

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

### 2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Waynesville RVI School District

Application ID: 14AC157431

Program Name: AmeriCorps Waynesville

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 provides compelling evidence for the need of services in the military population. For example, the applicant provides statistical information regarding mobility rates.

The applicant presents solid evidence of the school district challenges with the military population in the district. As an example, 73 percent of the student population is from military families that are coming into and out of the District every few years. This, compounded with the problem of integration and challenges with scholastic performance makes a compelling need to be addressed.

The applicant provides evidence of poverty rates in the population by addressing the number of students receiving free and reduced lunches.

The applicant presents well aligned statistical support for the community of need in Waynesville R-VI School District, by identifying the students performing below grade level at 42.3 to 42.7 percent.

The applicant provides statistical data to demonstrate a compelling community need in Waynesville R-VI School District. For example, 43 percent of students in the District are considered economically disadvantaged. Also, 42.3% of students are below grade level in English and 42.7% are below grade level in math.

The applicant clearly identifies that over 43% of students are from economically disadvantaged families.

The applicant provides a wide variety of information directly related to the proposed programs. The applicant also provides a great deal of statistical information regarding the wide ranging and effective outcomes these programs have to alleviate educational challenges.

The applicant has used AmeriCorps members in past years for this program and has had good success. The activities

AmeriCorps members will undertake are based on a number of research models that have proved to be effective.

Each of the four interventions Members will provide is Evidence-Based as well as systematic and will lead to academic skills improvement.

The applicant cited the evaluation tools Members and school staff will utilize to measure the program's impact as it relates to students.

The applicant reports that they have met or exceeded performance targets in all six years since inception and provides statistics to support their success.

The applicant has effectively managed an AmeriCorps program in the District for six years making it highly likely that this program year will also be successful. As an example, the applicant has demonstrated excellent past performance accomplishments with this program design and chosen intervention methods that have demonstrated an increase in the academic success of participants.

The program has met or exceeded its goals every year since its inception, six years ago.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant states that the Waynesville School District serves a rural population where job opportunities are scarce with little statistical information to elaborate. For example, the applicant's only statistical information regarding employment is that there has been a 3.1 percent increase in unemployment over the last five years which makes it difficult to comprehend since there is no documented data on the size of the overall population or the current unemployment rate.

The applicant fails to define military affiliated or military connected, making it unclear if the described population is from military families or in some other way being combined in the statistical data.

The total unemployment rate for the county was not stated.

The applicant does not provide the sources for statistics and academic performance levels for free and reduced lunch students.

The applicant has included measurable timeframes and number of students to be affected in some outcomes, but some outcomes do not have measurement.

The applicant states that all studies presented as evidence of effectiveness "are supported by strong evidence of effectiveness through well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies with positive findings of outcomes", but fails to provide information about research methodologies as required in the criteria, making it difficult to determine the type of studies presented.

The applicant does not provide evidence that the findings of the studies presented are statistically significant.

The applicant states that in the previous three program years, 100% of performance measurement targets were met or exceeded, yet the applicant does not provide those statistics as well as how increasing the number of AmeriCorps members has increased the outcome in the program level success.