

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** UT Austin Charles A Dana Center

**Application ID:** 15ES167064

**Program Name:** ACE: A Community for Education

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 and thoroughly describes the extent of the community's problems and needs and how the proposed intervention is expected to address them.

The proposed intervention is clearly described, with evidence from previous studies documenting successes with this intervention in similar communities.

Strengths of this proposal are in the descriptions of member recruitment, training and supervision. Attempts will be made to recruit Members from the local population who are Spanish speaking and can relate more effectively to students from that area.

The applicant presents detailed, documented information supporting the nature of the prevalence of the problem in the identified communities, with relevant data on community need.

Robust and comprehensive evidence is presented as to how the intervention is likely to produce an effective result, and as to how AmeriCorps members will produce effective contributions to solve the stated educational problem.

Robust information is presented as to the guidance and support that supervisors will provide to AmeriCorps members and how supervisors will be trained to follow AmeriCorps priorities and expectations.

Comprehensive, documented, information is presented to support how AmeriCorps members will gain skills as a result of their training that they can use in future employment, how AmeriCorps members will access meaningful service experiences and opportunities for reflection, and how AmeriCorps members will be able to network with each other and the broader National Service network to build esprit de corps.

Robust explanation is provided as to how AmeriCorps members will develop an active skills ethic through encouragement to engage in future community service after their term of service ends with AmeriCorps.

The applicant provides compelling details, documentation, and evidence that support the stated needs and the

proposed intervention.

**Weaknesses:**

The narrative refers to a logic model, but it was not included in the proposal. A determination of the specificity of the outcomes could not be made.

The roles of AmeriCorps members and especially leveraged volunteers are not adequately described.

The desired outcomes are not clear as the logic model is not present.

Some data presented is unclear in terms of its context and the names of the respective AmeriCorps member roles are not clearly specified.

The applicant does not specifically state that AmeriCorps members will be recruited from the same community as the program.

The applicant did not submit a completed Logic Model chart.