

# APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

## 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Reading & Math Inc

**Application ID:** 15ND170617

**Program Name:** Reading Corps National

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 current data to prove the economic and educational challenges in the target region including extreme poverty (e.g. 82% of target population qualifies for free/reduced lunch) and low rates of literacy by 3rd grade (e.g. 85% of target population does not meet basic literacy indicators). The data demonstrates a significant level of economic disadvantage in the target schools.

The applicant presents a comprehensive training plan to assist Members of varied backgrounds (e.g. with and without literacy knowledge) to implement effective interventions that are likely to increase student literacy performance.

The supervision plan includes a comprehensive, multi-layered level of support to ensure the continued development of AmeriCorps members. The model has been demonstrated to provide high quality supervision according to results of an independent evaluation by the University of Chicago in 2013. With strong supervision & support from both Internal and Master coaches, Members will continually improve their teaching skills.

The applicant provided a clear rationale and need for an AmeriCorps reading program with reasonable educational data to demonstrate the prevalence of low reading proficiency for Pre-K through Grade 3 students in each of four, targeted cities.

The applicant outlines a reasonable logic model, describing the contributions of AmeriCorps members and volunteers that would provide daily one-on-one and group tutoring to improve literacy skills for Pre-K through Grade 3, in support of existing staff and teachers.

#### Weaknesses:

Although the process for distributing AmeriCorps members across four cities to work with Pre-K through 3rd grade children is clear, how such students will be referred to the program is lacking.

The applicant fails to describe the roles of leveraged volunteers beyond saying they would serve to provide support with literacy events.

No details are given to show how much time volunteers would give or what literacy events would be provided.