

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Monroe Area Agency on Aging

**Applicant ID:** 13SR143720

**Project Name:** Monroe 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:

Community needs to be addressed are compelling and documented by the April 2012 County Assessment.

The applicant's Primary Focus Area is Healthy Futures and has an existing infrastructure in place to manage the volunteers and stations using methods to track data and activities.

The applicant plans to provide volunteers with the resources to help transition veterans to include job career training and means to find suitable housing.

A plan to recruit professional retirees upon exiting interviews is being utilized to capture a more professional expertise pool of volunteers. Traditional recruitment will continue by using public awareness through local media and attending local community expos, events and fairs that seniors usually visit.

The applicant will offer opportunities for volunteers and staff to receive training to develop their skills and leadership abilities from their stations as well as providing opportunities for technical skills from local school districts when available.

Volunteers will be recognized for maximizing the impact of the volunteer experience through an Annual Recognition luncheon and distributing pins and certificates marking the yearly volunteer experience.

44% of the unduplicated volunteers are included in outcome work plans. This is well above the 10% required.

The applicant has plans to receive monthly reports from each station and will use this information to review the mission and goals of the program for community success.

The applicant has plans to graduate stations and volunteers by doing an analysis of the current sites and then sending letters for appreciated service to volunteers and not renewing MOUs with stations when they expire.

The applicant has several work plans in place but it is unclear as to what measurement tools are being utilized or who

will collect the data.

The applicant has 22 years' experience managing budgets and finances. The narratives lists two staff positions but does not includes narratives for the duties of the Administrative Assistant.

The applicant has in place the program infrastructure to meet all county requirements. An Advisory Council will meet monthly to provide a check and balance system for the program.

The applicant notes a proven track record of receiving non-federal cash from the community. However, sources are unclear and how the program would be sustained without these resources is unclear from the narratives.

**Weaknesses:**

The applicant lists an annual event in the narrative for volunteer recognition but does not break out the exact costs per volunteer in the budget narrative. Volunteer liability insurance is listed in the budget but not broken down by cost per volunteer.