

**U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS  
G5-Technical Review Form (New)**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/25/2013 11:26 AM

## Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

Reader #1: \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
1. Summary Statement	0	
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Significance</b>		
1. Significance	35	35
<b>Quality of Project Design</b>		
1. Project Design	25	25
<b>Quality of the Management Plan</b>		
1. Management Plan	15	15
<b>Quality of Project Personnel</b>		
1. Personnel	10	10
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	15	0
<b>Total</b>	100	85

# Technical Review Form

Panel #11 - i3 Development - 11: 84.411C

Reader #1: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

## Questions

### Summary Statement - Summary Statement

#### 1. Summary Statement (Optional)

General:

Reader's Score:

### Selection Criteria - Significance

#### 1. In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project would implement a novel approach as compared with what has been previously attempted nationally.

(2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project will substantially improve on the outcomes achieved by other practices, such as through better student outcomes, lower cost, or accelerated results.

#### Strengths:

Strong evidence of novel approach to engaging Latino and limited English proficient families was presented (top of page e17). Families will be reached through trusted parents in the community, building family literacy and relationships between families and educators (bottom of page e18).

A strong case is build for the foundation of knowledge and theory and how this project will extend that through advancing the family/school partnership and raising the cultural competency of educators.

Outcomes which have been suggested through pilots would offset much costlier interventions that would be necessary later for students had they not experienced the advanced outcomes due to this project. Empowering parents during children's early years and enabling them to access resources and better support their children's growth and learning can reduce the need for supplemental supports that might otherwise eventually be necessary to meet academic goals.

#### Weaknesses:

none identified.

Reader's Score: 35

### Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

**1. In determining the quality of the proposed project design, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.**

**(2) The clarity and coherence of the project goals, including the extent to which the proposed project articulates an explicit plan or actions to achieve its goals (e.g., a fully developed logic model of the proposed project).**

**(3) The clarity, completeness, and coherence of the project goals, and whether the application includes a description of project activities that constitute a complete plan for achieving those goals, including the identification of potential risks to project success and strategies to mitigate those risks.**

**Strengths:**

This application clearly addresses the absolute priority to engage families and build their skills to accelerate their children's academic achievement.

Goals are clearly identified and a logic model clearly describes how activities and inputs will lead to outcomes.

Activity descriptions are exemplary with evidence for approaches provided along with potential risks and mitigating strategies for each. For example, Parents as Teachers classes are provided and FLAME's positive evaluations over the past 10 years was described. The potential risk identified was instructor quality with several strategies to mitigate including selection, training, and ongoing support.

The inclusion of instructor qualities and peer coaching is thorough which will likely lead to greater implementation. Evidence has mounted for job-embedded training and supported as the most effective strategy for putting into practice any new innovation.

The application employed effective use of graphics and demographics. For example the image of the cornerstones on page e17, the pictures of the children with demographics on page e24, and the "parents' scaffolding" on page e26.

**Weaknesses:**

None identified.

**Reader's Score: 25**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan**

**1. In determining the quality of the management plan and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The extent to which the management plan articulates key responsibilities and well-defined objectives, including the timelines and milestones for completion of major project activities, the metrics that will be used to assess progress on an ongoing basis, and annual performance targets the applicant will use to monitor whether the project is achieving its goals.**

**(2) The extent of the demonstrated commitment of any key partners or evidence of broad support from stakeholders whose participation is critical to the project's long-term success.**

**(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

**Strengths:**

Key partners demonstrate a strong commitment and involvement to the project with clearly identified responsibilities. Clear management structure with specific responsibilities and communication plans for an effective inter-agency project was presented on page e32 and e33.

Clear structures for community engagement. Precise timelines for activities and objectives (e.g. soft launch).

A specific continuous improvement strategy identified (Act Analyze Assemble Model).

A data and evaluation team is established to supplement the independent evaluator that includes representatives from all key partner organizations (page e33).

Feedback loops are developed for various levels for example at the staff level, they cycle monthly and at the evaluation team level, at interim evaluation cycles (soft launch, fall cycle, spring cycle).

**Weaknesses:**

None identified.

**Reader's Score: 15**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel**

**1. In determining the quality and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factor:**

**(1) The adequacy of the project's staffing plan, particularly for the first year of the project, including the identification of the project director and, in the case of projects with unfilled key personnel positions at the beginning of the project, that the staffing plan identifies how critical work will proceed.**

**Strengths:**

Clearly articulated positions with individuals identified for key roles that are well qualified and experienced to meet expected objectives.

