

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Senior Services of Central Illinois

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144102

**Project Name:** RSVP of Sangamon, Menard and Logan 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 volunteers are recognized and opportunities for retention are provided as the RSVP graduates stations; a number of awards are given as recognition to volunteers.

The applicant's recognition line item provides for \$3,039 in funds to host the annual Volunteer Recognition dinner where awards are given to volunteers goes above and beyond what is expected.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant provided little evidence that an unmet need was clearly identified in the proposal. The applicant provided a great deal of demographic information about the service area, but never indicated why this information led them to select the Primary Focus Area of Healthy Futures.

The applicant did not demonstrate effort to recruit from diverse populations such as minorities or the disabled.

The applicant did not provide a clear demonstration to ensure compliance with RSVP regulations. The applicant's Project Director plans to meet with volunteer stations on a quarterly basis to ensure the stations are adhering to program regulations and applicable laws. However, no mention is made of how this will be done.

The applicant indicates that the RSVP is required to collect impact-based performance and document to ensure quality and quantitative performance. There is not a clear description of a plan to ensure the National Performance Measure outcomes and outputs are measured and collected. No specific tools are described for this purpose.

The applicant only has the Illinois Department of Aging as the primary source of non-federal funds. The applicant does not have other sources at this time, but is planning to seek local donations and sponsor fundraisers to secure additional non-federal funds for the project.