

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Legal Applicant: Story City Senior Citizens, Inc.

Application ID: 12SR140059

Program Name: Central Iowa RSVP North

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.

Reviewers' Summary Comments :

- The applicant plans to recruit 255 new volunteers in Fort Dodge and Webster City, Iowa. However, the applicant only indicates 39 volunteers in the Work Plan/Performance Measures . The applicant also discuss addressing six focus areas, yet only four focus areas are discussed in the Work Plan/Performance Measures. ,
- The applicant clearly defines the community needs by providing local, state, and national statistics to support the community needs being addressed.
- The applicant provides a thorough plan for the activities of the volunteers, and the roles of the volunteers. Applicant work plans thoroughly addresses, identified community needs with clearly developed measureable outcomes.
- The applicant provides a clear plan for involving stakeholders in planning and implementation. Applicant also provides a list of community partners, but is vague about the role of each partner.
- The applicant provides a detailed plan for recruitment, development, training, retention and recognizing volunteers. However, the applicant does not give a detailed plan for volunteer supervision.
- The applicant has a history of administering a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, however there are some areas in the narrative that are vague where more information would have been beneficial as it relates to past/present accomplishments such as "a sound track record in the issue areas being addressed by the project". The applicant has in place well defined plans and systems for assessment and evaluation to ensure that the program is successful.
- The applicant plans to meet a match of 21%, but is only required to provide a 10% match. The applicant does not provide adequate justification for the cost of 5 employees to administer proposed project when only 39 volunteers will be implemented according to the Work Plan/Performance Measures.
- The applicant does not provide information on the number of volunteers each full time Coordinator will be responsible for in the two target counties (in the narrative the applicant proposes to utilize 255 volunteers to implement the proposed project.

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- The workplans include outputs/outcomes that were tied to compelling community's needs.
- The applicant is unclear as to how 255 volunteers will be recruited by year three of the program (The workplans were written to indicate 39 volunteers in total).
- The applicant is a longstanding RSVP with identified stakeholders. Various community partnerships are already in place; most noted roles include volunteer stations, in-kind contributors, etc. This organization is a longstanding RSVP sponsor who will work with several community partners to enhance capacity. The applicant notes a willingness to recruit persons of diverse backgrounds, but there is no clear plan of how they will do so.
- An effective plan is set forth for volunteer, recruitment, training, management and recognition.
- A commitment to recruit and place volunteers from diverse backgrounds is noted, but no plan for doing so is included.
- The applicant is a longstanding RSVP sponsor that demonstrates sound program and fiscal oversight. Program staff has been identified and should provide adequate means to implement the program. Project staff roles appear to be well thought out. Various volunteer stations are already identified. A community participation group will assist in project evaluation to ensure program quality. The agency's past experience and track record is a plus in ensuring their ability to manage info and data to demonstrate results. The applicant's pledge to annually assess work plans is a plus for evaluating progress, gauging quality.
- The applicant did not strongly demonstrate their ability to integrate senior service in other community service programs.
- Overall, the budget is adequate to support program design. The applicant demonstrates sound commitment to secure resources for program implementation (21% local share pledged).
- A staffing level of 5 persons does seem to be excessive for what has been proposed (only 39 volunteers were indicated in the workplans).