FY 14/15 Community Services Block Grant Program Application for Community Action Opportunities-Buncombe County

Community Action Opportunities is a catalyst for individual, family and community change.

•We are a Community Action Agency, founded in 1964 by the Economic Opportunity Act.

•We work with citizens of Buncombe, Madison, and McDowell county who live on limited incomes, elected public officials and private sector representatives to confront and solve the problems that cause poverty.



Community Action Opportunities Programs

• Head Start

- Life Works
- Weatherization
- 21st Century Parenting
- Community Response

 Accountable Results for Community Action – a statewide database that supports Life Works and Weatherization

Results Oriented Management and Accountability

- Low income people become more self sufficient
- The conditions in which low income people live are improved
- Low income people own a stake in their community
- Partnerships among supporters and providers to low income people are achieved
- Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results
- Low income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other support systems

Identified poverty causes

- Living wage employment opportunities
- Lack of employment skills
- Limited educational and vocational training
- Lack of affordable standard housing
- Limited access to transportation and childcare
- Increased energy and food costs
- Unmet health (physical/mental) needs

Long Range Goal

 By June 30, 2017, decrease by 50 or more the number of families and individuals at or below 100% of the US-DHHS Poverty Income Guideline, as measured by goal completion, progress on ROMA scales, and reflected in a Social Return on Investment of \$5.00 or more for each CSBG dollar invested.

Selected Strategies

1.Assist low income residents to become self sufficient through intensive case management and support services which provide education and training opportunities, promote positive work ethics, and access to permanent employment, reliable transportation, adequate childcare, economic literacy, and financial assistance.

2. Advocate to create or provide access to the resources needed to support low income families to become self sufficient, including building/enhancing basic life skills.

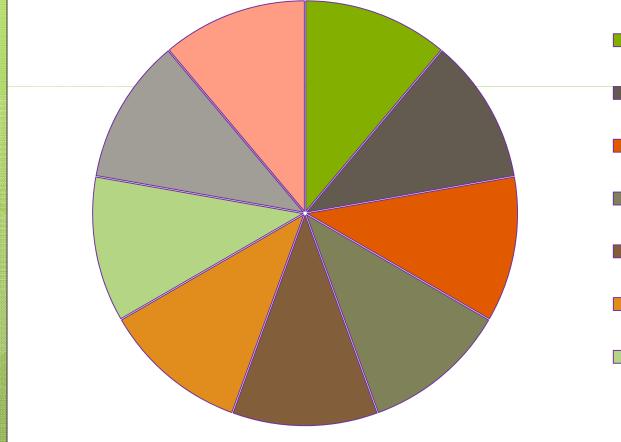
3. Partner, collaborate, and coordinate service delivery with local agencies and businesses to create and support a network of cost effective services that create opportunities for success for our customers.

4. Partner and coordinate with business and other employment organizations to secure adequate wage employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged persons.

To meet the needs, life coaches:

- Guide, support and help to remove obstacles and solve problems
- Strengthen support networks between community programs, businesses, and colleges
- Assess customers' condition on a variety of domains
- Help customers set goals and move toward a condition of thriving one step at a time

Life Works Domains



Employment

Basic Life Skills

IncomeManagementHealth

Housing

Education

Income

Customers achieve outcomes:

- Secure and retain sustainable employment
- Attain education/vocational training
- Learn to make better use of available income
- Obtain and maintain standard housing
- Build self-esteem and strong work ethics
- Reduce dependence on public benefits

Outcome Measures for FY 14/15

Table 1 Outcome Measures for Self-Sufficiency Projects	
Project Name: Life Works	Expected to Achieve the Outcome
Outcome Measures	in Reporting Period (Target)
Number of persons served	74 Buncombe
	13 Madison 21McDowell
The number of low-income families rising above the poverty level	13 Buncombe
	2 Madison 2 McDowell
The average change in annual income per participant family	\$6,000
(in whole #'s)	(combined)
The number of participants obtaining employment/better employment	25 Buncombe
	3 Madison 6 McDowell
The number of participants obtaining jobs with medical benefits	8 Buncombe
	1 Madison
	2 McDowell
The participant average wage rate	\$9.00 (combined)
The number of participants completing education/training programs	22 Buncombe
	2 Madison
	3 McDowell
The number of participants securing standard housing	10 Buncombe
	1 Madison
	2 McDowell
The number of participants provided emergency assistance	n/a

