

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Volunteer Services of Carlton County, Inc.

Applicant ID: 13SR144440

Project Name: Aitkin-Carlton 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 provides thorough information on the community needs and proposed activities, and ties these activities to National Performance outcomes as evident in the work plan with most activities having a anticipated outcome.

The applicant provides a thorough description on training protocols and internal systems to ensure that volunteers are trained. There is a system in place to ensure that volunteers receive training on the RSVP program as well as at their respective volunteer station.

The applicant presents realistic strategies to ensure that its volunteer pool is diverse based on its community demographics. The applicant plan to include persons of American Indian/Alaskan descent as this is the largest minority population in the area.

The applicant demonstrates adequate fiscal oversight of the program as evident by Oversight of a Board of Directors and policies and procedures that are in place for procurement and financial transactions.

The applicant provides detailed description of current infrastructure including facility, board oversight, financial procedures, travel and reimbursement policy, insurance coverage and insurance for staff and volunteers.

Weaknesses:

The applicant does not provide much information on how the applicant plans to serve, track and include veterans and military families in project activities.

The applicant did not provide a breakdown or description of the non-federal sharing in the budget. Adequacy and reasonableness of the required non-federal share could not be determined as the criterion was not addressed.