

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/16/10 11:32 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: United Way of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- Community Engagement,
(U215P100119)

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	12
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Quality of Project Personnel

1. Project Personnel	25	23
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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 #33 - Panel - 33: 84.215P

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: United Way of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- Community Engagement, (U215P100119)

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:

This proposal clearly articulates the geographic area that will be served by the program. There are several indicators that describe the magnitude of the problem that include academic, economic, housing, and crime factors. The proposal also describes the gaps in services, infrastructure and opportunities that make this proposal necessary.

Weaknesses:

None.

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 defines how it will build a continuum of solutions designed to significantly improve the academic and family and community support indicators. This

conveyor belt model describes the cradle to college/career continuum (page 19). This model details a plan to develop a strategy, that will lead to significant improvements in the lives of children/young adults on the entire continuum and the organizations associated with each age/grade span.

The application goes into great detail to describe the importance of data and the creation of a longitudinal data set that includes indicators across schools, families, and the community. This data will be used to inform the needs assessment, engage stakeholders and drive decision-making.

The applicant agrees to work with the PNP evaluator in addition to committing to coordinate the work of this project with similar or related efforts, and with other appropriate community, State, and Federal resources.

Weaknesses:

none.

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 proposal details the many successes of the organizations involved and the programs that will be continuous or expanded as part of this project. The services proposed are likely to lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards as many of the programs are based on nationally recognized programs.

The application is explicit as to the organizations involved in the needs assessment and segmentation analysis and how this assessment will be used to determine that children with the highest needs receive appropriate services to meet academic and developmental outcomes.

Weaknesses:

There is little information about the research/evidence that is the basis for the programs.

Reader's Score: 12

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 PNP application includes many organizations that have deep ties to the community. The project personnel associated with the project have extensive experience in addressing the needs of the targeted populations, specifically in the areas of early interventions through college/career. They have experience in data collection, grant management, fund raising, and community outreach.

Weaknesses:

The applicant could specifically indicate which personnel will be responsible for specific duties.

Reader's Score: 23

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 2 phased timeline with milestones (page 58). The governance structure is articulated and each participating organization has very clear roles. There is evidence that the project has a strong commitment from community and local entities that will enable them to sustain and scale up as appropriate.

Theories of action and change for each organization are coherent and will enable the program to reach its intended population.

Weaknesses:

None

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 commitment and the level of detail will increase the likelihood that the proposed project will result in long-term systems change or improvement. The organizations involved have a long history of helping the community and this proposal will further build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services.

Weaknesses:

None

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/16/10 11:32 AM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/9/10 6:06 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: United Way of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- Community Engagement,
(U215P100119)

Reader #2: *****

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 #33 - Panel - 33: 84.215P

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: United Way of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- Community Engagement, (U215P100119)

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:

United Way of Central Massachusetts, in partnership with a local university, school district, a community development corporation and an education collaborative, will engage residents of the Central City area of Worcester, MA. in a Promise Neighborhood initiative. This area is home to five schools in NCLB restructuring status. The applicant provided an extensive array of needs assessment data that demonstrated the targeted community's needs. This data included poverty indicators, academic success indicators for residents and students in particular, mobility rates, and statistics on individual's involvement in the justice system, which compared negatively with city and state statistics, pages 3 through 8. The neighborhood has a Community Disadvantage Index number of 10, indicating that it is a highly disadvantaged area, page 6-7. The applicant identified weaknesses related to a "breakdown in community cohesion," environmental features such as substandard housing and a lack of green space for recreation, and household level stressors that contribute to obesity and exposure to toxic elements associated with poor health, pages 8-9.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were identified in this area.

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 Main South Promise Neighborhood Partnership, MSPNP, intends to engage neighborhood residents, businesses, organizations and educational institutions in designing and implementing a seamless cradle to college and career continuum of services. To accomplish this goal, MSPNP will implement a comprehensive planning process driven by the following set of work groups: Main South Innovation School Partnership Committee, Neighborhood Revitalization Committee, Family and Child Development Committee and Youth Action Committee. These committees' work will be informed by a Data and Evaluation Committee (DEC). An Advisory Council will provide leadership, coordination and direction of these working groups. Each committee will have responsibility for identifying strategies and services to build the continuum of services described on pages 19 through 37. The continuum will include the following areas: early childhood development opportunities; family, social services and health programs; and community building programs. The DEC will provide working groups and decision-makers with timely and useful data through the analysis of existing data and through creation of project-specific data processes as needed, see pages 40-45. MSPNP describes in the application an intentional process to work with the national evaluator to provide required information, pages 46-47. Woven through the project narrative, the applicant provides many examples of planned coordination with city, state and federal resources, see page 36 and page 40. The project design as detailed describes a thoughtful, thorough response to the needs and gaps identified in the previous section.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found in this section.

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:

MSPNP proposes a range of solutions tied to each of the 3 areas in the project's continuum and links them to evidence of effectiveness. Examples include use of the "Ready Child Equation" to help develop a framework to support preparing children for school; "Together for Kids" an evidence-based project helping parents prepare their toddlers for school by promoting social-emotional development, pages 23-24; expansion of effective education practices employed by the University Park Campus School, page 26; and the AVID mentoring program, page 29. On pages 47 and 48 the applicant detailed the academic indicators that will be used by MSPNP to gauge success in raising academic standards in the participating schools. Using the resources of the Data and Evaluation

Committee, MSPNP proposes a detailed plan for rapid-time use of data to ensure school and community level data is used effectively to ensure achievement of the project's outcomes, pages 40 through 45. The information provided by MSPNP describes a comprehensive, data-driven process to ensure identification and implementation of effective services in the targeted schools and neighborhood.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found in this section.

