PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion & Title: Staff recommends motion to:

A) approve a Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County AmeriCorps Site Application for the County Library's participation in a Literacy AmeriCorps PBC Project for the period August 13, 2012 through July 12, 2013.

B) authorize the County Administrator or his designee to execute any other necessary forms and certifications.

Summary: This site application, if approved, will provide the County Library with one (1) fulltime AmeriCorps member for one (1) year. This member will contribute 32 hours per week offering conversational English programs and overseeing the computer learning lab. The Library will pay a service fee of \$5,620 to the Coalition and business-related mileage to the member up to \$2,750. Literacy AmeriCorps, with supplemental funds from the Coalition, will cover all other expenses including Workers' Compensation, liability, and health coverage. Funds will be provided through the Library's FY2012 and FY2013 operating budgets and will have minimal fiscal impact.

Countywide (AH)

Background and Justification: The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County has been selected to serve as the local lead agency for Literacy AmeriCorps PBC, a state funded program. Literacy AmeriCorps PBC is also funded by federal and local match grants in partnership with literacy providers. The Library has operated its Adult Literacy Program since 1985 and has helped over 3,625 functionally illiterate adults improve their reading and writing skills. The Library works closely with the Literacy Coalition of PBC and has a history of partnering with other agencies to improve and expand literacy tutoring services in PBC. This year, with the approval of this Site Agreement, the Library projects that it will serve 200 adult students. 150 *English Exchange* programs will be offered continuing outreach efforts to English language learners in our community.

Attachments:

1. 2.	Site Application (2) Literacy AmeriCorps Information Sheet (2)	
Recomm Approved	d By: Accident Country (John J. Callahan III) Department Director d By: Accident Country (Jon Van Arnam)	5/17/12 Date
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Assistant County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2012	20 <u>13</u>	20 <u>14</u>	20 <u>15</u>	20 <u>16</u>
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs External Revenues Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County)	0 0 0 0 0	0 8370 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
NET FISCAL IMPACT # ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	<u>0</u>	<u>8370</u>	<u> </u>	0	
Is Item Included in Current B Budget Account No.:	udget? Fund <u>1180</u>	Dept <u>320</u>	Yes <u>x</u> Unit <u>320</u>		t <u>3401 - \$5620</u> ct 4007 - \$2750

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Source: Ad Valorem Tax

Impact: Minimal fiscal impact. No transfer of funds required.

- C. Departmental Fiscal Review:
- (Director, Library-Finance and Facilities)

III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. And Control Comments:

MR 5

B. Legal Sufficiency

anne 5 -22-12 Assistant ounty Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

N/A Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment. REVISED 9/03 ADM FORM 01

21)12 Contract Dev. And Contr Bu hala 2 5 21-

2012-2013 Literacy AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Site Application



Getting Things Done

Strengthening Communities

Encouraging Responsibility

Expanding Opportunity

An AmeriCorps Project Of the Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition 551 SE 8th Street Suite 505 Delray Beach, Florida 33483 561-279-9103

	Attachment 1 pg. 2 of 15	6/5/12 3N1
	ORGANIZATION	
Drganization Name		
Palm Beach County Board of Cour	ity Commissioners on behalf of P	alm Beach County
Library Adult Literacy Project		
Mailing Address		
4639 Lake Worth Road Lake	Worth FL	33463
City	State	Zip
561-649-5500	561-649-5402	
Telephone	Fax	
murphyk@pbclibrary.org	www.pbclibrary.org	
E-Mail Address	Organization Website	
		· · · · ·
TYPE OF APPLICANT		
Check All that Apply:	Number of AmeriCorps	Members Requested
<u>√</u> Government	Part-time	
Educational Institution	Full-time 1	
_private state/district funded		
_higher education	1	
501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Identification	Number	
Other: (specify)		
Eligibility Requirements Informat	ion	
√Yes No Can Your organization full-time AmeriCorp part-time)	n provide a \$5,620 program service fee os member placed with your organization	e for each on? (\$2,810 for
$\sqrt{\text{Yes}}$ No Is your facility access	ible to people with disabilities?	
$\sqrt{\text{Yes}}$ No Will you accept members	bers with disabilities for placement wit	h your site?
an employee?	being applied for, a position previously	
$\sqrt{1}$ Yes No Will the position direct	ctly support the AmeriCorps Objective	s?

