

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Southwestern Illinois College

Applicant ID: 13SR143110

Project Name: RSVP OF SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

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 strategy for addressing the compelling need of food insecurity is well documented. The proposal outlines a plan for how RSVP volunteers will address this need and contribute to Healthy Futures outputs and outcomes.

The applicant has partnered with the two local Veteran's Assistance Commissions to identify a Veteran's Service Representative to support their volunteer and client needs. Veterans also serve on the Advisory Council.

The applicant demonstrates a commitment to enhancing the quality of life of their volunteers, through personal development activities and ensuring that the volunteers are provided tools and access to community resources. The training plan not only addresses job responsibilities, but also provides skill-building opportunities (i.e., computer skills, veterans' assistance, etc.) to volunteers.

The applicant has a diverse group of partners who will serve as volunteer stations. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and annual assessments are used to manage volunteer stations.

The applicant has program and clerical staff and volunteer software in place to manage the data collection process.

Weaknesses:

The applicant's proposal does mention the need to graduate volunteer stations, it does not explain how this will be done.

It is unclear how the trainings provided are related to the described service activities (i.e., computer classes, etc.).

The applicant's program narrative mentions several staff and their qualifications, some of their roles and responsibilities, relative to managing RSVP volunteers and stations, is vague.

The applicant's budget lacks sufficient detail and calculations to determine its cost effectiveness.