Clear mobilizing hiring plan for other positions.

**Weaknesses:**

None identified.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation**

**1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.**

**(2) The extent to which the evaluation plan includes a clear and credible analysis plan, including a proposed sample size and minimum detectable effect size that aligns with the expected project impact, and an analytic approach for addressing the research questions.**

**(3) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key components and outcomes of the project, as well as a measureable threshold for acceptable implementation.**

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score:**     **0**

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**Status:**           Submitted

**Last Updated:**   09/25/2013 11:26 AM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/25/2013 07:54 PM

## Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

Reader #2: \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
1. Summary Statement	0	
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Significance</b>		
1. Significance	35	35
<b>Quality of Project Design</b>		
1. Project Design	25	25
<b>Quality of the Management Plan</b>		
1. Management Plan	15	15
<b>Quality of Project Personnel</b>		
1. Personnel	10	10
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	15	0
<b>Total</b>	100	85

# Technical Review Form

Panel #11 - i3 Development - 11: 84.411C

Reader #2: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

## Questions

### Summary Statement - Summary Statement

#### 1. Summary Statement (Optional)

General:

Reader's Score:

### Selection Criteria - Significance

#### 1. In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project would implement a novel approach as compared with what has been previously attempted nationally.

(2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project will substantially improve on the outcomes achieved by other practices, such as through better student outcomes, lower cost, or accelerated results.

#### Strengths:

The novel approach is the aspect of the project being cultural robust. CASA de Maryland, Inc.'s with support of Prince George's County Public Schools and other national and local organizations with extensive experience in serving students from all grade levels addressing parent engagement, program evaluation and immigrant communities. Learning Together (LT) is a three-year integrated, place-based parent engagement program to build parents' skills, confidence, and social capital to navigate the U.S. education system and decisively impact their students' academic outcomes despite Limited English Proficiency (LEP), low-education attainment, and immigrant/cultural challenges.

Unlike most parent engagement programs, the novelty of Learning Together is an integrated, place-based initiative addresses theory and practice in the field. It is designed to build parents' skills, confidence, and social capital to navigate the U.S. education system in spite of Limited English Proficiency (LEP), low-education attainment, and immigrant/cultural challenges to improve student outcomes.

#### Weaknesses:

None

Reader's Score: 35

### Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

**1. In determining the quality of the proposed project design, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.**

**(2) The clarity and coherence of the project goals, including the extent to which the proposed project articulates an explicit plan or actions to achieve its goals (e.g., a fully developed logic model of the proposed project).**

**(3) The clarity, completeness, and coherence of the project goals, and whether the application includes a description of project activities that constitute a complete plan for achieving those goals, including the identification of potential risks to project success and strategies to mitigate those risks.**

**Strengths:**

Learning Together addresses priority 6, sub part A. It combines clear goals and logic model while mitigating risk with these two themes — place-based solutions and parent critical — into a culturally competent parent partnership and infrastructure. Learning Together is to harness the promising advances listed above into a comprehensive, birth-and-beyond parent engagement solution enabling Latino parents to have early success in navigating the systems integral to a child's success. Accordingly, Learning Together is designed to foster parent learning in three ways: informally through interactions with promoters and other parents, formally through training and certificates for parents, parent-promoters, and teachers, and inspirational as these graduates become role models similar to the catalytic impact of City Year graduates.

**Weaknesses:**

None

**Reader's Score: 25**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan**

**1. In determining the quality of the management plan and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The extent to which the management plan articulates key responsibilities and well-defined objectives, including the timelines and milestones for completion of major project activities, the metrics that will be used to assess progress on an ongoing basis, and annual performance targets the applicant will use to monitor whether the project is achieving its goals.**

**(2) The extent of the demonstrated commitment of any key partners or evidence of broad support from stakeholders whose participation is critical to the project's long-term success.**

**(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

**Strengths:**

Management plan provides clear responsibilities of key staff with objectives addressing timeline and milestones for completion of project activities and metrics. On pg. 16-17, learning together governance structure and management team expertise shows broad range of commitment for long-term success is described. Advisory and Other support partners are provided for clear goals, objectives, action plan and measure outcomes that align with feedback and continuous improvement. The successful planning and development of the Langley Park Promise Neighborhood (LPPN) integrating diverse stakeholders in a constructive process of community engagement, needs assessment, and program development in Appendix F. The feedback and continuous improvement appears to be part of quality assurance practice.

