

Technical Review Cover Sheet

Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2014

CFDA/Subprogram 84.215J **Schedule No** 1 **Tier No.** 1

Panel Name Full Service Community Schools - 11

Applicant Name Young Mens Christian Association of Greater Long Beach **PR/Award No** U215J140017

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Project Design	25	25
Adequacy of Resources	20	19
Management Plan	25	25
Project Services	20	18
Project Evaluation	10	9
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TOTAL	100	96

Priority Questions

1. Competitive Preference Priority: Promise Zones

CPP: Promise Zones	3	0
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TOTAL	3	0

Technical Review Form

Applicant Name Young Mens Christian Association of Greater Long Beach **PR/Award No** U215J140017

Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of:

(i) The students, students' family members, and community to be served, including information about the demographic characteristics and needs of the students, students' family members, and other community members and the estimated number of individuals to be served; and

(ii) The eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided or coordinated by the applicant and its partner entities, how those services will meet the needs of students, students family members, and other community members, and the frequency with which those services will be provided to students, students' family members, and community members.

(iii) The potential and planning for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing work of the applicant beyond the end of the grant.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project will integrate with or build on similar or related efforts to improve relevant outcomes using existing funding stream from other programs or policies supported by community State and Federal Resources.

Strengths:

The application had a strong project design. To start, the description of students, families and community was comprehensive. Moreover, the overall focus on two specific sites and identification of specific goal were strong examples of a thoroughly designed Community School.

Examples of demographic breakdown, youth in poverty, rental vs. ownership rates all demonstrated a strong understanding of the community.

Weaknesses:

This criterion received a thorough discussion from the group.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Adequacy of Resources

(1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources to be provided by the applicant and consortium partners;

(ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project; and

(iii) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and services to be provided.

Strengths:

Examples such as the school-based family involvement coordinators and family out reach coordinators are examples of commitments from partners to bring resources to the effort. Overall, a wealth of trained staff, additional training, and resources from The Children's Clinic are superior demonstrations of resources-committed.

Weaknesses:

The applicant lacked a strong discussion of sustainability plans.

This criterion was fully discussed among the reviewers.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 19

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of planning, coordination, management, and oversight of the eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided at each school to be served, including the role of the school principal, the FSCS coordinator, partner entities, parents, and community members;

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the FSCS coordinator and other key project personnel including prior performance of the applicant on similar or related efforts; and

(iii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, the FSCS coordinator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Strengths:

Page 24 includes a description of how the FSCS grant will be used to better coordinate and enhance community for services. The FSCS Coordinator and After School Site coordinators, Family Involvement Coordinators, Family Outreach Workers, and other leadership all demonstrate the resources being committed to provide adequate oversight.

The staff at all levels provided adequate support for the organization. The FSCS Coordinator position is a strong way to integrate resources and the advisory board will provide adequate oversight.

Weaknesses:

No weakness. This criterion was fully discussed.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice; and

(ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

Strengths:

The breadth of services and connection to research clearly demonstrated that this was a well thought out suite of services. Each of the services had clear description of activities and impact on goals.

Weaknesses:

The only weakness identified tied to the criterion around the likelihood of services to impact students. A stronger description of how the multiple services would be integrated for students to ensure that they were receiving services based on need would have been a stronger discussion impact as measured against academic standards.

This criterion was fully discussed.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 18

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

(1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed evaluation:

(i) Will provide timely and valid information on the management, implementation, or efficiency of the project; and

(ii) Will provide guidance on or strategies for replicating or testing the project intervention in multiple settings.

(iii) Will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.

Strengths:

The applicant included a thorough description of the process for gathering information to track performance indicators. For example, a post test will be conducted to evaluate school climate and perception. The description for this also included details on how this information would be collected and analyzed.

