

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Coahoma Opportunities Inc.

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144174

**Project Name:** Coahoma Opportunities 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 Performance Measures for Education, the applicant's Primary Focus Area, show a strong linkage between local educational gaps (motor development for young children, poor math and behavioral skills for school-aged children), RSVP activities (in head start and math tutoring), and outcomes (improved social/emotional development, improved math skills).

The Advisory Council seems to be a clear source of finding volunteer opportunities for seniors that will be satisfying and help retain volunteers. This is a clear strength; finding volunteer opportunities in the small rural communities of Coahoma County appears to be challenging.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant does not specifically discuss infrastructure to manage the RSVP program in the Primary Focus Area Education in the narrative. The narrative speaks of management of RSVP volunteers generally, as an entire group, but not with regard to volunteers in the Primary Focus Area.

The fiscal oversight discussed is worded too generally to assess its strength, including terms such as "basic accrual accounting," "financial statements prepared monthly," "GMS uses acceptable accounting practices," without going into much further detail on how applicant applies these terms internally.

The recruitment plan discusses an inclusion of veterans, but does not provide a detailed plan of how to reach out to veterans in Coahoma County.

While the application does include some programs outside the Primary Focus Area (police and veteran programs), the applicant does not clearly develop or explain these programs in the narrative and does not connect the programs to specific unmet community needs in Coahoma County.

The applicant does not clearly state if the volunteer workshops and meetings with site managers ensure that the management of volunteer stations is in compliance with RSVP program guidelines.