

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY
2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Reading Partners

Application ID: 14ED156848

Program Name: : Reading Partners National Direct

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:

There is strong evidence to support the need for a one-on-one tutoring program for low income students at 47 Title I elementary schools in five cities. High-level data is provided by the applicant on the problem, linking socio-economic factors to the need along with data on Free and Reduced Priced Lunch with specific site data. For example, using the National Assessment of Educational Programs, Kids Count Data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) and 2010 Report from AECF the applicant is able to exhibit the need for K-5 low income students needing one-on-one tutoring.

The applicant presents a compelling case for 47 reading centers to be set-up across California, Charleston, Tulsa, Washington, DC, and Baltimore. They clearly defined the need and backed it with appropriate and relevant data from the AECF's 2013 Kids Count and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) report conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics.

The applicant demonstrates how AmeriCorps members are the core to provide one-on-one tutoring and a clear correlation of how Reading Partners intends to use the 67 AmeriCorps members in serving as Site Coordinators in multiple states.

The applicant presents documentation from their own program that shows significant gains in program goals over their three years of service to the communities they serve.

The applicant's past performance in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 is presented, indicating increase in literacy skills by one grade level in both years and exceeding performance targets in both years regarding enrollment of students.

The applicant's past performance for the past two years was presented and showed increases in literacy skills and meeting and exceeding performance targets for both years.

Weaknesses:

There were no significant weaknesses found in this application.