τ		tachment 1 . 3 of 15	6/5/12 3N1	
PREVIOUS SPONSORSHIP Was your organization previously a Literacy AmeriCorps sin If yes, what year? <u>2011-2012</u>	e?	√ Yes	No	

PROPOSED PROJECT PLAN Instructions: Please respond briefly to the following items:

1. What is the purpose and mission of your organization?

The Adult Literacy Project offers individualized, learner-centered instruction to English-speaking adults functioning below 5th grade level. One-to-one tutoring is provided free of charge by Library-trained volunteers at sixteen sites throughout the County. Our goal is to equip students with the necessary skills to transition to an Adult Basic Education class continuing their pursuit of a high school diploma.

2. Briefly describe your organization's program activities.

Primary activities are as follows: recruit and train prospective volunteers; recruit and place new students; monitor student progress; develop supplementai lesson plans to meet individual needs; conduct tutor in-service workshops; and present adult learner programs. *English Exchange* programs offer patrons the opportunity to practice conversational English skills improving their ability to address everyday concerns within our community.

3. What are your program days and hours of operation?

Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The AmeriCorps member will lead evening *English Exchange* sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

4. Provide a concise description of the proposed project and what you foresee an AmeriCorps Member doing at your organization. Include how you will utilize a Member during the summer.

Please attach, as a separate document, a detailed Service Position Description for an AmeriCorps Member. Include roles and responsibilities, desired personal and professional qualifications of the member(s), and reporting relationships.

See Attachment A – Service Position Description

Attachment 1 6/5/12 pg. 4 of 15 3N1

5. How would the service performed by an AmeriCorps Member be substantially different than the work being performed by any employees of the organization?

We do not have staff to offer English Exchange programs or oversee the Computer Learning Lab.

- 6. AmeriCorps Member supervision:
 - a. Who will be the onsite supervisor for the AmeriCorps Member(s)?

Kathleen Murphy

b. How many hours per week will direct supervision of Corps Member(s) be provided? Four hours

c. Describe the orientation and training you will provide for the Member.

The site supervisor will provide hands-on training, materials, and ongoing support to meet grant and AmeriCorps member goals.

- 7. Training or Corps wide service projects require the AmeriCorps Member to be away from their service placement 8-16 hours each month (at times for up to 4 days). Will this be a problem? No
- 8. What resources will be made available to the Corps Member in order to ensure success in the project? Circle all that apply: <u>office/desk</u> <u>fax</u> <u>computer</u> <u>postage</u> transportation <u>mileage reimbursement</u> <u>phone</u> <u>copier</u> <u>access to e-mail</u> <u>adequate space to tutor or mentor</u>
- 9. List any other resources that will be made available to the Corps Member (training material, curriculum, etc.)

Training and instructional materials, new reader collection, tv/vcr/dvd, projector, digital camera, and camcorder

CHECKLIST: PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH THIS APPLICATION

- ____ The names of any potential or returning Member that you would like to have serve at your agency.
 - Completed AmeriCorps Service Plan and Member Position Description
- Copies of your organization's brochures and other literature

Directions to your site, from I-95

Attachment 1 pg. 5 of 15

6/5/12 3N1

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING

Submission of this application does not guarantee that I iteracy AmeriCorps will provide an AmeriCorps Member to your organization, nor does it compel your organization to accept any such AmeriCorps Member. Through pre-placement interviews, we will make every effort to provide a compatible match between your agency and a potential AmeriCorps Member prior to their placement.

If an AmeriCorps Member is placed with your agency, your agency will be responsible for the onsite supervision of the Member, the development and implementation of your described projects, and the effective evaluation of those projects. AmeriCorps Members will need to report on how AmeriCorps objectives are being met through their service and the project at your site. Your help in facilitating this evaluation and providing the AmeriCorps Member with the information and access to evaluative data will be important. If an AmeriCorps Member placed in your organization withdraws or is released from service, Literacy AmeriCorps does not guarantee a replacement, but will provide a prorated reimbursement if the position remains unfilled. If your organization is accepted as a site, your organization agrees to provide orientation and training that the AmeriCorps Member may require in order to fulfill their role at your site. Literacy AmeriCorps will provide pre-service and ongoing training for AmeriCorps Members covering a variety of topics including literacy, disaster preparedness, CPR, safety, tutoring strategies, community service, professionalism, personal development, and others.

If accepted as a site, your organization agrees to participate in a pre-service orientation for site supervisors.

