



AmeriCorps Washington

FFY22 State Formula Grants NEW/RECOMPETE RFGA

March 8, 10:00am

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
 - Helpful Tips and Tricks
 - Q & A





WHAT IS AMERICORPS?



National Service in WA



<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...”

Commission Funding Types

- Competitive Funding
- **Formula Funding** (this opportunity)
 - Smaller Programs (10-35 MSYs)
 - Meet Local Priorities
 - Single/Multiple Focus Areas
 - Building Evidence Base (no evidence, preliminary evidence)

Competitive Funding available fall 2022.

Planning Grants available now.



AmeriCorps Funding

Historic Focus Areas

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



AmeriCorps Funding

Priority Funding Areas

- COVID-19 – recovery efforts
- Education Opportunity/Economic Mobility – underemployed communities, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth
- Civic Engagement/Social Cohesion
- Veterans and Military Families – quality of life
- Rural Intermediaries – assist rural organizations
- Environmental Stewardship
- Faith-Based Organizations

Use RFGA/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
- Career pathway models
- Address the housing crisis, support child wellness, and tackle climate change
- Replication models
- Models that engage 55+

Serve WA seeks to ensure resources are available to tribes, rural, underrepresented communities, and a geographically diverse portfolio.



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"



Eligible Applicants

Applications

- 10-35 MSYs
- Begin No Earlier Than August 1, 2022 and No Later Than January 1, 2023

Eligible Entities

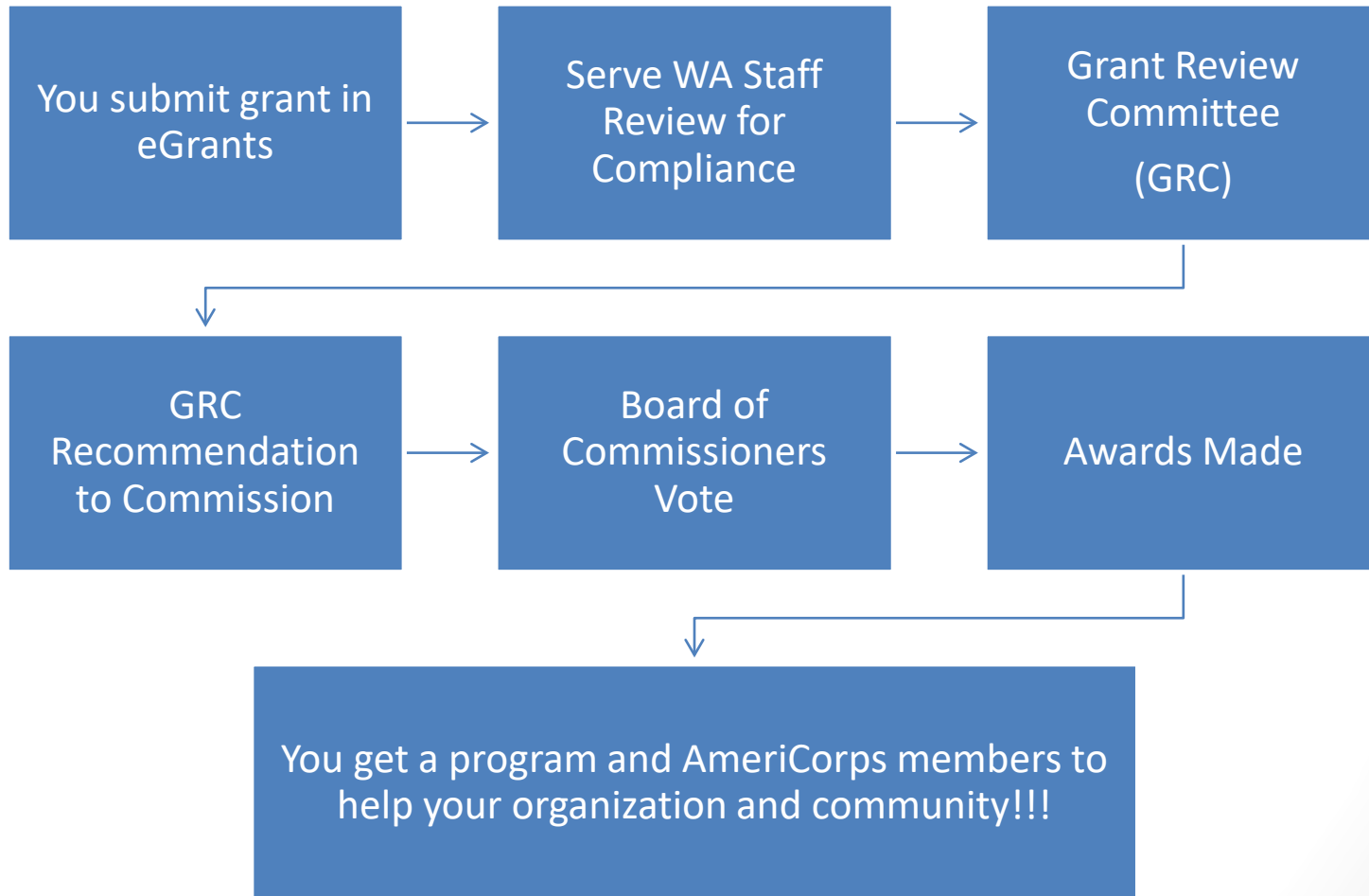
- Nonprofits
- Institutions of Higher Ed
- State and Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
 - Federally Recognized Tribes apply to AmeriCorps the Federal Agency
 - Non-Federal Tribes apply to Serve WA