**Weaknesses:**

None

Reader's Score: 15

#### Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. In determining the quality and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factor:

(1) The adequacy of the project's staffing plan, particularly for the first year of the project, including the identification of the project director and, in the case of projects with unfilled key personnel positions at the beginning of the project, that the staffing plan identifies how critical work will proceed.

##### Strengths:

The staffing plan was well-thought out in description of key personnel and their responsibilities linked to goals. LT staffing will include a combination of direct program staff, CASA supporting resources, and contractors as highlighted in this section. Both the Project Director and Project Manager possess substantial experience in designing and executing innovative programs to support parents, working in partnership with other organizations, raising resources from diverse funding sources, and implementing complex projects.

##### Weaknesses:

None

Reader's Score: 10

#### Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

(2) The extent to which the evaluation plan includes a clear and credible analysis plan, including a proposed sample size and minimum detectable effect size that aligns with the expected project impact, and an analytic approach for addressing the research questions.

(3) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key components and outcomes of the project, as well as a measureable threshold for acceptable implementation.

##### Strengths:

The evaluator expert will address this section of the application.

##### Weaknesses:

The evaluation expert will address this section of the application.

Reader's Score: 0

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Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/25/2013 07:54 PM



Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/25/2013 04:03 PM

## Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

Reader #3: \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
1. Summary Statement	0	
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Significance</b>		
1. Significance	35	35
<b>Quality of Project Design</b>		
1. Project Design	25	25
<b>Quality of the Management Plan</b>		
1. Management Plan	15	15
<b>Quality of Project Personnel</b>		
1. Personnel	10	10
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	15	0
<b>Total</b>	100	85

# Technical Review Form

Panel #11 - i3 Development - 11: 84.411C

Reader #3: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

## Questions

### Summary Statement - Summary Statement

#### 1. Summary Statement (Optional)

General:

Reader's Score:

### Selection Criteria - Significance

#### 1. In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project would implement a novel approach as compared with what has been previously attempted nationally.

(2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project will substantially improve on the outcomes achieved by other practices, such as through better student outcomes, lower cost, or accelerated results.

#### Strengths:

The novel approach in the LT project proposal includes four cornerstones and is described as "socially robust": neighborhood-based promoters, parents-as-teachers classes, Learning Together Event series and Teacher-Parent Connections. A focus on LEP, low educational attainment and parents with immigrant/cultural challenges is important in that these families and children are generally in a high-risk category for not succeeding academically. Further, the program would begin at child's birth. Early intervention is known to be much more effective than waiting until children with special needs are enrolled in school.

Family strengths are heralded in the description of this program. The proposed program is comprehensive in nature with a focus on six promising areas of research and practice including family-school-community systems, shift from deficit to assets-based approach, a health promoter model, family literacy, internal attitudes and cultural competency (p. 3).

#### Weaknesses:

None noted

Reader's Score: 35

### Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

#### 1. In determining the quality of the proposed project design, the Secretary considers the following factors:

**(1) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.**

**(2) The clarity and coherence of the project goals, including the extent to which the proposed project articulates an explicit plan or actions to achieve its goals (e.g., a fully developed logic model of the proposed project).**

**(3) The clarity, completeness, and coherence of the project goals, and whether the application includes a description of project activities that constitute a complete plan for achieving those goals, including the identification of potential risks to project success and strategies to mitigate those risks.**

**Strengths:**

The project states a clear intent to address absolute priority 6a with a focus on high-need students.

The intent of the project is to provide for families of children from birth through school enrollment. Successful intervention programs are known to be both intensive and extensive and this approach will meet those requirements.

The logic model includes goals, responsibilities and timeframes. A strong theoretical model provides the foundation for this focus on social scaffolding (p. 26)

A very strong case is built about using the proposed system to advance parental support of their children's academics.

Project activities are clearly aligned with goals.

**Weaknesses:**

None noted.

**Reader's Score: 25**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan**

**1. In determining the quality of the management plan and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The extent to which the management plan articulates key responsibilities and well-defined objectives, including the timelines and milestones for completion of major project activities, the metrics that will be used to assess progress on an ongoing basis, and annual performance targets the applicant will use to monitor whether the project is achieving its goals.**

**(2) The extent of the demonstrated commitment of any key partners or evidence of broad support from stakeholders whose participation is critical to the project's long-term success.**

**(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

**Strengths:**

Evidence of expertise in working with low-income immigrant communities is provided. A clear description of the management structure and relationships for building community engagement is provided.

