

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Family Services of Central Massachusetts

Applicant ID: 13SR143956

Project Name: Worcester Area 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 opening of the narrative is compelling, well documenting the service needs with clearly presented rationale, while describing the community and its history.

The application addresses support from, and strengthening partnerships with, current successful community programs, highlighting that community needs will not be duplicated.

Weaknesses:

The message for recruiting is well crafted, but the activities need to be further developed.

Training was not adequately explained or developed for the multiple service programs. As written, there is one DVD and audio visuals, but it is unclear if these will be service program specific.

The narrative states a plan for downsizing the number of volunteers, conflicting with the recruitment plan for volunteers.

While the volunteer experience of the staff is impressive, extensive examples of experience in managing volunteers is not clearly presented for any of the staff.

There is no compelling plan presented in the narrative to secure non-federal funds. While many organizations/companies are listed as a source of non-federal funds in the budget report, it is not discernible what degree of support is given, or how committed these funders are to the service programs.