

## **APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

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

Legal Applicant: Earth Care International

Application ID: 14AC156968

Program Name: Earth Care Cadre

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:**

Applicant provides persuasive evidence with current and relevant data from various sources to support the community problem/need of obesity in the area Members will serve. Data relevant to the problem include national statistics to establish the need is prevalent outside the local community area and the use of data from Santa Fe County documents the local area.

Applicant has clearly defined the target population and community needs as primarily children, youth and families that live on the south and west side neighborhoods where the poverty rates are the highest.

The applicant cited quantitative data that is specific to its targeted population in order to demonstrate the problem.

The applicant's cited studies are relevant, recent, and included comparisons of its local conditions to state and local ratios.

The applicant provides a thorough and detailed explanation of the needs and demographics of the population in New Mexico. They make a compelling argument for the services proposed.

The applicant presents a well-defined plan on the management and supervision of the AmeriCorps members and their role/expertise in increasing food production, reducing hunger, promoting healthy eating and nutrition and environmental stewardship. In the 2013-2014 program year, a full-time Member was placed at the Food Depot to increase hunger relief efforts by 300% which links back and is directly relative to its stated strategies.

The logic model is well-designed as relates to the impact and outputs of the AmeriCorps members.

The applicant is well-situated in the communities it serves; it appears to be well-organized with a structured Member follow-up to ensure Members' success.

Applicant clearly demonstrates its success in addressing the problem to support hunger relief and environmental sustainability in the Santa Fe area. The strategies are aligned with the needs, objectives and strategies and the potential impact of the AmeriCorps program is well supported by meeting 100% of stated results every year. The applicant has provided support and facilitated access to services and resources to over 30 farms and 20 farm service projects, expanded 11 school and community gardens, and distributed emergency food to over 1,500 low-income families, which are closely aligned to its stated objectives.

The applicant described its past performance with qualitative and quantitative results that show how its activities have met goals and how these activities and results relate to the proposed project.

Earth Cares has successfully administered their existing AmeriCorps grant for the past three years, meeting 100% of their performance objectives.

**Weaknesses:**

Applicant's reference to a multi-level study between 1998 and 2002 is not recent which makes it difficult to assess how the impact of local food production will influence choices made by children, families, and community members in the Santa Fe area.

It is unclear if any recent and relevant multi-level studies were conducted to demonstrate the need for access to healthy food in the AmeriCorps service area other than the study referenced from 1998 to 2002. The evidence presented does not support or align with the proposed intervention.

No weaknesses identified in the AmeriCorps Members as Highly Effective Means to Solve Community Problems Evidence Base and Measurable Community Impact section.