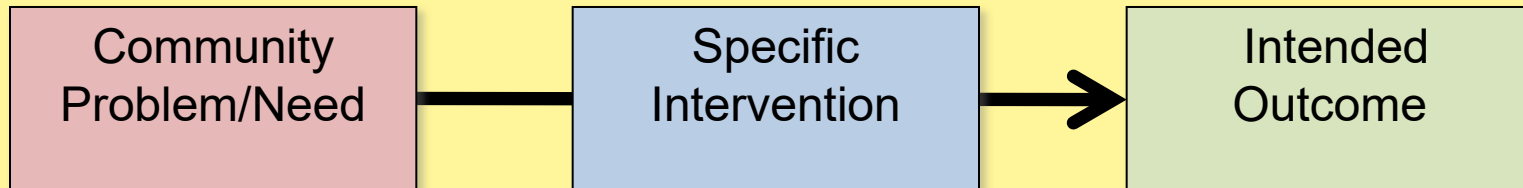
Community Section

Community Problem

- Describe the scope, significance and cause of the problem
- Reflect statistics and data sources that are reputable, current, and local
- Provide a detailed summary regarding how the inequities faced by the underserved community may contribute to the problem



Key Logic Model Components



A set of activities that will produce the intended outcome.

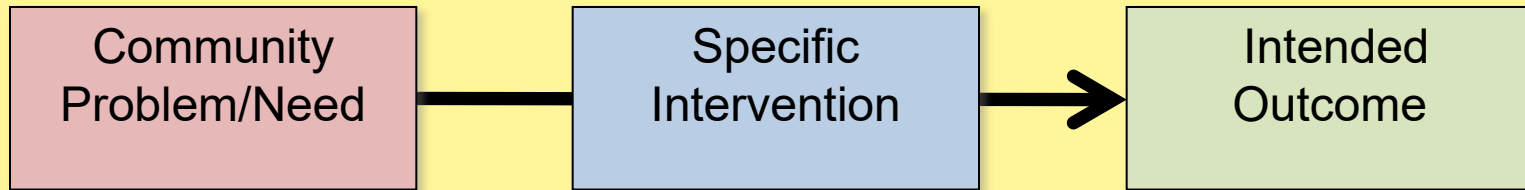
Specific design and dosage; outline FREQUENCY, INTENSITY, and DURATION.

Who does what with whom? How often? How many times? How long?

Caution: interventions defined in general terms but without detail or support of evidence.



