

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** The MATCH School Foundation, Inc

**Application ID:** 15ED169806

**Program Name:** The MATCH School Foundation, Inc.

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 explains why the problems exist and how the interventions will address the root causes of the problems.

Strong data is provided both nationally and locally that support a compelling case that the problems are both prevalent and severe in the target communities.

The applicant provides a very clear outline of the activities to be carried out by the AmeriCorps members and the roles the Members will perform in each activity.

Compelling evidence is presented based on the applicant's experience as well as statistical support to substantiate Members' activities being effective in achieving proposed outcomes.

The flow of the logic model is clear in that it matches the applicant's theory of change.

The applicant presents a well-designed training plan with all the elements that the member will need for their specific assignments as well as training in regards to specific requirements of the AmeriCorps Program.

The applicant presents a detailed plan for training member supervisors in AmeriCorps requirements that includes clear time-specific follow-up.

The proposed plan for member engagement in activities is effective in being valuable to future employment for Members after their term of service.

The applicant provides a well-designed plan for the daily activities of Members in the schools. Compelling evidence is provided for the use of the proposed tutoring methods in order to increase student achievement in literacy and math.

The applicant provides a well-constructed plan for member training which includes initial training in tutoring techniques as well as on-going training throughout the service term.

The applicant presents a clear plan for member initial training, as well as on-going refreshers regarding AmeriCorps

rules and prohibited activities. The plan includes each member signing a contract agreeing to adhere to these standards.

The applicant presents a comprehensive plan for direct member supervision in each city, including bi-monthly observation of member performance.

The applicant proposes strong member training by the MATCH staff, along with opportunities for Members to participate in teacher preparation training, which will result in Members with very marketable skills.

The proposed tutoring is likely to be successful in increasing student achievement as it provides 2 hours of small group tutoring every school day to academically challenged youth.

The applicant provides clear descriptions of the training that Members will receive as being a part of the AmeriCorps Program as well as training in student tutoring that will be effective in ensuring success in the program.

The applicant presents a clear well-designed program that is effective in providing Members with positive experiences with youth, parents of the youth, and the community.

Strong data is provided to support the positive affect that the proposed program will have on the academic achievements of inner city youth that participate in the program.

**Weaknesses:**

The applicant describes service experiences such as working on volunteer projects in the community, but the absence of information on how the AmeriCorps members, students and parents will find these volunteer service opportunities makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the program in reporting these experiences.

The applicant does not sufficiently address how targeting black colleges across the country as a recruiting effort will support high quality minority groups within the geographic area of the proposed target population.

The applicant provides limited information about a recruitment strategy that targets the cities to be served.

It is unclear whether the supervisors will receive adequate training regarding AmeriCorps rules, regulations, etc.