

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Community Service Society of NY

**Applicant ID:** 13SR142728

**Project Name:** RSVP in New York City

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. 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 the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from only the external reviewer on the blended panel. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

### External Reviewer's Summary Comments:

#### Strengths:

The community need and expected outcomes are clearly defined for the focus areas in the Performance Measurements.

There is a well-designed plan to train and recruit volunteers which includes some mandatory training for all RSVP volunteers.

Station coordinators will be trained by Community Service Society (CSS) staff to ensure compliance with RSVP guidelines and regulations, as well as training in volunteer management. A new training curriculum will be implemented, which can be customized for each new volunteer station. Since the needs in service activities vary from one community to another, the new system provides flexibility in training, allowing the staff coordinator to build the skills volunteers need the most to make an impact in their community.

All volunteer stations and the central office are handicapped accessible, as is public transportation to reach these offices. This is purposefully done because the applicant is dedicated to recruiting volunteers with disabilities and actively seeks assignments for disabled volunteers in handicapped accessible stations.

#### Weaknesses:

It is unclear how the goal to serve veterans and military families will be achieved because the service activities are not specific.

While two VISTA volunteers are assigned the task of recruiting veterans, there is not a detailed plan how volunteers are recruited from ethnic or diverse populations that are in the service areas.