

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Applicant ID: 13SR143839

Project Name: RSVP Essex/Clinton

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:

In the Performance Measures section, the Applicant presented compelling personalized evidence of unmet community needs based on research, matching skill sets of volunteers, and the capacity of the organization to meet client needs.

The applicant goes above and beyond by presenting numerous examples of recognition activities and by including how station coordinators and Advisory Council members will be thanked.

The application goes above and beyond explaining the responsible graduation of volunteer stations through numerous personalized examples, plans, and obvious strong partnerships with volunteer stations.

The applicant makes good use of specific examples to help paint a clear picture of adequately sustaining the non-federal share of funding.

There is past evidence of service to Veterans and military families through Entre Amigos, supporting Spanish speaking spouses of deployed military members.

Weaknesses:

While the Performance Measures section presents service activities, research, measurement instruments, and outcomes fully, the narrative lacks an over the top detailed explanation of how outputs and outcomes will be collected consistently and accurately.

More detailed narrative description of costs is needed in the Other Volunteer Support Costs section.

While the applicant fully describes paid positions and the infrastructure, there is no explanation of how these positions will be sustained. Since all staff has been in place over two years and the fact that active recruitment efforts in obtaining one of these staff members occurred, it is assumed that some type of sustainability is taking place.

The application does not address organizational infrastructure potential problems and solutions.