

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** County of Sacramento Department of Human Assistance

**Applicant ID:** 13SR143469

**Project Name:** RSVP Yolo Cares

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 provided a detailed overview of the areas to be served by the volunteers and demonstrated that community need is not being met. The applicant utilized statistics from the 2012 Standard Testing and Reporting (STAR) to identify the unmet need of students lacking proficiency in language arts in the service area schools.

The applicant's positive relationships are already established with several school systems. The applicant has Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with two of the school districts and is pursuing a partnership with a third school system.

The applicant's longevity of the program gives it the solid foundation for meeting all the requirements for operating the RSVP project. The sponsor agency provides tangible assets and governance; there is a RSVP Advisory Council and a good financial management system with checks and balances in place. The agency currently manages over \$32 million in federal grants on an annual basis.

The applicant's Volunteer services are adequate for the program operations. The applicant's budget reflects line items for meals, uniforms, insurance, recognition, and volunteer travel.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant's clear description of tools to collect outputs and outcomes data was not outlined in the proposal. The applicant discussed providing the tools to the volunteers to track numbers of people served, record skills before volunteer interaction and gains made in nine to twelve months afterwards. However, the tools are not currently in place.

The applicant provides little evidence of direct training provided by RSVP itself. The training by RSVP consisted of a pre-service orientation. The applicant's other training opportunities were more related to issues such as mature driving, falls prevention, mental health, and nutrition.

The applicant does not provide line items for recruitment activities other than meals or for criminal background

checks.