

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Catholic Charities Chemung/Schuylers

Applicant ID: 13SR143571

Project Name: Schuylers-Yates 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 applicant's data sources such as: 2010 U.S. Census Data; the Sage Commission First Year Report published by the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (June 2010); the S2AY Rural Health Network's 2010-2013 Community Health Assessment for Schuylers and Yates counties; and the 2009 Expanded Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Report; are used to define the three primary areas of unmet need in the service area resulting from: poverty; under-education; and a combination of food insecurity and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

The applicant's volunteer recruitment, the applicant will rely on its partnership with a sister charity (Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes) and together they will have a requirements-based approach to define volunteer needs for agencies and projects and recruit against those needs.

The applicant proposes to apply volunteers to a wide variety of individual projects across the three primary areas of unmet need addressed in the narrative.

The applicant's project evaluation will be conducted as a joint effort between the applicant and volunteer stations, using jointly-developed surveys and tests. Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed with each partner agency and will include work plans for outcome-based programming during the term of the grant. In addition, each volunteer station will collect data that will be provided to the applicant for aggregation into an annual report of National Performance Measure outputs.

The applicant's current program director for RSVP in the service area the last three years will be transferring his expertise to the applicant as the applicant assumes responsibilities for the program.

Weaknesses:

The applicant indicates that it taking over the RSVP program from the previous sponsor, it is focused on continuing a program that has been in place for 39 years in the services area, and that its plan (to the extent it has one) for graduating volunteers will be placing emphasis on stations required by this grant, and re-assigning volunteers as appropriate.

The narrative, the applicant refers to itself as an agency and notes that it employs about 100 individuals. Later in the narrative, it notes that it has 12 full-time staff and 20 part-time staff. It may be that the “agency” noted in the narrative is the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, but this is not clearly spelled out.

The applicant has sources of non-federal funds are hinted at in the Form 424 narrative, but are not listed in the budget narrative.