

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Senior Programs of Santa Barbara

**Applicant ID:** 13SR143534

**Project Name:** Santa Barbara 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 projected numbers to be served cover a significant portion of the population of seniors in poverty.

Special recruitment assets of the RSVP Director include substantial community media exposure via writing a senior column in the local newspaper, editing a Senior newspaper and co-hosting a weekly Senior Affairs radio talk show, as well as national and local not-for-profit experience, and possessing a PhD in cultural anthropology.

The Advisory Council members regularly contact volunteers to assess their opinion about their volunteer station and RSVP support.

A steady rental income stream from office space owned by RSVP's sponsor organization assures substantial sustainability of the non-federal financial share. Building ownership offers a secure facility and workspace and low overhead including the sharing of building maintenance.

#### Weaknesses:

The budget includes no funds for volunteer travel although there are 50 volunteers providing food delivery, 70 providing food distribution, and 80 providing transportation.

Compliance of Volunteer Stations with RSVP program regulations is largely dependent on communication, training, and review by the RSVP Director and the relationship created with station volunteer management; no written or proscribed guidance or details of guidance via MOU's are noted.

Training is provided on an individual basis by the RSVP Director and through meetings at the multitude of volunteer stations but details are not further defined or described in the application.

While an experienced Director manages many aspects of this program, there is no mention of a realistic staff planning infrastructure or including the responsibilities or roles of the Administrative Assistant. Sustainability of

positions is not addressed.

Examples are not provided of the organization's experience working with volunteers in the Primary Focus Area. The applicant notes that over 35 years they have worked with over 6000 volunteers, and that their monitoring and assessment leads to annual reporting on project accomplishment, but details of activity or accomplishments are not provided.

The applicant does not serve veterans or military families.