

## **APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

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

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

**Application ID:** 13AC147612

**Program Name:** Jumpstart Massachusetts

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 provides compelling research from National Education Center Studies and the 2012 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System demonstrating the link between low-income communities and poor literacy skills.
- (+) The target school districts are identified as economically disadvantaged with 27% of children residing in Boston below the federal poverty level, 30% in Lowell and Lawrence, and 21 % in Taunton and Brockton as shown by information from KIDS COUNT Data Center.
- (+) The application includes research from Heckman and Sweinhardt which discusses the financial and educational advantages of serving with children of preschool age.
- (+) The application provides an in-depth explanation of the activities such as reading, singing, games, and writing to be performed by Members to address the need to educate preschool-age children in low-income communities.
- (+) The role of Members in increasing the individual adult attention children receive is explained through showing their daily and weekly schedule of interactions with the students.
- (+) Methods to achieve the increase in individual adult attention for the target population of children are shown through the listing of Member job duties.
- (+) Jumpstart is an evidence-based program. Jumpstart has been through over 20 years of rigorous evaluation by major Universities throughout the United States including Illinois State University.
- (+) Evaluation results have shown an increase in school readiness for children who complete Jumpstart.
- (+) Annual impact is measured for each child in the program through the use of The School Success Checklist which is identified as a valid tool that is administered at the beginning and end of each school year.

(+) The intervention is based on a research-based, preschool curriculum called Opening the World of Learning (OWL). A study of OWL showed gains on nearly all language and literacy constructs for 3,000 students.

(-) It is unclear why the applicant chose the ratio of one adult to three children described in the application. The application provides no research or information clarifying this choice.