

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Council on Rural Service Programs, Inc.

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144099

**Project Name:** RSVP - Darke, Logan, Miami And Shelby Counties

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's Primary Focus Area is Healthy Futures and has a work plan to measure academic achievement and attendance for 29 youth supported by 18 volunteers at the end of the three year grant period.

The applicant provides an extremely current Community Assessment from August 2012 to provide data that supports the program Focus Areas.

The applicant has plans in motion to report on progress through quarterly reports from stations and other nonprofit organizations to find which community needs are not being met.

The RSVP staff will ensure that the training for volunteers from the health trainers/coaches meet the most pertinent needs of the stations as measured from reports compiled by station supervisors.

11% of the unduplicated volunteers are included in outcome based work plans. This is above the required 10%.

The program will have two part-time recruiters responsible for engaging and monitoring the success of the volunteers.

The applicant will ensure communication between stations and volunteers through newsletters as well as a recognition event.

To support recruitment efforts, program staff will use referrals made by current volunteers to increase the number of volunteers as well as use the media, radio, newspapers, social internet and participate at community meetings.

The applicant has been a sponsor for 38 years with clean audits without findings for the agency.

The applicant presents a strong budget with supporting detail. The match budgeted is more than the required 30% with documentation of support from local United Ways for over 15 years.

**Weaknesses:**

The staff intends to provide care packages for veterans who may be in need but does not mention how they will do that or if they will recruit veterans as volunteers.

The work plan that addresses tutoring presents data on high dropout rates for two counties but little data on the correlation between attendance and dropout rates to support needing tutors in the schools.