

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Greater Chicago Food Depository

Application ID: 15AC167131

Program Name: Greater Chicago Food Depository

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 applicant describes reasonable data to demonstrate the severity of Cook County's problem; the information pinpoints hunger as a relevant need that is heavily affecting low-income residents, displaced veterans, and children at risk.

The proposed intervention visualizes that AmeriCorps members and leveraged volunteers are an effective approach to mitigate the need of the targeted population; a well-supported intervention proposal also denotes a strong informal partnership with the local Veterans Health Administration facilities to mutually help at-risk/displaced veterans.

The proposed training plan provides AmeriCorps members with the necessary knowledge needed to assist the targeted population in their pre-designated workplaces; monthly sessions re-emphasize to AmeriCorps members their role and service to the community.

The data included in the proposal clearly substantiates the current need of the targeted population (veterans and military families).

The application data demonstrates the scope and serious impact of the ongoing problem.

The intended interventions are well-suited for the identified problem, and their implementation seem to be feasible given the organization's history and partnerships.

The proposed supervision plan ensures that AmeriCorps members will be effectively guided by experienced supervisors; a well-supported supervision plan describes potential leadership outcomes to the targeted population.

The applicant has clearly described the problem of hunger in 1 and 6 households, 18% of which include a veteran and at least 1 in 5 children are also going hungry in Cook County, IL.

The SNAP program, network of food distribution and training centers along with the summer and after school programs are logically connected to the need and according to the applicant's distribution statistics effectively address the problem.

The applicant provides comprehensive details on the core roles of AmeriCorps members and volunteers; their service

will bring positive outcomes (food distribution to needed families, assisting veterans, and collaborating with children program developments).

Weaknesses:

The application does not provide a clear supervision plan for AmeriCorps members not directly reporting to the program director.

The proposed AmeriCorps recruitment plan for the SNAP Outreach and Hunger Relief for Children is not provided; the plan only mentions the recruitment to five veterans' pre-positioned slots.

The proposed logic model contains several errors; the short term outcomes are mistakenly mentioned as outputs while mid-term outcomes are misidentified as program activities.

The description of member experiences is vague. Minimal detail is provided about the impact to Members, their connection to other Members, and how they will reflect on their experience.

The application does not clarify if orientations and training include volunteers; in addition, the prohibited activities appears not to be reinforced throughout the service term.

The applicant does not discuss a training program for supervisors or any professional development through the proposal.