Key Logic Model Components



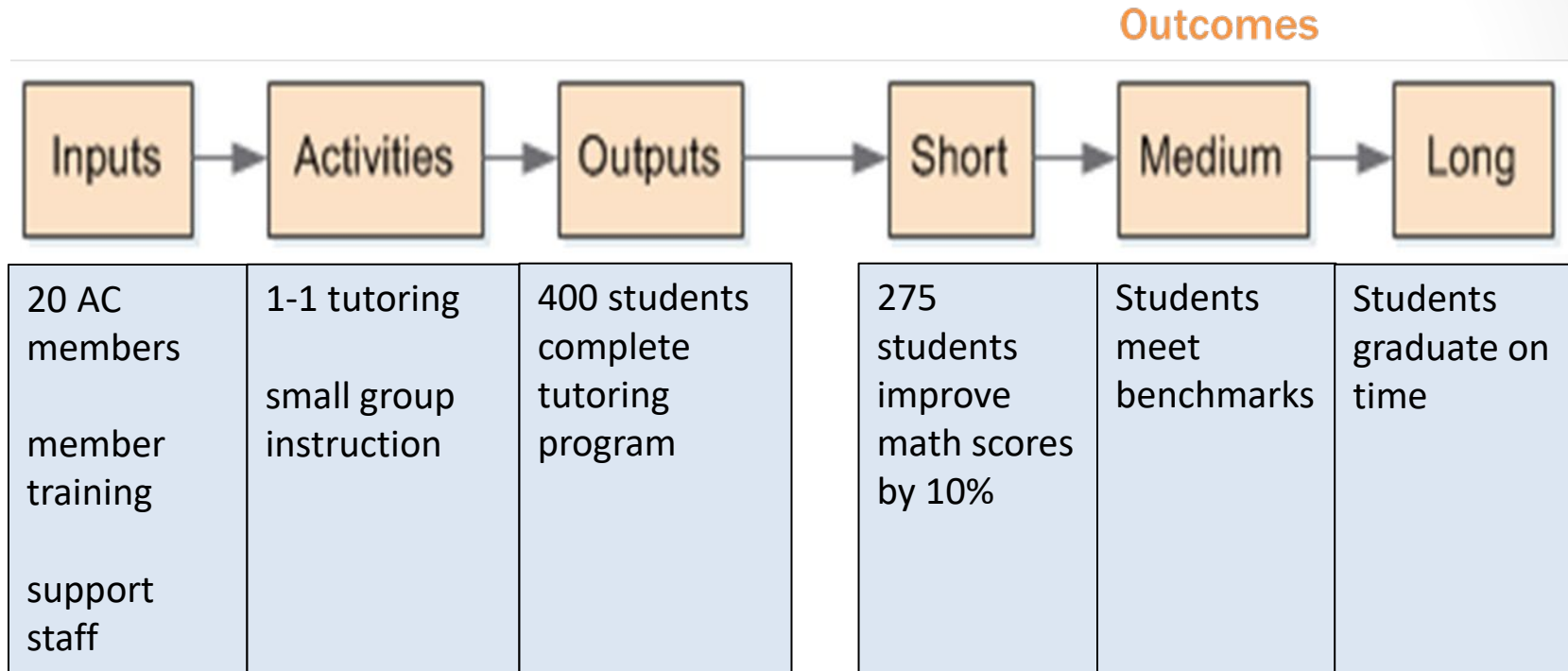
Simply the change
you hope to see.

Caution: outcomes that are difficult to measure or do not align with intervention and need.



Logic Model (8 page maximum)

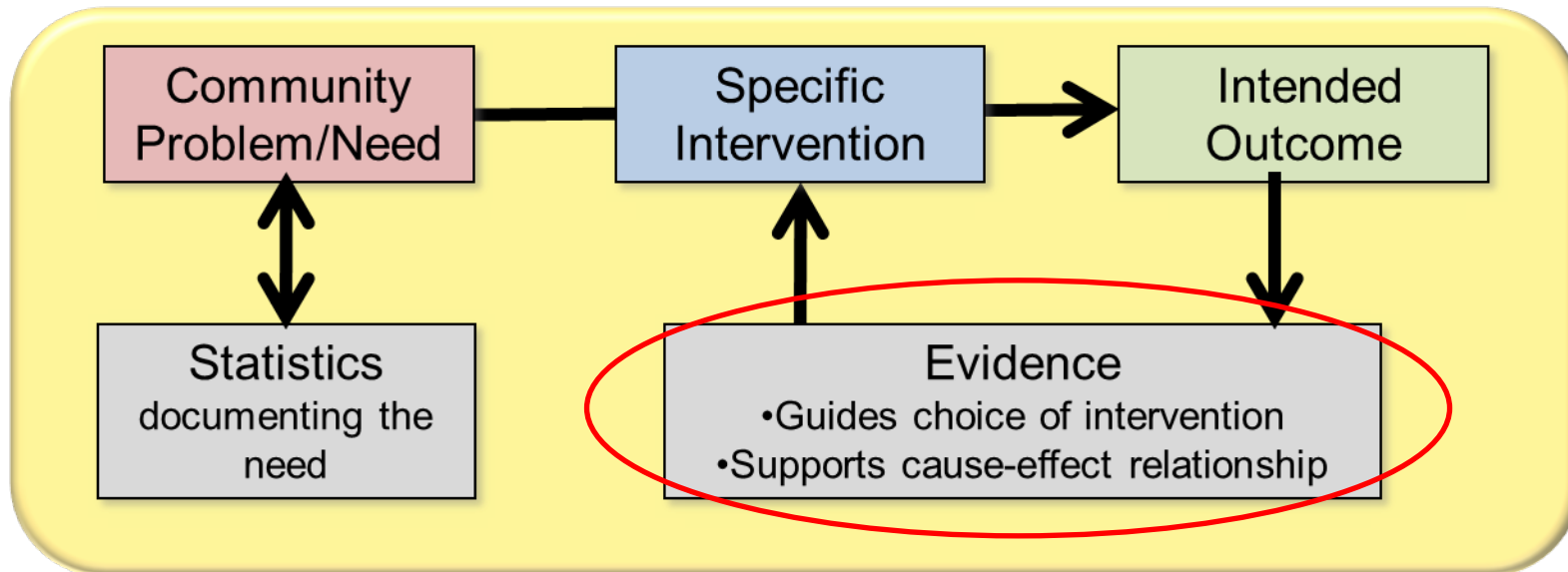
If...Then... 



