

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners

Applicant ID: 13SR143804

Project Name: Miami-Dade 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:

The applicant provided demographic information on the population in the proposed service area.

The applicant provided clear documentation of the economic needs.

The applicant indicates an acceptable level of confidence that veterans will be served by their proposed RSVP program.

The applicant provided a profile of the veteran population, which includes a high number of Vietnam veterans in the geographic area and explains that veterans will be served through two new volunteer stations with the Department of Veteran Affairs and the county's Veterans Services Program. The work plan notes that veterans will receive support services such as veteran's benefits and health.

The applicant provided general details on its approach to engage volunteers and foster civic engagement throughout the county and build on current efforts with nonprofit organizations, including recruitment through websites, translations of materials in several languages, presentations, word of mouth, and media.

The applicant provided details on the governance and organizational structure that would be applied to oversee the RSVP program. The Supervisor, RSVP Program Coordinator and Social Worker were identified, including credentials and experience aligned with skills in volunteer management.

Weaknesses:

The unmet needs of the population to be served is not clearly documented or referenced. It appears that the community is currently working on key issues, so it was unclear what needs were unmet.

The applicant did not explicitly address retaining volunteers, which made it difficult to assess their plan in this area. There appeared to be an assumption that recognition would result in retaining volunteer, but that was not adequately developed in the narrative.

The specific strategies or approach to support graduating stations to minimize disruption of current volunteers were not explained.

The budget was reasonable in most areas; however there weren't non-federal funds applied to some of the volunteer related cost for transportation, insurance or meals. It would be reasonable to request support for the many community partners to provide in-kind support in these areas. For instance, it was unclear why the school could not provide in-kind support for meals for the school-based RSVP volunteers.

There was lack of information on the cost of the background checks, which made it difficult to assess the reasonableness of the expense.