Signature of Authorized Representative (original signature in blue ink required)

Title

Literacy AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Audrey McDonough, Director 551 SE 8th Street Suite 505 Delray Beach, FL 33483 561 243-9450 Email: <u>ammcd1@yahoo.com</u> <u>Amcdonough@literacypbc.org</u>

Approved as to terms and conditions

John J Callanan III, Library Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Assistant County Attorney

Date

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition Darlene Kostrub, CEO 551 SE 8th Street Suite 505 Delray Beach, FL 33483 561-279-9103

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Florida, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Commissioner Shelley Vana, Chair

ATTEST: Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Controller

Deputy Clerk

By:____

Attachment 1 pg. 6 of 15

<u>6/5/12</u>

3N1

AmeriCorps Provisions

AmeriCorps Members are prohibited from a number of activities (from Federal Regulations, 45 C.F.R. 2520.30). A partial list is provided below. In no way should an AmeriCorps Member participate in these activities during service hours or as a part of his/her service, nor should he/she wear AmeriCorps uniforms, identification, buttons, etc. while participating in these activities, or otherwise identify or associate such activities with an AmeriCorps program.

- Efforts to influence legislation
- Organizing protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes
- Union organizing
- Impairing existing contracts or collective bargaining
- Engaging in partisan or election politics (including campaigns for public office and ballot issue elections)
- **Religious** activities
- Activities that pose a significant safety risk
- Assignments that displace paid employees
- Voter registration drives
- Fund raising
- Perform service in direct benefit to a for-profit organization
- An AmeriCorps Member is not permitted to fill in for an absent employee or perform services, duties, or activities assigned to a paid employee at the host agency
- An AmeriCorps Member may not do anything at a host agency to displace a paid employee or position or to infringe upon a paid employee's promotional opportunities.
- A Member may not be required to perform duties outside the realm of direct literacy services and activities which directly support such services. A Member cannot perform administrative duties as the primary focus of their service.
- Providing abortion services or referrals

AmeriCorps Members can and should: teach, tutor and mentor, perform direct service with students, recruit learners and volunteers, prepare lessons and activities for students, engage in activities that will deepen their understanding of literacy development, participate in service projects, submit timely and accurate reports, engage in projects that are relevant to the AmeriCorps program.

I have read and understand the above statements on AmeriCorps Member Provisions. If chosen as a Literacy AmeriCorps site, we will support our AmeriCorps Member(s) in abiding by these Provisions.

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners Name of Organization: on behalf of Palm Beach County Library Adult Literacy Project

Signature of Authorized Representative

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Florida, a

ed as to terms and conditions App John J. Callahan III, Library Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Assistant County Attorney

Date

By:

Political Subdivision of the State of Florida BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Commissioner Shelley Vana, Chair

ATTEST: Sharon R. Bock, Clerk & Controller

Deputy Clerk

Attachment 1 pg. 7 of 15

6/5/12 3N1

Literacy AmeriCorps Palm Beach County Needs and Services Activities



AmeriCorps members will assist in capacity building efforts for the community by conducting outreach, and by recruiting, training and supporting 150 volunteers throughout their service year.

AmeriCorps members will provide tutoring and group instruction in literacy for 500 adults during their service year.

AmeriCorps members will serve in community centers, libraries, afterschool programs, and family literacy centers by tutoring and providing literacy enrichment activities for 480 preschool and elementary school children during the service year.

AmeriCorps members will become graduation coaches, mentors, and tutors at high drop-out rate high schools and youth programs for 600 at risk youth and young adults, ages 14-21 during the service year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE AMERICORPS SERVICE PLAN

Your objectives and activities should be clearly linked to the information provided in your proposed project plan and support the AmeriCorps Performance Measures:

Literacy AmeriCorps Performance Measures:

Adult Literacy Performance Measures

AmeriCorps members will provide literacy instruction for 500 adult learners in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and ABE/GED classes, adult literacy programs and family literacy centers.

Each adult will complete a survey after 25 hours of instruction.

By the end of the program year 50% of these students will report an increase in positive attitudes and behaviors about their literacy skills.

50% of adult learners instructed by AmeriCorps members will be pre and post tested. 70% of the post tested learners will increase scores on standardized and other assessments:

BEST Plus	10 point gain
CASAS/TABE	5 point gain
LCP Assessment	1 level

Children's Literacy Performance Measures

AmeriCorps members will provide tutoring and literacy enrichment activities for 480 preschool and elementary school children.

