

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Life Bridge, Inc.

Applicant ID: 13SR143550

Project Name: RSVP of United Way

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 uses 2003 West Virginia Health Statistics Center data and 2009 data from Economic Research Service to document community need for the Primary Focus Area of Healthy Futures. Data describes an aging population with challenges associated with age, such as low income, lack of transportation, social isolation, and lack of access to healthy food.

The applicant's plans for collaboration with VetCorps AmeriCorps Program will strengthen mutually beneficial relationships for and with veterans, providing veterans with self-enriching community services opportunities. The applicant's collaboration with West Virginia Senior Corps Directors Association to develop a statewide professional impact evaluation process has resulted in a yearly program impact report, to be used to compare program effectiveness across the state.

The applicant's work plans commit 299 out of 400 unduplicated volunteers (75%) to National Performance Measure outcome service activities. This is well above the required 10%. The applicant commits no more than 30% UDV to community priorities. The applicant commits 84% of UDV to Performance Measure service activities in the Primary Service Area.

The applicant adequately describes the survey instrument they plan to use to collect participation numbers for Food Security objectives.

The United Way of Central West Virginia has broad experience in managing federal grants and national service programs, such as Vista, AmeriCorps, Foster Grandparent, and RSVP. The applicant sufficiently describes a well-developed program organization with experience and competency to manage this RSVP. The Program Director has six years with national service programs and the Associate Director and Community Coordinator have years of experience in service programs.

The applicant clearly describes the source of non-federal funds, cash and in-kind. The applicant appropriately shows justification detail and cost calculations for volunteer expenses such as meals, identification pins, insurance, travel, and volunteer recognition efforts.

Weaknesses:

The applicant provides limited information about the survey instrument used to address and document outcomes of Increased Social Ties and Perception of Social Support objectives.