

APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: North Carolina Campus Compact (Elon University), ADVANCE	Application ID: 11ED125864
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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: (+/-) Statewide needs to be addressed for both North Carolina and Virginia are well-documented, although there is only limited information on the community needs for mentoring for each of the university-area counties.(+/-) The applicant's orientation, training, and supervision appears to meet AmeriCorps guidelines, but is not being carried out by the applicant, but by the individual colleges and universities through campus coordinators/NUTS Director.(-) The online training is the only core training provided to the members which is not enough for this type of program. There is no mention of follow-up or coaching during this process. (+/-) It is unclear if members will develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that the program expects from them, as evidenced by a stated mentor training program in place in North Carolina (National MENTOR Elements of Effective Practice), but not in place in Virginia.(-) It is unclear whether students participating in the NUTS Program are developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that the program expects from them, as evidenced by no more than 3 reflection sessions a year with their NUTS Coordinator, and awards for 2 members.(+) The applicant's solution that will be carried out by AmeriCorps members and community volunteers appears to support the program design as evidenced by the close connection between the need for mentoring and nutritional education and the duties to be carried out by the AmeriCorps members , including mentoring services and member participation in the NUTS program, utilizing both the PEANUTS and WALNUTS curricula.(+) The applicant's ADVANCE/NUTS program will provide nutrition education training to both parents and children including healthy eating habits and fruits and vegetable consumption. Interviewed pre-school participants will demonstrate a better understanding of the variety and benefits of vegetables and fruit.(+) The applicant appears to have developed a program that meets local needs in a number of areas within North Carolina and Virginia The program has been designed to match the needs of college students with community needs in what appears to be a win/win situation. Although the applicant does not appear to have carried out a program on the same scale as the one proposed, it appears that the applicant has the capacity to successfully carry out its proposed program, based on experience with previous grants, and the close relationship between the applicant and local colleges.

COMMENTS: (+) This applicant makes a good argument for community needs for their children. (+) Their plan to address the issue of obesity is extremely well done. Planning health coops, working in community

gardens and developing a nutrition education book are projects that will make a lasting impact on their communities. (+) It was also good to see that the mentors would be working to meet family needs and making referrals when needed (+) Working in partnership with well-established organizations like Head Start and Community In Schools should be a good experience for everyone. The applicant should reach the program's goals.

COMMENTS: (+) State wide need for mentoring programs is identified through “Mentoring in America,” partnership estimates and surveys. The community partner’s surveys were done in November 2009 and included 20 nonprofits throughout the states.
(+) The survey also included 52 colleges and universities that are in Campus Compact member locations in the identified communities. These surveys identified high school dropout rates, childhood obesity and lack of housing as areas of need.
(+) For the nutrition Education Cohort the measure will include tracking the children and parents receiving nutrition education. The will use attendance logs, questionnaire and interviews to measure progress.
(-) The applicant does not fully explain how they will ensure continued engagement in civic participation.
(+) The credentialing and history of the leadership supports the way in which AmeriCorps is suited to assist with the community problems and solutions.

COMMENTS: The need was clearly outlined and identified in the proposal and was clearly linked to the chosen curricula. It is unclear how this program will be able to be fully functional given the significant weakness in member training. An online training program does not seem to be effective with the type of outreach and outcomes outlined by the applicant. The applicant overlooks t key components such as coaching, mentoring, and feedback loops to ensure an effective training component.