

APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Regis University-Colorado Campus Compact, Compact Service Corps	Application ID: 11ED125197

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 target communities appear to have been effectively involved in planning the applicant's program, as evidenced by their requests for members to serve in specific capacities.(+) Proposed activities address the identified needs as evidenced by specific programs completed in the past, such as emergency plans, diversity enhancement, and veteran recognition and support.(+) The applicant's plan for orienting and training AmeriCorps members appears sound, with pre-service orientations, full orientation, and ongoing training.(-) The applicant has not clearly identified the institutions from where the members will be recruited. (+) The members' roles are well-defined and compatible with the program design as evidenced by the fact that many aspects of the program are designed around local needs. The partnership between Red Rocks Community College and its local Compact Service Corps (CSC) working to develop a service learning experience that benefits low-income individuals is a prime example. (+) There is clear evidence that the applicant has successfully recruited volunteers in the past for its projects (over 25,000), and that volunteer recruitment is an important aspect of AmeriCorps members' responsibilities for projects for their local CSC's.

COMMENTS: This plan exceeds the minimum requirements in many ways. (+) Planning was initially done by with the partners. (+)Sites have already been selected. (+) Each site will have a sustainability plan done prior to starting their programs. (+) Support materials are available. (+)The program has previously successfully recruited 25,000 volunteers. (+) Volunteers have been selected. (+) They have a waiting list of 75 people.(+) In many ways, they have indicated that they will be ready to go once the "green light" is on.

COMMENTS: (+) Compact Service Corps (CSC) responds to community needs that are identified by community partners. Project proposals outline the specific local needs, outline the student's service activities and the process for capacity building at the local partner sites.
 (+) CCC states that they have served as an incubator for other AmeriCoprs programs and have expanded the number of students and campuses engaged in the program.

(-) The applicant does not include their strategies for retention or a description of how the service experience is powerful leading to continued engagement.

(+) The proposal also includes strategies to achieve results such as requiring AmeriCorps members to engage in service-learning activities that include components such as academic course work, structured reflection and opportunities for student voice.

COMMENTS: The applicant has developed a strong proposal that uses strong empirical data to justify the need for the project. Based on the program design it is clear that the applicant has a clear understanding of civic engagement and will be able to provide the Corps members with a strong experience. The hands on training and core development modules will enable the members to be effective in the community and make an impact on building safer communities.