

# SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

## 2013 RSVP Competition

**Legal Applicant:** Family And Child Services of Washington, D.C.

**Applicant ID:** 13SR144380

**Project Name:** The National Capitol Area 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:

This application includes significant activities serving veterans and military families.

The applicant provides a detailed plan for training volunteers that includes a two-day orientation and a two-week coaching program. Topics are inclusive and cover program policy and procedures as well as how to work with clients. Ongoing professional development is provided through a collaborative network of providers serving the elder population.

The applicant provides clear information provided in both the narrative and the budget that costs are included to support criminal background checks and to reimburse volunteers for expenses.

#### Weaknesses:

The three major elements in the Primary Focus area are not connected to one another by community need, illustrating how the proposed activities address the need and concluding with what the expected outcome will be. For example, the application proposes to have 45 RSVP volunteers provide service to the Veterans History Project. While there are some activities listed for this project, there is no information provided as to why this is a community need or how many veterans need assistance with collecting historical documents and data. Additionally, there is no connection made to show that the proposed activities will reach outputs or outcomes.

It is unclear as to how compliance with RSVP program regulations will be ensured with one full-time position responsible for the management of the entire roster of volunteers per site, coordinating a total of 50 sites. This position is also responsible for the all support services for recruited volunteers. The target number of volunteers to be recruited over the grant period is 200. The Placement Coordinator is also responsible for co-leading a 2-day orientation and a 2-week coaching period for volunteers.

The applicant provided a good deal of discussion on the collection of evaluation data as it relates to employee performance and volunteer performance/satisfaction, there is no discussion of what data will be collected and by whom in order to evaluate the outcome of activities provided through the project described within the application.