

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Alaska National Guard Family Program

Application ID: 13ES147670

Program Name: Joining Community Forces 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 Alaska National Guard Bureau's need for additional resources is indicated by the fact that the Guard has been tasked with implementing the creation of a statewide, integrated and sustainable support network for active duty veterans and military families from all branches of the military, expanding the scope of their responsibilities, with inadequate staff capacity to accomplish the task.
- (+) The applicant provides a thorough list of activities Members will perform on this project. The activities are general in nature, but specific enough to give an outline of the types of tasks that will be undertaken.
- (+) The applicant proposes a program that will reach both active duty members and veterans no longer in the military, thus reaching service Members at all stages of their service.
- (+) By using AmeriCorps members, the program projects that it will be able to identify 30% more veterans and connect them to the services they or their families need.
- (+) The applicant will measure the impact of the project on the number of veterans (outputs) obtaining services by using the baseline data of current statistics gathered by the Alaskan Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs and then looking at changes as the project progresses.
- (+) The applicant accurately assesses that getting qualified veterans into services provided by the Veterans Administration (VA) will help reduce the burden they would place on social services for all residents of Alaska. Getting veterans into the VA Health Care system means they would not be seeking services from local, state, or other federal health care programs.
- (-) The need is expressed in generalities, i.e., the number of veterans un-contacted by the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs. No data regarding the impact or significance of that lack of contact is cited.
- (-) The applicant is basing the project on a "successful" program currently in operation in another state. The

applicant does not define what makes the model program successful.

- (-) Increases in outreach and registration of veterans are not projected into measurable outcomes reflecting changes in knowledge, attitude, behavior, or condition for the target community.
- (-) A general community impact is stated which does not relate back to the described need, i.e., unnecessary utilization of community resources and/or duplication of service provision by community and military entities.
- (-) The applicant does not fully describe which evidence-based or evidence-informed program they will be using. Although the applicant listed using the national version of the Joining Community Forces AmeriCorps, the applicant does not explain why they chose this and how it will produce the best results for their proposed project.
- (-) AmeriCorps members will be utilized in a three-year phased approach, although only the first year of the program is described. It was unclear what the phased approach will be from the description provided.
- (-) Limited evidence of the unique added value of AmeriCorps members is presented beyond increasing the staff capacity to address program goals.
- (-) The applicant lists three phases of achievement for the AmeriCorps members, but the goals are not specific (i.e., refine database, build awareness) and do not demonstrate how these actions will help the applicant achieve the stated increases of 30% in veteran contact and registration, and a 50% increase in overall outreach.
- (-) Initial utilization of the full complement of AmeriCorps members is not clear, as the possibility of initial limited geographic sites is stated.