

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: San Bernardino National Forest Association

Application ID: 15AC170731

Program Name: Forest Aid Corps

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:

Applicant provides current, clear and concise data demonstrating the need for the proposed program. Member activities and timelines are clearly stated in regards to their training and accomplishments.

Supervisor qualifications are clearly outlined as to their qualifications and abilities as it pertains to the organization training.

Member recruitment within the local community is clearly identified.

The applicant demonstrates a rigorous multistage recruitment process focusing on disadvantage youth in the surrounding communities that is likely to attract dedicated and qualified applicants.

The training program outlined by the applicant is comprehensive and includes professional level skills in firefighting and forestry that will give the Members valuable experience for employment as evidenced by successful post-term placement in the Forest Service.

The applicant clearly describes the community problem and need and how their proposed program will address these needs.

Supervisors will have frequent and meaningful interactions with AmeriCorps members as evidenced by the ratio of 2 supervisors per 14 AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps members will be given regularly scheduled opportunities for reflection on the beneficial work they are doing in the community during the oversight-debriefing meetings.

AmeriCorps members will have regular opportunities to establish connections with one-another through member appreciation events and training.

Weaknesses:

It was not clear in the applicant's narrative if the Supervisors are adequately trained or prepared to deliver the AmeriCorps program regulations, priorities, and expectations.

The applicant does not sufficiently address how Members will be encouraged to engage in public service after their term.

The applicant does not present a clear explanation of how Members will make unique contributions or distinguish their activities from existing services that address the need for forestry interventions.

It is unclear how the AmeriCorps members' service produces a unique contribution apart from the work being done by the Forest Aid Corps.

The 6-month fire service readiness training for AmeriCorps members is inappropriate for the service assignment (wildfire mitigation).

The applicant does not describe a training plan that includes AmeriCorps and program regulations, priorities and expectations.

The applicant fails to describe how the program will encourage active citizenship and civic engagement among AmeriCorps members beyond the service term.