

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Playworks Education Energized

Application ID: 15AC170094

Program Name: Playworks Salt Lake City

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 data from the American Medical Association, the National Education Association and stopbullying.gov that supports the logic model with research linking student achievement to a positive school climate and student engagement, and the detrimental effect bullying has on each.

The applicant supplies data published in the Journal of School Health (2011 and 2015) specific to the Playworks model, substantiating the effectiveness of the proposed intervention.

The applicant describes a thorough Member training plan that includes a pre-service orientation as well as on-going training throughout the year. Training includes all required AmeriCorps policies as well as training necessary to effectively teach students about conflict resolution and leadership.

Prohibited activities are discussed with Members, supervisors and volunteers during pre-service and throughout the year.

The applicant also supplies a detailed plan for documenting and resolving instances where non-compliance is suspected.

The applicant has done an extraordinary job in highlighting the problem of student disengagement and academic problems associated with bullying and school climate.

The application provides pertinent research and supporting data from the target areas of school in Utah and how the proposed Utah Playworks model will address the problem.

The application has provided a detailed plan of informing both the Members and volunteers about allowable and prohibited activities during pre-service training, the continuous oversight of such activities during site-visits/conversations, and the training for supervisors of handling issue of prohibited activities.

The program has a comprehensive supervision plan that includes bi-weekly site visits, performance evaluations and a unique program of mentorship through school professionals. The supervision structure also includes effective assessment of monthly progress.

The applicant clearly describes how Members will provide important contributions to current efforts to improve the school environment. The Members will make it possible to expand school capacity both in funding and personnel to address the problem.

Weaknesses:

The application has not provided substantial information about how the Members will be encouraged to use their knowledge and skills for further community services, after they will be oriented for civic responsibility, active citizenship and inclusion.

The applicant does not discuss how Members will be encouraged to engage in public and community service after completing their Americorps term.