Weaknesses:

The applicant was missing a description of how data on things like improve test scores and report cards will be tracked. The timeline for how data would be used and tracked was also missing. Additionally, a way to measure social skills was also missing despite it being something the applicant wanted to track.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 9

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority: Promise Zones - Promise Zones

The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that propose to work with communities that have been awarded a Promise Zone designation. Promise Zone designees have committed to establishing comprehensive, coordinated approaches in order to ensure, among our goals, that America's most vulnerable children succeed from cradle to career. This designation is designed to assist local leaders in creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, leveraging private investment, and reducing violent crime in high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities. Promise Zone designations establish comprehensive, coordinated approaches in order to ensure America's most vulnerable children succeed from cradle to career. By partnering with Promise Zones designees, the Federal government will help communities access the resources and expertise they need--including the resources from various neighborhood revitalization initiatives--to ensure that Federal programs and resources support the efforts to transform these communities.

Strengths

The applicant did not discuss this criterion.

Weaknesses

The applicant did not discuss this criterion.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 0

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Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2014 **CFDA/Subprogram** 84.215J **Schedule No** 1 **Tier No.** 1

Panel Name Full Service Community Schools - 11

Applicant Name Young Mens Christian Association of Greater Long Beach **PR/Award No** U215J140017

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Project Design	25	25
Adequacy of Resources	20	20
Management Plan	25	25
Project Services	20	20
Project Evaluation	10	9
TOTAL	100	99

Priority Questions

1. Competitive Preference Priority: Promise Zones

CPP: Promise Zones	3	0
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TOTAL	3	0
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GRAND TOTAL	103	99
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Technical Review Form

Applicant Name	Young Mens Christian Association of Greater Long Beach	PR/Award No	U215J140017
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Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of:

(i) The students, students' family members, and community to be served, including information about the demographic characteristics and needs of the students, students' family members, and other community members and the estimated number of individuals to be served; and

(ii) The eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided or coordinated by the applicant and its partner entities, how those services will meet the needs of students, students' family members, and other

community members, and the frequency with which those services will be provided to students, students' family members, and community members.

(iii) The potential and planning for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing work of the applicant beyond the end of the grant.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project will integrate with or build on similar or related efforts to improve relevant outcomes using existing funding stream from other programs or policies supported by community State and Federal Resources.

STRENGTHS

The applicant is seeking \$500,000 annual at a cost of \$714 per student. Given the number of services outlined in this grant, this is extremely reasonable. The strength of the application is based on the strong existing partnerships, and familiarity with providing services related to Full-Service Community initiatives. As stated on (p. 1), "...implementation of community schools for almost 20 years." As related to the partners as stated on (p. 2), "The partners for this project are the...." The applicant continues with listing several key partners. Also, in Appendix B, the partners have provided a memorandum of understanding which demonstrates their commitment to this initiative. In addition, the applicant has clearly identified project goals and objectives (p. 3). There are four objectives identified which are centered around providing the services for the Full-Service Community Schools initiative. These objectives stated in the proposal are then connected directly to the services provided. For example, Objective 2 is related to academic achievement, and on (p. 6) the applicant clearly list this objective associated with academic achievement, the service of remedial and academic enrichment programs. Under this service, the applicant provides very specific details outlining the activities associated with these services. All of the other objectives and services are clearly documented in this manner, making it very easy to connect the objectives with the services. Finally, the proposed project will integrate with and/or build upon related efforts with proven outcomes. On (p. 13), the applicant states and provides supporting documentation in the proposal, "Our commitment to high quality, outcome-drive programs is evidenced by research that has been published on our projects in...." which indicates their level of commitment and support of the project.

WEAKNESSES

There were no weaknesses identified. This was criterion was fully discussed with all peer-reviewers.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Adequacy of Resources

2. (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources to be provided by the applicant and consortium partners;

(ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project; and

(iii) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and services to be provided.

STRENGTHS

The applicant will be servicing two schools within the community which allow the applicant to utilize existing resources at these schools. As stated on (p. 12), "Both schools have designated Family Centers. The after-school and family involvement programs will have access to cafeteria, auditoriums, multipurpose rooms, computer rooms...." Each partner is committed to the success of this project and this is evident by the existing relationships with their partners, and the memorandum of understanding provided by the partners.

