

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.

Application ID: 14AC155595

Program Name: Jumpstart Washington, DC

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 presents and cites specific and relevant data showing the high number of children less than five years of age living below the federal poverty level which impacts language and literacy skills.

The applicant presents evidence of need in the target area noting only 13% of students eligible for free and reduced lunch meet grade level reading proficiency.

The applicant identified the need to improve school readiness by building language and literacy skills among kindergarteners. The applicant noted that less than half of the five year olds in their area are ready for kindergarten; these five year olds have limited vocabulary and are from low income families. There is also evidence that students who start kindergarten behind in their literacy skills often remain behind.

The applicant documents that through their intervention utilizing AmeriCorps members, eighty-five percent of children completing the program demonstrate gains in overall school readiness which is significant and positively impacts academic performance in later school years. The proposed curriculum is supported by data that it facilitates language and literacy which is the foundation of reading.

The applicant clearly described the use of AmeriCorps members for the past 15 years. The applicant speaks to the structure of their program's integration and support of AmeriCorps compliance at national, state, and local levels. Quality controls/checks and balances are reported through member supervision that ensures program consistency. The applicant organization has utilized AmeriCorps members in the past to meet the critical community need, documenting 20 years of success.

The data provided from previous years clearly support and show that the applicant's prior interventions have had a positive impact on building language and literacy.

The past performance from this applicant is described based upon the past two program years. The applicant noted adjustments that were made as a result of past evidence in the area of Member retention.

The use of a balanced scorecard as a management tool was noted to align organizational activities with the vision and strategy. Also noted was monthly monitoring in regards to adjustments. Continuous data is collected and managed to inform implementation of programs and development.