Additionally

- DUNS/UEI number, EIN, SAM registration



RFGA Process



RFGA Timeline

Request for Grant Applications Released	March 1, 2022
Technical Assistance WebEx for Potential Applicants	March 8, 2022 @ 10:00am
Completed Applications Due from Applicants	March 31, 2022, by 5:00pm
Staff Review for Compliance	April 1, 2022
Grant Review Committee Application Review	April 4-28, 2022
Grant Review Committee Meeting Note: Applicants must be available by phone on this day in the event the GRC needs additional information.	April 29, 2022
Clarification/Revision Period for Some Applicants	Beginning On/Around May 2, 2022
Serve Washington Commissioners Vote on Grant Review Committee Recommendation	May 12, 2022
Notification to Applicants Regarding Serve Washington Vote	Week of May 16, 2022
Clarification/Revision Period Continues for Selected Applicants	Notification Through May 27, 2022
Serve Washington to submit applications to AmeriCorps (No Later Than)	June 6, 2022
AmeriCorps to Award Grants (No Later Than)	July 31, 2022



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

- Page Limits
- Narratives
- Cost Share
- Maximum Cost per MSY \$21,600 (\$25,200 special criteria)
- FT Minimum Living Allowance \$16,502 (\$502 increase)
- Criminal History Checks
 - Approx. budget (in WA) - \$68 + out-of-state variable costs
- Prohibited and Unallowable Activities
- Performance Measures



Key Highlights

- Budget Items
 - 2-Day – WA Subgrantee Meeting – Olympia Area (*travel*)
 - Week-Long – Regional Training – Out of State, West Coast (*travel + \$300 registration fee*)
 - 1-Day – WA Swearing-In Ceremony – Seattle Area (*travel*)
 - (Optional) Week-Long – LFNSE – UW, Seattle (*travel + \$700 registration fee*)
 - (Optional) Two 2-Day – Leader Corps for 1-2 Members – Olympia Area (*travel*)



Key Highlights

- Member Support Costs
 - DO budget for living allowance and FICA
 - DO budget for worker's compensation (in WA)
 - DO NOT budget for unemployment
 - DO NOT budget for WA PFML
 - DO NOT budget for WA Cares Act Premiums



Special Funding Opportunity

- FY22 ONLY
- Up to \$10,000 Federal Funds (contingent on availability)
- Proposals that engage in anti-racist, social justice, equity, diversity, and/or inclusion work
- Activities
 - Staff Training
 - Member Training
 - Consultant Work
 - Program Design
 - Enrollment/Retention
 - Other – Program Defined
- One Page Proposal in Clarification Section