WEAKNESSES

There were no weaknesses identified. This was criterion was fully discussed with all peer-reviewers.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

3. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary

considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of planning, coordination, management, and oversight of the eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided at each school to be served, including the role of the school principal, the FSCS coordinator, partner entities, parents, and community members;

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the FSCS coordinator and other key project personnel including prior performance of the applicant on similar or related efforts; and

(iii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, the FSCS coordinator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

STRENGTHS

The applicant management plan begins on (p. 15 through 19 and lists each member of the management team, their title, credentials, years of experience and the amount of time dedicated to the project. In evaluating this information, in addition to the resumes provided (see Appendix A), the team appears more than qualified to carry out the goals, and objectives of this proposal. In addition, the applicant indicates the importance of the Full-Service Community lead as stated on (p. 18), "The FSCS Coordinator position will require a Master's Degree in Social Work with past experience working in schools." The position being developed for the FSCS Coordinator will require a Master's degree in Social Work.

WEAKNESSES

There were no weaknesses identified. This was criterion was fully discussed with all peer-reviewers.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

4. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice; and

(ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

STRENGTHS

Each of the outlined services and their associated activities are based on proven research. The applicant has a section in the proposal for each of the identified services and clearly explains the activities associated with the service and its relationship to proven research with citations. For example, on (p. 19) the applicant states associated with the family engagement services, "...and offer a broad range of classes and activities that meet the specific priorities of the community (Comer, 2005; Epstein & Salinas, 2004)." Here the applicant is citing the works of (Comer, Epstein & Salinas), and explains how the proposed services reflect up-to-date knowledge from these research studies. The other services being proposed and their relationship to existing research are outlined in this manner.

WEAKNESSES

There were no weaknesses identified. This was criterion was fully discussed with all peer-reviewers.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

5. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed evaluation:

(i) Will provide timely and valid information on the management, implementation, or efficiency of the project; and

(ii) Will provide guidance on or strategies for replicating or testing the project intervention in multiple settings.

(iii) Will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.

STRENGTHS

The applicant has a highly-qualified project evaluation lead with extensive experience in evaluation. Dr. O'Donnell is a Professor and Director of Research. She has been evaluating after-school and community programs since 1992. The evaluation plan also clearly states the use of formative and summative evaluations for the project. The applicant explicitly outlines the objectives with the outcome measures. For example on (p. 29) related to objective 4, "Forty percent of CLI and YLI graduates will become involved in school and community activities."

WEAKNESSES

The only weakness identified is associated with as required, "Will provide timely and valid information on the management, implementation, or efficiency of the project." There was no specific information in the application addressing this requirement.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 9

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority: Promise Zones - Promise Zones

- 1. The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that propose to work with communities that have been awarded a Promise Zone designation. Promise Zone designees have committed to establishing comprehensive, coordinated approaches in order to ensure, among our goals, that America's most vulnerable children succeed from cradle to career. This designation is designed to assist local leaders in creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, leveraging private investment, and reducing violent crime in high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities. Promise Zone designations establish comprehensive, coordinated approaches in order to ensure America's most vulnerable children succeed from cradle to career. By partnering with Promise Zones designees, the Federal government will help communities access the resources and expertise they need--including the resources from various neighborhood revitalization initiatives--to ensure that Federal programs and resources support**

the efforts to transform these communities.

Strengths

N/A

Weaknesses

N/A

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 0

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Panel Details

Fiscal Year 2014 **CFDA/Subprogram** 84.215J **Schedule No** 1 **Tier No.** 1

Panel Name Full Service Community Schools - 11

Applicant Name Young Mens Christian Association of Greater Long Beach **PR/Award No** U215J140017

Questions

	Points Possible	Points Scored
1. Selection Criteria		
Project Design	25	23
Adequacy of Resources	20	20
Management Plan	25	23
Project Services	20	18
Project Evaluation	10	9
TOTAL	100	93

Priority Questions

1. Competitive Preference Priority: Promise Zones

CPP: Promise Zones	3	0
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TOTAL	3	0
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GRAND TOTAL	103	93
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Technical Review Form

Applicant Name	Young Mens Christian Association of Greater Long Beach	PR/Award No	U215J140017
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Reviewer Name

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

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community members, and the frequency with which those services will be provided to students, students' family members, and community members.