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 included in the appendix of this proposal an extensive set of resumes for staff from the leadership organizations that will contribute time and expertise to this planning year initiative. On pages 49 through 56, the applicant provides numerous examples of successful prior initiatives similar to the proposed project in scope, engagement with the targeted schools, and engagement in ongoing collaborative partnerships. These include a partnership effort to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in the targeted neighborhood, provision of professional development opportunities to the participating schools, and a neighborhood revitalization partnership. The information provided demonstrates the capacity of the organizations and the designated participating staff members to work in partnership. In the budget narrative of the application, information is provided on the staff positions that will be created to staff the MSPNP, a project manager (1.0 FTE), administrative assistant (.5 FTE), Community Organizer/Outreach Coordinator (1.0 FTE) and a Data Manager (1.0 FTE). Summary information on their responsibilities is included in the budget narrative and link to the project's scope and activities.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were identified in this section.

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 MOU included in this application contains detailed information from each of the key partner organizations on their theory of change and theory of action, the key contributions dedicated to MSPNP, and commitment to participate in the project's steering committee, providing a firm foundation for this initiative. Given the history of the key partners in collaborative efforts and in fundraising described in this section, the potential for sustaining the MSPNP is high. The applicant provided information related to project timelines and responsibilities on pages 18 and 19 of the proposal. Leadership for each of the working committees is described on pages 13 through 18 with information on the key tasks and milestones for each working group that directly relate to the project's expected outcomes. Through the carefully designed working group processes detailed in this proposal, the applicant will engage a diverse set of individuals and organizations in shaping the project.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found in this section.

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:

MSPNP's evaluation process is designed to gather data and produce information that will contribute to the possibility of replicating this initiative in other communities, see pages 45-47. These include a project documentation master file, mini-case studies for release on best-practice websites and use of external evaluators to provide a neutral assessment of project strategies. The scope of organizations and individuals engaged in MSPNP, from the mayor, school district lead staff, funding and research organizations and service providers makes it very likely this initiative will result in systems change and increased capacity in the participating schools and community organizations. Given the deliberate, data-driven planning process detailed in this proposal tied to the MSPNP's

stated commitment to employing evidence-based strategies, it is also likely that the process will result in improvement of existing services and/or identification and implementation of promising new strategies.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found in this section.

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/9/10 6:06 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/24/10 5:20 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: United Way of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- Community Engagement,
(U215P100119)

Reader #3: *****

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 #33 - Panel - 33: 84.215P

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: United Way of Central Massachusetts, Inc. -- Community Engagement, (U215P100119)

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 United Way of Central Massachusetts is taking the lead with Clark University, Worcester Public Schools, the Main South Community Development Corporation and the Worcester Education Collaborative, and the local community to develop the Main South "Promise Neighborhood" Partnership (MSPNP). This project will target a low-income area of Worcester known as Main South. The applicant has provided indicators of need that demonstrate this area has high crime rates, low academic achievement levels, low levels of English proficiency, as well as a high rate of older (pre-1940) housing stock. The applicant also provided information on how the mix of industrial and residential zoning has led to environmental health concerns for the target population. The proposed neighborhood service area has scored a 10 out of 10 on the Community Disadvantaged Index which has been adopted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as part of its SMART mapping system. There is also a high rate of female-headed households, high school dropouts, and a high crime rate. The pervasive climate of violence and tolerance of illegal activities also adds to the challenges of implementing a program in this area. Other factors listed by the applicant include the lack of green space, substandard housing and illegal dumping of trash. The applicant has identified gaps in available services and has a strategy to address those areas of concern.

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:

The applicant intends to develop a program that will build a continuum of solutions to improve the academic, family and community support indicators. They have provided a long list of partners and resources that will be utilized as part of this project. They also have a model they intend to follow, that of the University Park Campus School, a high performing school located within the target area. They have demonstrated through the University Park Campus that certain strategies do work to help students achieve and they intend to follow the lessons learned to replicate this success in other target area schools.

The applicant has demonstrated a willingness to work with the National Evaluator to ensure the data collection and program design are consistent with the national evaluation plan of the Promise Neighborhood programs. The applicant has indicated that they will coordinate project activities with federal, state and local programs that will support the goals of the proposed project.

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:

The applicant has presented strong evidence for the use of their proposed solutions. They provide data to support the proposed project, based on the best available evidence. The services to be provided by this project will likely lead to increased academic achievement, as has been the case in the University Park Campus School. They have developed measures to implement a neighborhood re-vitalization project that will improve the community environment. The applicant has included a plan to assure that the children with the highest needs receive appropriate services.

Weaknesses:

None 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:

The applicant has demonstrated that it has high quality personnel to perform the proposed activities. The individuals involved have pertinent experience and qualifications. The organization has experience in working with schools and colleges in the area, as well as looking to the needs of this neighborhood and its residents.

The applicant has presented a plan for the collection and analysis of data which will be used for decision making and on-going program improvement.

The applicant has a history of utilizing funding from federal and non-federal sources to implement programs similar in scope and nature.

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 is proposing the development of the Main South Longitudinal Data System which will be overseen by the Data and Evaluation Committee. Clark University's Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise will act as the convener and coordinator for the evaluation component. They also intend to include the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education, the Clark's Graduate International Development Community and Environmental Department which will concentrate on the urban revitalization portion of this project. The applicant has included strategic goals which demonstrates their intent to involve many local, state and neighborhood entities in the proposed project. They will use GIS technology to map data. Sustainability of the project was addressed and includes a technology and stakeholder evaluation plan and integration of data. This broad approach to data analysis will aid in determining "hot spots" of need.

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:

The applicant indicates it has a strong background in pursuing federal, state and local funds to support initiatives of this type. They have identified a wide range of programs that will advance the purposes of this project.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 8/24/10 5:20 PM