Special Funding Opportunity

- Budgetary Impact EXAMPLE
- Base Federal Request
 - 20 FT Slots = 20 MSY
 - Maximum Cost MSY - \$21,600
 - $20 \times \$21,600 = \$432,000$
- Add Special Funding to Base Request
 - $\$432,000 + \$5,000 = \$437,000$
 - $\$437,000/20 = \$21,850$
- The NEW cost/msy may appear over the limit
- Funds are comingled in the AmeriCorps award
- Funds must adhere to rules, regulations, draw-down procedures



Key Highlights

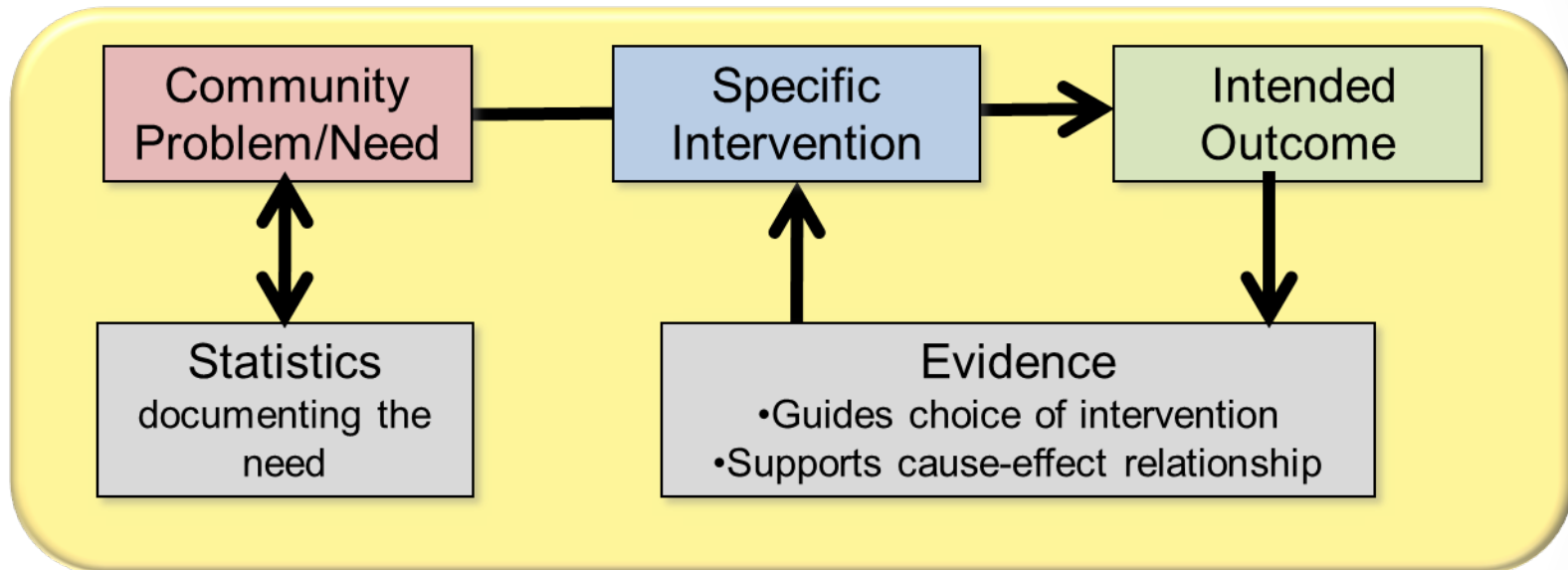
Application “Weight”

- Executive Summary (0%)
- Program Design (50%)
- Organizational Capability (25%)
- Cost Effectiveness/Budget Adequacy (25%)

