

**APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design**

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant:</b> <b>Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Project Grow</b>	<b>Application ID:</b> <b>11AC122776</b>
<b>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.</b>	
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b> The applicant provided a narrative with good data on the targeted region which indicated a strong need for academic support programs. The application effectively links the need statement to the work of AmeriCorps members and outcomes that will have impact on the problem. The program has a strong AmeriCorps member recruitment, training and support effort with detailed descriptions of how members will be identified and prepared to serve. The narrative describes a rich service experience in preschool readiness intervention. The measures of success are clearly outlined and include development of members throughout the project. The project also describes vital training and development for future engagement by members in their own communities. The applicant provides an excellent link of the goals of the AmeriCorps program in early childhood education to the outcomes measured in school readiness, attendance, and literacy skills. The application effectively describes how impact on academic success will be monitored. Overall the application is well written and provides excellent connecting links from the problem statement to member service delivery and ultimately to results.</p>	
<p><b>COMMENTS:</b> This proposal provides a clear description of the problem identified. The applicant is successful in outlining why they chose to address this problem while presenting a realistic assessment of what they can do to address the problem. The applicant demonstrates a history of solid community collaborations and partnerships that will ensure that their target community will benefit from their program. Their recruiting, training, and orientation plan is comprehensive as outlined to include an academically, culturally, and socio-economically diverse group of college students; skill-based training will ensure AmeriCorps Members are prepared to deliver early learning services. The applicant provides well-designed activities and training's that fully engage AmeriCorps Members in service and civic responsibility. Overall, the applicant presents a realistic plan for addressing the problem identified. Their past success demonstrates that their program is making a positive impact in the lives of the children served. The applicant has demonstrated that they are an essential asset to the community served. They have outstanding community support</p>	

**COMMENTS:** The proposal identifies the problem as the need to improve school readiness of at-risk preschoolers. The data provided illustrate the severity of the problem and the need to address it. The proposal explains in great detail how the AmeriCorps members will be recruited, the training and supervision process, and the work that they will be doing. The opportunities for the AmeriCorps members to learn and develop skills are well documented. The proposal uses data from the previous year 2009-2010 to explain the impact of the program. The evaluation is well designed. Overall, this proposal is very well written and easy to read.

**COMMENTS:** The applicant did an excellent job of presenting a well-rounded application that clearly includes community stakeholders to ensure the appropriate children are targeted for services. The applicant described services that are appropriate to meet the needs of the children; and that systems are in place to measure program/member impact. Member activities and ongoing development set the foundation for the member to develop a deeper understanding of the importance of early education and the important role they play in the lives of young children which in turn can foster advocacy for all children getting equal access to high quality preschools.