

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: United Way of Greater Topeka, Inc.

Applicant ID: 13SR143925

Project Name: United Way of Greater Topeka 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:

Strengthening Communities section clearly describes community need and process for identifying need and tasks to be performed.

Strengthening Communities section identifies demographics of current volunteer pools, including veterans, and plans for increasing participation by veterans and minorities.

In the Recruitment and Development section, the applicant provides information on training volunteers for their assignments and also proposes to provide training on other subjects that will be of value to the volunteer such as Health Insurance.

The applicant is considering leadership training for its volunteers.

The applicant started tracking veterans in 2011 and collects information on numbers serving.

The applicant clearly describes plans for engaging volunteer stations and training them on the Corporation for National and Community Service regulations.

The applicant has a plan for managing graduating stations.

The applicant organization proposes to use some of its own staff on key project activities, such as marketing and promotion.

Key staff has been with the program for about a year, but have strong related past experience.

Weaknesses:

The source of non-federal funds is not clearly identified, especially for non-personnel cost share.

The Community needs described from several sources including surveys and U.S. Census Bureau. Some assumptions are made, such as when transportation is limited, their homebound seniors health and wellbeing is compromised.

Performance Measures and work plans tie together, however applicant should try to develop more outcome measures.