

AGENCY: RSVP

LIAISON: Karla Webb/Jane Acker

1. Need for Program. Describe who the target population is and whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing. Indicate the source of this information. Also, indicate how the program/service is different and how it is similar to others and what would happen if the program/service ceased to exist. List the priorities established by ASSET Funders, which the programming addresses.

Per ASSET budget and meeting with RSVP Director, Kalen Petersen, RSVP's target population is adult volunteers age 55+. RSVP's mission is "to enhance the lives of adults age 55 and older by connecting them with rewarding volunteer experiences that meet community needs." Services provided by RSVP meet the following funder priorities through the work of volunteers and supporting agencies that provide the services: County – Services addressing basic needs, services addressing safety and well-being, and services promoting self-sufficiency; City of Ames - #1 Transportation cost offset programs, disaster response; United Way Result 1.1.3., Result 3.3.3.

2. Program Strengths. Pick two to four factors that contribute most importantly to the program/service outcomes. Do not list everything that is satisfactory. We will assume that things not mentioned are okay. For each strength describe some supporting evidence.

RSVP is an established agency, they have phenomenal volunteers located throughout Story County, are able to provide reimbursement to volunteers for mileage to and from a volunteer site and provide supplemental liability insurance.

3. Program Weaknesses. Select factors that detract most from the program/service achieving its outcomes. Present details as described above. Recommendations for reducing these weaknesses should follow the discussion of each weakness.

Kalen acknowledged challenges in marketing to smaller communities with volunteers often needing to commute to do volunteer activities. For the transportation program they do need to lean financially on donations to help cover the costs of this program. The shortfall in donations relative to reimbursements for the transportation program has grown lately due to an increased number of trips to Polk County and the VA hospital. They are planning a fundraising mailing to address this need. The Fort Dodge office is located in a mall that has been sold and will be torn down. RSVP has six months to find a new location. Kalen also noted that they have had staff turnover in Disaster/Transportation Coordinator position.

4. Financial Outlook. Current funding concerns should be described. In addition, the assessment of the program's plan to cope with shrinking resources should be given.

Funding concerns at the Federal level continue to exist. If ASSET funding was limited or reduced this would affect Transportation and Disaster Emergency programs as well as the local match for Volunteer Management.

5. Internal Management Practices. Summarize your assessment of the management of the agency, and the role of the Board. If there are deficiencies, details should be provided. Conclude with recommendations when appropriate

Kalen has been with the organization for more than thirty years and is very knowledgeable about volunteer services. RSVP shares a board with the Story County Senior Center. It is a dedicated and supportive group.

Agency Suggestions/Comments. Make note of any suggestions, comments or questions agencies may have with regard to the ASSET process, budget forms and or anything else that relates to the process.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT:

Volunteers support the work being completed by many agencies throughout Story County, as well as disaster assistance and support to local law enforcement. RSVP programs perform a variety of valuable community services as well as offering meaningful engagement opportunities to senior citizens.