

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

Application ID: 15ES166915

Program Name: Vet 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:

The applicant cites specific, relevant, and reasonably current data addressing the need for veteran-focused programming at the post-secondary level; the Vet Corps models seems directly beneficial to veterans.

A chain of command leadership/support structure will ease the supervision of AmeriCorps members; this daily oversight and support access will continue the deliverance of military values.

The applicant provides evidence of strong organizational capacity.

The increase of 209% in student veterans in the state of Washington clearly defines the urgent need; the applicant's cultural competency experience, and the proposed delivery of essential supportive services (financial assistance, counselling, referrals, and/or medical care) are vital to the targeted population success.

The proposed intervention plan emphasizes the current student veteran's population; the logic model recaps the measurable outputs of outreach results (peer-mentor, training of academic and staff Members) toward the targeted population and the communities.

The planned training for Members at the beginning, middle, and end of the year is organized; the additional work on the knowledge base of AmeriCorps Members is well developed and a progressive training program.

Weaknesses:

The application does not contain a recruitment plan where AmeriCorps members will successfully recruit 2,000 volunteers; the proposed activities of leveraged volunteers is also not detailed.

Training for supervisors is not addressed in the application; it is unclear if the Program Management Manual will be completed to be utilized by supervisors.

The absence of relevant data documenting the need from the targeted population makes an assessment difficult; without this information it is hard to determine the need for the information and referral program inside the targeted colleges/universities

The proposal does not explain the veteran's financial aid program requirements; an explanation of those procedures will facilitate the understanding of how the military tuition facet of the program works.

The application does not clearly explain how the site-supervisor is identified or trained.

The short term and mid-term outcomes included in the graphical logic model do not correctly list knowledge, attitude changes nor behaviors or actions.