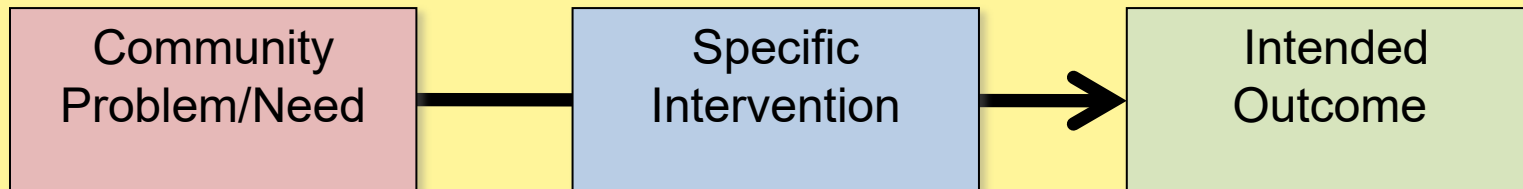
Program Design includes Theory of Change, Logic Model, Performance Measurement and Evidence...



Theory of Change



Theory of Change



Problem: negative condition.

Need: scope, significance, cause.

Who's affected? How many? How severe? How perpetuated? So what? What will likely happen if nothing is done?

Use REPUTABLE, CURRENT, LOCAL statistics and data sources.

Caution: lengthy problem statements outlining multiple negative conditions when irrelevant.



Searching for Statistics

EQUITY LENSE

SCOPE: Who and how many are directly affected? How severe is this?

SIGNIFICANCE: What makes this a compelling need? Is it likely to become worse? What will happen if we do nothing?

CAUSE(S): Why does the need exist? How is it perpetuated?



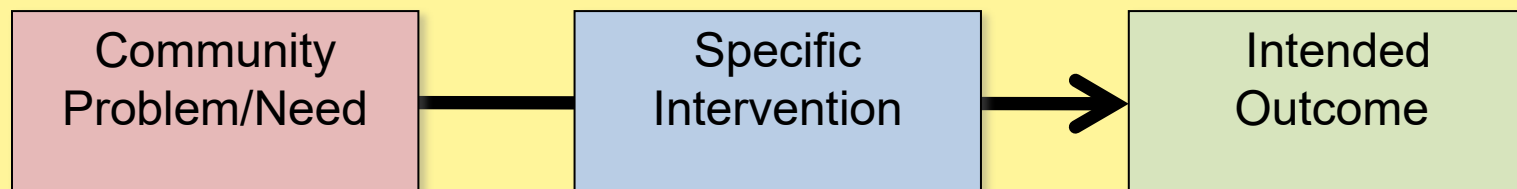
Searching for Statistics

RACIAL EQUITY LENSE

Language matters. “State data have consistently pointed to differences in access and outcomes experienced by people of color. ...Be explicit about racism and other forms of oppression as the underlying causes for the inequities that exist and show up in state data.”



Theory of Change



A set of activities that will produce the intended outcome.

