

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: South Florida State College

Applicant ID: 13SR143762

Project Name: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

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 presents current and relevant data from the Food Stamp (SNAP) program to document community need for the Primary Focus Area of Healthy Futures. SNAP data details an increase in number of recipients for program benefits with one in five residents participating in SNAP. Food Bank caseload in the target area has doubled since 2007 and the percent of K-12 students eligible for free/reduced lunch increased from 58% to 70% in recent years. Data from Florida Department of Economic Opportunity show unemployment at 9.7%. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau show the poverty rate at 20.7% for the applicant target area.

The applicant clearly recognizes the importance of retaining qualified and committed volunteers. Volunteers have access to South Florida State College (SFSC) libraries and professional development opportunities such as computer skills training and service related business training. Volunteers are recognized for their services at the annual volunteer recognition event.

The applicant's work plans commit 172 of 303 (56%) unduplicated volunteers (UDV) to National Performance Measure outcome service activities. This is well above the required 10%. The applicant commits no more than 30% of the 303 UDV to community priorities. The applicant commits 59% of UDV to Performance Measure service activities in the Primary Focus Area.

The applicant clearly has experience and infrastructure to manage financial and in-kind resources of the proposed RSVP. The Project Director has managed the RSVP for five years. The Controller's office of SFSC, which has years of financial accountability experience, will manage financial and in-kind resources.

Weaknesses:

It is not clear whether other community entities are working to address the stated community needs in the Healthy Futures Primary Focus Area so it is difficult to determine if the community needs are unmet.

There is limited information to describe recruitment efforts for establishing RSVP volunteer pools. Information is not provided as to how recruitment efforts will target recruitment of veterans and military families for RSVP volunteer pools.

The applicant provides limited information about the survey instruments used to document outcomes for the Food Security, Increased Social Ties, and Perceived Social Support objectives.

Service activities in the Education mentoring program are not aligned to time lines for when the students will achieve the improved academic performance outcome. There is limited information about the availability of Parish nurses and the training preparation or qualifications of the RSVP Parish nurses to provide “direct care” to persons, making it difficult to assess how the volunteer service activities will address the access to care Healthy Futures community needs.

Detail is missing to describe supervision of the volunteers and the volunteer station sites, the timing of site visits, the content of training, and the reporting and evaluative follow-up. The Project Director is responsible for oversight of more than 300 volunteers at 30 volunteer stations as well as other program management responsibilities. The Project Director has administrative assistance from one person at 10% usage and one administrator at 5% usage.

Within the Selection Criteria of Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy, detail is missing as to the amount and source of volunteer support for expenses such as volunteer insurance, volunteer recognition and volunteer recruitment for 303 volunteers.

Detail is missing as to the source of non-federal funds, cash or in-kind.

Detail is missing as to the number of employee(s) and date of hire to justify \$750, grantee cost for criminal background checks.