

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/22/10 9:39 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center -- Department of
Community-based Programs, (U215P100311)

Reader #1: *****

Points Possible Points Scored

Questions

Selection Criteria

Need for Project

1. Need for Project	10	10
---------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Design

1. Project Design	20	20
-------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Services

1. Project Services	15	15
---------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	25
----------------------	----	----

Quality of the Management Plan

1. Management Plan	20	20
--------------------	----	----

Significance

1. Significance	10	10
-----------------	----	----

Sub Total	100	100
------------------	-----	-----

Total	100	100
--------------	-----	-----

Technical Review Form

Panel #5 - Panel - 5: 84.215P

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center -- Department of
Community-based Programs, (U215P100311)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.
- b) In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers-
 - i) The magnitude or severity of the problems to be addressed by the proposed project as described by indicators of need and other relevant indicators;
 - ii) The extent to which the geographically defined area has been described; and
 - iii) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities will be identified and addressed by the proposed project.

Strengths:

Sunset Park is a low-income immigrant neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY. Twenty-eight percent of Sunset Park residents had incomes below the Federal Poverty Level. High poverty rates, language and literacy challenges, high ranking on PRISMs Youth Risk Indicator, high rates of teen pregnancy, 41% feel that the neighborhood is unsafe, low rates of physical activity and high rates of obesity--all define the level of distress in the neighborhood.

The area is envisioned by the Promise Neighborhood is a 50 block area that encompasses PS 24 a K-5 school currently undergoing restructuring. Almost 50% of the students are classified as English Language Learners and 84% are on free or reduced lunch.

There are gaps/weaknesses in the services available for English Language Learners, health and nutrition, safety and security, teen pregnancy prevention. The restructuring of PS24 presents an opportunity to impact the academic development of neighborhood children at an early age.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
 - i) The extent to which the applicant describes how it will plan to build a continuum of solutions designed to significantly improve the academic and family and community support indicators in this notice;
 - ii) The extent to which the continuum of solutions includes a strategy, or a plan to develop a strategy, that will lead to significant improvements in one or more schools described in paragraph 2 of Absolute Priority 1;
 - iii) The extent to which the applicant describes strategies for using data to manage program implementation, inform decision-making, engage stakeholders, and measure success;
 - iv) The extent to which the applicant identifies and describes academic and family and community support indicators to be used for the needs assessment during the planning year;

v) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a commitment to work with the Department and with a national evaluator for Promise Neighborhoods to ensure that data collection and program design are consistent with plans to conduct a rigorous national evaluation of the Promise Neighborhoods Program during the implementation phase and of specific solutions and strategies pursued by individual grantees; and

vi) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State, and Federal resources.

Strengths:

The applicant describes a logical process for developing its plan to build a continuum of solutions to significantly improve the academic, family and community support indicators. Lutheran Family Health Centers, building on its relationship with the community and its stakeholders, will begin the planning process by recruiting stakeholders. This will include parents and youth. Parent organizers will be recruited and trained by the Center for Third World Organizing using a 10-week experiential model. To facilitate parent participation, child care will be provided. The needs assessment will be facilitated by the Center for the Study of Brooklyn and will use a community asset mapping model. This will result in an Asset Bank, a visual canvas of the network of individuals and organizations that represent community assets. This will allow the planning group a foundation for assessing the needs. Participatory Action Research is a process that is designed to uncover not only solutions but also solutions that will be used by the community. Focus groups, a needs assessment survey and public forums will be utilized. A Data Coordinator will work closely with the stakeholder teams and the Center for the Study of Brooklyn to ensure that all data elements are built into the design for the SPNOP (p. e 6-14).

The project envisions developing a strategy that will significantly impact the largely Latino PS24 that is currently engaged in a focused restructuring plan (pp e5-6).

The Data Coordinator will work closely with all parties to ensure that all data elements, including newly identified elements are built into the design of the PN database. The data will be summarized and the major themes identified. It will also serve as a baseline in planning for implementation and measuring impact.

The applicant clearly describes the indicators to be used in both academic and family and community support (pp e22-23).

The applicant specifically commits to working with the national evaluator and will ensure that data collection and program design are consistent with national evaluation activities. A staff line has been included in the budget to address data management and coordination as well as an evaluation consultant to assure that appropriate resources are dedicated to this area (p. e25).