50% of the elementary students will increase positive reading behaviors on the Quarterly Skills Checklist and the Children's Reading Survey

75% of children tutored for at least 30 hours will score 20% higher on selected assessments (LEARNS Literacy Assessment Profile/Early Literacy Skills Assessment) or increase 1 Level on School District reading assessment.

Youth Literacy/Graduation Coaches

AmeriCorps members will coach, tutor and mentor 600 "at-risk" youth, ages 14-21 years old. By the end of the service year 70% of the students who participate will remain in school or meet their graduation requirements.

Strengthening Communities

AmeriCorps members will recruit, support or train 150 new community volunteers by the end of the service year.

Member Development

AmeriCorps members will participate in preservice orientation and training. They will continue to meet every Friday throughout the service year for ongoing training, professional development and team building. Training will be provided by Literacy Coalition staff, community partners and community educators.

Attachment 1 6/5/12 pg. 9 of 15 3N1

Attachment B – Service Site Plan.

Please attach a detailed service site plan outlining the expected AmeriCorps member's responsibilities, timelines for assuming those responsibilities, and measurements. The service site plan should reflect the Performance Measure Duties, other Literacy-Related Duties, and Member Development.

• Performance Measure Activities (at least 50% of time)

- recruiting and managing volunteers
 - teaching or tutoring adults, children or youth and providing literacy enrichment for children
 - lesson planning and measuring student progress

• Other Literacy-Related Activities (up to 50% of time)

 teaching computer literacy or workplace literacy, mentoring students, distributing books, performing community outreach activities on behalf of the service site, etc.

o Member Development

Any literacy or professional development training that prepares the AmeriCorps member for service or contributes to lifelong learning.

A sample plan follows the application

Please email the Site Application, Service Plan, Driving Directions and Member Position Description as attachments by May 31, 2012 to Audrey McDonough at <u>ammcd1@yahoo.com</u>

Mail original signed application to Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition 551 SE 8 Street Suite 505 Delray Beach, FL 33483

Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

• Position description of the members and service plan;

Ability to adequately support member placement and activities;

• Program supports the Literacy AmeriCorps Performance Measures;

• Demonstrated need for a member;

• History and track record of supporting the Literacy AmeriCorps performance measures with

the program if a returning program

**Completeness of the Site Application

Attachment 1 6/5/12 pg. 10 of 15 3N1

Attachment A – Service Position Description

Adult Literacy Project Literacy AmeriCorps Member

Summary: The two primary components of this position include facilitating *English Exchange* programs at various library locations and overseeing the Computer Learning Lab.

Duties:

- 1. Identifies curriculum, develops lessons plans, and presents *English Exchange* programs.
- 2. Conducts outreach by promoting *English Exchange* programs within our community.
- 3. Oversees the Computer Learning Lab enrolling new students, determining program placement, monitoring progression, and developing individualized lesson plans.
- Provides one-to-one tutoring and small group instruction to adult learners reading and writing below 5th grade level.
- 5. Prepares monthly reports which includes number of students, instructional hours, and programs offered.
- 6. Produces two student-focused newsletters.

Skills and Abilities:

- Communicates clearly and enthusiastically.
- Displays the ability to empathize and encourage adult new readers.
- Displays the ability to prioritize and organize workflow.
- Displays the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Represents the program in a positive and professional manner.

Reporting Relationships: Reports directly to the Adult Literacy Coordinator. Maintains a good working relationship with staff at branch locations and members of Library Literacy Friends, Inc.

Requirements: Must use own vehicle; possess a valid driver's license; and provide proof of insurance.

Attachment 1 pg. 11 of 15 6/5/12 3N1

Attachment B - Service Site Plan

Please use the following example to create your own chart. You may list as many or as few activities as the position needs.

