

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: South Haven Area Senior Services

Applicant ID: 13SR143981

Project Name: 2013 recompetition

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 uses national and local data, client surveys and key stakeholder feedback to identify and address the community's unmet needs.

The applicant's RSVP volunteers will address several performance measure outputs and outcomes.

The applicant outlines a comprehensive plan for recruiting, placing, retaining and recognizing volunteers, which includes peer recruitment, a highly visible presence in the local community and opportunities for personal reflection and volunteer sharing.

The applicant's proposed training plan is realistic and thorough in its inclusion of both volunteer and station orientation and organizational and personal development training.

The applicant's proposal includes a detailed description of the roles of each staff person and provides background on each staff person currently holding a position. The program staff has a wealth of expertise and possesses experience in grant management, program development, evaluation, volunteer management and accounting/bookkeeping.

The applicant's costs outlined seem reasonable to cover the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

The applicant has established multiple levels of accountability and undergoes regular audits, increasing their success in managing project resources.

The applicant's veterans will be served as RSVP volunteers drive them to and from medical appointments.

Weaknesses:

The application discusses some of the financial processes; it fails to address how internal financial policies are established or evaluated and how the program will be sustained.

The applicant's program budget outlines the non-federal funds, but does not clearly identify the sources.