

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Neosho County Community College

Applicant ID: 13SR143743

Project Name: NCCC 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 applicant demonstrates a plan and infrastructure to create well-developed high quality RSVP volunteer assignments in that the applicant provides opportunities for volunteers to participate and grow in their experiences (through shadowing and training), take a leadership role in a project (like a planning committee), and reflect on their own service. The elements provide an added layer of support for the volunteer experience to really support the volunteers in being agents of change in their communities.

The application includes a comprehensive analysis of local community needs and is strengthened by statistics that compare the local problem with the state problem (emphasizing the unique need for services in southeast Kansas). Statistics that the applicant includes from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation further illustrate the urgent need for a program to address child poverty and community health.

The applicant's budget provides sufficient detail and shows that applicant has plans and infrastructure to provide applicable costs and is thinking through the many detailed components of running a project. The meals, insurance, travel, supplies are broken out into specific items and easy to understand.

Weaknesses:

The applicant's program does outreach to veterans and includes a program to provide clothing to veterans; the program design is missing a deeper analysis of veterans' needs that could be serviced by volunteers. The Performance Measure narrative mentions that Kansas has the highest level of homeless veterans, but does not provide any statistics on how many homeless veterans are living in the local area served by this grant (Neosho and surrounding counties).

The applicant's plans and infrastructure to manage project resources was hard to find in the organizational capacity section. The applicant included a good deal of narrative (some paragraphs were even inserted more than once) regarding staff financial procedures and management, especially day to day policies from the Trustee Policy Handbook; however, these policies do not speak directly to how the applicant will manage project resources to ensure accountability.

The applicant does mention recruitment of Black/Hispanic seniors, the narrative does not talk more broadly about recruiting a diverse mix of all races, ethnicities, etc. The applicant is not looking for unique ways to recruit and understand the individual needs of these different racial groups by recruiting for Black and Hispanic seniors as one “minority” group.