

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Tennessee Community Assistance Corp.

Application ID: 14AC155601

Program Name: Making Veterans Priority (MVP)

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 describes reasonable national data to demonstrate the severity of the problem. The information addresses the issues that many combat generations have encountered throughout the United States since the Vietnam War.

Service connected veterans have more opportunities to get employed than non-service connected veterans; in the same way, current or former Reservist/National Guard members have a lower unemployment rate than veterans that are not/were not affiliated with the Reserves or National Guard.

The applicant clearly indicates that 39 AmeriCorps members (12- full-time, 5 – half-time, 1-reduced half-time, 4-quarter-time and 17- minimum-time) will provide resources for employment, education, home repairs and medical health care for veterans. Providing these services will allow the veterans to become productive members in society.

The applicant reports it has increased its resource and referral resources from 200 veterans to 3000 veterans and their families.

The applicant reports its delivered services have assisted 1500 veterans and their families to reintegrate into society.

According to the applicant, during the last three program years, the Making Veterans Priority program has increased resource and referral services from 200 Veterans to 3,000 Veterans and military families. The MVP program has successfully helped 1,500 Veterans and military families reintegrate into society by budgeting and financial assistance, linking Veterans to social, mental, medical, and home supports.

Weaknesses

The application lacks specific local data of the target population (at risk veterans and their families); therefore the

relevant information to document the need for service is insufficient and unconvincing.

The applicant does not provide relevant data of homeless veterans and at risk veteran homeowners to the proposed areas of service; the absence of this information makes it difficult to assess the need for home repairs without visualizing the problem.

The applicant did not provide local data to support their communities' problem / need as being prevalent or severe.

There is no information to indicate how an assessment / evaluation will be conducted of veterans and their families' needs for home modification or repair.

The applicant fails to provide the veteran population for the 9 affected Tennessee counties. The applicant instead cites data that is relative to the national population. The applicant indicates that the national unemployment rate is 7% as of November 15, 2013; however, the applicant does not cite the unemployment rate for the Tennessee counties that will be served.

The applicant's proposed program model and intervention does not match the evidence provided in the narrative; all three studies are aimed to study Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other medical conditions rather than providing resources, referrals, reintegration tools, or home repairs.

The core activities are too broad; they do not explain how the resources, referrals, and assistance will be provided to veterans and military families.

The applicant does not identify how AmeriCorps members will assess home and housing needs or concerns. The references to AmeriCorps members assisting veterans and military families that are in need of resources are vague and not quantifiable.

Although the roles of the AmeriCorps members have been outlined, the applicant does not specify where the Members will be deployed. The applicant indicates that the AmeriCorps members will serve throughout 9 Tennessee counties; however the applicant does not disclose specific counties. Because information on the locations has not been disclosed, it cannot be determined that the AmeriCorps member will be effective in an area.

The applicant does not sufficiently address the specific type of resources, referrals or assistance given to 3,000 veterans and their families; consequently, the same targeted population is cited as evidence of the applicant's previous success.