The procedures for feedback and continuous improvement are in place. Staff will analyze the data from participants and non-participants and provide "short-interval reports" through the use of the A-A-A model (Assemble, Analyze, Act). The model will be adapted specifically for each program component (p. 19).

**Weaknesses:**

None noted.

**Reader's Score: 15**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel**

**1. In determining the quality and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factor:**

**(1) The adequacy of the project's staffing plan, particularly for the first year of the project, including the identification of the project director and, in the case of projects with unfilled key personnel positions at the beginning of the project, that the staffing plan identifies how critical work will proceed.**

**Strengths:**

The staff structure appears to be well-thought out and is clearly delineated. The project director and project manager are already on staff. All positions have been described and many individuals have been identified for positions that will play key roles in the project (p. 20).

**Weaknesses:**

None noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation**

**1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, the Secretary considers the following factors:**

**(1) The clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.**

**(2) The extent to which the evaluation plan includes a clear and credible analysis plan, including a proposed sample size and minimum detectable effect size that aligns with the expected project impact, and an analytic approach for addressing the research questions.**

**(3) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key components and outcomes of the project, as well as a measureable threshold for acceptable implementation.**

**Strengths:**

Scored by another reviewer

**Weaknesses:**

**Reader's Score: 0**

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**Status:** Submitted  
**Last Updated:** 09/25/2013 04:03 PM



Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/25/2013 11:30 AM

## Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

Reader #4: \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
1. Summary Statement	0	
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Significance</b>		
1. Significance	35	0
<b>Quality of Project Design</b>		
1. Project Design	25	0
<b>Quality of the Management Plan</b>		
1. Management Plan	15	0
<b>Quality of Project Personnel</b>		
1. Personnel	10	0
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	15	15
<b>Total</b>	100	15

# Technical Review Form

Panel #11 - i3 Development - 11: 84.411C

Reader #4: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

## Questions

### Summary Statement - Summary Statement

#### 1. Summary Statement (Optional)

General:

Reader's Score:

### Selection Criteria - Significance

#### 1. In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project would implement a novel approach as compared with what has been previously attempted nationally.

(2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project will substantially improve on the outcomes achieved by other practices, such as through better student outcomes, lower cost, or accelerated results.

Strengths:

N/A

Weaknesses:

N/A

Reader's Score: 0

### Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

#### 1. In determining the quality of the proposed project design, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

(2) The clarity and coherence of the project goals, including the extent to which the proposed project articulates an explicit plan or actions to achieve its goals (e.g., a fully developed logic model of the proposed project).

(3) The clarity, completeness, and coherence of the project goals, and whether the application includes a description of project activities that constitute a complete plan for achieving those goals, including the identification of potential risks to project success and strategies to mitigate those risks.

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score: 0**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan**

1. In determining the quality of the management plan and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the management plan articulates key responsibilities and well-defined objectives, including the timelines and milestones for completion of major project activities, the metrics that will be used to assess progress on an ongoing basis, and annual performance targets the applicant will use to monitor whether the project is achieving its goals.

(2) The extent of the demonstrated commitment of any key partners or evidence of broad support from stakeholders whose participation is critical to the project's long-term success.

(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score: 0**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel**

1. In determining the quality and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factor:

(1) The adequacy of the project's staffing plan, particularly for the first year of the project, including the identification of the project director and, in the case of projects with unfilled key personnel positions at the beginning of the project, that the staffing plan identifies how critical work will proceed.

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score: 0**

## Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

(2) The extent to which the evaluation plan includes a clear and credible analysis plan, including a proposed sample size and minimum detectable effect size that aligns with the expected project impact, and an analytic approach for addressing the research questions.

(3) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key components and outcomes of the project, as well as a measureable threshold for acceptable implementation.

### Strengths:

The applicant provides a well written evaluation section that addresses each of the RFP requirements. The evaluation key questions are clearly stated and directly link to the proposed intervention. Sample size and effect size are discussed on page 24 and appear to be large enough to determine program impact.

The partnerships are strong as stated in the letters of support from the evaluator (the Urban Institute) and the other key partners. The letter in the Appendix from the evaluator describes the scope of work to be completed and the evaluation costs, staffing and qualifications align strongly with the scope of work for the evaluation.

The data collection coordination with the other partners is detailed as is the logic model and the data analysis plan. The management plan on page 16 demonstrates the evaluation team is integral to the project and it is apparent from the discussion throughout the proposal that the applicant has integrated evaluation processes including formative and summative evaluation and continuous quality improvement into their work.

