

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee

**Application ID:** 15AC168423

**Program Name:** SSPP/Kinder Academy/Graduation +

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 an adequate overview of the community it will serve in terms of demographic data, and it identified three specific programs it plans to implement to improve educational outcomes for Milwaukee students. Data is included to identify graduation rates and standardized test scores which suggest the need for intervention services.

The applicant has clearly described the elements of the three programs it plans to implement to improve student readiness and academic achievement. It includes the length and duration of the programs, the number of targeted participants and the number of AmeriCorps members that will participate within each program.

The logic model clearly connects the need to the inputs and outputs.

The applicant has provided a thorough and detailed member training plan which includes an overview of AmeriCorps, the prohibited activities and specific training on how the Members will implement the three student-based programs. An extensive training plan also includes the length of each training and a variety of training techniques.

The applicant provides thorough detail regarding the specific responsibilities of the Members' supervisors with regard to the programs they will oversee.

The applicant indicates it will recruit Members of the area it serves, specifically from local colleges and universities.

The applicant clearly describes how Members will acquire transferrable skills and will gain insight that will help them in their future endeavors, specifically involving the education field.

The program will also allow opportunities for member reflection by meeting in small groups to share experiences and by requiring a mid-program written reflection component. The applicant clearly shows compelling current state and national research, census data, state test scores and graduation rates that strongly supports the problem/need for their three target programs in this community.

The applicant clearly defines how the three program target areas that have been identified will be addressed in the

program design and will be effective in achieving changes in the community for the three age ranges. Research provided strongly supports the approach proposed by the applicant.

Member training will be provided by highly-qualified staff and will address the skills required for the Members to meet the needs of the students they will work with in the various settings.

The applicant indicates that supervisors will monitor Member activities and ensure compliance with program policies as well as develop a clear understanding of prohibited activities.

The applicant demonstrates how Members will gain skills and knowledge from their experience that will encourage future participation in service to their communities.

The Members will have opportunities to networking with AmeriCorps programs.

**Weaknesses:**

In discussing the need for Summer Slide Prevention Program, the applicant cited data from WISEdash, but does not provide a definition for the meaning of WISEdash and its relevance to the program.

The applicant provides adequate descriptions of the supervision of AmeriCorps members by the supervisors, but does not provide any details or specifics regarding the level of training the required for supervisors.

The applicant does not thoroughly explain the need for the Kinder Academy. It is unclear what percent of students would be eligible for this program or how these students would be identified.

Some of the supporting data to document the need was from the national level rather than specific to the applicant's location. It is unclear whether the applicant is focusing on African-American males as its target population even though most of the data provided supported the need for services for this subpopulation.

The applicant does not clearly describe how it will inform its Members of prohibited activities.

The applicant does not adequately describe the specific duties and responsibilities of the AmeriCorps members and how their involvement will lead to student improvement.

It is unclear whether the programs to be implemented are evidence-based or have been successful in other locations.

The applicant does not clearly describe how the supervisors will closely monitor the Members and provide feedback and program suggestions.

It is unclear how the supervisors will receive training on the programs. Although the applicant details the supervisor's responsibilities, it is unclear how they will be trained on their duties.

The applicant does not clearly describe how it will recruit Members from local colleges and universities.

Details are lacking regarding how the Members will be connected to future career options. Identification of these opportunities is limited.