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

Legal Applicant: American YouthWorks

Application ID: 17ED191973

Program Name: Service and Conservation 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: N/A

EVIDENCE REVIEW

Evidence Tier Claimed: Preliminary

Number of Studies Submitted: 0

Number of Studies Assessed: 0

Evidence Tier Assessed: Pre-preliminary

Quality Rating: High

Evidence Tier Justification:

The program's level of evidence is "Pre-preliminary" based on their description of the collection of performance measure data. American YouthWorks (AYW) proposes to utilize 76 AmeriCorps members to provide cross-disciplinary services in the areas of public land maintenance, coastal restoration, and disaster response in four states (AR, LA, OK, and TX). Specifically, the applicant has collected data in 2014 and 2015 on outputs and short-term outcomes described in the logic model such as the number of individuals served in disasters, number of acres of land they improved, and number of miles of trails/waterways treated. These data were collected by the applicant's staff and members who maintain a daily activity log and tracking database. Additional data collection activities include administering a partner survey upon completion of a project and compiling aggregate participant demographic data. Additional evidence cited includes AYW's participation in a 2012 evaluation that included 11 other Conservation Corps programs that examined outcomes associated with corps experiences. Although the applicant claimed an Evidence Tier of Preliminary, it is not clear from the application narrative that the cited evaluation is based on one of the outcome study designs (i.e., pre/post or post only with a comparison group) that is required for meeting the Preliminary Evidence Tier.

Quality Rating Justification:

The assessed Quality Rating for the evidence in this application is High. The applicant provides detail on the processes used to collect performance data that are clearly aligned with the program's logic model. The data

collection methods and data sources are reliable and appropriate for measuring program outputs and short-term outcomes. The performance measure data also provide useful and reliable information on one or more components of the program's logic model.