

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: City of Kosciusko

Applicant ID: 13SR143924

Project Name: Attala 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 community need for service activities in the Primary Focus Area of Healthy Futures is well documented and supported by research. The applicant uses relevant data from the 2010 Census which reports that 24.9% of the target service area lives in families with income below federal poverty level. The unemployment rate for the county service area is 11.8%. County School District reports 80% of the children are eligible for free or reduced meals and the City School District reports 68% of children are eligible for free or reduced meals. The applicant presents a convincing argument that even though other community entities work on community issues related to the Primary Focus Area of Healthy Futures, such as the Lion's Club and Helping Hands Ministry, the needs are great and remain unmet.

The applicant lists costs and sources of funds for volunteer social functions to recognize and honor volunteer service in the budget narrative. The applicant shows clear justification and cost calculation for providing transportation, insurance, and recognition to 200 volunteers.

The applicant commits 30% of unduplicated volunteers (UDV) to service activities in work plans within the Primary Focus Area.

The applicant's work plans commit 14% (30 of 200) of UDV's to National Performance Measure outcome service activities. 31.5% of UDV are committed to Community Priorities services objectives, slightly over the 30% maximum stated in the RSVP Performance Measures Requirements.

The applicant sufficiently describes a program organization with experience and expertise to manage the RSVP.

The applicant organization has been the legal sponsor of RSVP in the Attala County service area since 1974. The Project Director has 11 years' of experience in community service programs.

The applicant provides sufficient detail regarding the adequacy of non-federal funds and the reliability of the source of these funds, helping to demonstrate the likelihood of program sustainability. The City of Kosciusko and the Attala County Board of Supervisors commit funds of cash and in-kind support to the RSVP.

Weaknesses:

The applicant does not describe the need, or lack of need, to provide criminal background checks if any current RSVP employees have been hired after April 21, 2012.

The applicant provides limited information about survey instruments used to collect participation numbers and document outcome(s) in the Obesity and Food/Food Distribution Performance Measure Focus Area, the sole Performance Measure in which outcome(s) are addressed.

The applicant describes plans to recruit volunteers from a broad spectrum of social groups. However, information is not provided to explain how recruitment efforts will target recruitment of veterans and military families for RSVP volunteer pools.