



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-085

**Proposal Title:** Community Resiliency through AmeriCorps

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Sharon Delcambre

**Organization:** ServeMinnesota

**Office Telephone:** (651) 691-4604

**Email:** Sharon@serveminnesota.org

#### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Over three years, we will deploy 150 AmeriCorps members statewide to build community capacity and conduct projects that align with LCCMR and ENRTF's Resiliency goals.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$4,500,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2029

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Resiliency (A)

#### Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Statewide

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Statewide

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project and In the Future

## Narrative

### **Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

Communities across Minnesota face capacity challenges ranging from urban tree canopy preservation to habitat restoration. Without additional capacity, critical functions remain unaddressed, jeopardizing the health of forests, waters, and lands that define Minnesota. ServeMinnesota proposes to address LCCMR Funding Priority (A) Resiliency by implementing and developing collaborations & networks to share innovative management practices. We will equip municipal departments, soil and water conservation districts, and local nonprofits across Minnesota with trained AmeriCorps members to get things done for their communities.

Our ML-2023, ENRTF-funded project demonstrates our capacity to effectively partner with local organizations statewide to systematically address these challenges. From the City of Ely to the City of Austin Parks, Recreation & Forestry, we have deployed more than 200 AmeriCorps members, with 50 more scheduled for the year ahead. Last year alone, these members inventoried 47,000 trees, marked 6,000 hazardous trees for removal, and supported the planting of more than 20,000. Community feedback – illustrated in the attached letters of support – confirms the remarkable value of this work as well as the continued need for a responsive approach that empowers community-led solutions.

### **What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

We will recruit, train, and deploy 150 AmeriCorps members over three years to serve as project coordinators at approximately 40 statewide partner organizations. Members will conduct critical environmental work including trail maintenance, tree inventory and care, habitat restoration, invasive species management, natural recreation resource management, and public education.

Our model is responsive to community needs without duplicating or displacing existing work. Prospective site partners will apply to host our project coordinators each spring to pursue critical work that would otherwise remain unaddressed. We will accept applications from municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, nonprofits, and other agencies implementing projects that align with LCCMR and ENRTF's Resiliency funding priority. Current year partners span 19 counties, including Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, Rice, Stearns, Mower, and Douglas.

Before and during service, members receive comprehensive training in adaptation management practices and outreach techniques so that each member can address the specific needs and context of their host site.

AmeriCorps members also build organizational capacity by improving internal systems and records, supporting volunteer management, and developing informative resources that persist beyond their service term.

### **What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

Climate Impact Corps will deploy 150 AmeriCorps members (50 annually) at 40+ sites statewide to implement community-driven activities that support LCCMR and ENRTF. Examples include improving trail safety, stormwater education, updating local data (e.g., tree inventories, GIS maps of natural resources), as well as conserving and restoring rural and urban landscapes (e.g., planting native species and responding to invasive pests like Emerald Ash Borer). We expect 70% of partner organizations will demonstrate measurable increases in their operational capacity—expanding their reach to new areas or populations, improving efficiency of processes, or enhancing the effectiveness of their services.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Recruit, train, and deploy 150 AmeriCorps members in communities across Minnesota

**Activity Budget:** \$1,500,000

**Activity Description:**

This activity establishes the foundation for statewide impact through strategic recruitment, comprehensive training, and targeted deployment of AmeriCorps members focused on community resiliency. Each year, we will recruit 50 AmeriCorps members through established pathways including campus outreach, job boards, and digital recruitment. Members will be placed at statewide host sites, spanning diverse sectors including municipal governments, soil and water conservation districts, nature centers, tribal organizations, and neighborhood associations, with specific attention to social and geographic context of community-specific needs.

Our training curriculum prepares members to address a full spectrum of community resilience needs while maintaining our successful forestry foundation, including: training covering relevant science, community and environmental data for decision-making, risk assessment and resilience planning, and systems thinking; technical skills including tree assessment, data collection methodologies, and community engagement techniques; and professional certification pathways such as Minnesota Tree Inspector certification for forestry-focused positions. Members will also be trained on strategies to ensure continuity and lasting impacts of capacity building improvements.

