

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: RSVP of the Capital Region, Inc.

Applicant ID: 13SR144189

Project Name: RSVP of the Capital Region, Inc.

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 RSVP of the Capital Region is making plans to expand recruitment with Veteran's organizations and services for veterans to be sure basic needs are met whether for socialization, food, transportation, financial management or transitions.

Recruitment of a blended mix of volunteers is a goal, including people of all economic levels, ethnicities, abilities, education and cultural groups. Recruitment outreach that is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) friendly is being pursued. Recruiting military, veterans, and military families through a veterans' service organization is underway. Outreach to and inclusion of people with disabilities has resulted in new partnerships and volunteers.

In the programs annual survey, volunteers report satisfaction with forming new relationships and increased skills to manage projects and supervise coworkers. 95% report that volunteering has made a positive difference in their life.

This program has a track record in the past 30 years of assisting in the creation of volunteer operated organizations to meet social needs. An example is development of a free standing transportation service for seniors that is 100% volunteer operated including obtaining funding, dispatching, driving and maintaining vehicles.

Weaknesses:

Needs are backed up by national and state-based reports, although it is unclear if state data specifically addresses the large area of the state served by the Capital Area RSVP and thus reinforcing the unmet need in the target area.

RSVP Coordinators meet with new stations to explain policies and requirements for providing training. During volunteer orientation the specifics and the program and the volunteer job description are discussed. Training for specific types of volunteering is referenced, but the only specific training mentioned is tutor training. Volunteers participate as trainers for RSVP training for tutors.

Program is just embarking to work with veterans and provide services.