

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: The Finley Hospital

Applicant ID: 13SR143680

Project Name: RSVP Dubuque County

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:

Throughout both its narrative and work plan the applicant provides evidence of unmet community needs, citing community assessments, client surveys, national research findings and local data that support the proposed service activities.

The applicant presents a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to managing RSVP volunteers and stations that is, among other factors, informed by on-going analysis of community needs using robust data sources, processes of evaluation that include volunteer and volunteer station feedback, and a clear memoranda of understanding that outlines roles, responsibilities and expectations of both the volunteer stations and the applicant as the RSVP lead agency.

The applicant references serving veterans and military families in all its programs, engaging with veteran-serving organizations to provide information about services under the Primary Focus Area and spotlighting veterans and military families in special days of service. Additionally, the applicant states it will include a question in outcome measurement instruments to compile data regarding the numbers of veterans and members of military families the RSVP programs serve.

The applicant describes guidelines, memoranda of understanding and evaluation procedures that address volunteer stations' compliance with RSVP regulations, volunteer station management expectations and obligations to volunteers.

The applicant has been the RSVP program sponsor since 1982 and describes its record of managing volunteers in the Primary Focus Area, Healthy Futures. The applicant references a 2011 survey of homebound seniors participating in its home meals delivery program that reported 90% of those surveyed said these meals help them to remain living independently in their homes.

The applicant provides robust examples of tangible assets, financial management systems, internal procedures and policies to effectively manage the program. The applicant describes an active RSVP Advisory Council whose members include volunteer station managers and volunteers and representatives from the nonprofit, public, senior

services and business sectors.

In its narrative the applicant references reimbursement for volunteer meals and/or transportation as costs volunteer station organizations may choose to cover, and includes insurance coverage for volunteers and the cost of criminal background checks for new members in the program and budget narratives.

Weaknesses: