

APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, New American Integration Program	Application ID: 11AC125065
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 application is particularly well-written and organized. It provides very strong evidence of the needs of the refugee/immigrant populations in Massachusetts and a comprehensive description of these needs. In addition, the application clearly describes the desired qualifications of applicants, recruitment and selection process, and process of preparing members for success. Another major strength is the comprehensive approach to meeting multiple types of needs of the target population. The only weakness is quite minor; it does not explicitly state why AmeriCorps members are ideally suited to addressing the problem, though it does describe very well how members would be efficiently utilized. The applicant presents a strong proposal that has a likelihood of succeeding.	
COMMENTS: The applicant provides a solid case for the need to expand ESOL classes and other supportive services to its' three targeted Massachusetts communities. The applicant outlines the qualities it will be looking for in member's, and a good plan for recruiting members including using ethnic media, community fairs, colleges, churches and referrals. The applicant also provided a sound plan for providing members with a meaningful experience. The applicant outlined a number of activities in a number of settings AmeriCorps members will participate in that clearly address the identified need of expanding ESOL, naturalization services for the immigrant, and refugee populations of Massachusetts.	
COMMENTS: The only weakness in this application was that the applicant used too many acronyms for terms that needed to be spelled out i.e., ESOL and TESOL. This really took away from the great effort that went into writing this grant. Overall, this was a very well-written application. Utilizing community members who have a vested interest in the programs survival will not only motivate the potential volunteers but the community as a whole. The AmeriCorps members will receive a well-rounded and powerful experience here.	

COMMENTS: The applicant provided a very thorough grant. The overall proposal was exemplary.

COMMENTS: The program will provide the AmeriCorps member with a variety of experiences working directly with the community. The goal of the member recruitment and training is to expand the base of Massachusetts young people and others who have the passion and skills to help strengthen immigrant and refugee commitment. They hope the members will have a lasting impact on the profession after going through the mix of immersion and training. The proposal is very focused on what both the participants and members will get out of the experience. There were some acronyms that were not defined in the application, so it was unclear what they stood for.