

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Reauthorize agreements with the Confluence Environmental Center to support the goals of the Portland Watershed Management Plan for an annual aggregate amount not to exceed \$30,000 (Ordinance)

Contact name: Jennifer Karps

Contact phone: 503-823-2263

Presenter name: No presentation planned for this consent agenda item

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The proposed legislation will enable the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to continue to sponsor AmeriCorps Members provided by the Confluence Environmental Center (CEC). CEC AmeriCorps Members serve 11-month terms with more than 20 regional partners organizations to advance environmental equity. Since FY11-12, BES has hosted CEC AmeriCorps Members whose efforts have expanded the bureau's green infrastructure work, building community relationships and partnerships while investing vital green infrastructure in low-income, racially diverse neighborhoods. Both the Environmental Services Tree Program and the Green Street Steward Program have been enriched by CEC AmeriCorps projects, including expanding service delivery to racially and culturally diverse communities, leading volunteers in green infrastructure installation and stewardship, and providing green infrastructure education to underserved members of our city (e.g., English language learners and at-risk youth).

Entering into agreements with CEC was previously authorized by Council from FY11-12 to FY13-14 (Ordinance #183686) and FY14-15 to FY18-19 (Ordinance #186754).

The service this legislation enables directly supports and furthers the City's and the Bureau's equity goals.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This legislation authorizes BES to enter into contract with CEC. The CEC AmeriCorps Member functions as a contract employee. The long-term financial impacts of this legislation are minimal. Currently, each CEC AmeriCorps Member costs \$13,500 for an 11-month service term. The requested annual not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000 provides for potential cost increases over the five-year authorization period without the need to return to Council for re-authorization. CEC AmeriCorps Members are an extremely cost-effective way to improve community outcomes, meet program goals, and further the City's equity vision. Funding for two CEC AmeriCorps positions is identified in the Bureau's FY19-20 Proposed Budget (ESWS000015), so no additional expense or budget amendment is needed. This legislation does not impact current or future staffing levels. Program administration and Member supervision needs are modest (~10 hours/month) and part of exiting staff workplans.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This legislation will result in significant, positive community impacts. CEC AmeriCorps Members focus their service in low-income, racially diverse communities where green infrastructure investments (e.g., tree canopy cover) are below average and/or below City goals (e.g., at least 25% tree canopy cover in all residential neighborhoods). CEC AmeriCorps Members serve extensively with community members, helping them to engage with Bureau programs through outreach, education, and volunteer coordination efforts. For example, Members teach English language learners about green infrastructure and stormwater management through a partnership with People, Places, Things (People, Places, Things received a 2016 Spirit of Portland Business of the Year

award). Following classroom learning, periodic excursions get the learners out of the classroom into the city to experience, steward, and install green infrastructure first hand.

The outreach, education, and partnership efforts BES AmeriCorps Members perform complement other Bureau programming, and they contribute to improving outcomes for the city's most vulnerable residents. Successive AmeriCorps Members build on the efforts of previous Members. In this way, the community relationships developed continue, and they inform the workplans of future Members.

There are no known objections to or concerns about this legislation, and no prepared testimony is planned for this consent agenda item.

100% Renewable Goal:

Not applicable.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.

☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount