

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: United Way of Marathon County

Applicant ID: 13SR143311

Project Name: United Way RSVP of Marathon County

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 need section provides a thorough identification of several community needs in Marathon County related to Healthy Futures including poverty and needs for food assistance.

The applicant's use of a veteran's working group that brings in various community agencies address veterans needs shows strong and well-considered approach to serve veterans and military families.

The applicant includes creative, personal ways to help volunteers feel important and recognize their contribution to the community, such as a phone call on their birthday and an expression of appreciation for volunteers at their Community Coffee House.

The applicant's orientation and "opportunity spotlight" event teaches volunteers about unmet needs in the community and helps them connect their service to current needs.

The applicant's organizational infrastructure is visibly strong. The narrative demonstrates that United Way has physical assets (space for volunteers to come and make copies), forms and policies readily available, and an Advisory Council that has stake and personal ownership in the RSVP program.

The applicant's non-federal funds explanation is well-detailed, providing a clear breakdown of in-kind costs and matching funds from the state. The narrative illustrates that the applicant has proactive plan to secure non-federal funds, such as Christmas gift wrap sessions and business sponsorships in the local community.

Weaknesses:

The applicant provided some statistics in the community need section which are not fully explained or documented.

The applicant states that the 65+ age segment is expected to grow, but the applicant does not site a source. In the same paragraph, the applicant does not include the year of the census data regarding the population of the 65+ age group.

The applicant's budget does not provide a more detailed breakdown for volunteer costs such as meals (average cost/meal), uniform costs, and costs for events such as recognition event and annual Fall VolunteerFEST.