

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/16/10 3:31 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. -- Community Health and Preventive
Medicine, (U215P100186)

Reader #1: *****

Points Possible Points Scored

Questions

Selection Criteria

Need for Project

1. Need for Project	10	10
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Quality of Project Design

1. Project Design	20	20
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Quality of Project Services

1. Project Services	15	15
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Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	25
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Quality of the Management Plan

1. Management Plan	20	20
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Significance

1. Significance	10	10
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Sub Total	100	100
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Total	100	100
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Technical Review Form

Panel #32 - Panel - 32: 84.215P

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. -- Community Health and Preventive Medicine,
(U215P100186)

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 outlines a clear need for the project citing current data detailing a high poverty rate. The targeted schools have a 91% to 100% low income students (e2). There is also evidence of a high unemployment rate (e4) as well as numerous health issues. (e5-6) The geographical area to be served is clearly defined (e7). The applicant details the specific gaps in services and infrastructure and outlines the measures they will take to address them. For example on page e9 the grantee lists four components that they will focus on needs assessment, leadership development programs, capacity building, and plan a continuum of programmatic best practices.

Weaknesses:

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 gives a specific plan which describes how it will build a continuum of services that will improve the academic and family and community support indicators. Specifically, the grantee describes the seven outcomes areas they will focus on. (e10) The applicant has a clear plan that addresses the priorities of the grant. Most notable is the theory of change (e11-12). This indicates that the grantee has considered all of the factors at each age that best support children's outcomes.

There is evidence that the grantees has considered multiple sources for data collection that will help inform the project design. It is noted that the team will identify families to participate in in-depth one on one interviews and they allocate stipends for their involvement. (e 14) This is a clear indicator that the plan is thoughtful and purposeful. There is a commitment to work with the national evaluator. The grantee identifies several existing programs that they will support and use as foundations in their implementation (Project GRAD, Consistency Management and Cooperative Discipline, Communities in Schools) to name a few. Finally, the grantee outlines clear indicators and sources for data collection.

Weaknesses:

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 provides a step by step description of the proposed solutions and the target age that it will serve (e26-27). There is a detailed solution for creating safe places and a strong public infrastructure of note is the collaboration with the Atlanta Police Department. Based on the innovative proposals it appears very likely that improvements will be made in student achievement. Programs like Project GRAD are evidence based and are at the core of this grant. The community supports are also notable in trying to address the housing and financial issues that are contributing factors to low student achievement. The applicant demonstrates clearly how the needs assessment and segmentation analysis will be used to determine that children with the highest needs receive services. The applicant has considered all aspects seeking to improve the academic and home quality of life for these children. The application is based on the most current research and seeks to address the issues that factor into poor academic performance.

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 project personnel are highly qualified and the joint partnership between MSM and UMWA demonstrates at the highest level the spirit of cradle to college. It is clear from the extensive collaboration that this project has the support to ensure its successful implementation (letters of support.)

Weaknesses:

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 application clearly describes the financial and programmatic commitments of all partners and speaks to the strong potential for success of this project. The management plan includes specific targets and timelines which are directly in line with the proposed plan detailed in previous sections.

Weaknesses:

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:

Given the commitment detailed by the applicants and as demonstrated by the letters of support there is a strong likelihood that the project will result in long term systems changes. If implemented as proposed it will build local capacity and achieve greater outcomes for children and families. The project has promising new strategies. There is strong potential to sustain this proposed project.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/16/10 3:31 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/16/10 7:45 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. -- Community Health and Preventive
Medicine, (U215P100186)

Reader #2: *****

Points Possible Points Scored

Questions

Selection Criteria

Need for Project

1. Need for Project	10	8
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Quality of Project Design

1. Project Design	20	18
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Quality of Project Services

1. Project Services	15	14
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Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	24
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Quality of the Management Plan

1. Management Plan	20	19
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Significance

1. Significance	10	10
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Sub Total	100	93
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Total	100	93
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Technical Review Form

Panel #32 - Panel - 32: 84.215P

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. -- Community Health and Preventive Medicine,
(U215P100186)

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:

Data regarding poverty, unemployment, and home vacancies demonstrates need. Gaps in services are clearly stated.

Weaknesses:

While the academic proficiency rates are stated, there is no data presented regarding attendance rates, graduation rates, or disciplinary action rates. The absence of crime data, particularly juvenile crime, is a glaring omission. The proposal would also be strengthened by providing current data regarding obesity, diabetes, and depression.

Reader's Score: 8

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:

Applicant identifies core planning activities to improve in seven outcome areas. Youth are utilized to collect data from residents. Applicant proposes to contract with Georgia Family Connection Partnership to assist the Advisory Board in developing a financial sustainability plan.

Weaknesses:

The Leadership Training Series does not appear to include parents and the risk is that the Atlanta Promise Neighborhood initiative will be something that is done TO the community rather than WITH and BY all of the stakeholders.

Reader's Score: 18

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:

A considerable number of solutions, organized by outcome area, have already been identified for possible implementation. Assessment indicators are clearly listed with possible sources for data collection.

Weaknesses:

There is some confusion on the part of this reviewer regarding the roles of the CPC and the CRC. While there is an explanation of the roles in the Management Plan section, the initial read-through was difficult and the similar abbreviations did not help to clarify distinctions. For example, CPCs are not included with the Advisory Board and the Community Resource Committee in reviewing and interpreting data for segmentation analysis. It would strengthen the proposal to clearly explain how the board and committees will work together.

Reader's Score: 14

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 applicantâs experience in and lessons learned byâ
 - 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:

Morehouse School of Medicine is an appropriate lead applicant with an outstanding history of implementing large initiatives, specifically related to education. The Westside Wellness Zone is an example of the applicant's ability to create a multiagency partnership to provide services to students and families.

