

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** City Year, Inc

**Application ID:** 15AC168102

**Program Name:** City Year Greater Philadelphia

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 provides strong data supporting the needs of the targeted population including comparative data for deficits and critical areas for student success.

The goals of the Whole Child Whole School program address the identified needs and are supported by evidence that the program will produce the desired outcomes. .

The Members will participate in on-going training throughout the year including member development and curriculum training. The supervisory staff will provide regular observation and training.

The AmeriCorps members will receive day-to-day supervision at their school sites ensuring that Members are in compliance with program components and AmeriCorps standards including a clear understanding of prohibited activities.

The applicant provides a strong program to enhance future skills and the experiences that will easily translate to marketable skills in the future.

The applicant will provide the Members with opportunities to network with fellow Members from other sites and a clear plan for ensuring that the candidates for the AmeriCorps program are strongly recruited from the community.

The applicant provides a comprehensive and compelling need of educational support services for selected K-8, middle and high schools within the Philadelphia school system.

Educational and socio economic data support the need for services as these students score below national and state scores and have a lower than national graduation rate and this data is compared to national and state data.

The applicant clearly describes the intervention of tutoring, and mentoring and how it involves the Whole School Whole Child (WSWC) service model.

The applicant concisely demonstrates how this model will lead to change and will keep more students in school and on track for increased academic performance.

The applicant clearly describes the intervention that the City Year Members will implement focusing on student attendance, behavior and academics.

The applicant provides convincing evidence that the proposed intervention is research based.

The applicant's logic model clearly connects the problem presented with the inputs, outputs, activities and desired projected outcomes.

The applicant has designed a thorough and comprehensive training program. The training provided and staff oversight will strongly monitor prohibited activities.

The applicant clearly describes the member supervision plan and how City Year Impact Managers will directly supervise the Members.

The applicant clearly describes various training opportunities for supervisors throughout the year.

The applicant thoroughly describes how the City Year member experience will provide transferrable skills and training that will support them in future endeavors particularly in the business and education sectors.

The applicant clearly describes both formal and informal opportunities for member reflection.

The applicant documents how it will recruit Members from within the community.

The applicant cited 2013 National Assessments of Education Progress (NAEP) data for minority students at the 4th and 8th grade level demonstrating a compelling need in Philadelphia in comparison to state and national NAEP data.

The applicant provided in detail their three distinct approaches regarding training of prospective AmeriCorps members.

The applicant goes into intricate and detailed activities such as the Curriculum map and Foundational Trainings which provide Members with the necessary tools to thrive.

**Weaknesses:**

The applicant does not clearly describe the types of activities that the volunteers will be engaged in.

The applicant does not indicate how the volunteers will be trained to work with the program.

The applicant noted that 1,900 volunteers would be leveraged but does not go into any details regarding the volunteers training or engagement. Out of the 255 proposed AmeriCorps members, 8 AmeriCorps members were reserved to work on the civic engagement and volunteer components, but no further details were provided regarding the extent of activities that would be directed to the volunteers.