

## **APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

### **2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition**

**Legal Applicant:** Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.

**Application ID:** 13AC145929

**Program Name:** Jumpstart New York State (NYS)

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. 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 the 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. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

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

- (+) The applicant indicates that all of the identified communities exhibit high poverty rates and low standardized test scores as documentation of the extent/severity of the problem.
- (+) The applicant provides sufficient documentation to state why the target communities were selected by citing high rates of poverty coupled with lower rates of proficiency on standardized test scores among third graders.
- (+) The applicant provides peer-reviewed research indicating the connection between low socio-economic status and underperformance in academic achievement – 30% of the children in the target communities live below the federal poverty level.
- (+) The applicant demonstrates a research-based connection between interventions related to program partners and children in the targeted communities resulting in children overcoming barriers to academic success.
- (+) The applicant provides sufficient information to explain how Members will fulfill their roles by increasing classroom assistance and by referencing the implementation of the Jumpstart curriculum intended to enhance language and literacy skills.
- (+) The applicant outlines specific activities for each session and what will comprise each session and explains how these initiatives will enhance the growth of the children in the program.
- (+) The applicant provides a model for creating leadership opportunities for AmeriCorps members who serve more than one term in the role of Team Leader and explains how this will enhance the productivity and accountability of the proposed classroom activities.
- (+) The applicant provides a historical track record of assessing program outcomes including using the Jumpstart School Success Checklist, a 15 question teacher-rating scale and a pre-assessment/post-assessment model.

(+) The applicant provides a description of the program goal to be met. The Jumpstart School Success Checklist will be utilized to measure the impact of classroom activities on meeting the program goal identified as 80% of program participants showing gains in literacy skills.

(+) The applicant explains how the results from a two-year pilot program developed by Jumpstart and evaluated by the Jumpstart's evaluation team and independent child assessors concluded that children exposed to the Opening the World of Learning (OWL)-based Jumpstart curriculum out performed children who were exposed to the previous curriculum. This is an evidence-informed conclusion.

(-) While the applicant states that the slots requested are for minimum-time Members, there is no concise breakdown or explanation of how many Members will be assigned to any one role. For example, the application cites that some Members may choose to become team leaders or volunteer coordinators, but there is no specificity as to how this process occurs, and what the roles and responsibilities are for each position.