

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Texoma Council of Governments

**Applicant ID:** 13SR143895

**Project Name:** Texoma 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's veteran-based mentor-mentoring project called "Veterans Navigating Veterans" is being planned by the applicant, to be overseen by a veteran, that links existing community services to returning veterans and provides a focal point to help veterans develop new skills, obtain housing, medical and other services. It will also involve the Texas State Veteran's Home, VA Hospital Services, the VFW, the American Legion, and one of the three local colleges.

The applicant has a pro-active volunteer recruitment system that: gets the word out at volunteer stations; public service announcements on the radio; staffing expos and health fairs; and distributing newsletters throughout the community. Social media is used (Facebook), as is the Volunteer Match national online database and the applicant's own website ([www.texoma.cog.tx.us/departments/aging-services/rsvp/](http://www.texoma.cog.tx.us/departments/aging-services/rsvp/)) which is included in the application.

The applicant's 827 unduplicated volunteers referenced by the applicant are proposed for a variety of services in the work plan, to include: food delivery; senior companionship; conducting classes on Medicare fraud; providing disaster assistance; building homes (Habitat for Humanity) or assisting the placement of people in housing; preparing meals for victims of disasters; providing transportation; and providing companionship to individuals with disabilities.

The applicant's fiscal oversight is provided through its (TCOG) financial officer. Additionally, the applicant undergoes an annual audit by a CPA, and monthly review of financial statements by its Board of Directors. The applicant's infrastructure also provides facilities, equipment, supplies, purchasing procedures and personnel management.

The applicant's program director's responsibilities are described in detail, particularly the responsibility for preparing the annual \$80,000 budget, developing and implementing policies, preparing reports, providing administrative oversight, compliance with grant and federal regulations, attending conferences, serving on local non-profit boards and working with three local advisory councils.

The applicant has sources of non-federal funding are described in detail in the narrative and quantified as well. For example: local cash donations are provided by Delta Kappa Gamma International, the Denison Service League, and

community partners such as Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. Grant sources include: the Keep Seniors Campaign sponsored by National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a); and approximately \$10,000 from the University of North Texas to fund the Seniors/Volunteers for Childhood Immunization Program. The applicant currently receives in-kind contributions of over \$350,000 from Hallmark, Inc. Additional in-kind donations are provided by three area hospitals that donate meals and flu shots to volunteers.

**Weaknesses:**

The applicant's National Performance Measures outputs and outcomes are addressed only in broad qualitative terms in the narrative, and in quantitative form only in the work plans.

The applicant has other program staff at the applicant and at the sponsor are referenced or noted, but the only specific job details provided are for the program director.