

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2014 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Eldon R-1 School District

Program Name: PAVE AmeriCorps/Eldon School District

Application ID: 14ES157895

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 references economic, academic, health, and organizational data from credible federal, state, and local sources.

The applicant describes associations between academic needs of students with levels of physical activity and wellness to highlight the severity of the community need for educational services and health and nutrition programming.

The applicant reports Eldon School District is in a rural area with increasing levels of poverty as evidenced by 64% of students that are eligible for free/reduced lunch which places the family income under poverty level. Of those 18 and over, 42.2 % of Eldon's population did not graduate from high school. The Local Chamber of Commerce of Eldon documents that 95% of local businesses have unemployment of 63%. This increase in unemployment would provide a reason why there is so many children getting free/reduced lunch and under the poverty line.

The applicant provides data from Missouri Department of Economic Development which states that 42.2% of Eldon population age 18 and over did not graduate from high school.

The applicant states that high poverty and low level of academic achievement are problems that impact generation after generation of students in the schools.

The applicant provides charts of Missouri Assessment Program Scores for 2007 and 2011 which illustrates how Eldon School District is below the state average and the state proficiency target in the Missouri Assessment Program Scores in Mathematics and Communication.

The applicant states that Eldon School District was a pilot site for new rural wellness initiative focus on reducing childhood obesity. This area was chosen as a pilot site because it has a low-income obesity level at 12.9% in 2011 and the low income area has an effect on the food they are eating because of the foods they are buying and the

choices they make.

A study by the Centers for Disease Control clearly states that Missouri's low-income preschool obesity level was 12.9% in 2011; in Miller County it is 13.8%.

The applicant states that the Columbia County Department of Public Health and Human Services reported in 2013 that 51.7% of Missouri youth are physically active at least 60 minutes, which is less than 5 days a week when compared to 63% of youth across the nation.

The Applicant remarked that PAVE AmeriCorps has served far more students than anticipated which provides evidence of the success of the program among the community. This also demonstrates that they were receiving greater gains than expected and consistently exceeded performance measurement.

The applicant documents a record of success delivering AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps programs, referencing historical program performance measurement that met or exceeded expectations for its tutoring programs.

The Applicant states that the program has been managed successfully as evidenced by meeting or exceeding all performance measures for all program years.

Weaknesses:

The applicant identifies specific Member assignments and tasks, but references only 3 non-experimental studies to justify why the proposed Member activities will meet the community need. These non-experimental studies described outcomes associated with tutoring, suggestions about effective doses of tutoring time from a program toolkit, and reporting outcomes from the applicants own program. These studies do not provide sufficient evidence that the proposed Member activities will lead to successful outcomes.

The applicant stated they had been successful in their past performance in working with PAVE AmeriCorps; however, the applicant did not give performance measures to show this success.