

APPLICANT FEEDBACK - Program Design

2011 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Boys & Girls Clubs of Wayne County Indiana, Inc. Project: ACES	Application ID: 11AC123043
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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 adequately explains the problem, citing verifiable statistics. The research is comprehensive to illustrate the problems. The applicant provides current research of solutions that have worked and shows in detail how the AmeriCorps members will be utilized to address the solutions. AmeriCorps members are particularly well-suited to ensure success of the programs because they are recruited locally and will deal with the cultures in their own home areas. Measurable objectives are listed so that evaluations will be beneficial to participants, members, program directors and the community at large. The program keeps very good records already, and is able to show the communities the success they have obtained.

COMMENTS: This application's strengths are its scope, focus of the problem, history with working with AmeriCorps and the training that it will offer AmeriCorps members. The application's limitations, while minor, include the recruitment criteria of members and the impact criteria for the project. Overall, this application provides the kind of interconnectedness and soundness to be able to carry out such a project while noting the minor limitations.

COMMENTS: The applicant provides compelling supporting documentation regarding the community needs to be addressed. The applicant specifically identified problems with youth in Indiana that include poor academic performance and youth obesity which indicates there is a need for the project. Recruitment will be the responsibility of each club who will utilize local media resources, universities and colleges, and current Corps members. The recruiting plan is logical because it recruits members in a variety of ways and will attract qualified applicants. The plan for managing the project is clearly defined and will provide adequate leadership. Members will be assigned a site supervisor and mentor. Site visits will be conducted at the mid-way point of the member's service. While, there is a good management plan provided, it is not clear how performance feedback will be provided to assess the quality of their work and ensure project goals are met. Additionally, the applicant does not clearly define how the proposed activities will lead to continued

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engagement in civic participation. The evaluation plan does include the use of any baseline data to be used as comparative data to measure the projected goals and outcomes related to the program activities.

COMMENTS: The applicant presents a strong case with the implementation and evaluation of the program.

COMMENTS: The community need is well-addressed as evidenced by data from KIDS COUNT, Indiana Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. The proposed activities such as the Power Hour, Triple Play, Torch Clubs, and Keystone Clubs address the identified need. The members address improving educational achievement by providing educational support services in a variety of structured BGCA activities. The member provide healthy lifestyles, character and leadership activities within BGCA established programming. The members will participate in recruiting volunteers to participate in community activities and/ or club programs. The narrative does not demonstrate the qualifications of AmeriCorps members that are recruited to provide this service. The applicant lacks information regarding why AmeriCorps members are the best suited to provide services with the target population.