The solutions presented will be finalized during the planning process based on the outcome of the needs assessment and segmentation analysis. The Center for the Study of Brooklyn and the Scholl of Education will review to assure that solutions are aligned with best practices; and, are coordinated with similar efforts or related community, state, and federal efforts (i.e. Weed & Seed) (p. e25).

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considersâ
 - i) The extent to which the applicant describes proposed solutions to be provided by the

proposed project that are based on the best available evidence including, where available, strong or moderate evidence;

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; and

iii) The extent to which the applicant explains how the needs assessment and segmentation analysis will be used to determine that children with the highest needs receive appropriate services to meet academic and developmental outcomes.

Strengths:

Utilizing a matrix, the applicant describes the proposed service, the solution its associated with, and the agency providing the solution. The applicant notes those solutions which are new versus those that are existing (pp e17-21). These proposed services will be evaluated based on the recommendations of the needs assessment (p e 16).

PS24 will serve as the focal point of the development and implementation of the continuum of solutions; therefore, it is likely that the laser focus of needs defined services will result in improvements in academic achievement (p. e16).

The applicant states that it expects segmentation to be conducted on subgroups, including English Language Learners, children with individual education plans and children of adults without a high school diploma (p e15).

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1.a) The Secretary considers the quality of the project personnel who will carry out the proposed project.

b) In determining the quality of the project personnel, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the applicant, including the project director, and the prior performance of the applicant on efforts similar or related to the proposed Promise Neighborhood.

c) Relevant experience includes the applicant's experience in and lessons learned by

i) Working with the school or schools described in paragraph 2 of Absolute Priority 1;

ii) Serving the neighborhood and its residents;

iii) Collecting, analyzing, and using data for decision-making and ongoing improvement;

iv) Creating formal and informal relationships, and generating community support to achieve results; and

v) Securing and integrating funding streams from multiple public and private sources.

Strengths:

Lutheran Medical Center has been serving the community since 1883. In the 1960s, it took the lead role to revitalize Sunset Park. In 1967, community residents working with Lutheran Medical opened the one of the first community health centers in Sunset Park. With more than 3000 employees, Lutheran Medical is the largest employer in Sunset Park.

Lutheran Medical operates fourteen school-based health centers; and, operates a successful Family Literacy Program at PS24, the Phase I target school.

Lutheran has a Community Based Programs division that is staffed by a diverse team of managers with varied specializations. Kathleen Hopkins will supervise the yet to be hired/identified Program Director. Ms. Hopkins has more than 15 years experience and currently is Director of Lutheran's Community-Based Programs.

The position requirements for the Program Director have been identified as someone with extensive experience in coalition building, program development and best practice implementation, and community organizing with a master's degree in education or social work. The successful candidate will have experience working with an immigrant population in an urban setting.

Lutheran is committed to working to sustain the Promise Neighborhood initiative. It has extensive experience working with multiple and varied streams of income, both public and private. It will leverage its ability, its fiscal systems and controls to secure and manage the multiple streams necessary to sustain this initiative (p 35).

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. a) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the management plan of the proposed project, the Secretary considers--
 - i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks;
 - ii) The extent to which the memorandum of understanding described in paragraph 5 of Absolute Priority 1 describes each partner's financial and programmatic commitment; how each partner's existing vision, theory of action, and theory of change, and existing activities align with those of the proposed Promise Neighborhood; and the governance structure of the proposed Promise Neighborhood;
 - iii) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of families, school staff, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate; and
 - iv) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to sustain and scale up the proposed Promise Neighborhood.

Strengths:

The management plan takes into consideration not only the needs assessment and the plan to implement the associated solutions; but also, includes a Plan for Sustainability to strategize and identify the funding and resources necessary to sustain the initiative.

The MOU with the core partners has been executed. It includes PS24, Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, Sunset Park Alliance for Youth, Sunset Park High School, Community Board 7, and Center for the Study of Brooklyn, Brooklyn College, and Lutheran Family Health Center/Lutheran Medical Center (Appendix e16).

