

**APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design**

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant:</b> Teach For America, Teach For America-Oklahoma	<b>Application ID:</b> 11ES123624
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**Below are the comments from each External Peer Reviewer that read and evaluated the application. While Reviewers did engage in discussion about their evaluations, consensus was not required as part of their review. Therefore, there may be differing views in their feedback on the quality of the proposal.**



**COMMENTS:** The applicant made excellent use of statistics and studies (using their own data as well as independent studies) to demonstrate and link the existence of the identified problem, the way AmeriCorps participation would enhance the solution, and why AmeriCorps would be an asset to encourage well-qualified people to participate. Moreover, they demonstrated that their anticipated outcomes were realistic based on their past successes and impact in the community.

**COMMENTS:** The program design elements are aligned because a clear case is made for the services proposed, concrete goals and objectives are described, and the population of students targeted is discussed. The program is likely to be successful based on the existing resources in place combined with a demonstrated need, skilled lead faculty, and a commitment to service.

**COMMENTS:** The applicant followed the NOFO program design criteria to make the case for the proposed program. They made excellent use of statistics and studies (using their own data as well as independent studies) to demonstrate and link the existence of the identified problem, the way AmeriCorps' participation would enhance the solution, and the reason that AmeriCorps would be an asset to encourage well-qualified people to participate. Moreover, they demonstrated that their anticipated outcomes were realistic based on their past successes and impact in the community. The proposal was well written.

**COMMENTS:** Overall The applicant provides a compelling case regarding the achievement gap between students in low and high income communities across Oklahoma, however there is limited information about the specific target community. The applicant fails to provide achievement data on the high schools chosen for the project.

The applicant has clearly demonstrated that the individuals recruited will be highly qualified candidates for

the program as they plan to recruit people of color from historically black universities.

The applicant has a proven track record with this particular program in another state which has been found to be effective with Teach For America members.

Overall this appears to be a program which should be very successful.