

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Rockland Community College

Applicant ID: 13SR143615

Project Name: Rockland County 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 has had previous success is evidenced by successful fiscal management, fundraising efforts, volunteers recruiting other volunteers, and continued support by the community.

The applicant provides compelling description of meeting ongoing community needs and revising programs based on needs.

The grantee share of the budget exceeded 65% in all 3 years of the previous grant, thus sustaining the non-federal share.

The Applicant demonstrates strong partnership capability in leveraging needed resources such as personnel management, additional funds, and locations for events/work stations.

The applicant presents strong description of how volunteers and partners contribute to fund raising activities and cash or in kind donations. Fiscal responsibility is apparent throughout the application. RSVP staff members often complete several jobs under one hat. Rockland Community Legislature provides consistent funding and support.

However, in the performance measures and later in the narratives, it was explained that transportation would be provided to Veterans needing access to medical care or other services, especially in rural areas where Veterans could not get to the VA shuttle.

Weaknesses:

The absence of abundant descriptions on the impact of the program on veterans made it difficult to assess outcomes.

The tutoring program mentioned briefly appears to lack sufficient detail, but is elaborated on more clearly in the Performance Measures section.

Though the applicant presents a clear and feasible description of program management and infrastructure, an outline or specific examples of identifying or preventing RSVP prohibited activities would have been helpful.

There is no mention of criminal history checks for grant paid staff as required.