 ...But...How



Theory of Change



Evidence

Narrative Section

- 1) Fully summarize any study designs and key findings of any outcome or impact evaluations submitted
- 2) Describe any other evidence that supports the proposed program design (such as past performance data or other research findings)
- 3) If you submit evaluation reports for consideration, you must also describe in this section how the intervention described in the submitted reports **is the same** as the intervention described in the application



Evidence

Two Parts Scored

- Evidence Tier (use Supplemental Guidance)
 - Pre-Preliminary – cite performance data and describe evidence-informed program design
 - Preliminary – cite and describe evidence and able to submit two* evaluations
 - Moderate – cite and describe evidence and able to submit two* high-quality RCT or QED evaluations
 - Strong – cite and describe evidence and able to submit two* high-quality RCT or QED evaluations that have been tested at multiple sites

*recompete applicants required to submit an evaluation of their own program can submit in addition to this guidance (in some cases up to three evaluations submitted)

- Evidence Quality
 - Describe how the level of evidence supports the proposed program design



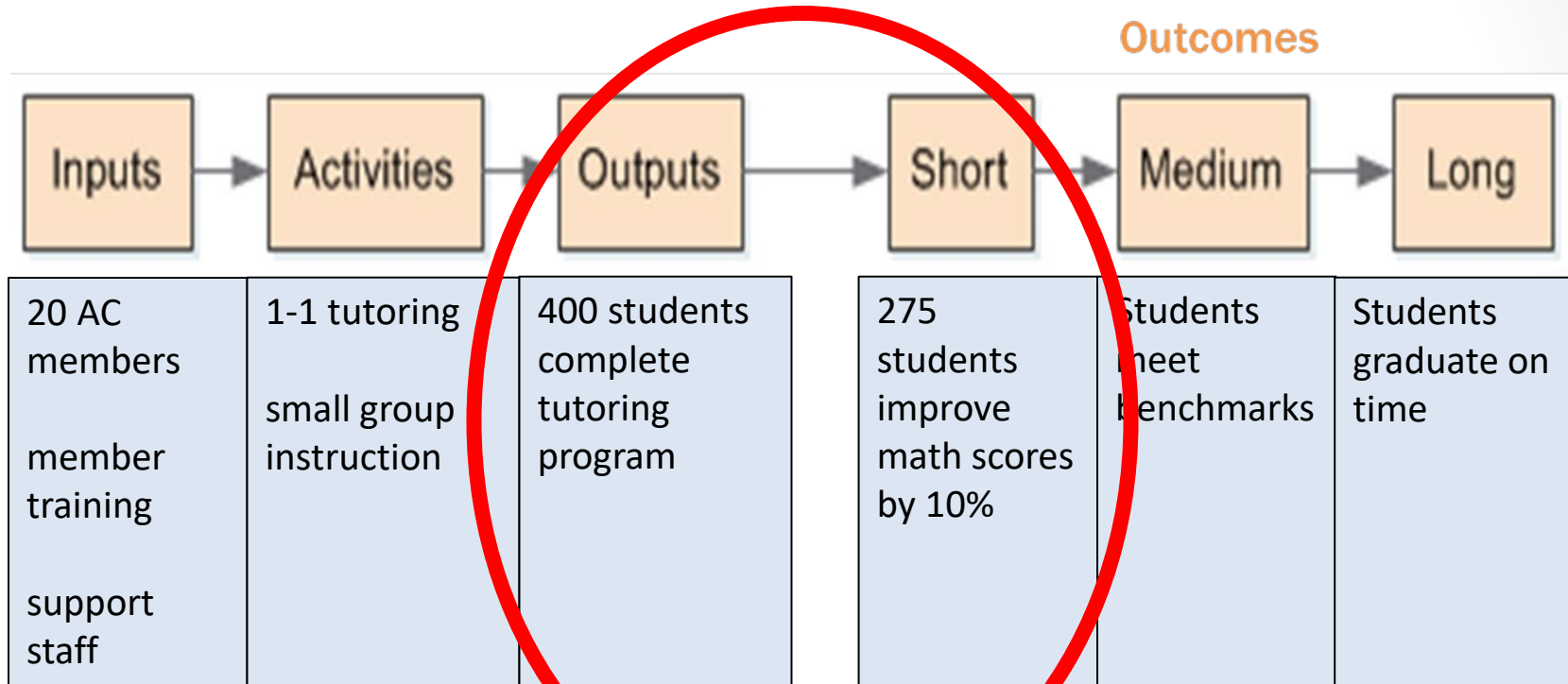
Performance Measurement

Each program must have at least one aligned measure (composed of an output and an outcome) reflecting its **primary intervention**.



Performance Measurement

If...Then... →



← ...But...How



Performance Measurement

Keep performance measure module simple/to the point

Sample Problem Statement: *Many students are not reaching 3rd grade reading level benchmarks. Research shows when students get behind, they often stay behind.*



Performance Measurement

Keep performance measure module simple/to the point

Sample Described Instrument: a pre- and post student engagement assessment will be completed by all students who attend at least 4 session. Students must demonstrate at least a 25% improvement on the assessment to be counted as improved. We know that many students without support becomes less engaged, so any improvement can be considered significant.