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	MEASURE	TRAINING PROVIDED	% OI TIMI
Facilitate six <i>English Exchange</i> programs weekly.	9/12 - 6/13	250 patrons will be served. 70% of patrons will report increased skills based on AmeriCorps ESL Learner Survey.	•ESL training and curriculum •Ongoing support	50%
Tutor adult basic literacy students offering individual, small group, and computer lab instruction.	9/12 - 7/13	10 students will be served. 70% of students will demonstrate increased skills based on the AmeriCorps Learner Survey, Learning 100 Progress Report, ELLIS Program Report or the BEST Test.	 Voyager Adult Reading Series New Reader Collection Learning 100 Software ELLIS Language Software- BEST Test Slosson Oral Reading Test 	30%
Conduct outreach by promoting <i>English</i>	9/12 - 6/13	5% increase in patron attendance will be seen.	N/A	5%
<i>Exchange</i> programs. Publish a student newsletter.	12/12 – 6/13	Two student-focused newsletters will be produced.	Computer instruction as needed.	5%
Receive ongoing training/mentoring from site staff.	Ongoing	Member will become better equipped to tutor and present programs as noted by supervisor in evaluations.	N/A	10%
	Facilitate six English Exchange programs weekly.Tutor adult basic literacy students offering individual, small group, and computer lab instruction.Conduct outreach by promoting English Exchange programs.Publish a student newsletter.Receive ongoing training/mentoring from	Facilitate six English Exchange programs weekly.9/12 - 6/13Tutor adult basic literacy students offering individual, small group, and computer lab instruction.9/12 - 7/13Conduct outreach by promoting English Exchange programs.9/12 - 6/13Publish a student newsletter.12/12 - 6/13Receive ongoing training/mentoring fromOngoing	Facilitate six English Exchange programs weekly.9/12 - 6/13250 patrons will be served. 70% of patrons will report increased skills based on AmeriCorps ESL Learner Survey.Tutor adult basic literacy students offering individual, small group, and computer lab instruction.9/12 - 7/1310 students will be served. 70% of students will demonstrate increased skills based on the AmeriCorps Learner Survey, Learning 100 Progress Report, ELLIS Program Report or the BEST Test.Conduct outreach by promoting English Exchange programs.9/12 - 6/135% increase in patron attendance will be seen. Two student-focused newsletter.Receive ongoing training/mentoring from site staff.9/12 - 6/13Member will become better equipped to tutor and present programs as noted by supervisor in	Facilitate six English Exchange programs weekly.9/12 - 6/13250 patrons will be served. 70% of patrons will report increased skills based on AmeriCorps ESL Learner Survey.eESL training and curriculumTutor adult basic literacy students offering individual, small group, and computer lab instruction.9/12 - 7/1310 students will be served. 70% of students will demonstrate increased skills based on the AmeriCorps Earner Survey, Learning 100 Progress Report, ELLIS Program Report or the BEST Test.°Voyager Adult Reading Series °New Reader Collection °ELLIS Language Software °ELLIS Language Software °EST TestConduct outreach by promoting English Exchange programs.9/12 - 6/135% increase in patron attendance will be seen. Two student-focused newsletters will be produced.N/AReceive ongoing training/mentoring from site staff.OngoingMember will become better equipped to tutor and present programs as noted by supervisor in noted by supervisor inN/A

Be A Library Literacy Tutor

.... Tutor Student "When you teach • No special skills or degrees Tutoring is free someone to read, are needed ... just a degree of caring you do not Tutoring is one-to-. one change their life... Tutor training is offered throughout the year You save their life." • Students are adult English speakers who Instructional books and read below 5th grade manuals are provided Byron Pitts - National News Correspondent Instruction is • Scheduling is flexible -designed to meet the meet with your student student's needs **Mission Statement** during library hours The mission of Library Literacy Friends, Inc. is to support, Three hours a week can promote, and expand the • Students and tutors presence of Palm Beach County change someone's life meet twice a week at Library's Adult Literacy Project. forever various libraries

Attachment 1 pg. 13 of 15

Literac.

6/5/12 3N1

For More Information on the Adult Literacy Project...

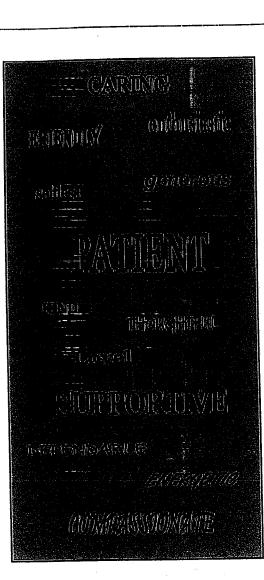
ENRICH YOUR LIFE

BE A VOLUNTEER TUTOR

oject...

Call the Volunteer Desk 561-649-5495 or 888-780-5151 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or email: literacy@pbclibrary.org

Library Literacy Friends, Inc. Palm Beach County Library Annex Mil-Lake Plaza 4639 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth, FL 33463 561-649-5495 888-780-5151 email: literacy@pbclibrary.org



• Hopes •

• Dreams •

• Goals •

C

NTE

. **(1**)

z

Teach an adult to read and change their life forever.



