

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** East Alabama Services for Elderly (EASE)

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144271

**Project Name:** Lee and Russell County 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 applicant describes a plan to recognize volunteers with an annual recognition luncheon and a holiday dinner that includes the presentation of a volunteer of the year award and a volunteer station of the year award. The applicant states that they will present certificates and gifts to volunteers at the annual luncheon as well.

The applicant provides a detailed description of the step by step internal process for approval for each project expenditure and reimbursement. This demonstrates a strong understanding for the need for project and organizational accountability. The applicant presents a solid checks and balance system for the financial activities of the project.

The applicant has provided a description of their strategies for data collection and for measuring project performance.

#### Weaknesses:

The applicant does not fully describe what the community needs are, nor do they explain why the community needs are unmet.

The applicant presents a budget that is not balanced and has the following expense categories that do not appear to be fully funded: Project Director Salary and Benefits; Project Director local travel; and dues and membership fees.

The applicant does not fully describe the strategies they will use to recruit, screen, or train a diverse population of RSVP volunteers. The applicant does not demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of recruiting, training and retaining RSVP volunteers who have physical disabilities, age-related disabilities, or who are not English Language proficient.

The applicant does not fully describe how it will deal with unanticipated project problems, volunteer issues or volunteer station issues as they arise, making it difficult to determine the applicant's ability to be responsive and make project adjustments as needed.

The applicant does not adequately describe the specific community needs for RSVP volunteers through the use of data related to the needs of each target activity that they are addressing in this project.