

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: City Year, Inc

Application ID: 15AC166910

Program Name: City Year Chicago

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 summary 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 application includes relevant and substantiated data which clearly describes the community need to improve graduation rates.

The applicant clearly provided information on how they will address the problem/need of low high school graduation rates. They provided data to support their program design. The data included current graduation rates, attendance data, state accountability status, attendance rates, demographic data and academic performance measures.

Member training activities are specified for their 21 day Basic Training Academy. The trainings listed are aligned with their program design.

Weaknesses:

Data is not compared or contrasted to other communities to show severity of problem/need in the target community.

The application does not describe how Members will leverage 2,500 volunteers.

Numerous inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes are not correlated on the logic model, making it hard to follow and some information, such as outputs, is insufficiently detailed.

The application does not describe training supervisors receive in AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities, and expectations.

Description of activities to support development of citizenship and continued community service of Members is not included in the application.

The application does not describe the plan and processes to be used to recruit Members from the local community.

The expected outcomes on the logic model are vague, and do not include any quantifiable goals.

The logic model states that the AmeriCorps members will participate in activities that include Positive Reinforcement Systems (PBIS) but does not list any training in the area of Positive Behavior Supports (PBIS) for the

AmeriCorps participants during their 21 day Basic Training Academy.

The applicant does not provide details on how the supervisors will be trained on all of the AmeriCorps program regulations, priorities and expectations.