

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: City of Auburn

Applicant ID: 13SR143677

Project Name: City of Auburn 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:

Primary Focus Area need for food security and related transportation is sourced from the 2011 Cayuga County Community Food Security Assessment and 2009 Long Term Care System Survey of the Human Services Coalition of Cayuga County. Cited are increased nutritional needs, demand for food stamps and pantry services as well as transportation challenges and needs for day program services for seniors.

Work plans provide substantial details on needs, volunteer service activity roles and appropriate description of measures. Monitoring of and reporting by volunteer stations is described in the narrative.

Plans for graduation of eleven stations are being made. Letters will be send to these stations whose Memorandums of Understanding (MOUS) expire at the end of June 2013 and to volunteers for these sites. These volunteers will be personally invited to visit the RSVP office to explore an alternative assignment. Graduating sites and volunteers will be honored at the Annual Recognition Luncheon.

The City of Auburn/RSVP is a program under the City's Department of Public Works. The Program complies with internal RSVP policies and municipal policies including generally acceptable accounting principles, procurement policies, New York General Municipal and Civil Service laws, the City's charter and general laws of the State of New York.

The application indicates confidence in sustainability of the commitment of non-federal fund by the City of Auburn to the RSVP Program. This belief is reinforced by the 39 year history of the program with the City. Additional grants and other sources of state and local funding are also used.

The RSVP Advisory Council compiles an annual survey on the following program areas with scores based on a scale of 1 (unmet) to 5 (uniformly met): Program Planning – 4.9; Program Development – 4.8; Program Evaluation – 4.8; Volunteer Management – 5.

Recruitment of the 70-84 age groups continues to be strong. Word-of-mouth through sharing stories and experience is one of the applicant's best tools. Presentations at senior centers and press releases are also used.

Weaknesses:

The Program serves Veteran's through the Chapel House emergency housing and housing search services. Chapel House has initiated a contract with the Veteran's Administration to accommodate veterans in Central New York. This initiative is in the early stages.

Training and service recognition is provided by a majority of volunteer sites and by the City of Auburn RSVP, however minimal details are provided.

The Program Director assures that volunteer stations are in compliance with RSVP regulations as outlined in CFP45, Part 2553 regarding the RSVP Program. Few other details or local policies are given on how site compliance is maintained.

Recruitment challenges include attracting volunteers from the 55-69 age group and recruiting diverse volunteers from Cayuga County in which almost 93% of the population is white, 4.4% African American, 2.5% Hispanic and less than 1% is Asian, American Indian or Pacific Islander origin. Only one current member is African American.

There is little description of the program's track record in the Primary Focus Area.