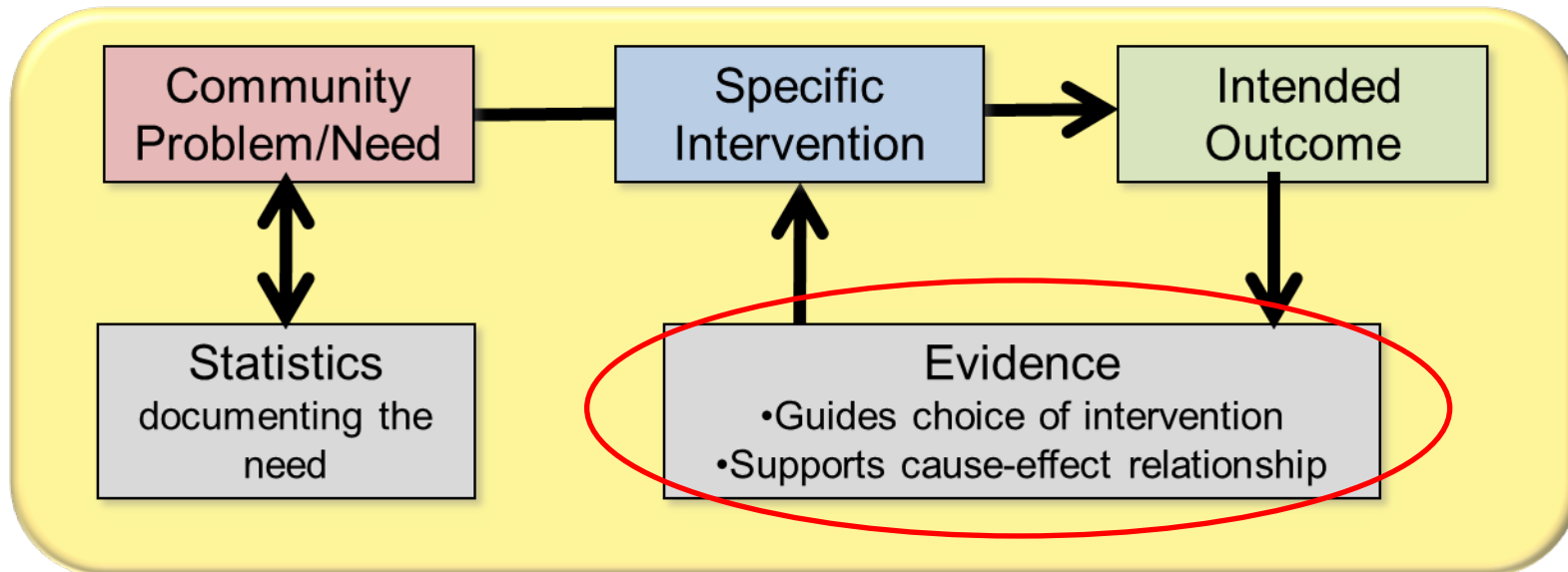
Specific design and dosage; outline
FREQUENCY, INTENSITY, and
DURATION.

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

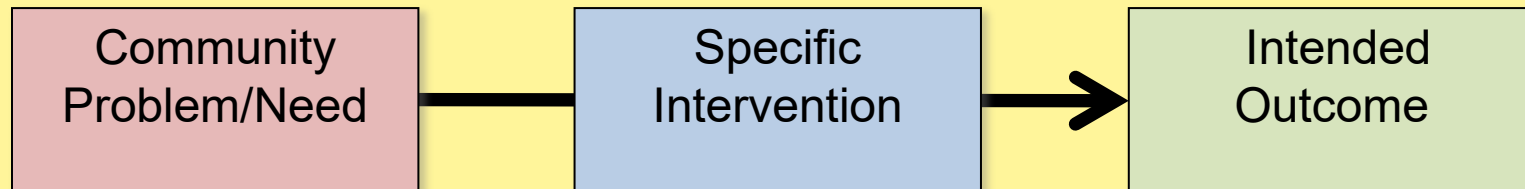
Caution: interventions defined in general terms but without detail or support of evidence.



