

Case Study #1

The county in which you serve has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the state. As a result, there is a high unemployment rate, and 84% of students receive free or reduced-price lunch. Though the illiteracy rate is high throughout the county, the highest concentration of illiterate citizens is in the Weston neighborhood, located at the southwestern edge of the county.

The Literacy Council is a newly-formed 501(c)(3) with the mission of increasing the literacy skills of adults and families in the state. The Literacy Council is currently seeking long-term volunteers to tutor small groups of teens and adults at least two nights a week.

The county commission has offered the Weston Community Center meeting rooms three nights a week for tutoring. The public library and the teachers' association have offered to train tutors and provide books.

Use the Partnership Assessment Worksheet to evaluate the Literacy Council as a potential partner for your program.

Case Study #2

The Computers for Children (CFC) program is a new organization and is struggling with its mission to bridge the digital divide and bring computers and technology to under-resourced schools. CFC is currently a one-room facility with one person working to refurbish and deliver computers to schools.

Last week John Williams, the founder of CFC, approached your AmeriCorps program about forming a partnership. He has 10 years of experience with a large computer company, but he has little experience with nonprofits and none with AmeriCorps or national service. He only heard of your program through a recent press release announcing your grant award. He has big dreams for CFC and wants to work with AmeriCorps to make them happen.

Use the Partnership Assessment Worksheet to evaluate Computers for Children as a potential partner for your program.

Case Study #3

A national home improvement chain is opening a store in your community. They have a corporate focus on volunteering and volunteer leadership, and they encourage all their associates to participate in team-based service projects.

Your AmeriCorps members have expressed an interest in organizing a large day of service to commemorate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in January. They envision service projects happening at 15 sites, engaging volunteers of all ages, races, backgrounds, and abilities in service on that day. They want to approach the home improvement store about becoming a partner for their MLK Day celebration of service.

Use the Partnership Assessment Worksheet to evaluate the home improvement store as a potential partner for your program.

Case Study #4

Adams Station is a quaint town with a long and rich history. Several historical figures, including authors, statesmen, and early pioneers, are buried in the Adams Station Cemetery. The cemetery is in a residential neighborhood, and the residents use the paths through the cemetery for exercise. The cemetery is now overgrown with weeds, wild bushes, and large trees.

The Adams Station Historical Society wants to partner with your AmeriCorps program to clean up the cemetery as a way to preserve the history of the town and provide a safe place for residents to exercise.

Use the Partnership Assessment Worksheet to evaluate the Adams Station Historical Society as a potential partner for your program.