(iii) The potential and planning for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing work of the applicant beyond the end of the grant.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed project will integrate with or build on similar or related efforts to improve relevant outcomes using existing funding stream from other programs or policies supported by community State and Federal Resources.

Strengths

The proposal demonstrates a history of success with projects similar in scope and scale (pg. 3), and that project leaders have the experience to lead this grant successfully. The lead partners gained knowledge of their target audience and project management by leading similar grant projects (pg. 3).

The proposal also shows promise of strong partnerships and that the partner services are closely tied to objectives (pg. 5).

Weaknesses:

The application could be improved by indicating if the project services are new initiatives or based on services carried forward from a previous grant or other existing service (pg. 5).

It appears that the sustainability framework is based on a previous grant and it is not clear if the sustainability plans reflect current practice (pgs. 14-16).

The team discussed this criterion fully.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 23

Selection Criteria - Adequacy of Resources

2. (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources to

be provided by the applicant and consortium partners;

(ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project; and

(iii) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and services to be provided.

Strengths:

The lead partner has considerable experience working with and providing services to youth, managing large projects (pg. 14) which will help other partners contribute to the grant by offering specific services.

The partners have a long history of working together and have expressed commitment to the project, the objectives and will provide a strong dollar match for the project (pg. 16).

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

3. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of planning, coordination, management, and oversight of the eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided at each school to be served, including the role of the school principal, the FSCS coordinator, partner entities, parents, and community members;

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the FSCS coordinator and other key project personnel including prior performance of the applicant on similar or related

efforts; and

(iii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, the FSCS coordinator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Strengths:

The partners and project leaders have demonstrated a thoughtful and carefully planning on the management plan, as some staff are already in place. Some staff are already in place and are familiar with the target population, the services to be offered and the project partners (pg. 18). This will help partners launch services quickly and efficiently.

Weaknesses:

The application could be improved by providing a more detailed description of how decisions will be made among the partners, and stating which entity will have the final decision making authority (pg. 18).

This section was discussed fully by team.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 23

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

4. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considers the following:

(i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice; and

(ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

Strengths:

The application demonstrates innovation with its approach to parent involvement in literacy

programs such as Story Exploring (pg. 23). The application includes a well-designed approach to services that are aligned with the project goals and outcomes (pg. 21). The project includes a youth leadership program which focus on behaviors students can adopt which will help them develop positive behavior skills (pg. 25). The application presents a strong case that the services to be offered by the projects likely will lead to improved achievement for students.

Weaknesses:

The application could be improved by providing more detail on which students will receive specific service and dosage amounts, as it is not clear if all students will participate in all activities and services or if only core services (pg. 25).

This was fully discussed by the team.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 18

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

5. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed evaluation:

(i) Will provide timely and valid information on the management, implementation, or efficiency of the project; and

(ii) Will provide guidance on or strategies for replicating or testing the project intervention in multiple settings.

(iii) Will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.

Strengths:

The evaluation plan includes performance indicators and metrics for each objective (pg. 29). The evaluation includes both formative and summative evaluations so interventions and improvements in services can be addressed in a timely manner (pg. 29). The evaluator is highly qualified for the position and has an existing relationships with the project partners (pg. 28).

Weaknesses:

The application could be improved by providing a timeline for collecting and reporting data (pg. 29).

The committee discussed this section fully.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 9

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority: Promise Zones - Promise Zones

1. **The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that propose to work with communities that have been awarded a Promise Zone designation. Promise Zone designees have committed to establishing comprehensive, coordinated approaches in order to ensure, among our goals, that America's most vulnerable children succeed from cradle to career. This designation is designed to assist local leaders in creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, leveraging private investment, and reducing violent crime in high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities. Promise Zone designations establish comprehensive, coordinated approaches in order to ensure America's most vulnerable children succeed from cradle to career. By partnering with Promise Zones designees, the Federal government will help communities access the resources and expertise they need--including the resources from various neighborhood revitalization initiatives--to ensure that Federal programs and resources support the efforts to transform these communities.**

Strengths

The applicant did not address the criterion.

Weaknesses

The applicant did not address the criterion.

Question Status: Completed

Reviewer Score: 0