In addition to training, members receive a living allowance, health insurance, and ongoing support from site supervisors, program managers, and peer networks, ensuring effective implementation of community-specific projects.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
First year – recruit, train, and deploy 50 service members	January 31, 2027
Second year – recruit, train, and deploy an additional 50 service members	August 31, 2027
Third year – recruit, train, and deploy an additional 50 service members	August 31, 2028

### Activity 2: Implement and monitor community-specific projects

**Activity Budget:** \$1,500,000

**Activity Description:**

This activity reflects anticipated outputs directly associated with members deployed to enhance Minnesota's resilience. Building on our successful forestry foundation, projects address multiple LCCMR resilience priorities including tree inventory and care, habitat restoration, invasive species management, stormwater interventions, and waste reduction initiatives. Each member will complete at least one project with quantifiable outputs related to tree inventory and care, habitat restoration, invasive species management, stormwater management, waste reduction, and other activities that ensure Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and communities are resilient. We will provide impact evaluation support to track, monitor, and report on implementation through an internal data management system that captures both quantitative and qualitative impact.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
First year – 50 site-specific projects completed	June 30, 2027
Second year – 50 site-specific project completed	June 30, 2028
Partner with 40 sites each year to deploy AmeriCorps members	June 30, 2029
Third year – 50 site-specific projects completed	June 30, 2029
Continuous monitoring member activities and outputs	June 30, 2029

### Activity 3: Measurably improve operational capacity

**Activity Budget:** \$1,500,000

**Activity Description:**

This activity focuses on building lasting organizational capacity and meaningful community engagement to support long-term community resilience. Our program improves the operational capacity of partner sites working toward improved resiliency as discussed in the Six-Year Strategic Plan for Expenditures Recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources from Minnesota’s Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. AmeriCorps members support their sites as they broaden implementation of effective adaptation management practices for natural resources.

Members develop site-specific service projects that address one of six capacity-building areas: community engagement, data collection and analysis, process improvement, volunteer management and mobilization, workforce development, and coordination of direct service. For example, members may develop informational resources such as factsheets, improve data sets, manage volunteers, conduct community outreach, provide technical assistance, and disseminate innovative practices. Our adaptable approach enables even small organizations with limited resources make meaningful progress toward their objectives and statewide goals.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
First year – 50 projects contributing to site-level capacity increases as rated by site supervisors	June 30, 2027
Second year – 50 projects contributing to site-level capacity increases as rated by site supervisors	June 30, 2028
Third year – 50 projects contributing to site-level capacity increases as rated by site supervisors	June 30, 2029
70% of sites reporting an increase in their organizational effectiveness, efficiency, and/or program scale/reach	June 30, 2029

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
City of Austin	City of Austin	Site Partner	No
City of Bloomington	City of Bloomington	Site partner	No
City of Edina	City of Edina	Site partner	No
City of Ely	City of Ely	Site partner	No
City of Le Sueur	City of Le Sueur	Site partner	No
City of Lakeville	City of Lakeville	Site partner	No
City of Roseville	City of Roseville	Site partner	No
City of Saint Peter	City of Saint Peter	Site partner	No
City of Winona	City of Winona	Site partner	No
Mississippi Park Connection	Mississippi Park Connection	Site partner	No
Rochester Parks & Recreation	Rochester Parks & Recreation	Site partner	No
Tree Trust	Tree Trust	Site partner	No
City of Belle Plaine	City of Belle Plaine	Site partner	No
Dylan Kelly	Ampact	Project manager	No
City of Crystal	City of Crystal	Site Partner	No
City of Eagle Lake	City of Eagle Lake	Site Partner	No
City of Eden Prairie	City of Eden Prairie	Site Partner	No
City of Fridley	City of Fridley	Site Partner	No
City of Maplewood	City of Maplewood	Site Partner	No
City of West St. Paul	City of West St. Paul	Site Partner	No
City of South St. Paul	City of South St. Paul	Site Partner	No
College of St. Benedict	College of St. Benedict	Site Partner	No
Creative Enterprise Zone	Creative Enterprise Zone	Site Partner	No
Douglas County	Douglas County	Site Partner	No
Frogtown Green	Frogtown Green	Site Partner	No
Greater East Side / District 23 Community Council	Greater East Side / District 23 Community Council	Site Partner	No
Hamline-Midway Coalition	Hamline-Midway Coalition	Site Partner	No

Lake County SWCD	Lake County SWCD	Site Partner	No
MN Dept. of Natural Resources	MN Dept. of Natural Resources	Site Partner	No
Ney Nature Center	Ney Nature Center	Site Partner	No
Project Sweetie Pie	Project Sweetie Pie	Site Partner	No
Ramsey County Parks and Rec / SWCD	Ramsey County Parks and Rec / SWCD	Site Partner	No
River Bend Nature Center	River Bend Nature Center	Site Partner	No
Saint John's University	Saint John's University	Site Partner	No
UofM Extension NE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership	UofM Extension NE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership	Site Partner	No
Urban Roots	Urban Roots	Site Partner	No
Vibrant and Safe Downtown	Vibrant and Safe Downtown	Site Partner	No
Wabasha SWCD	Wabasha SWCD	Site Partner	No
Washington Conservation District	Washington Conservation District	Site Partner	No

