

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: New Opportunities, Inc.

Applicant ID: 13SR143719

Project Name: New Opportunities Inc. 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 Primary Focus on volunteer recruitment, support and retention was defined across a wide variety of the population.

Plans and infrastructure to assure National Performance Measure outcomes and outputs are measured, collected, and were clearly defined using a variety of logs and forms.

RSVP positions are staffed with experienced and knowledgeable personnel.

50% of the unduplicated volunteers are included in outcomes work plans. This is well above the required 10%.

Weaknesses:

Individual position details were lacking for all five positions.

The non-federal share of the RSVP budget was not clear as to the community commitment for resources.

The application did not provide enough detail regarding activity in service to veterans and/or military families as part of service in the Primary Focus Area, Other Focus Areas or Capacity Building.

The description of developing interesting and challenging service opportunities for volunteers was lacking details.

The plan for retaining and recognizing volunteers was lacking details with only volunteer surveys used as a measurement tool.

Project resources, both financial and in-kind, that ensure the accountability and efficient and effective use of available resources was not clearly described with enough information to define effective management.