

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: City of Thomasville

Applicant ID: 13SR143576

Project Name: Southwest Alabama 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 noted the diversity of the volunteer base, detailed by sex, race, and physically disabled.

Activities to recognize volunteers, including the annual award luncheon, were positive aspects. Additionally, the budget item to support volunteer recognition correlates to the documented activities.

The applicant provides a realistic plan to manage project resources, both financial and in-kind, to ensure accountability and efficient and effective use of available resources. The applicant demonstrates experience in managing volunteers and the staffing, management, and operational structures appear sound.

The adequacy and reasonableness of the budget to support RSVP volunteer recruitment and recognition was very evident, and demonstrated great correlation between the narrative and budget sections.

The applicant proposed a healthy match of non-federal funds.

Weaknesses:

The applicant documented unmet needs in the community; however, it was unclear as to how the applicant would address these needs. It was unclear how the applicant's proposal would serve veterans and/or military families.

The applicant does not note nor describe why there will be no graduation of volunteer stations.

The applicant does not provide clear information as to its experience in providing Primary Focus Area (Healthy Futures) services or measuring performance. The Performance Measures evaluation descriptions are heavily quantitative and minimally qualitative. It is unclear what outcomes are to be derived by the activities. The applicant does not explain whether or not the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) reading proficiency program is an evidence-based program.

The non-federal financial share is broken-out in the budget section and is adequate, and the City of Thomasville City Clerk is noted in the narrative as having responsibility for financial management. However, the narrative does not include a rationale for the sustainability of the non-federal share in support of the grant.

The plan and infrastructure to provide reimbursable expenses to volunteers lacks supportive detail.