

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Winona

Applicant ID: 13SR144085

Project Name: Common Good 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 provides numerous, strong data information from various sources other than the U.S. Census demonstrating the unmet community need of increased numbers of Seniors needing aid at home in the geographic area, thus strengthening the Primary Focus Area on Healthy Futures.

Weaknesses:

While the applicant describes planning and communication with stakeholders regarding the needs of Veterans and/or military families, it is unclear how the grant project will improve service in this area.

Although the grantee appears to provide sufficient funds for the project, it is unclear how certain amounts were decided upon or what grant funds would specifically buy. Also, more specific detail is needed in the following budget areas: equipment maintenance agreements, office cleaning, depreciation, office utilities, staff training, computer tech support, postage & shipping.

The narrative seems to restate the grant questions, and does not give specific examples, outlines or explain details that would paint a picture of the applicant's plan, infrastructure, and capacity for recruiting, retaining, developing, and rewarding volunteers.

Although the applicant states that it follows all RSVP program guidelines and lists some of these requirements being met, it is unclear how they do this.

Although the applicant mentions gradually graduating volunteer stations by working with partners and placing volunteers in other service areas, there is no detailed explanation or examples of how this is done and no mention of causing as little disruption to volunteers as possible.

Although the applicant clearly describes paid staff positions and fiscal oversight, it is not clear how these paid positions will be sustained.

The applicant provides various strong examples of its track record in the Healthy Futures Primary Focus Area and measuring performance, but fails to address managing volunteers.