

AmeriCorps State and National 2018 Evidence Checklist

Evidence Provided ⁱ	Submit Studies ⁱⁱ	Evidence Tier
<p><i>Note: Applicants must 1) state the evidence tier in which they think they qualify; 2) clearly indicate and describe the evidence that supports the highest evidence tier for which they are eligible and 3) describe the complete body of evidence that supports their program intervention including evidence from lower tiers. Applicants should pay particular attention to the requirements for each tier of evidence. All requirements must be met in order for applicants to be assigned to a tier. Applicants who do not fully describe their evidence base may not be assigned to a tier for which they qualify.</i></p>		
<p>Applicant has not systematically collected any qualitative or quantitative data on their program or intervention.</p>	No	No Evidence
<p>Applicant is evidence informedⁱⁱⁱ but has not systematically collected any qualitative or quantitative data on their program or intervention.</p>	No	No Evidence
<p>The applicant has collected systematic and accurate data from their own program or intervention to test or track one or more of the following components of its logic model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Community need <input type="checkbox"/> Activities and services delivered (outputs) <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in the intervention by the target population (outputs) <input type="checkbox"/> Participant outcomes, including performance measurement data <p>All of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The data collection process and results are described fully <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant explains the link between data collection and the relevant component(s) of its logic model 	No	Pre-Preliminary

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<p>The applicant has conducted a process evaluation of their own program assessing implementation of one or more interventions depicted in the logic model.</p> <p>All of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The data collection process and results are described fully <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant explains the link between data collection and the relevant component(s) of its logic model 	<p>No</p>	<p>Pre-Preliminary</p>
<p>The applicant has conducted at least one outcome study of its own intervention. The outcome study has one of the following designs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre and post-test without a comparison group <input type="checkbox"/> Post-test only with a comparison group <input type="checkbox"/> Retrospective pre-post test if use is justified <p>All of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The outcome study includes data beyond that which is collected as part of routine performance measurement <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant provides a detailed description of the outcome study data <input type="checkbox"/> The description explains whether the outcome study was conducted by the applicant organization or by an entity external to the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The outcome study yielded promising results for the proposed intervention 	<p>No</p>	<p>Preliminary (Outcome Study)</p>

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<p>The applicant is proposing to replicate^{iv} an evidence-based program with fidelity. All of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant submits at least one randomized control study (RCT) or quasi-experimental evaluation (QED) of the intervention the applicant will replicate <input type="checkbox"/> The evaluation found positive results for the intervention the applicant will replicate <input type="checkbox"/> The evaluation was conducted by an entity external to the organization whose program was studied <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant describes how the intervention studied and the applicant’s approach are the same <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant describes how the applicant will replicate the intervention with fidelity to the program model <p>The following may be true but is not required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant has described a process evaluation demonstrating how it is currently replicating the intervention with fidelity to the program model <p>The following is true if the applicant is part of a multi-site program (for example, a national program operating in multiple states) that has conducted an evaluation that qualifies them for the moderate or strong evidence tier, but the evaluation did not include the applicant’s proposed sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant describes how they are replicating the evidence-based program with fidelity at all of the sites included in the application. 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Preliminary (Replication)</p>
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<p>The applicant has conducted at least one quasi-experimental study (QED) or randomized control trial (RCT) of its own program. All of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The studies are well-designed and well-implemented <input type="checkbox"/> The studies evaluate the same intervention described in the application <input type="checkbox"/> The studies demonstrate evidence of effectiveness (positive findings) on one or more key desired outcomes of interest depicted in the applicant’s logic model <input type="checkbox"/> The studies were conducted by an independent entity external to the applicant organization <input type="checkbox"/> The ability to generalize the findings from the RCT or QED beyond the study context may be limited (e.g., single-site) 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>The applicant has conducted at least one quasi-experimental study (QED) or randomized control trial (RCT) of its own program. All of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The studies are well-designed and well-implemented <input type="checkbox"/> The studies evaluate the same intervention described in the application <input type="checkbox"/> The studies were conducted by an independent entity external to the applicant organization <input type="checkbox"/> The overall pattern of study findings is consistently positive on the key outcomes depicted in the applicant’s logic model <input type="checkbox"/> Findings may be generalized beyond the study context <p>At least one of the following is true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The intervention has been tested nationally, regionally, or at the state level (e.g., multi-site) <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant has conducted multiple QEDs or RCTs in different locations or with different populations within a local geographic area 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Strong</p>

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- ⁱ All requirements must be met in order for applicants to be assigned to a tier. Applicants who do not fully describe their evidence base may not be assigned to a tier for which they qualify.
- ⁱⁱ When submission of studies is permitted, applicants may submit up to two evaluation reports. CNCS grantees re-competing for at least the second time are required to submit an evaluation report. For these grantees, the CNCS-required evaluation report may count toward one of the two studies or may be submitted in addition to them. In the latter case, all three studies will be considered against the review criteria. Studies submitted beyond the allowable number will not be reviewed.
- ⁱⁱⁱ An evidence-informed program uses the best available knowledge, research, and evaluation to guide program design and implementation, but does not have scientific research or rigorous evaluation of the program itself and is not replicating an evidence-based program
- ^{iv} Replicate means that the key elements of the applicant's intervention are implemented as the evidence-based program model describes (e.g., in terms of content or curriculum, delivery process, and target population), and the applicant's adaptations are relatively minor. For example, an applicant implementing an intervention using certified teachers to administer the curriculum would not be considered replicating that program with fidelity if it replaces teachers with AmeriCorps members who are not certified teachers because the documented success of the intervention relied on the specialization of certified teachers.