

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Lummi Indian Business Council

Application ID: 13TN147962

Program Name: Lummi Nation Tribal Conservation Corps

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 includes specific data on the environmental status of the region and the negative environmental degradation that is experienced in the community to be served, such as the changes to the landscape, loss of vegetation, decrease in native species, and increase in invasive species due to changes in the landscape from man-made activities like sloughs and dikes.

(+) Given that 11,000 out of 13,000 acres of Reservation land is watershed or tidal-based, the applicant clearly outlines the need to have environmental stewardship programs that bring economic opportunities, traditional cultural fishing activities, and sustainable nutrition programs to the area through AmeriCorps member activities.

(+) The applicant describes the economically disadvantaged targeted population as being 47% lower than most Washington State residents.

(+) Tribal land used for traditional and sustainable nutritional foods for tribal members has decreased due to area population increases of 40%. Targeted audiences do not have the economic ability to thrive without these foods.

(+) The applicant clearly demonstrates the need for AmeriCorps support in programs which reclaim and create agricultural sustainable areas on the Reservation. These programs will provide areas where tribal members can return to supplementing their poverty level nutrition needs; with increases in Salmon, Bull Trout, and riparian areas.

(+) The applicant makes a compelling argument for the need to enhance environmental conditions and to train future leaders in this effort, which it documents as a need for educated Tribal leaders to continue the efforts of fishery enhancement.

(+) A minimum of 10 Lummi youth will be serving as AmeriCorps members, trained in assisting natural resource personnel with projects such as harvest management sampling, water quality, and planting oyster beds.

(+) The applicant has clearly outlined Member service teams with varying degrees of hours ranging from minimal

hours to full-time Member service on different projects. Four AmeriCorps members will be utilized as minimum-hour high school students who will assist during summers only at the local hatchery working on a variety of riparian projects.

(+) The applicant provides a comprehensive description of the proposed Member training, services performed, and future impacts to the community which will result.

(+) The applicant provides substantive data for needing Member services in multiple areas as current qualified staff in tribal natural resources are not present. The applicant refers to only two staff, 30-years-old, meaning future natural resource personnel could potentially be Members who have participated in this program and then were offered full-time jobs in the natural resource department due to their extensive training.

(+) The application provides specific numerical documentation of outputs for the intervention, including acres of land improved and 5,000 acres of shellfish established. These appear reasonable and achievable in terms of project scope, time and labor.

(+) The application details how it will track the outputs and consider the outcomes for the listed performance measures, such as tracking log and counting the acres seeded for shellfish.

(+) The applicant anticipates Members who serve in this project will develop an interest in natural resource careers and has infused proven successful strategies into their projects such as working one-on-one or mentoring Members during biological sampling projects or using peer crews to conduct surveys in the Nooksack delta.

(-) The application does not clearly indicate the source and time period of data such as per capita income and poverty levels.

(-) The applicant indicated that about 10 economically disadvantaged individuals would be selected to work on the project; there was no indication as to how these individuals would be selected.

(-) The application outcomes relate mostly to the AmeriCorps members themselves, with few details on the outcomes to impact the stated problem and measured impact on the community.