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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Public Health AmeriCorps (PHA) evaluation. This letter is in response to the request for comment for **Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Evaluation of Public Health AmeriCorps.**

America's Service Commissions (ASC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing the 52 governor-designated state and territorial service commissions, which administer more than 75% of AmeriCorps State and National funding and lead service initiatives in their respective states and territories. In addition to the 52 commissions, ASC membership includes more than 600 AmeriCorps programs representing AmeriCorps National, AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC host sites and sponsors.

ASC facilitates a quarterly work group for commission staff that are supporting PHA grantees. ASC has hosted the Public Health AmeriCorps Deputy Directors on the work group earlier in the year, and we would welcome the opportunity to engage with AmeriCorps ORE staff further about the PHA evaluation.

Regarding the Public Health AmeriCorps evaluation, ASC would like to raise a few concerns and questions. Recognizing that PHA is a partnership between AmeriCorps and the CDC, who will own the data that is being collected from grantees and AmeriCorps members who served in a Public Health AmeriCorps site? Below are document-specific comments.

Document "PublicHealthAmeriCorps technical assistance and training form_Final"

This document asks respondents to name challenges in operating a PHA program. It is important to note that unless they were an existing ASN program, the majority of PHA applicants did not receive the standard training and technical assistance prior to applying due to the agency's decision to have single-state PHA applicants apply directly instead of through their state service commissions. Normally state service commissions provide training and technical assistance in the application process – especially to ensure a potential program



is aware of and can complete commission-specific requirements as well as ensure basic knowledge of the federal requirements to manage an ASN grant. Unfortunately, the process of implementing Public Health AmeriCorps did not initially allow for pre-award training and technical assistance to single-state applicants, which has hampered PHA implementation by creating confusion, inadequate processes, and unknown expectations for grantees.

Document “PublicHealthAmeriCorps grantee focus group instrument_5.20.23 OMB”

No concerns to note at this time.

Document “PublicHealthAmeriCorps grantee survey instrument_5.20.23 OMB”

No concerns to note at this time.

Document “Public Health AmeriCorps_Outcome Evaluation Draft Survey”

The member survey is very long. Additionally, while some of the questions are specific to a member’s service in Public Health AmeriCorps, some questions are the same or very similar to those on the Member Exit Survey that AmeriCorps members complete at the end of their term.

The survey also intends to have folks who left service early complete the form. We appreciate the agency’s desire to collect data on reasons/circumstances around exiting service early, however, we question the likelihood of someone who exited their AmeriCorps service term early will complete this survey.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the evaluation and we welcome continued engagement on the topic. Please contact me with questions at azuel@statecommissions.org.

Sincerely,
Alli Zuel
Volunteer Engagement Manager
America’s Service Commissions