Built into the applicant's design is the voice of a diverse group of business, residents, youth, providers, schools who are engaged from the Board through the Promise Neighborhood Advisory Group. At least one-third of the advisory group will be residents of the Sunset Park community. Additionally, focus groups, surveys, and the Participatory Action Research model are designed to secure a broad perspective of voices and solutions.

During the planning phase, a Sustainability Plan will be developed that will plan for sustainability by developing a fund development and communication strategy (pp e 48-49).

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Significance

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- b) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers
 - i) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in long-term systems change or improvement;
 - ii) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population;
 - iii) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies; and
 - iv) The potential to sustain and apply the model of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation of the model in a variety of settings.

Strengths:

The applicant states that it is likely that the project will result in long-term systems change because of three principle tenets that will drive this initiative: financially support the ongoing efforts of the Promise neighborhood initiative; advocate for and drive supportive policies at the local, state, and national levels including micro level organizational, school, and district policies; and form key partnerships at all levels of government and assure that partners interests are aligned with the goals of Promise Neighborhoods (as identified PolicyLink to address (i) (ii) (iii) and (iv) (pp e 46-47)).

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/22/10 9:39 AM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 9/1/10 3:28 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center -- Department of
Community-based Programs, (U215P100311)

Reader #2: *****

Points Possible Points Scored

Questions

Selection Criteria

Need for Project

1. Need for Project	10	10
---------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Design

1. Project Design	20	20
-------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Services

1. Project Services	15	15
---------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	25
----------------------	----	----

Quality of the Management Plan

1. Management Plan	20	20
--------------------	----	----

Significance

1. Significance	10	10
-----------------	----	----

Sub Total	100	100
------------------	-----	-----

Total	100	100
--------------	-----	-----

Technical Review Form

Panel #5 - Panel - 5: 84.215P

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center -- Department of
Community-based Programs, (U215P100311)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.
- b) In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers-
 - i) The magnitude or severity of the problems to be addressed by the proposed project as described by indicators of need and other relevant indicators;
 - ii) The extent to which the geographically defined area has been described; and
 - iii) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities will be identified and addressed by the proposed project.

Strengths:

The applicant provides strong evidence that there is a need in the Sunset Park community for a Promise Neighborhood. The impact of newly arrived residents from other countries and cultures, limited English language skills, limited access to community resources because of immigration status, poor housing, food insecurity, teen pregnancy, and lack of medical care/access. 2000 U.S. Census concluded that 27% of households earned less than \$15,000 a year and 56% earned less than \$35,000.

While one neighborhood school is doing well, both the middle school and the new high school still need significant support.

The geographic area is clearly defined especially the ten-by-five block area encompassing PS 24.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
 - i) The extent to which the applicant describes how it will plan to build a continuum of solutions designed to significantly improve the academic and family and community support indicators in this notice;
 - ii) The extent to which the continuum of solutions includes a strategy, or a plan to develop a strategy, that will lead to significant improvements in one or more schools described in paragraph 2 of Absolute Priority 1;
 - iii) The extent to which the applicant describes strategies for using data to manage program implementation, inform decision-making, engage stakeholders, and measure success;
 - iv) The extent to which the applicant identifies and describes academic and family and community support indicators to be used for the needs assessment during the planning year;
 - v) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a commitment to work with the Department and with a national evaluator for Promise Neighborhoods to ensure that data

collection and program design are consistent with plans to conduct a rigorous national evaluation of the Promise Neighborhoods Program during the implementation phase and of specific solutions and strategies pursued by individual grantees; and

vi) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State, and Federal resources.

Strengths:

One of the most refreshing aspects of this proposal is that LFHC is building on skills people already have rather than working from a deficit model.

This project would expand on an already existing successful program run by Lutheran Family Health Centers and seeks to streamline services that at present are not as connected.

LFHC and other partner organizations have strong relationships with the three feeder schools in the Sunset Park community and seek to enhance those relationships by developing more stable relationships with families, principals, and staff of PS 24, MS 821, IS 136, and the new Sunset Park High School. The planning focuses on how to address the gaps in educational services and also includes the voice of those most impacted.

They have a very strategic and rich outreach plan and a parent engagement/parent organizing cohort (page 12) that will be trained in community organizing techniques within a 6 month period. This not only supports local level self-efficacy but also empowers neighborhood residents to use these skills in other future settings including employment and academic realms.