Today a reader, tomorrow a leader. ^{W. Fusselman}



Palm Beach County Library Annex Mil-lake Plaza 4639 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth, FL 33463 561-649-5500

Directions:

From I-95: Take 6th Avenue S. or 10th Avenue N. Exit west to Military Trail. Turn south from 10th Avenue N., or north from 6th Avenue. Mil-lake Plaza is on the northwest corner of Military Trail and Lake Worth Road.

From Florida Turnpike: Take Lake Worth Road and head east (left); past Haverhill Road. Mil-lake Plaza is on your left just before Military Trail.

	Interstate 95 (I-95)	Congress Avenue	Military Trail	10 th Avenue North Miami Subs Big Lots KFC O O	Florida Turnpike
Lake Worth Road Image: State of the second state of the secon	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		6 th Avenue South	Lake Worth Road Melaleuca Road	



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners Shelley Vana, Chair, Steven L. Abrams, Vice Chair, Burt Aaronson, Paulette Burdick, Karen T. Marcus, Jess R. Santamaria, Priscilla A. Taylor

In accordance with the provisions of the ADA, this document may be requested in an alternate format.

3N1

MEMO

TO:	Kathleen Murphy Palm Beach County Library Adult Literacy Project
FROM:	Audrey McDonough, Director Literacy AmeriCorps Palm Beach County
RE:	AmeriCorps Site Application FY 2012-2013
DATE:	June 5, 2012

Dear Kathleen:

This is to confirm that the cost of an AmeriCorps member health insurance, liability, and worker's compensation are covered by the AmeriCorps budget.

The only cost to our partner sites is the reimbursement of AmeriCorps member mileage, the program service fee of \$5,620, and the provision of resources needed by the AmeriCorps member in order to fulfill the service plan of the proposed project.

If you have any further questions please call me at the Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition at 561-279-9103.

Literacy AmeriCorps Palm Beach County ~ AmeriCorps Program

Literacy AmeriCorps, a project of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, and in partnership with Volunteer Florida, The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service announces our fifth year as a state AmeriCorps program, with an anticipated 40 full time, stipended AmeriCorps positions. The program year will begin on **August 13, 2012**, with site interviews, 5 days of pre-service orientation, training, and teambuilding. Upon completion of site interviews, site assignments and orientation AmeriCorps members will begin service at their designated service sites on **August 27, 2012**. The member term of service will end on July 12, 2013. Following is the application to become a service site. **AmeriCorps members must provide direct literacy instruction (teaching/tutoring/mentoring/graduation coaching) to adult, youth, children, or families, and participate in literacy support services such as community outreach, volunteer recruitment, coordination and support.**

AmeriCorps is a national service initiative promoting community service and collaboration. Modeled after the Peace Corps, participants ("members") in AmeriCorps complete 1700 hours of service in one year and earn an education award of \$5,550. Federal and local match grants provide funding for the program and a modest stipend for the AmeriCorps members of \$12,100. Health insurance and a childcare benefit (if member is eligible) are also provided during the member's service year. AmeriCorps values and provides opportunities for leadership, professional development, and literacy training. AmeriCorps members spend up to 20% of their service hours on AmeriCorps team training and community service projects. Members serve Monday – Thursday at their placement site, attend team training meetings every Friday, and participate in community service projects a minimum of 2 Saturdays per month.

In exchange for member placement, successful site applicants will provide a **\$5,620** program service fee for each full time member, provide access to the internet, supplies and resources at the site for member use, provide site orientation and training, space and supervision, attend a preservice training, and complete 2 performance evaluations per year. The Literacy AmeriCorps program conducts extensive recruitment, interviewing and screening of candidates. Literacy AmeriCorps members are required to be college graduates. Through an extensive national recruitment system, college career and volunteer centers, including FAU, as well as local recruitment efforts, new AmeriCorps members are already making commitments to join our project in August.

Nonprofit agencies, literacy programs, schools and libraries are invited to apply for AmeriCorps member site placement if service would benefit your mission to literacy, or perhaps assist you in further developing a special literacy project. Applications are due by May 31, 2012.

Please call Audrey McDonough at 561-243-9450 concerning any questions you have about this exciting program, or to schedule a visit to your site. To learn more about AmeriCorps please visit www.americorps.gov, www.volunteerflorida.org and www.literacypbc.org