Additional Docs

Submit to servewa@ofm.wa.gov – NOT the Federal Agency!

- Operational/Financial Management Survey (ONLINE ONLY)
- Audited Financials (Single Audit or other)
- *Evidence Support Documentation
- *Evaluation Plan (Recompetes Only)
- *Required Program Evaluation Report (Recompetes Only)
- *Labor Union Concurrence
- *Tribal Eligibility

RFGA, NOFO and App Instructions all outline this.

* = if applicable



Evaluation Plan

Recompete Applicants

- Fully Address EACH Criteria
 - USE THE PROVIDED TEMPLATE



eGrants Tips

- Create application pieces outside of eGrants
- eGrants does not allow for fancy formatting
 - No bold, italics, bulleted lists, charts
 - Can use ALL CAPS for section headings
- eGrants automatically double spaces when printing
- Spacing not always perfect between Word and eGrants
- Save and validate often once in eGrants
- Use Chrome (now that IE is gone, Chrome is next best)



Application Tips

- Read NOFO, App Instructions, Supplemental Guidance
- No web addresses or URL links (cite source in narrative)
- Numbers/Data/Demo should match in all sections – if you update one section, think to yourself “where else might this need updated”
 - an updated target in the LM, also needs updated in the PM module
 - an updated budget, also needs updated in the Executive Summary
- Be accurate on the Face Sheet as to the Authorized Rep vs project/program director (Auth Rep has signing authority)
- Project/Contract date: one full year (1st of the month through last day of last month)(not the same as Member Service Year)
- Print final application for review
- Give yourself an early deadline – system has been known to be down or challenging
- Impartial Reviewer



Recompete Applicants

Remember!

- Increase to living allowance
- New criteria for narratives
- Don't reuse old application narratives
- Update data, statistics, and evidence
- National Performance Measures sometimes change, even if using the same NPM, read the current definitions and requirements
- Verify evaluation plan and report requirements



Q&A

Are you ready for AmeriCorps?

[Serve WA Readiness Assessment](#)

[Serve WA RFGA](#)

Email questions to servewa@ofm.wa.gov