They plan on using a broad range of organizing strategies including community asset mapping and participatory action research. While ambitious, these models support active engagement on everyone involved versus a more top down approach.

The action research and the asset mapping provide unique data sets from which to glean important cultural as well as metric information, Surveys, focus/stakeholder groups student and adult groups will participate in generating questions, lists of concerns, research questions, and consequently action. This data cycle empowers everyone who participates, because everyone has a critical role.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

1. a) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considers
 - i) The extent to which the applicant describes proposed solutions to be provided by the proposed project that are based on the best available evidence including, where available, strong or moderate evidence;
 - 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; and
 - iii) The extent to which the applicant explains how the needs assessment and segmentation analysis will be used to determine that children with the highest needs receive appropriate services to meet academic and developmental outcomes.

Strengths:

While the project design inherently creates a space for which challenges and successes come to light with a community response to action, the applicant has outlined a series of solutions on page 17.

The core school in which the PN applicant focuses on is the heart of the academic solutions. Using the participatory action research model and asset mapping, LFHC plans on supporting the school community in a variety of ways to enhance the educational outcomes of the project.

They have developed a clear and detailed summary of the solutions, service, and agencies already involved and new partners and programs on pages 18- 22, with special attention to school readiness.

LFHC discusses possible segmentation discourse on page 16 and has included a data coordinator in the budget. The data coordinator working along side of the Center for Study of Brooklyn and the university education department will triangulate the data in multiple ways to really deeply understand the issues and needs of particular subgroups.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. a) The Secretary considers the quality of the project personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the project personnel, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the applicant, including the project director, and the prior performance of the applicant on efforts similar or related to the proposed Promise Neighborhood.
- c) Relevant experience includes the applicant's experience in and lessons learned by:
 - i) Working with the school or schools described in paragraph 2 of Absolute Priority 1;
 - ii) Serving the neighborhood and its residents;
 - iii) Collecting, analyzing, and using data for decision-making and ongoing improvement;
 - iv) Creating formal and informal relationships, and generating community support to achieve results; and
 - v) Securing and integrating funding streams from multiple public and private sources.

Strengths:

The applicant has made a clear case regarding the history of success of Sunset Park's community based organizations and LFHC in serving the local community.

The organization already has a successful and extensive evaluation and monitoring process in place as detailed on page 30, including a system of addressing corrective actions based on a quarterly report card.

They also have a strong record of collaborating with and for other community organizations and with local departments of education. The organization takes a holistic approach to well-being and has not only focused on academic issues but a wide range of health initiatives both at the school level (including the target school PS 24) and community level.

Their range of services offered cross generational divides and support babies to adults. They have a history of immediate community response as noted on page 34.

Their description of securing and managing multiple grants and the number of

partner/stakeholders involved leads the reader to believe that securing additional funding for the project is absolutely possible.

Resumes of both key personnel and consultants are impressive; most people have both a rich theoretical and academic understanding of social issues and justice as well as practical application experience.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. a) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the management plan of the proposed project, the Secretary considers--
 - i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks;
 - ii) The extent to which the memorandum of understanding described in paragraph 5 of Absolute Priority 1 describes each partner's financial and programmatic commitment; how each partner's existing vision, theory of action, and theory of change, and existing activities align with those of the proposed Promise Neighborhood; and the governance structure of the proposed Promise Neighborhood;
 - iii) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of families, school staff, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate; and
 - iv) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to sustain and scale up the proposed Promise Neighborhood.

Strengths:

The applicant provides details about a sustainability plan that includes stabilizing the community through an intense data cycle process, fundraising for additional project needs, and creating a Board of Directors for the Sunset Park Promise Neighborhood.

They include a in depth budget as well as justifications for line items.

MOU's are transparent and all stakeholders have significant input and buy-in to making this PN project a success.

As noted in two previous sections, not only do the key personnel and consultants represent expansive perspectives, the action research, parent engagement training, community asset mapping, work with schools, and students themselves in focus groups create an extremely diverse and comprehensive set of lenses and voices to the process.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Significance

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- b) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers
 - i) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in long-term systems change or improvement;
 - ii) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population;
 - iii) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies; and
 - iv) The potential to sustain and apply the model of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation of the model in a variety of settings.

