

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Barton County Community College

Applicant ID: 13SR144393

Project Name: RSVP of Central Kansas

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 has a track record of providing and managing volunteer services in the region. The applicant projects a realistic plan to manage project resources, both financial and in-kind, to ensure accountability and efficient and effective use of available resources. Affiliation with the Community College is a strength in terms of resources and financial management.

Weaknesses:

The applicant uses solid socio-economic data to demonstrate need in Barton and Pawnee Counties. The applicant describes some utilization of RSVP volunteers throughout multiple social and food programs to address community problems. However, it is unclear how the RSVP volunteers will address community needs or achieve the anticipated results.

There is no explanation of the activities that will serve veterans and military families.

The applicant does not explain how the proposed plan and infrastructure will create high quality RSVP assignments, nor do they explain how volunteer services will be sustained.

It is unclear how the proposed volunteer recognition activities will encourage retention. The budget proposal for volunteer recognition was very low.

The application is sometimes unclear how proposed plans will ensure compliance with RSVP program regulations.

It is unclear how volunteer stations will address community needs.

Staffing is explained, however, it is unclear whether the amount of staff devoted to the project is adequate to shoulder the workload delineated in the Performance Measures. It is unclear whether the numbers of staff appropriated are enough to complete the work delineated in the Performance Measures.

The budget lacks needed justification and detail per line item. Justifications are minimal across all account lines. A \$500 budget to support volunteer recognition is very low.