Theory of Change



Theory of Change



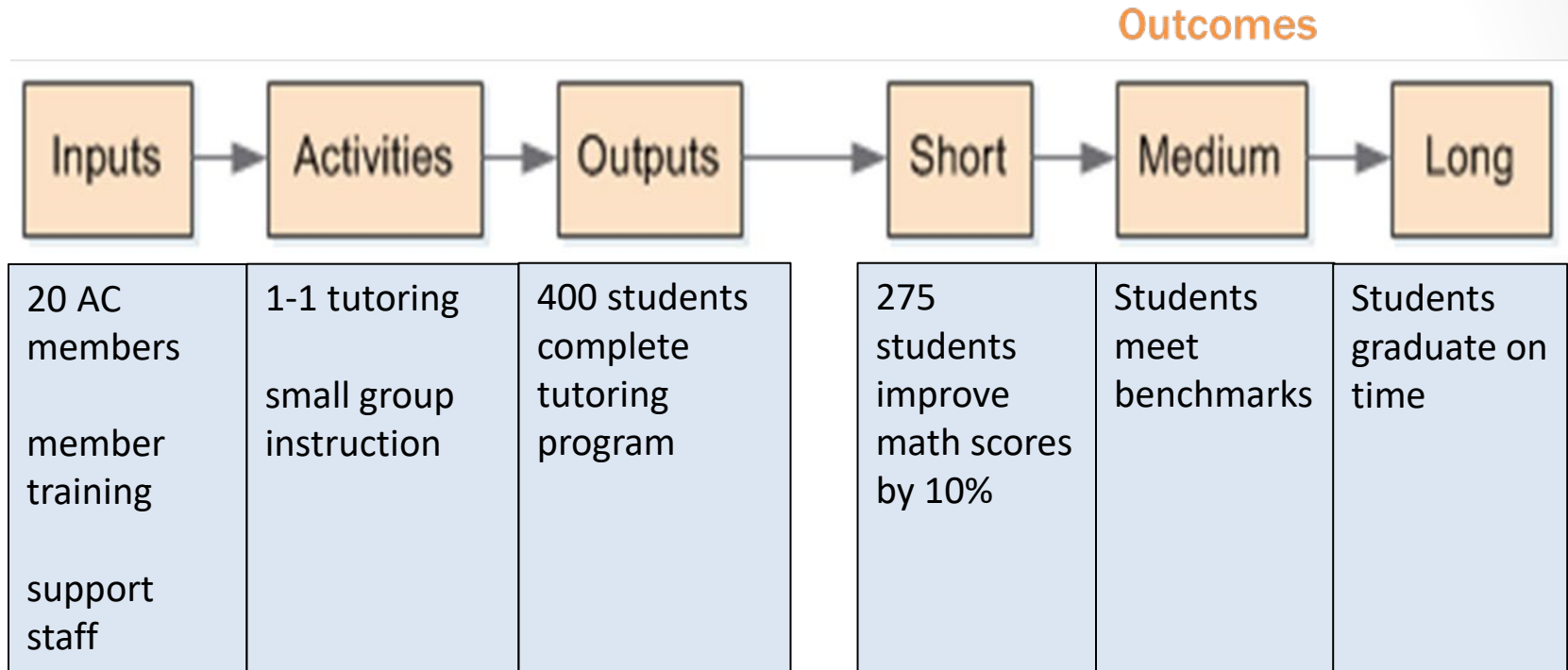
Simply the change you hope to see.

