

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Hands on Volunteer Network of the Valley

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144112

**Project Name:** RSVP of Mahoning and Trumbull 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 demonstrates unmet community needs that are a high priority through the inclusion of several data sets related to the prevalence of low-income elderly living alone as well as low income families in need of food related support. They cite local, state and national level reports.

The applicant presents a compelling explanation for their choice of project activities as it relates to the unmet needs of the two target communities.

The applicant describes a variety of volunteer recruitment strategies that includes outreach via print media, social media, and public speaking. They describe their long standing partnerships with several community organizations as well as the national affiliate of an organization specializing in volunteer management.

The applicant provides a clear description of the roles and responsibilities of the volunteer stations with regard to volunteer training, recognition, support and monitoring for volunteer satisfaction. They describe plans for monitoring the sites for program compliance and effectiveness.

The applicant describes their plan for collecting and analyzing data related to outputs and outcomes. They explain their history of this kind of formal data collection in relation to prior and current federal grant projects.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant's budget does not include funds committed to the recruitment of volunteers.

The applicant does not include budget line item costs related to volunteer costs related to travel and food.

The applicant's budget narrative does not describe the sources for the non-federal funding that they state that they have secured.