

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Points of Light Foundation

**Application ID:** 15ND167631

**Program Name:** Veteran Leader Corps AmeriCorps Program

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:**

Supervisors will provide high quality and ongoing support to AmeriCorps members; a well-developed orientation/training, and a constant professional/supervisory support will deliver positive outcomes to the program and targeted population.

The applicant describes a well-developed, sequential training process provided through the Corps Training Institute (CTI) where AmeriCorps members will gain the skills (e.g., needs assessment) necessary to lead cohorts of military families in community service projects.

The application points out that AmeriCorps members will gain experience and valuable skills through the Points Of Light project; community organization and development are heavily sought in the employment market.

The proposal description clearly emphasizes a project that focuses on veterans' capabilities, work ethic, enthusiasm, and spirit of teamwork which will positively attract and motivate military families and other veterans to provide service to their local communities.

The applicant has done significant work in soliciting local support from existing organization in the target communities; the AmeriCorps partnership will provide leadership, diversity, and distinctly enhance services. Supervisors will provide a high level of support to AmeriCorps members; leading bi-weekly meetings, reviewing program challenges, and supporting development plans set AmeriCorps members for success and great results.

The applicant has a compelling plan for their AmeriCorps members to acquire marketable skills such as leadership, training and communication.

The applicant has a logical multifaceted AmeriCorps member's connectivity plan; social media, local state commission, the National Day of Service, and AmeriCorps are excellent avenues of approach.

#### **Weaknesses:**

Application does not provide any data to demonstrate why the need is prevalent in the nine identified sub-award states; as a result, the overall veteran and military family community need is too broad.

The applicant does not include data demonstrating the prevalence of the problems associated with reintegration difficulty within the nine states and District of Columbia.

The sections of the graphical logical model are incomplete; without the quantity of output (number of participants and/or projects, and the mid-term outcomes (behavioral and/or actions) is unsubstantiated to successfully achieve the comprehensive outcomes.

The cited data (Blue Star Families survey) is not substantially aligned with the applicant's targeted population need (reintegration); in contrast, the survey denotes retirement and military pay/benefits as their needs.

The Logic Model does not clearly explain how the targeted population transition issues (anxiety, hypervigilance, and/or combat injuries), and community acceptances to these barriers (targeted population issues) are bonded with volunteering/community service.