

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: John Wood Community College

Applicant ID: 13SR143997

Project Name: Adams 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 applicant strongly describes enhancing service to the Veteran's Home in Quincy through meal delivery, transportation, and companionship; they will also enlist the service of more able bodied Veterans to assist these elderly Home residents.

The Primary Focus Area in Healthy Futures is based on U.S. Census data and collaboration with other relevant community stakeholders, ensuring which community needs are being unmet.

The applicant explains feasibly that graduating volunteer stations involves a transition plan, allowing the station to become self-sustaining or referring the agency to other volunteer service options. Volunteers are given the option of moving to another station or remaining with their current agency until it becomes self-sufficient.

The applicant presents a clear and feasible description of organizational capacity through support from John Wood Community College in the following ways: facilities, computers, robust audit systems, proven financial and personnel policies, RSVP Advisory Council meetings, and abundant past successful experiences managing federal grant funds. This symbiotic relationship and proven track record is crystal clear in the narrative.

Budget description is more than adequate in showing allowable item details such as per diem travel costs, personnel and fringe benefits, and available non-federal funds.

Weaknesses:

Although the applicant mentions attempts at recruiting volunteers of different ethnicities, Veterans, English Language Learners, and those with disabilities, it is unclear how service activities are developed to attract those groups.

Although the Volunteer Coordinator group meetings are one valuable volunteer program management technique, it is not clear how often this group meets. .

Although paid staff positions are described plainly and many staff members have been there for years, it is not completely clear how these positions will be sustained. It appears that the applicant has many other grant resources, but it is not clear when these run their course.