

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant Name: Harlem Children's Zone Program Name: Harlem Children's Zone Peacemaker Program	Application ID: 12AC134420
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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:

- Overall this was a top quality proposal. The applicant clearly described the needs in the target area and has developed a solid plan to address these needs. AmeriCorps members will serve as excellent role models and will enable the applicant to expand its services. Volunteers will be recruited to provide an additional 2,700 hours of service. Minor weaknesses do not detract from what should be a comprehensive and effective program to assist youth in the area.
- The targeted community of the 97-block zone of East Harlem and its needs are clearly defined. Full- and part-time AmeriCorps members and volunteers are effectively matched with the program design and activities within designated preschool, elementary, and high school sites. There is evidence that research-based assessment tools are effectively utilized and linked to school readiness, success in elementary school, and high school graduation at the end of the three-year cycle. There is a well-documented system of orientation, training and supervision for volunteers and AmeriCorps members. Members have opportunities and experiences that enhance their service-learning, include reflection, and have a lasting impact. In summary, this application includes all the required elements to assure project success.
- The applicant presents a very strong program which reflects community need. There was a lack of community descriptors other than the number of those to be served. The history of working with AmeriCorps members and community advocates has been extremely successful. The applicant displayed a clear and concise plan for creating changes within the targeted community. The applicant also described a viable plan for recruiting volunteers from corporate partners to engage them in community service projects. However, there was an absence of a plan for AmeriCorps members to recruit and manage the 2,700 volunteers completing 8,100 service hours in 36 projects.
- The applicant has made a good case for the AmeriCorps program through strong educational and community needs in the most underdeveloped part of Harlem. The applicant has provided a strong evidence base for continuation of an existing AmeriCorps program. The only weakness is that the applicant seeks a very large pool of volunteers, without much discussion of volunteer training and

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management.