

Island Fellows Program Impact Report 2014



The Island Fellows AmeriCorps Program closely tracks three performance measures: Volunteer Management, Student Engagement, and Professional Development through specific surveys. The program also measures overall impact of the Fellows through mid and end of year evaluations. The data collected from these evaluations is aggregated within this report.

Alignment with Strategic Plan Goals

Results collected after one year of service:

Support Economic Resiliency and Growth:

12% reported their project directly supported economic resiliency (1).

62% reported that their projects indirectly supported economic resiliency (5).

1,143 volunteers recruited to support projects

4,734 volunteer hours served on Fellow projects

Help Retain and Attract Families and young people as year round residents

37% reported working directly on this goal (3).

37% reported working indirectly on this goal (3).

Encourage networking among island communities and increase the exchange of information with islanders and about islands

50% of Fellows reported direct networking activities (4).

12% reported indirectly strengthening networks (1).

40 continuing partnerships were established with other non-profit or community based businesses to support Fellow projects, including: Cobscook

Community Learning Center, Eastern Area Agency on Aging, Maine Sea Coast Mission, Herring Gut Learning Center, and Maine Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

10 one-time collaborations happened on specific projects with organizations including Learning Works, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Outward Bound.

100% of Fellows reported effectively building and leveraging key relationships with community organizations to advance project work after 1 year.

Facilitate the development of island leadership to support individual and community aspirations

62% of Fellows reported directly supporting this goal (5).

12% reported indirectly supporting this goal (1).

40% increase of Fellows reporting they were largely known within the community and seen as a community resource.

Supporting Professional Development

45% increase over the year in Fellows ability to establish professional relationships and foster leadership and ownership of community partners within a project.

39% increase reported in Fellows interpersonal effectiveness. At the one year mark, 50% of Fellows reported using a diversity of communication styles to inspire others and achieve impact, as well as to self reflect.

Fellows attended conferences, classes, and workshops through 16 different Maine based organizations.

117 Hours spent in individual professional development training

840 Hours spent in Island Institute designed trainings

The Fellows gained skills in:
integrated pest management
regional land conservation strategies
elder care issues
grant writing
conflict resolution
video/media production
curriculum writing

volunteer recruitment and management.
salmon research
seed saving
storytelling
facilitation and leadership skills.
service learning

Capacity Built at Project Level:

Each Fellow assessed progress on two projects at 3 months and at 6 months. Six of the projects reported on at 3 months, were still happening and reported on again at 1 year. Of those 6 projects:

3 showed increased capacity built within the project over the assessment period.

Of those: 1 project reported capacity built to 85% with a 50% increase in capacity from the first three-month assessment

1 project reported capacity built to 85% with a 12% increase over the 3-month assessment period

1 project reported capacity built to 75% with a 25% increase over the 3-month assessment period.

There were no projects that reported capacity to be at 100%.

At 3 months, fellows and their advisors reported an average capacity of 11% built into projects, including projects only reported on at 3 months.

At 1 year, fellows and their advisors reported an average capacity of 22% built into projects, including projects only reported on at 1 year.

Between 3 months and 1 year there is a gain of 11% in the knowledge, skills, and ability of Fellows to incorporate capacity building measures into their projects.

Sustainability of Projects:

Of the 6 projects that assessed their sustainability through questions on performance measurement, project goals, overall strategy, the Fellow's role, and sustainability measures built into the project, 4 projects showed improved sustainability over the course of the year.

2 projects had an increased sustainability of 27%

1 project had an increased sustainability of 18%

1 project had an increased sustainability of 9%

The other two projects reported a decrease in sustainability of 9% over the course of the year. Both projects showed an improvement in project goals, performance measurement and knowledge management and slight decreases in the overall project strategy.