

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Bristol Community Organization

Applicant ID: 13SR143795

Project Name: Greater Bristol 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:

Weaknesses:

The applicant provides very limited objective data to demonstrate unmet needs for the services identified in its Primary Focus Area. The applicant makes distinctions in some characteristics of the communities in the priority geographic area and provides some broad demographic data, such as adult populations over the age of 45 years. However, it does not provide an analysis of unmet needs in the geographic area in respect to the Primary Focus Area. Specifically, no quantitative data about the targeted communities is provided to demonstrate the unmet needs of seniors to age in place, the estimated degree of childhood food insecurity or identified barriers to accessing health care even though these are the primary objectives for the Healthy Futures Priority Area.

The narrative and work plans do not draw strong connections across the Primary Focus Area's three major elements: the identification of unmet needs, volunteer activities and the anticipated outputs or outcomes because the needs themselves are not clearly identified and demonstrated by objective data.

The applicant references its own community needs assessment that concludes some of its volunteer stations no longer need volunteers. While the applicant suggests some ideas for alternative placements, it does not present a detailed plan to graduate these stations with minimal disruptions to volunteers.

The budget narrative does not specify items to support volunteer recruitment, such as costs for print ads in newspapers, production of Public Service Announcements or social media.

In its work plan, the applicant includes two volunteer projects that will serve veterans and their families, but does not adequately demonstrate the unmet needs each will address. In both instances the volunteer activities are focused on helping veterans' access college. However, the applicant has provided no data on any particular barriers to college access as experienced by veterans, nor has it described if, or how, this unmet need differs in each of the four communities in the priority geographic area.