

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: LBJ&C Development Corporation

Applicant ID: 13SR143792

Project Name: East Central TN 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 has several data sources are used to define the demographics of the applicant's five-county service area and pressing unmet needs: 2010 Hunger Study (1 in 6 Tennessee residents faced hunger); Feeding America (15-17.8% of citizens in service area are "food insecure"); Second Harvest of East Tennessee (one third of clients have to choose between buying groceries and paying rent, utilities, etc.); Fact Finder (9,453 households in service area receiving food stamps and 54.4% living below the poverty level); and TN.gov (educational statistics).

The applicant is looking at how veterans themselves are currently serving the community, and has found them working with Girl Scouts; working in after-school programs; acting as court-appointed advocates for abused children; helping homeless veterans in Nashville; and helping with disaster drills.

The applicant has 150 unduplicated volunteers will support 14 volunteer stations to work on the following projects: helping the unemployed or underemployed access food; delivering meals or food to individuals receiving independent living services; visiting patients in nursing homes; supporting blood drives; providing school-based mentoring; gathering donations for educational scholarships through volunteer-run gift stores and thrift shops; collecting and recycling materials; and providing companionship to seniors and disabled individuals.

The applicant's Annual evaluations of stations are conducted to ensure compliance with Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and assessments are conducted once every three years to determine if community needs have been met. Activity sheets, surveys, site visits and reports are also used to determine program effectiveness and volunteer impacts.

The applicant's volunteer costs for meals, travel and recognition are clearly documented in the budget narrative – particularly the in-kind expenses by each category (e.g. meals at healthcare facilities).

Weaknesses:

The applicant notes that each volunteer station is trained by the applicant's staff and provided with written materials to understand RSVP regulations and applicable laws, but does not provide any additional details.

The applicant's station graduation will be done only through attrition.

The applicant has non-federal financial sources (e.g., the contributions of the applicants head office and the four county governments) are listed in the 424 narrative, but not quantified.