

APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Yurok Tribal Court, Yurok Tribal Court Youth Corp	Application ID: 11TN125254
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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 presents an overall resourceful approach to well-defined community problems. The applicant presents two compelling community needs. First, a detailed listing of data is presented supporting the needs of Tribal Elders which includes the rural isolation and the lack of any public transportation, as well as the lack of community transportation. The applicant also reports the findings of a community assessment of tribal members over age 55 which details the lack of access to fresh and healthy foods. The second community need presented is a detailed accounting of the problems faced by the youth on the reservation. The applicant outlines a method of recruitment that ensures prospective members are from the second proposed community need category, Tribal Youth. A comprehensive training process is offered with a multitude of diversified training's including being trained with the American Red Cross and FEMA which allows them to be eligible to be registered a disaster workers. The supervision plan of the members is detailed and offers an all-inclusive method of supervision, planning and achieving a solution to the community need of the reservation youth. There is a cohesiveness presented throughout this application that relates the identified problems of the troubled and unemployed youth to the needs of the isolated and disenfranchised Elders and Veterans, including solutions involving extensive training for the youth and volunteers, and appropriate performance measures with well-developed outcomes.

COMMENTS: The applicant provides detailed information about the significant challenges faced in the community including poor educational outcomes and disproportionate representation in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Also identified are the major challenges faced by the elderly in the areas of maintaining homes and proper nutrition. The project addresses both areas of concern, effectively incorporating the cultural values regarding respect for the elders. The project appropriately focuses on the most vulnerable including youth of incarcerated parents and those involved in the court systems. The applicant demonstrates an understanding of the challenges for the youth in the community through the collaboration and planning with educational systems to increase the level of success that will lead to gainful employment and engagement in the community. Potential behavioral challenges are anticipated with plans to address issues as they arise. Also of note is the plan to work with the Red Cross to support members in becoming certified as community responders in the event of disasters, increasing their engagement in the

community. Overall, this application proposes a comprehensive approach to addressing the need of vulnerable youth and the elders, with targeted outcomes identified for both members and recipients of the services, enhancing the quality of life for all community members.

COMMENTS: The applicant provides persuasive evidence that the youth, and the Tribe as a whole, face severe consequences if the problems facing the youth are not solved. The Tribal Court program staff will oversee screening and conduct background checks on potential members. The target age group for the youth will be 16 to 25 and include out of school youth, disadvantaged youth, and children of incarcerated parents. The applicant intends to utilize at risk youth as part-time AmeriCorps members for a program primarily providing services to one of the Tribes most vulnerable population, its' elders. The youth will be divided into 3 teams of 5 AmeriCorps members. The applicant has not provided a supervision plan that describes how one supervisor will provide supervision to 15 AmeriCorps member working in three distinct and distant geographic areas. The supervision plan does not discuss frequency of supervision, member reflection, or how issues and problems that may be encountered during the program with members will be handled. Performance measures have not been included with the program design, rather, the list of program activities with the total number of anticipated program participants by activity has been restated, it may be difficult to measure the impact of the program. The applicant provides a general statement that volunteers will be generated through coordinated events and activities, however, the events and activities mentioned in the volunteer section have not been previously discussed in the program activities section and are newly introduced here. The applicant has not provided a plan to recruit, train or supervise volunteers.

COMMENTS: The applicant has established linkages within the tribal community that will help address the identified problems and which include the incorporation of the AmeriCorps members. It has developed an effective procedure for utilizing the AmeriCorps members and volunteers to provide services that will directly affect the reservation.

(+) As identified needs, the lack of adequate youth education and care services for the elder population are fully described and the applicant cites appropriate sources of data which verify the information.

(+) The process it plans for the recruitment and selection of the members is well organized and the planned training and supervision of the members and volunteers is strong. The applicant also describes the project supervisory management in addition to the supervision of the AmeriCorps members and the activities they will perform.

(-) The evaluation lacks measurement of the expected improvement and long term effect on the elders beyond the provision of monthly services projects.

COMMENTS: There are many aspects of the proposal that are exceptional in nature. For example the three major design elements (the problems identified, the solution that will be carried out by members, and the ways in which members are well suited to deliver the solution) were presented in a convincing and comprehensive manner. Community stakeholders and partners are not only identified but are thoroughly involved in the process early in the planning stages. In fact the two agencies as previously noted will share responsibility for the recruitment, training and supervision of members. Good, upfront planning, which

resulted in a comprehensive needs assessment, has allowed the project to accurately pinpoint the exact needs of the target population/community. The applicant will ensure the integrity of the project by setting the standard of a criminal background check for members. The applicant proposes a clear plan for ensuring that projected outcomes are achieved in the manner and time frames introduced. The applicant did address the subject of volunteers and the how they would be recruited and their role in the project. The application does not include a strong role for volunteers, and lacks a discussion about the role that members will play in volunteer recruitment. The applicant seems well suited to manage and deliver the necessary outcomes to the target population within the time frame outlined and the identified number of members requested.