

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant Name: City Year, Inc.</b>	<b>Application ID: 12AC133390</b>
<b>Program Name: City Year San Antonio</b>	

*For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.*

### **Reviewers' Summary Comments:**

- The City Year Project focus includes elementary, middle and high school initiatives, based on the concept that failure in Grade 6 indicates a potential for failure in Grade 9. In effect, the project has a K-12 focus that may be too broad to be successful.
- City Year presents a compelling argument documenting the need for a program to support high risk populations that are dropping out of school. The majority of the school population in their schools is economically disadvantaged (55%-95%) more than 1,500 students repeat ninth grade. Of the 1,503 Bear County School District students who dropped out of the Class of 2010, 1,174 students were Hispanic. The applicant will use evidence-based programs to insure the program's success (Early Warning Indicators, Individualized Plans, Whole School Whole Child). These programs address attendance, behavior, reading and math. Daily intervention, coaching, tutoring and mentoring along with comprehensive plans will be provided for each student. The applicant has planned a power service experience for AmeriCorps members. It will participate in community activities, serve on the Dean's Council, and one AmeriCorps member will be selected for the One Star Award. The AmeriCorps members will have the opportunity to enroll in the University of Texas non-profit management program at no cost.
- The strength of the application is the link between the identified need for improved school achievement in grades 6-9, the proposed Theory of Change Intervention, and the targeted small group and individualized student engagement by AmeriCorps members to encourage positive academic outcomes. This is a strong application with no discernible weaknesses.
- The full-time terms of AmeriCorps members offer continuity of methods not available through part-time volunteers. They provide essential services not otherwise available as indicated in the feedback from participating teachers.
- Evidence-based intervention and reliability of outcome: The AmeriCorps members will implement interventions in math and reading that are also research based and built on evidence-based foundation (RTI). In addition to testing, attendance and course grades, outcome assessment includes surveys of multiple level participants with a variety of levels of involvement. Student level attendance performance and academic scores are analyzed by external organizations. The use of at least one control high school and one control middle school enhances the reliability of the results.

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- The inclusion of school wide events (e.g., on bullying) treats the student as a whole person and builds the service skills and knowledge of the participating AmeriCorps members.
- The rise in raw literacy scores and other indicators attest to the program's impact on the community.
- City Year, Inc. described the need to improve grades 5 through 9 students' attendance, behavior and/or reading and math skills. The Early Warning Indicators (EWI) verified the data of 1500 ninth graders failing. The AmeriCorps members will share the targeted students' day where they will be tutoring, mentoring and coaching a new identity for achievement. As AmeriCorps members help students with school behavior, they will have an opportunity to channel student energies through learning and development, service implementation and evaluation.