

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: United Way of Martin County, Inc.

Applicant ID: 13SR144106

Project Name: RSVP of Okeechobee County

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 new RSVP Project Director will be able to rely on the United Way of Martin County RSVP Director for advice and mentoring in new service area of Okeechobee County.

The applicant, United Way of Martin County, will provide the non-federal match if other sources are not identified and secured.

Weaknesses:

In the Strengthening Communities section, the applicant generally describes that disasters occur, but does not specifically describe the process used to determine community need.

The applicant notes in the proposal that other efforts to develop a volunteer corps for disasters has not been successful in the county, but the applicant does not describe how it will succeed in light of previous attempts.

The applicant notes that the American Red Cross has a role in the county, but does not say how it will work with the Red Cross.

It is difficult to understand the proposal as it goes back and forth describing its work as a current grantee in Martin County and the proposed work to be done as a new applicant for Okeechobee County.

The applicant does not describe a plan for achieving diversity in its volunteer pool.

No plan is offered to describe high quality RSVP assignments.

The applicant acknowledges difficulty by other organizations in recruiting volunteers, but does not describe what it plans to do that will achieve different results.

There is some discussion of graduating volunteers, but it is unclear how many or where they are currently serving.

There is little discussion of volunteer station management and procedures for assuring that RSVP regulations are followed.

There is little discussion of how volunteer stations will be identified.

The proposal does not provide sufficient information regarding how the service area of Okeechobee County will be operated on a day-to-day basis.

The source of non-federal funds is not well described.