Strengths:

LFHC stance on creating supportive policies with public officials and agencies (page 48) is again a unique perspective that relies heavily on an additive model of building relationships and successful outcomes for communities versus a deficit model

The organizations involved already have a testimony to working successfully in the Sunset Park community; aligning ideas, people, resources, and services into one pipeline can only increase the value of the intended outcomes.

The applicant is not throwing away existing services that are working, but adding to their collection based on community need and input.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 9/1/10 3:28 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/19/10 12:31 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center -- Department of
Community-based Programs, (U215P100311)

Reader #3: *****

Points Possible Points Scored

Questions

Selection Criteria

Need for Project

1. Need for Project	10	10
---------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Design

1. Project Design	20	20
-------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Services

1. Project Services	15	15
---------------------	----	----

Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	25
----------------------	----	----

Quality of the Management Plan

1. Management Plan	20	20
--------------------	----	----

Significance

1. Significance	10	10
-----------------	----	----

Sub Total	100	100
------------------	-----	-----

Total	100	100
--------------	-----	-----

Technical Review Form

Panel #5 - Panel - 5: 84.215P

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: Lutheran Family Health Centers / Lutheran Medical Center -- Department of
Community-based Programs, (U215P100311)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.
- b) In determining the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers-
 - i) The magnitude or severity of the problems to be addressed by the proposed project as described by indicators of need and other relevant indicators;
 - ii) The extent to which the geographically defined area has been described; and
 - iii) The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities will be identified and addressed by the proposed project.

Strengths:

The applicant clearly profiles the project to form the Sunset Park Promise Neighborhood. The applicant included demographics that give context to the proposal. The applicant's capacity to manage and financially support this project is clearly evident. The applicant vividly described the geographic location and the individuals to be served. The geographical area has been well defined and includes the three targeted schools and is a ten-by-five block. The schools in the community are predominantly Latino, and below the poverty line, receiving assistance such as free lunch, and Medicaid. The economic picture for the area is characterized by a distinct language barrier of the parents of the children who cannot communicate fluently in English, which affects the parent's ability to get better jobs. The cycle of poverty continues because, language also prevents the parents from seeking available services for the family, and it prevents the parents from playing a key role in the lives of their children which is assisting with their education. For older youth the situation documented indicates that they have higher than the national average teen births, abortions, do not finish high school, and are involved in violent crime.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted

Reader's Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
 - i) The extent to which the applicant describes how it will plan to build a continuum of solutions designed to significantly improve the academic and family and community support indicators in this notice;
 - ii) The extent to which the continuum of solutions includes a strategy, or a plan to develop a strategy, that will lead to significant improvements in one or more schools described in paragraph 2 of Absolute Priority 1;
 - iii) The extent to which the applicant describes strategies for using data to manage program implementation, inform decision-making, engage stakeholders, and measure success;
 - iv) The extent to which the applicant identifies and describes academic and family and community support indicators to be used for the needs assessment during the planning year;

v) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a commitment to work with the Department and with a national evaluator for Promise Neighborhoods to ensure that data collection and program design are consistent with plans to conduct a rigorous national evaluation of the Promise Neighborhoods Program during the implementation phase and of specific solutions and strategies pursued by individual grantees; and

vi) The extent to which the proposed project will be coordinated with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State, and Federal resources.

Strengths:

An overview of the project is provided, and the project is sound and promising. Conclusions are well grounded in a strategy to monitor and systematically collect data. The applicant has the foundation of the project functioning and in place. The proposed project seeks to enhance and intentionally make available the services currently provided by Lutheran Family Centers, which is already entrenched in the community and providing service to a culturally diverse community. The collaborating partners are named, organization described, and details provided regarding the purpose of their inclusion in the proposal. Each collaborator builds on the other, without overlap and duplication of service. There is a method of collecting and analyzing data as well as methods to reach out into the community included in the plan. This will ensure that the persons for whom the project is being developed will be involved in the planning and also will be aware of the benefit to them and their children. All criteria have been well thought out and explained in the narrative.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considers
 - i) The extent to which the applicant describes proposed solutions to be provided by the proposed project that are based on the best available evidence including, where available, strong or moderate evidence;
 - 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; and
 - iii) The extent to which the applicant explains how the needs assessment and segmentation analysis will be used to determine that children with the highest needs receive appropriate services to meet academic and developmental outcomes.

