

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Willoughby Eastlake School District

Applicant ID: 13SR143853

Project Name: Lake 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 clearly identified community needs tied to the Primary Focus Area of "Healthy Futures". They explained that key service needs were determined based on census data and service provider input. A primary need of the community was identified as providing basic services to seniors in the area of food delivery, health care access and social connections.

The applicant adequately addresses graduating volunteer stations, as indicated by the plan they described. The current RSVP program will serve with the Lake County Commissioners to develop a Senior Community Volunteer Program, which will enable the current RSVP to graduate several volunteer stations and allow the services and volunteer placements to continue without interruptions.

The applicant clearly provided evidence regarding community input through their RSVP advisory council. The applicant has an eight-member RSVP advisory board that supports them in meeting the federal guidelines of the RSVP program. Examples were provided on how this occurs in assessing the program and identifying volunteer activities

The applicant provided strong evidence of securing non-federal funding and sustainability. Examples include: a demonstrated 39-year history of sustaining the program and the local "Senior Citizen's Levy", which contributes to the applicant's RSVP program.

Weaknesses:

Though the applicant has an innovative approach in serving veterans, they do not provide adequate information re: needs and services specific to veterans. For example, there is reference to extending services to veterans and focusing on college access but there is not adequate evidence of strong relationships with potential partners or a clear track record to provide services specific to veterans.