

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Tenacity, Inc.

**Application ID:** 13AC146914

**Program Name:** Tenacity Corps/Enabling Academic Engagement

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 provides ample reasoning in choosing this population and its needs. The applicant takes into account research that states middle school is a critical point in preparing students for college readiness; therefore, the program will focus the intervention services on middle school students to provide intensive intervention to ultimately achieve post-secondary success. The applicant will provide service to five Title I Boston Public Schools that have overall 75% of the students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

(+) The 28 full-time AmeriCorps members requested for this program will provide significant interventions that include reading, life skills development, family engagement, and fitness. The program will utilize small groups to allow the Members to develop relationships with the students, become a role model for these students, and allow for more support and individualized approaches for the students.

(+) The applicant describes the role that AmeriCorps members will play in supporting the work of site staff; without Members facilitating service at the stations for the reading and fitness activities, the staff would not have the ability to work with small groups. A necessary component of the program is the need for small group activity and individual attention for participants so AmeriCorps' contribution is vital to the success of the program.

(+) The applicant presents suitable explanations of the impact of the AmeriCorps investment. The Members will provide services to 500 distinct students, 90% of those students will complete 300 hours of Tenacity's Middle School Academy. 75% of those students completing the program will demonstrate increased academic engagement through homework completion and quality, goal-setting, and interest in school.

(+) The applicant determines the performance measures effectively. The applicant determined their performance targets through analysis of related past outcomes and discussion with the external evaluator. These performance targets will be measured by pre-/post-surveys for students and teachers, and student attendance logs.

(-) The applicant does not describe or presents the overall change that will be seen by the end of the three-year grant cycle.