Strengths:

The applicant has a good basis for success as the proposed program is undergirded by current services provided by LFHC that will be further implemented in the school. The partners have also been identified and the service they will provide. Also with their current service there are new services that could potentially be offered if after completing their assessments and analyzing their data implementation is warranted. The applicant has responded to all indicators indicating a plan for success of the proposal (23, 24). The applicant has also included a list of services and solutions (p 17-21) which shows that they have recognized current need and areas of impact and are also planning to add new service such as Financial Literacy.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. a) The Secretary considers the quality of the project personnel who will carry out the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the project personnel, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the applicant, including the project director, and the prior performance of the applicant on efforts similar or related to the proposed Promise Neighborhood.
- c) Relevant experience includes the applicant's experience in and lessons learned by
 - i) Working with the school or schools described in paragraph 2 of Absolute Priority 1;
 - ii) Serving the neighborhood and its residents;
 - iii) Collecting, analyzing, and using data for decision-making and ongoing improvement;
 - iv) Creating formal and informal relationships, and generating community support to achieve results; and
 - v) Securing and integrating funding streams from multiple public and private sources.

Strengths:

Key personnel are identified and roles defined. The Projector Director has been selected and has the extensive experience (15 years) in the community providing educational and support services to community. The qualifications for all contractual and staff paid by grant funds detailed to include a brief overview of the scope of work to be performed, the percentage of time to be spent doing the work. The personnel include stakeholders such as the school principal for the focal school PS24. Agencies contributing to the project are identified with roles and contributions. As the nucleus, LFHC's strengths as a leader of the project and a provider in the community have been documented. The applicant has also included resumes for all staff and also partners that will be involved in the PN. The resumes indicate a wealth of experience and diverse areas of specialization. All are well qualified and the experience includes leadership, management, fund raising and data collection. Responsibilities for the advisory board have been included. The applicant has secured matching funds for the Neighborhood Program grant and has the ability to continue strong fund raising efforts for the program.

Weaknesses

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. a) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- b) In determining the quality of the management plan of the proposed project, the Secretary considers--
 - i) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks;
 - ii) The extent to which the memorandum of understanding described in paragraph 5 of Absolute Priority 1 describes each partner's financial and programmatic commitment; how each partner's existing vision, theory of action, and theory of change, and existing activities align with those of the proposed Promise Neighborhood; and the governance structure of the proposed Promise Neighborhood;
 - iii) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of families, school staff, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or

beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate; and

iv) The potential for continued support of the project after Federal funding ends, including, as appropriate, the demonstrated commitment of appropriate entities to sustain and scale up the proposed Promise Neighborhood.

Strengths:

There is a compelling plan showing that the project's activities will be supported after the grant ends, with documentation of how this will occur. The applicant has assigned the responsibility for data management to the Center for the Study of Brooklyn and Brooklyn College. They will collect all data and help ensure that scale-up is possible and sustainable beyond PS-24's area. The partners will target other successful service providers to partner with them. Additionally, funds have already been secured to ensure the success of the project, but a part of the plan is to continue to secure funds for the project. Finally, there will be a Board of Directors made up of a variety of persons from the community and stakeholders.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. a) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
- b) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers
 - i) The likelihood that the proposed project will result in long-term systems change or improvement;
 - ii) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population;
 - iii) The extent to which the proposed project involves the development or demonstration of promising new strategies that build on, or are alternatives to, existing strategies; and
 - iv) The potential to sustain and apply the model of the proposed project or strategies, including, as appropriate, the potential for implementation of the model in a variety of settings.

Strengths:

The applicant has presented a strong case for long term success, by devising a way that a variety of agencies can systematically provide services to a community for not only children and youth, but families as well. The project will have an overall impact on the families' ability to rise from poverty. Intentionally partnering with other agencies to provide services and share funding is a combination for success that could be modeled by other communities. There is a strong indication that the proposed plan will build capacity to serve an underserved and culturally diverse community and lead to long term results for the community. The plan has far reaching possibilities beyond the streets of Brooklyn and is a model for providing service to a culturally diverse immigrant population. It is clear from the narrative that the applicant understands the needs of the people that will be served.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/19/10 12:31 PM