

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: East Valley Adult Resources

Applicant ID: 13SR142780

Project Name: East Valley 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 community need assessment for the Primary Focus Area of Healthy Futures has been thoroughly researched through data obtained from the Valley of the Sun, Mesa, Casa Grande, the United Ways of Pinal and Gila Counties, MAG, the VA and the applicant's own recent interviews.

The applicant demonstrates the adequacy and sustainability of the proposed required non-federal financial share through local matching funds, the Gila River Indian Community, corporations, and individual donations, which the applicant has consistently received over the last three years.

The applicant's budget clearly shows the justification and cost calculation for providing volunteer travel, insurance, and recognition.

The applicant presents a clear and feasible plan to include significant service activity to veterans and/or military families as evidenced through their collaboration with the Wounded Warriors Project; Disabled American Veterans; Arizona State Department for Veteran Services; Arizona Coalition of Military Families; National Guard; and the Phoenix VA Medical Center.

Weaknesses:

The application does not include a plan for responsibly graduating volunteer stations including ensuring that communication plans are in place for notifying volunteers about other service opportunities.

The application does not describe a plan or infrastructure to manage in-kind project resources, to ensure accountability and efficient and effective use of available resources.

Seven staff positions are listed in the Personnel section of the budget narrative, but only five staff positions are described in the application. It is not clear whether the project currently has an Accountant and VP of Information Services on staff or if these positions would need to be filled.

The applicant does not address providing criminal background checks for any staff or volunteers, and does not address whether or not they are necessary (applicable).

The application does not describe a plan or infrastructure to manage in-kind project resources, to ensure accountability and efficient and effective use of available resources.