

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Otsego County United Way

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144205

**Project Name:** RSVP of Otsego 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 project serves veterans and recognizes service to them as an unmet need because they represent a higher percentage of the service area's population than the state in general (11.2% to 7.4% respectively).

The applicant notes that its volunteer corps of 400 (for a community population of 24,000) is very high, particularly when compared to other districts in the state under this NOFO (example cited by the applicant in the application) was 130 volunteers in a community of 38,000).

The applicant is taking a multi-pronged media and social media strategy for volunteer recruitment and management.

The applicant has five years of experience in managing its RSVP programs, and is well versed in all the necessary procedures.

The Otsego County Commission on Aging provides \$48,000 worth of support to the program (almost half the budget).

The applicant's non-federal portion of the budget for the project significantly exceeds the federal share. The federal share is 36%, the grantee's share is 16%, and the excess amount is 48% for a non-federal total of 64%. Matching funds are from three primary sources (the Michigan Office of Services to Aging, the Otsego County Commission on Aging, and the Otsego County United Way). A local business pays the postage for the bi-monthly volunteer newsletter mailings.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant does not explain in detail how it proposes to segment its volunteer recruitment and development efforts to the three categories of: individuals of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, and degrees of English language proficiency; veterans and military family members as RSVP volunteers; and RSVP volunteers with disabilities including individuals with age-related disabilities.

The applicant notes that MOUs with volunteer stations are reviewed annually and that stations are in compliance with regulations and not engaged in prohibited activities, but does not specify the mechanisms and processes for ensuring compliance.