

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** City of San Bernardino

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144012

**Project Name:** RSVP-San Bernardino

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 RSVP Program works with local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFWs), the American Legion and Loma Linda Veterans Affairs to recruit veterans to serve veterans and military families through daily and weekly events including respite care for family members, social events and after-school tutoring and remembrance of military contributions.

Recruitment plans are outlined to target all volunteer pools including diverse members, veterans and military family members and volunteers with disabilities. The program works with various partners and uses media and person-to-person methods.

The RSVP Program administers a satisfaction survey and addresses areas of concern.

The City has consistently provided between 35-49% of program income since 2006. The current year 2012-2013 grant match is 47%.

The program has specifically addressed the reimbursable expenses to volunteers. Volunteer travel expenses are budgeted, plans are defined in policies and procedures as well as in Director's Directives, and specific infrastructure steps are in place to manage reimbursement.

#### Weaknesses:

Budget does not include funds for recruitment. Appropriate information is provided on volunteer recognition events and items for 296 volunteers at \$9 per person.

While the goal in Measure 2.1 of providing 10,000 hours of service in hospitals, senior centers, congregate meal sites and sheriff offices suggests that the volunteer service will be valuable, the proof for an unmet need is not clearly specified. A rationale in Measure 1.1 of the need for job training and placement is a bit stronger using logic to frame the need based on local economics and unemployment rates.

The application does not provide much detail on training content. Conceptually it is stated that volunteer sites provide necessary training, which is a required element stated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and that training curricula are reviewed and/or attended by RSVP staff to ensure it is effective. A six-month performance evaluation is required to identify any additional need for training. An RSVP Policy and Procedures Manual is mentioned, but not within the content of relating it to training.