

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Eastern Maine Community College

Application ID: 13AC147413

Program Name: Strategy to Enhance the Lives of People in Bangor ME

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 application supports and demonstrates that there are significant needs in the target community. The statistics the applicant supplied showed how the effects of business closings, job market and economic change, have stimulated high poverty levels in Bangor. In showing the causes and effects on the target community by way of statistics, the validity of the need is clearly documented and known.

(+) The number of Members requested will be used part-time and full-time. This fits well with the program design, as the Members will be working with specific programs identified by each agency within the cohort groups. The variety of placement will support the program design, by providing service delivery to fit the needs of the participants.

(+) Program activities provided by AmeriCorps members have clear, measurable impacts on the financial literacy curriculum, job training, and mentoring to promote asset-building of the participants.

(+) The applicant has selected an evidenced-based program (Bridges Out of Poverty) to assure a measurable impact for the community of Bangor. A strong component of this program is the no wrong door philosophy. The program has a history of effectively transitioning individuals to financial self-sufficiency.

(-) The application describes the Bridges Out of Poverty model and its philosophy, but lacks showing how the interventions will be measured for the programs. The applicant has not clearly defined evidence-based/evidence-informed measurement for the interventions. Without this element, the programs will be unable to specify its effectiveness and community impact.

(-) It is unclear how many AmeriCorps members the organizations will utilize for the different programs. Some programs list the number of Members needed and other programs do not list the specific number.

(-) The applicant does not address the following elements of the criteria: how AmeriCorps member/volunteer activities are evidence-based or evidence-informed and will have a measurable community impact; explains the impact of the AmeriCorps community investment.