
Applicant Feedback Summary: External Evidence Review 2017 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Washington Campus Compact c/o Western Washington University

Application ID: 17ED190618

Program Name: College Access Corps

The purpose of this summary feedback is to enhance our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). These comments originate from the External Review and are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment. Rather, the analysis pertains to the evidence base portion of the application and the elements that had the greatest impact on Reviewer determinations for the Evidence Tier and Quality Rating. This feedback consists of summary comments from more than one Reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem inconsistent or reflect multiple views. External Review comments do not represent all of the information used in the final funding decision.

External Review Summary Comments

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation Required: No

Evaluation Submitted: N/A

Type of Grantee: Large

LARGE GRANTEE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

External Evaluator: N/A

Impact Evaluation: N/A

At Least One Year of AmeriCorps Program Activity: N/A

Alternative Evaluation Approach: No

Type of AEA:

AEA Condition Met:

Previously Met Impact Evaluation Requirement: No

Comments:

EVIDENCE REVIEW

Evidence Tier Claimed: Preliminary

Number of Studies Submitted: 1

Number of Studies Assessed: 0

Evidence Tier Assessed: Pre-preliminary

Quality Rating: Low

Evidence Tier Justification:

The applicant's level of evidence is "Pre-Preliminary" based on descriptions of two studies of their program. Washington Campus Compact c/o Western Washington University proposes to have 60 AmeriCorps members recruit and train 600 college student volunteers on 37 college campuses throughout OR and WA to increase college access to 4,500 economically-disadvantaged 5th through 12th grade students. They will be assisted by an additional 1,200 volunteers. The program aims to increase participants' knowledge about college, including how to apply to and pay for postsecondary education. The applicant describes an internal evaluation of the first two years of the program (2014-2016), in which AmeriCorps members administered pre-surveys, post-surveys, and a pilot retrospective survey to program participants. The pre-program surveys were administered before delivery of services, and the post-surveys were given after participants had completed at least 15 hours of

activities. Results showed that in the first year of the program there was a 49% impact on participants' academic engagement and knowledge of the college application and financial aid processes. The pilot retrospective study showed a 64% impact. In the second year, results were even stronger, with post-survey results showing a 75% impact, and the retrospective survey showing a 77% impact. For a "Preliminary" Evidence Tier, the applicant must provide a detailed description of at least one outcome study of its own intervention. While the applicant describes an outcomes study conducted on their program, they did not provide enough details about the methodology and data collection processes to achieve a Preliminary rating. The applicant also describes an evaluation that measures recently-collected outcomes (2014-15) that are aligned with the program's theory of change. Based on these two studies, the applicant's level of evidence is "Pre-preliminary." Note that for applicants rated at a "Pre-Preliminary" tier, attached studies or reports are not considered as part of the evidence review.

Quality Rating Justification:

The quality of evidence is rated as "Low." The evaluation examined recently-collected (i.e., 2014-15) data on outcomes that were well-aligned with its logic model. The applicant also described the sample sizes and data collection processes in some detail. However, the applicant did not describe the methodology used for determining effects. More details are needed to assess study quality.