

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Harrison County Human Resource Agency

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144332

**Project Name:** Harrison 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's Human Resource Executive Director meets weekly with RSVP directors to assess, evaluate, and offer suggestions for program improvement. The director is responsible for day to day management of internal policies.

An unusual feature of this application's recognition plan is that local businesses offer discounts and other incentives for senior volunteers.

The needs of veteran to be served are described in the performance measure section. The services to be provided to them in the Other Focus Area are appropriate: a soup kitchen and helping disabled veterans apply for benefits.

The application shows that the sound fiscal practices and policies are in place to ensure accountability of all funds received. Their bookkeeper has several years of experience in accounting and auditing. This is augmented with additional information that the bookkeeper has several years of experience in accounting and auditing.

The duties of both the project director and the secretary/bookkeeper described provide a realistic staff planning infrastructure. The secretary/bookkeeper assists the project director in managing the day to day internal policies.

A realistic description of the organizational infrastructure (internal policies, governance, and the financial management plan) is given to support the project and grant funds.

The application presents a realistic rationale of how non-federal funds will support the grant.

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County has a standardized method of employment that applies to each phase of employment.

A realistic description of the organizational infrastructure (internal policies, governance, and the financial management plan) is given to support the project and grant funds. The role of the advisory board and the tangible assets are given.

The application presents a realistic rationale of how non-federal funds will support the grant. The applicant's share of the budget is 55.5%.

The applicant's budget request is adequate and the probability of the applicant raising its share of the non-Federal portion is promising based on the information provided.

**Weaknesses:**

The applicant does not provide a clear training plan.

The applicant does not have a plan to recruit people from under-represented populations, including veterans.

The applicant does not provide a plan for graduating volunteer stations.

No mention was made whether paid staff could be sustained if the project were not funded.

The application does not present a clear picture of how it manages volunteers and how volunteers tie in with Primary Focus Area and measuring performance.