

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Perry County Commissioners

Applicant ID: 13SR142751

Project Name: Perry County RSVP

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 applicant's Primary Focus Area is Healthy Futures. The applicant ties the unmet community need to objective socio-economic data, particularly a high poverty rate of 18.5% and an unemployment rate of 11.2% (2011).

The applicant makes a qualitative outcome statement by noting they will measure success by the number of individuals that report increased food security for self and their children. This is a measurable, realistic description of how the proposed Primary Focus Area service activity relates to achieving the National Performance Measure.

The applicant links poverty and unemployment, community food pantry programming, and the measurement of increased food security for individuals and their children. These are three objectives that explain connecting a community need to a RSVP volunteer activity, and to a National Performance Measure output and outcome.

Weaknesses:

There was one activity noted for military families in the Performance Measures. The coupon activity which will provide grocery coupons for military families serving at overseas bases ties to food security, however, it is unclear whether the recipients of these coupons are community members from Perry County. It is also unclear whether this activity has any measurable impact to improve food security e.g., how many of the coupons actually get redeemed.

The applicant describes the RSVP Director's training plan, but does not provide enough detail regarding how volunteers will be trained. The applicant states only that volunteer orientation and training are generally provided by the volunteer stations which they serve.

The applicant cites no plan to ensure volunteer stations and assignments comply with RSVP program regulations.

The applicant does not provide enough detail about the role of the Advisory Council.

The applicant notes that office space is provided by the Perry County Commissioners. However, not enough

additional detail regarding the adequacy and sustainability of the required non-federal financial share is provided in the narrative and the budget.

It is unclear how the non-federal funding is secured.