

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Highland Community College

Applicant ID: 13SR143655

Project Name: RSVP of Northwest Illinois

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 states they have an Advisory Board, and the organization follows the Servant Leadership Philosophy, as does Highland Community College. They also report that their Annual Audits have been with no findings (dates not noted).

Weaknesses:

The applicant does not explain how the budget will support RSVP volunteer recruitment and recognition.

The applicant provides little explanation to address sustainability of the program or match funds.

The applicant does not identify specific trainings for the volunteers nor any type of plans to create some. Trainings for the community partners is encouraged, but not required. The applicant also notes that most volunteers either die or discontinue service because of illness, however, there are no exact numbers given on retention rates.

The applicant provided no direct information that addresses the development of assignments outside the Primary Focus Area.

The applicant fails to mention plans to graduate volunteers and stations.