

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: City Year, Inc

Application ID: 15ES169999

Program Name: City Year Columbia - FPG

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 demonstrates the need for City Year's Whole School Whole Child program, which offers individualized attention at 3 public schools to mitigate drop-out risk, well supported by data on demographics, graduation rates, societal cost statistics, and graduation average comparisons.

The applicant presents a persuasive case for how focus on indicators such as attendance, behavior, English, and math lead to improved school persistence (to 10th grade), "on track to graduation." Examples are provided as to how AmeriCorps members will provide interventions based on research.

The activities (tutoring, classroom support, and homework help) align well with the problem (low graduation rates) and desired outcomes (persistence in school— to 10th grade—on track to graduation).

The applicant sufficiently describes member training by detailing the program's three approaches and describing each with clear examples.

Robust evidence is given as to how Members will receive information on prohibited activities. Information on the guidance Members will receive, with details as to frequency of meetings and observations, is provided.

The nature of the supervision and training of Members and supervisors and its frequency are well-described. Examples are presented detailing the knowledge Members will gain for later in their careers, access to meaningful experiences and the chance to reflect upon them.

The narrative indicates that Members will be hired from the local community, and there is also strong support given that Members will be able to network within and outside of the program to build morale as well as develop good citizenship.

The applicant clearly and thoroughly describes the severity of the community's needs for educational support and enhancement by citing recent and relevant data comparing their needs with state and national statistics.

The proposed intervention and logic model are clearly described and aligned, appear appropriate in addressing the need, and are consistent with each other.

The role of AmeriCorps Members are thoroughly explained, including what a typical day at work would involve for Members.

The applicant provides results from other studies that used sound, well-regarded research methodologies to provide evidence of the potential for success of this intervention.

Member training appears comprehensive, appropriate, based on past practices and experience, and of high quality.

The applicant plans to ensure that Members do not engage in prohibited practices by reviewing and introducing the subject at multiple opportunities and in different settings.

Member supervision is frequent, comprehensive, and of high quality. Supervisors (City Year staff) will also be similarly trained to supervise AmeriCorps members.

Members will receive frequent ongoing supervision, observations, and coaching from their direct supervisors.

The applicant will provide Members with a variety of reflection activities and opportunities.

The applicant provides a plan for recruiting Members from the local community.

Weaknesses:

Statistics demonstrating lower academic achievement levels for black students are provided, yet no special consideration for this group is discussed in the application.

It is not clear what training Members' direct supervisors will receive.

The applicant does not adequately address active citizenship or civic engagement for Members.