Weaknesses:

A number of existing personnel are identified for specific project responsibilities without adequate rationale for the portion of FTE to be dedicated to the initiative. Some are identified at .10 FTE, others at .15 FTE, and others at .20 FTE.

Reader's Score: 24

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:

Quarterly activities and the person responsible are clearly listed. The MOU is thorough.

Weaknesses:

The second and third quarters are when the bulk of the planning activities take place which seems unrealistic to accomplish in six months. There is no mention of contingency planning with regard to the timeline.

Reader's Score: 19

Selection Criteria - Significance

- 1.a) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.
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- 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:

There is high likelihood of long-term systems change. Potential barriers are identified. Atlanta Promise Neighborhood builds on existing programs such as Project GRAD.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/16/10 7:45 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/12/10 5:56 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. -- Community Health and Preventive
Medicine, (U215P100186)

Reader #3: *****

Points Possible Points Scored

Questions

Selection Criteria

Need for Project

1. Need for Project	10	8
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Quality of Project Design

1. Project Design	20	20
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Quality of Project Services

1. Project Services	15	12
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Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	25
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Quality of the Management Plan

1. Management Plan	20	20
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Significance

1. Significance	10	10
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Sub Total	100	95
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Total	100	95
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Technical Review Form

Panel #32 - Panel - 32: 84.215P

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: Morehouse School of Medicine, Inc. -- Community Health and Preventive Medicine,
(U215P100186)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Need for Project

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 - 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:

Page 6: The applicant demonstrates a health crisis in Atlanta for children and families with a high rate of emergency room visits for infants and children 1-4 years of age. There is also a high rate of children with asthma which is causing high absenteeism in schools in Georgia.

Page 7: The description of the youth that are at risk for developing or are suffering from chronic diseases, depression and low self esteem was a different take on the usual problems that are highlighted.

Page 8: The target neighborhood was graphically depicted using thematic maps to display the data including a needs section showing income, percent of children in poverty, education, and a number of other factors.

Page 9: The applicant will use the initial assessment that addressed gaps and weaknesses in services to build a continuum of supports.

Weaknesses:

The applicant could have described the neighborhood characteristics in a little more depth to give the reader a better feel for the community and the residents.

Reader's Score: 8

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

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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:

Page 11: The applicant gives a good description of their plan of developing a holistic set of wraparound services and supports for young people in order for them to succeed. The plan is to coordinate services, form meaningful partnerships, and maximize local assets. The 7 outcome areas encompass all the issues that are needed to create change.

Page 12: The strategy has the right ingredients to create a sound strategic plan including the needs assessment, leadership development at the local level, and facilitating capacity building.

The applicant has placed academic achievement as its focal point and clearly shows that they understand how to build the pipeline (brilliant illustration) to incorporate all that children need to succeed. The needs assessment is thoroughly discussed including the collection of data and the analysis which will be conducted jointly by MSM, Atlanta Public Schools and the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Page 14-20: The applicant presents a thorough description of how data will be collected, used, and managed; how stakeholders will be engaged in the project, project indicators, and the relation between the support indicators and student outcomes.

Page 26: The applicant and the partners agree to work with the OE Department and the National Evaluator and will ensure that data collection practices and program design are consistent with plans to conduct a rigorous evaluation.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

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 - 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:

Page 27: The applicant presented proposed solutions for improving academic and developmental outcomes for children and youth that were organized by areas of need, making it easy to understand and to track to the programs outcome areas.

Page 33: The assessment and analysis will be conducted using academic, family, and community support indicators to determine which children have the highest needs.

The use of a cluster analysis to segment the children into groups is an excellent way to identify common characteristics and indicator outcomes.

Weaknesses:

Page 32: Using Project GRAD as the model to improve academic achievement may not be the best choice. By their own admission, this program has had modest results so they should perhaps consider looking at other models.

Reader's Score: 12

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

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 - 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:

Page 34: MSM is a HBC, created to teach and train minorities; provide programs for children and families in elementary schools; outreach programs in the community for youth and families, and conduct a number of large scale evaluations and health promotions. They also have a history of generating major funding from federal and private funders. The principal investigator and the staff all have the appropriate experience for the positions they are assigned. Roles and responsibilities were clearly defined. The two positions to be filled had job descriptions that were detailed and relevant to the planning process.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

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- 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;
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- 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:

Page 44: The time line, activities, and responsibilities for activities were reasonable and clearly outlined the major activities.

Page 48: The proposal includes a Community Resource Committee Page 44: The time line, activities, and responsibilities for activities were reasonable and clearly outlined the major activities.

Page 48: Both MSM and United Way will be responsible for engaging stakeholders that share their vision. They plan to involve the target community on a Community Resource Committee which will have representatives from the faith community, community-based youth organizations, and the schools.

Page 49: All partners have committed in-kind or monetary support for the planning process and commitments exceed the 50% matching requirement.

During the planning process, the applicant will provide technical assistance and training for partner agencies to help them to identify and leverage funds in addition to the Program Manager identifying funding through private and government agencies.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Significance

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 - 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 4 key factors to increase long-term systems changes plus the commitment of two major institutions in the city certainly gives this project an excellent change to have the time and financial commitments to make long-term system changes.

The two partners plan to establish a Promise Neighborhood with or without federal funding. They have already received \$100,000 from the Annie-E. Casey Foundation for this planning project in addition to the \$50,000 from United Way. The partnership has also established financing strategies including providing technical assistance to the partners so that they will have the knowledge and capacity to raise funds or in-kind resources from outside of the partnership.

One of the new strategies they are applying to this project is the identification of barriers that traditionally are the causes of the failure of projects such as this one.

Weaknesses:

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/12/10 5:56 PM