

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: HandsOn Northwest North Carolina

Applicant ID: 13SR144400

Project Name: RSVP of Forsyth and Stokes County

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 application proposes significant activity targeting veterans and military families by establishing a target of 30 veterans/families to be assisted with housing support transitioning them from homeless/street life to shelter to permanent housing.

The application clearly identifies plans to develop/oversee volunteer stations addressing unmet community needs outside of their Primary Focus Area to include: Veterans and military families, housing assistance; Capacity building/leverage, blood donation program assistance; and Education, classroom tutoring.

The applicant's plan for continuing to secure required non-federal funds involves the Director making specific funding requests to: The North Carolina Division of Aging; Home & Community Care Block Grant funds; Forsyth County's Elderly & Disabled Transportation Program; and a Department of Transportation Grant. They have themselves firmly established in the community of service as members of a wide variety of collaborative bodies that include funders as members as well.

Weaknesses:

The application relies very heavily upon communication through the Internet, website and a newsletter to manage volunteers. There are references to positions that will manage/supervise volunteers, however, there is no described plan by which this will be done, i.e., how frequently will supervision be provided; how is feedback solicited from volunteers, etc.

The phrase "providing volunteer assignments with opportunities to share experiences, abilities and skills to improve their communities and themselves through service in their communities" is only paraphrased from the selection criteria with no description as to how the project plans to do this.

Beyond stating that the newly yet-to-be-hired RSVP Director of the project will meet with all volunteer stations within the first few months of assuming the program in April, 2013, there is no information provided regarding plans or infrastructure by which on-going management of volunteer stations will be provided.