

## **APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

### **2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition**

Legal Applicant: Indianhead Community Action Agency, Inc.

Application ID: 14AC155541

Program Name: Indianhead Community Action Agency - Wisconsin Fresh Start

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:**

##### **Strengths:**

The applicant provided very strong and detailed data on housing age and lack of affordability among the target population in northwestern Wisconsin.

The applicant provided solid evidence that unemployment in northwestern Wisconsin was higher than state average.

The applicant clearly demonstrates the high rates of foreclosure, unemployment, and poverty rates within Rusk and Sawyer Counties.

The applicant presented well-documented evidence of a higher than average high school dropout rates in the target area by use of U.S. Census Bureau (Census) data.

Strong data was provided linking higher earning potential for young adults to increased education, job, and life skills training.

Data is high quality, comparable, and relevant to prevalent and severe community problems where the members will serve.

The applicant's Theory of Change is very strong as the logic model and narrative are very well aligned with each other and provide detailed logical links between need, action, output and outcome.

The applicant's narrative was very clear and detailed in its description of how the proposed intervention would be carried out.

The applicant's proposed post-program follow-up toward employment clearly would increase the likelihood of achieving the desired medium and long-term outcomes

The logic model and Theory Of Change are thorough and in alignment, clearly stating the core activities of the proposed intervention.

The applicant provides strong, comprehensive data citing 11 different works with similar models and target beneficiaries to support their intervention.

The applicant provided compelling and comprehensive evidence supporting positive impact in the community.

The applicant has a long history of conducting a version of this program in northwestern Wisconsin.

The applicant reports repeatedly meeting its own goals in outputs and short-term outcomes, which are similar to the goals of the proposed program.

The applicant was successful in meeting its performance goals for 2012-2013 which were linked to the identified problems/needs of the community with 4 affordable housing units developed and 71% of Opportunity Youth earning a high school education.

The applicant successfully met performance goals from 2009-2012 with 49% of members earning a high school education, 59% increasing literacy/numeracy two (2) grade levels, with 64% being placed in jobs and holding a 73% employment retention rate.

The applicant demonstrates a long-term record of success in providing community impact using this Theory of Change and logic model.

Weaknesses:

Limited data was provided supporting the increased need for affordable rental housing or poor quality of current housing stock.

The application does not sufficiently describe how the housing need in northwestern Wisconsin would be addressed.

The works cited provided limited quantitative data and were absent of any statistically significant effects, such as a success rate at the 95% confidence level, for the Theory of Change model on the target population.

The applicant did not present recent evidence supporting its Theory of Change.

The applicant's narrative did not address the impact of housing rehabilitation on the community's housing stock.