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

In conjunction with philanthropic funding, LCCMR funds will allow us to leverage matching funds from the federal government to bring an additional nearly \$2.5 million for this project. Ongoing efforts will be sustained by federal AmeriCorps funding, local philanthropic support, and community investment.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Community Forestry AmeriCorps	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 07a	\$1,500,000

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Sharon Delcambre

**Job Title:** Impact and Improvement Evaluator

**Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.**

Sharon earned a PhD in atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has more than a decade of experience as an environmental scientist and educator. Her responsibilities include working with the ServeMinnesota portfolio of environmental programs to ensure that they are systematically and regularly refined to improve evidence base and community fit of their program models. Sharon works with program partners to strategically design new programs to maximize impact based on community needs.

**Organization:** ServeMinnesota

**Organization Description:**

ServeMinnesota is a catalyst for social impact and a problem-solver for the state of Minnesota. We merge federal AmeriCorps resources with evidence-based strategies and authentic community expertise to address some of the biggest concerns impacting our communities—rural, suburban, and urban alike. For 20 years, we have worked independently at the intersection of public and private partnerships to research, develop, and refine scalable solutions that align with community priorities in each of the 82 counties we serve. We are able to produce measurable results through a genuine commitment to data-driven innovation and partnerships with researchers, community members, and practitioners. In addition to the direct effects of our programming, our AmeriCorps members are better-prepared after their service term to pursue professional roles in their field, creating a sustainable pipeline for addressing community needs.

Our approach combines action with systematic impact evaluation, allowing us to measure outcomes and continually refining our models based on implementation experience. Climate Impact Corps exemplifies this approach, evolved from our previously LCCMR-funded Community Forestry initiative into a comprehensive framework addressing diverse community resiliency needs.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
Impact & Improvement Evaluator		Lead program continuous improvement and evaluation			23%	2.25		\$232,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$232,500</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Ampact	Subaward	Since 2003, Ampact has implemented ServeMinnesota's strategic initiatives, including service member compensation and compliance. ENRTF contributions directly compensate AmeriCorps members serving in Community Forestry. ENRTF funds \$28,450 towards each member's living allowance; this contribution activates a block grant of federal AmeriCorps dollars, funding the remainder of this project.				150		\$4,267,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$4,267,500</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-



<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Federal AmeriCorps Funding	ServeMinnesota is the state's administrator of AmeriCorps funds. We bring federal AmeriCorps dollars into our state and local communities to support initiatives and projects that serve the interests of Minnesotans. In order to activate these funds and earn federal investments, it is necessary that we show local buy-in and traction within our community; we must generate non-federal, financial contributions in order to leverage Federal AmeriCorps funding. This funding supports Community Forestry initiative expenses including member training, compliance, program management, member health insurance, FICA, mileage, and the remainder of member living allowances not funded by ENRTF funds (\$15,936 per member X 50 members X 3 years).	Pending	\$2,390,400
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,390,400</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$2,390,400</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$6,890,400**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [57c7c331-0de.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Handout summarizing focus and scope of Climate Impact Corps during the 2023-2024 program year....

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
990	<a href="#">6b20eca5-485.pdf</a>
Independent Audit	<a href="#">a9671bdb-1e8.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Board Resolution and Letter	<a href="#">5e7d0435-b03.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

#### *Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Letter - Hong - Washington Conservation District	<a href="#">f0296cf5-6ca.docx</a>
Letter - Geissler - St.John's Univesity	<a href="#">c1588e0a-c36.pdf</a>
Letter - Lipstein - Ramsey	<a href="#">4ae0caa7-26a.docx</a>
Letter - Wise - Moorhead	<a href="#">4fb50ddb-c76.pdf</a>
Letter - Sehon - Austin	<a href="#">362e2889-44a.docx</a>
Letter - Bonk - Douglas Co	<a href="#">75a4da33-3aa.pdf</a>
Letter - Abazs - NERSDP	<a href="#">95ead38e-8b4.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

No

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

**Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?**

No

**Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?**

No

**Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:**

David Williams, ServeMinnesota; Jessica Ayers-Bean, ServeMinnesota

**Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements**

N/A