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



Logic Model

If...Then... →



← ...But...How



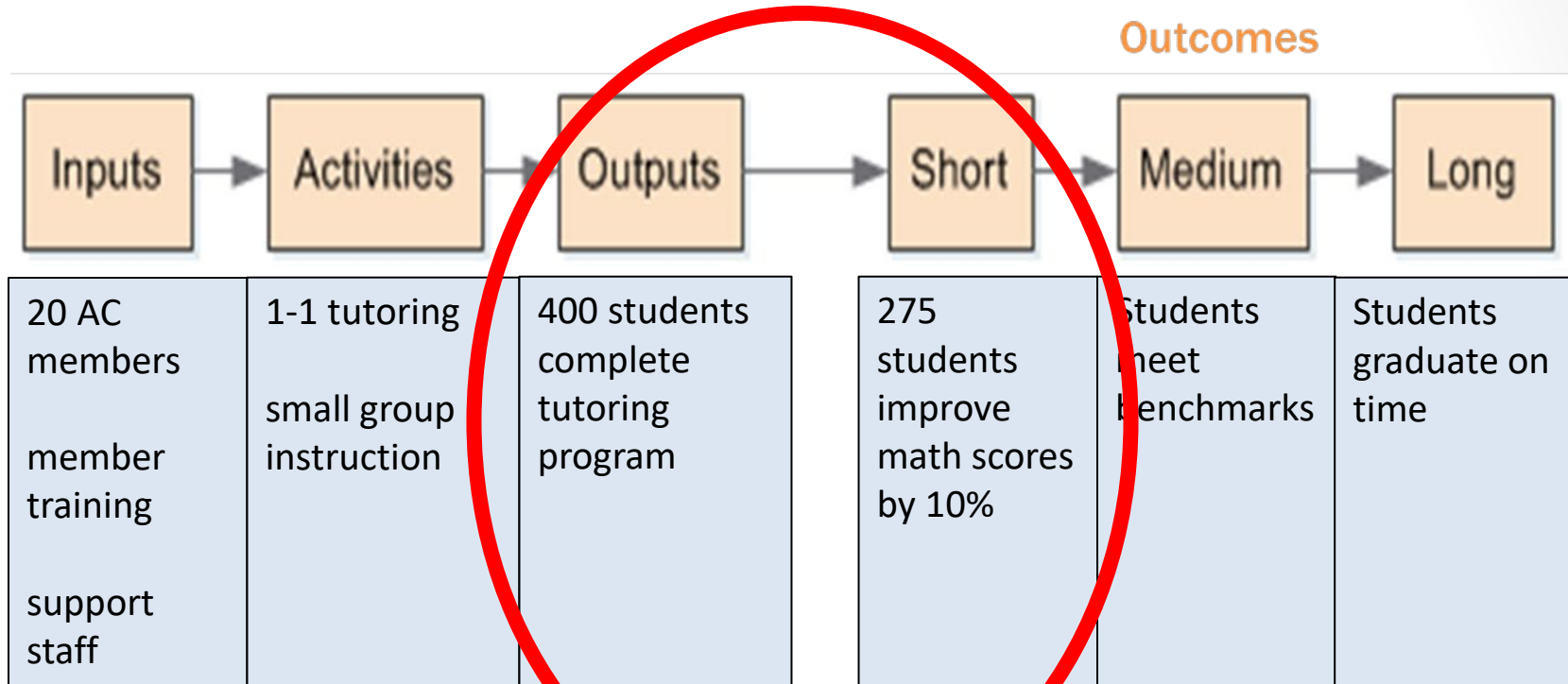
Performance Measurement

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.



Evidence

Narrative Section

- 1) State the evidence tier in which they think they qualify
- 2) Clearly indicate and describe the evidence that supports the highest evidence tier in which they are eligible
- 3) Describe any other evidence that supports the proposed program design (such as past performance data or other research findings)



Evidence

- 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)



Additional Docs

Submit to servewa@ofm.wa.gov

- Audited Financials (Single Audit or other)
- Evaluations (Evidence Support)
- Serve WA Waiver (if applicable)
- Labor Union Concurrence (if applicable)
- Evaluation Plan (if applicable)
- Evaluation Report (if applicable)



Evaluation Plan

Recompete Applicants – New Template

- Fully Address EACH Criteria
 - Theory of Change/Scope of Evaluation
 - Outcome(s) of Interest
 - Research Question(s)
 - Evaluation Design
 - Sampling Methods
 - Data Collection
 - Analysis Plan
 - Evaluator
 - Timeline
 - Budget



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 Internet Explorer (if you still have it, Chrome is next best)



Application Tips

- Read RFGA, App Instructions, Supplemental Guidance
- No web addresses or URL links (cite 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



Budget Tips

Cost-Reimbursement: (attachments pg. 19)

- 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 = \$1,186
 - Narrative = Airfare \$650, Ground Transport \$50, Lodging Two Nights \$400, Per Diem Two Days \$86 (all equals \$1,186)
- 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!
- Don’t forget Source of Funds section which is an explanation of funds used for grantee share – the two totals should match



Budget Tips

Fixed-Amount: (attachments pg. 28)

- New instructions to use “allowance rate” column
- 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. 31 applies to all budget types



Recompete Applicants

Remember!

- Increase in the maximum cost per MSY
- Increase to living allowance
- New criteria for narratives
- Don't reuse old application narratives
- Update data, statistics, and evidence
- National Performance Measures have significantly changed, even if using the same NPM, read the current definitions and requirements
- Verify evaluation plan and report requirements
- Budget for new branding (if you didn't last year)



Serve WA Funding Outlook

A pathway to ample funding...

- ARPA funds
- Potential BBB federal legislation
- Potential portfolio movement (formula to competitive)

A pathway to funding challenges...

- ARPA “cliff”
- Under-enrolled programs
- No portfolio movement (increased ask of state funds)
- Increased cost/msy (alignment with State Service Plan)
 - Priority funding models





Q&A

Are you ready for AmeriCorps?

[Serve WA Readiness Assessment](#)

[Serve WA RFGA](#) (and other materials)

Email questions to servewa@ofm.wa.gov

Applications due no later than March 31 by 5pm!

