

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: North Iowa Area Community College

Applicant ID: 13SR143966

Project Name: RSVP of North Central Iowa

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 narrative clearly describes, with compelling data, the unmet need for services in the community. Research is cited from several studies stating the advantages of the various educational programs.

Recognition of volunteers, noting multiple levels of service, is well defined with a timeline of activities planned throughout the year. These recognitions are varied in nature, many personalized for each volunteer.

The staff of the RSVP of North Central Iowa is required to follow the handbook, policies and procedures of the North Iowa Community College providing a solid base for organizational stability.

Performance Measures are clearly stated for the activities with appropriate instruments to evaluate and measure results.

The future addition of a member of the military community to the Advisory Council shows a commitment to veteran programming which goes above and beyond requirements.

The line item budget does include funding for volunteer insurance and criminal background checks.

Weaknesses:

There is no source of funds listed for the grantee share of the budget.

While special events and projects are held to support veterans and active military, separate from the Primary Focus Area, there are no service activities for veterans or their families in the Performance Measurements.

The application narrative does not adequately address applicable costs for volunteers.