The applicant has also included protocols to ensure human subjects review is completed and that the project will abide by all IRB protocols.

### Weaknesses:

None noted

**Reader's Score:** 15

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**Status:** Submitted  
**Last Updated:** 09/25/2013 11:30 AM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/23/2013 07:27 PM

## Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

Reader #5: \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
<b>Summary Statement</b>		
1. Summary Statement	0	0
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>Significance</b>		
1. Significance	35	0
<b>Quality of Project Design</b>		
1. Project Design	25	0
<b>Quality of the Management Plan</b>		
1. Management Plan	15	0
<b>Quality of Project Personnel</b>		
1. Personnel	10	0
<b>Quality of the Project Evaluation</b>		
1. Project Evaluation	15	15
<b>Total</b>	100	15

# Technical Review Form

Panel #11 - i3 Development - 11: 84.411C

Reader #5: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: CASA de Maryland, Inc. (U411C130113)

## Questions

### Summary Statement - Summary Statement

#### 1. Summary Statement (Optional)

General:

N/A

Reader's Score: 0

### Selection Criteria - Significance

#### 1. In determining the significance of the project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project would implement a novel approach as compared with what has been previously attempted nationally.

(2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project will substantially improve on the outcomes achieved by other practices, such as through better student outcomes, lower cost, or accelerated results.

Strengths:

N/A

Weaknesses:

N/A

Reader's Score: 0

### Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

#### 1. In determining the quality of the proposed project design, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project addresses the absolute priority the applicant is seeking to meet.

(2) The clarity and coherence of the project goals, including the extent to which the proposed project articulates an explicit plan or actions to achieve its goals (e.g., a fully developed logic model of the proposed project).

(3) The clarity, completeness, and coherence of the project goals, and whether the application includes a description of project activities that constitute a complete plan for achieving those goals, including the identification of potential risks to project success and strategies to mitigate those risks.

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score: 0**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan**

1. In determining the quality of the management plan and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the management plan articulates key responsibilities and well-defined objectives, including the timelines and milestones for completion of major project activities, the metrics that will be used to assess progress on an ongoing basis, and annual performance targets the applicant will use to monitor whether the project is achieving its goals.

(2) The extent of the demonstrated commitment of any key partners or evidence of broad support from stakeholders whose participation is critical to the project's long-term success.

(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score: 0**

**Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel**

1. In determining the quality and personnel for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factor:

(1) The adequacy of the project's staffing plan, particularly for the first year of the project, including the identification of the project director and, in the case of projects with unfilled key personnel positions at the beginning of the project, that the staffing plan identifies how critical work will proceed.

**Strengths:**

N/A

**Weaknesses:**

N/A

**Reader's Score: 0**

## Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The clarity and importance of the key questions to be addressed by the project evaluation, and the appropriateness of the methods for how each question will be addressed.

(2) The extent to which the evaluation plan includes a clear and credible analysis plan, including a proposed sample size and minimum detectable effect size that aligns with the expected project impact, and an analytic approach for addressing the research questions.

(3) The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key components and outcomes of the project, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

### Strengths:

The applicant's research design is based on a quasi-experimental approach, as stated on pg. e37, "...we will use a quasi-experimental..." The evaluation plan is nicely divided into two sections, an impact evaluation to assess the effective of the program, and a process evaluation section to ensure implementation fidelity. The applicant provided appropriate research questions which link directly to the stated objectives. In addition, a well- designed research methodology should discuss the effect size they are positing. In order to hypothesize an effect size, sample size and power must be determined. The applicant provided this detailed information on pages e40. As an example on page e40, "...we estimated that we would have enough statistical power to detect three-percentage point differences significant at the .05 confidence level." This effect size is associated with statistical power of at least .80, which is acceptable for research in the social sciences. In addition, implementation fidelity was adequately addressed in the evaluation plan. As stated on pg. e37, "...a process evaluation to gather information on implementation needed to fine-tune program strategies in real time...." On pg. e41 the applicant provides specific details on how they will ensure implementation fidelity. As stated on this page, "...will build feedback loops to diagnose implementation issues early-on...." The applicant outlines the data that will be used for this purpose such as, team meetings and focus groups.

### Weaknesses:

This criterion was thoroughly reviewed and I did not find any weaknesses.

**Reader's Score:** 15

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**Status:** Submitted  
**Last Updated:** 09/23/2013 07:27 PM