

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

**Application ID:** 15ED169701

**Program Name:** Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

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 clearly describes an extensive training program for Members which would require Members to participate in four core trainings in the first quarter of service which will be accompanied by additional resource materials, including worksheets and assigned readings.

Applicant has a sound training program that will also address CNCS rules for member's activities including prohibited activities.

Applicant has an effective plan for Member Supervisors to be trained to ensure that Supervisor's will be adequately trained to follow program regulations and expectations and Supervisors will also attend EMM supervisor orientations.

Applicant presents information that Supervisors will ensure that all Members' activities are allowable with CNCS Service Guidelines.

Applicant provides clear and compelling information on how training will be a continuous and ongoing affair.

Applicant provides detailed information on how EMM national staff will stay abreast of all educational and training opportunities and requirements of CNCS that are applicable to Members, supervisors, and national office staff.

Applicant addresses how AmeriCorps members will have opportunities to establish connections and opportunities for reflection with other Members on regular peer-to-peer network calls as a place to find understanding and insight on common challenges.

The applicant presents a feasible plan to address the community need which they identified as an absence of federal funding to support volunteer management for refugee resettlement programs and proposes a proven plan establishing a new multi-state RefugeeCorps program to address this need.

The applicant specifically identifies 10 U.S. cities as the focus for their intervention plan indicating that each of these sites are currently without volunteer management personnel.

The applicant utilizes the reinforcement of impressive research studies to justify their program which will concentrate on the CNCS focus area of Capacity Building.

The applicant specifically identifies an evidence-based model for volunteer management by the Urban Institute that they will use in the intervention that entails nine (9) best practice strategies.

The applicant has provided a clear and detailed training plan that includes all the specific content the member will need for his/her service assignment.

The applicant has provided specific training that is continuous and reinforced throughout the service term. The applicant has provided sufficient detail to determine what topics that will be covered and for what duration.

The applicant has indicated that supervisors will have frequent and meaningful interaction with AmeriCorps members as reflected by the number of times meetings are scheduled.

**Weaknesses:**

The applicant does not cite specific, relevant and current data to support the community need for volunteer management for resettlement programs and applicant has not provided specific needs assessment findings or data documenting the need for volunteer managers to oversee volunteers in the specific cities to be served.

Applicant presents a limited view of the proposed intervention and roles of the AmeriCorps members.

Applicant does not provide information on the ongoing support volunteers will provide. Applicant focuses more on the need for volunteer management as opposed to actual duties of the volunteers.

Applicant logic model is insufficient to address how training AmeriCorps members as volunteer managers will provide appropriate support for the integration of refugees in the community.

The applicant does not provide a clear linkage for their choice of the ten (10) cities selected for their intervention.

The applicant states that their intervention does not clearly link to one or more of the six 2015 CNCS Focus Areas of disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures or veterans and their families.

The applicant's Logic Model Outcomes (short/mid/long-term) do not clearly correlate to the 9 best practice strategies at all 10 proposed sites – specifically identifying only 3 of the nine 9 in the short term.

The applicant provides little about the problem needs in the communities identified as those proposed to be served by the applicant.

The applicant does not provide sufficient data to substantiate the need. The applicant has not delineated specific information regarding the 10 affiliate cities or why they were selected.