

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Ki Bois Community Action Foundation

Applicant ID: 13SR144542

Project Name: Ki BOIS Community Actions 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 significant activity serving veterans and military families proposed within this project.

The applicant states that their targeted service area ranks 6th highest in the nation for civilians who are veterans. Additionally, U.S. Census data shows that a large number of veterans living in the service area are below the poverty level and/or disabled. This shows a strong community need for services in the identified priority area of veterans and military families. Community needs are identified as unmet, for example: the local disabled Veterans Centers suffer from paid staff being overworked and not having time to socialize with veterans. Seeing this as an unmet need, the applicant proposes to be active in 4 stations with volunteers providing visits, calls, and other needed services to decrease their social isolation.

The applicant describes a 40-year history of successfully managing financial and in-kind resources. They describe a detailed process of internal and external controls where their Financial Procedures Manual governs all financial resources. There is a procedure in place where all transactions need the approval of the Program Director, their immediate supervisor, and the Board of Directors.

The applicant intends to secure their non-federal financial requirement through support from multiple funding streams to include the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Community Services Block Grant funding, and local agency funds.

Weaknesses:

The applicant did not include outcomes for the Priority Service Area by which to determine their ability to achieve National Performance Measures.

The applicant states they will complete an annual survey of volunteers to give them the opportunity to provide feedback on their assignment and their program. The Director will maintain contact, however, the vast majority will be electronic, print (newsletters), or phone. There is no other description of a plan to ensure quality volunteer assignments or that volunteers are provided with opportunities to share their experiences.

The applicant identifies one position at 95% of time to be responsible for all activities associated with the management and supervision of 61 volunteer stations utilizing 223 volunteers within the proposed model of service. This provides a low probability that the programs, stations, and volunteers will receive adequate levels of management and supervision.