

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** West bay Community Action, Inc.

**Applicant ID:** 13SR143611

**Project Name:** West bay 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 response went beyond in its description of the unmet community need. It described sources which present the geographic area's poverty rate. It also presents the issue of food security and the percentage of seniors picking up at the food bank, Rhode Island Food Bank. This applicant utilizes BFRESS data stating that 31.5% of seniors have an appropriate diet. Its description of the lack of senior social and emotional support 11% as an unmet need strengthens this application.

The applicant's activities in service to Veterans are interwoven throughout this application. The Executive Summary expresses a clear and realistic plan of a Veteran's mentor program involving Veterans in the criminal justice system and linking them to RSVP volunteer Veteran who offer mentoring and referral assistance. The applicant plans to train Veterans to act as mentors.

The applicant describes a plan to train 40 RSVP Veterans with specialized training and it is also planned that Veterans will have an increased perceived social support a health behavior theoretical framework which is measurable.

#### Weaknesses:

There was a section on Graduating Volunteer Stations to Meet Changing Community Needs; however, the applicant did not present a plan for graduating volunteer stations.

The applicant states that they have a history of matching the required matching funds for RSVP of 30 years, and commits to meeting the 30% match; however, it is not clear where the match will come from?

This applicant does submit a budget and a budget narrative, however, there is an item in section "I" of the budget narrative that list an item entitled, "Program supplies - donated clothing valued at thrift shop value" as \$40,000.