

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Senior Resources of Freeborn County

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144342

**Project Name:** Southern Tri-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:

A Community Assessment project is used to identify needs. It allows local agencies to use combined resources to address issues across the area. The top three Primary Focus Areas were Education, Economic Opportunity tied with Senior Citizens and Healthy Futures.

Volunteers and sites are managed through established processes such as negotiated station agreements, orientation sessions and training, a Volunteer Handbook, job descriptions, pre-post interviews, as well as communication and visits by RSVP staff.

Training is provided on multiple levels, for volunteer managers and volunteers, and includes facilitating discussions and workshops for support and expectations of volunteers. Training for RSVP staff and station managers provided through the Minnesota Association of Volunteer Management is used to increase skills in areas such as working with baby boomers and immigrant communities.

This program is managed with a wide range of established policies and best practices and trained personnel.

Grants from local foundations, industries and Wal-Mart support specific projects such as reading tutor gift books and Bone Builders equipment. In-kind agreements provide selected office space. New funds from the Joint Powers Public Health Department will be sought on a per-capita basis. Local counties and United Way contribute volunteer support funds.

#### Weaknesses:

There are no plans, nor description for graduation plans for any volunteer stations.

Recruitment strategies are wide-ranging from word-of-mouth to media and social marketing, to county Volunteer Fairs and the Annual Martin Luther King Day breakfast highlighting volunteerism, and volunteer and staff outreach for recruitment. However, it is not clear that a population pool has been targeted as required.