

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: New Sector Alliance, Inc.

Application ID: 13ED147943

Program Name: New Sector AmeriCorps

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 describes the community problem(s) on which they will work in each of the three target sites as education and economic opportunity in economically disadvantaged communities in Boston, San Francisco, and Chicago. The applicant explains that the need is not currently being met because of diminished resources.
- (+) The applicant narrative reflects that poor living conditions are connected with lower access to early education, which can result in a 39% greater chance of going to prison later in life and a greater educational gap.
- (+) The applicant has requested 70 full-time Members of which 25 each will be placed in Boston and San Francisco, and 20 in Chicago. The Members will provide capacity-building service that will expand the ability of community based nonprofits to increase their assistance to a community in need.
- (+) Seven project types are offered to help nonprofits toward meeting the needs of the underserved in ways that the organizations cannot currently meet. Examples of these project types include technology projects, volunteer engagement and program management.
- (+) The applicant will use pre-, mid-, and end-of-term measures of service, Member development, and community impact based on monthly Member and annual alumni surveys. Their performance measure targets were established based on their experiences working with nonprofits.
- (+) The applicant includes evidence that the interventions that the Members are engaged in are evidence-based and will have a measurable impact on the community. Examples of a recent year's accomplishment identify such measurements.
- (-) Insufficient information is provided on the problem the applicant proposed to address. The applicant indicates they will focus on inequality in the target areas and inability for nonprofits to meet growing demands. However they do not provide sufficient information on these two problems. For example, there is no data to support or document inequality. It is unclear as to where these two identified problems fit into the six focus areas.

(-) The applicant does not provide sufficient information on what will be accomplished as a result of service Members' engagement or the impact the service Members will have on the nonprofit organizations. A general statement is made with regard to nonprofit not achieving full capacity without service Members. However no specific information is provided on how service Members will have measurable impact on nonprofits.

(-) Insufficient information is provided to determine the magnitude of the problem in the targeted communities. The applicant does not provide specific data on communities within the larger target population.