

AHOPE Center - Coordinated Assessment

*FY 2017 Buncombe County Community
Funding*

Homeward Bound of WNC

Mr. Brian Kelly Alexander
218 Patton Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

jenny@homewardboundwnc.org
O: 828-258-1695
M: 828-776-7375
F: 828-252-5944

Jenny Simmons

218 Patton Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

jenny@homewardboundwnc.org
O: 828-258-1695
F: 828-252-5944

Application Form

Project Name*

Name of Project

AHOPE Center - Coordinated Assessment

Amount Requested*

Amount Requested

\$130,000.00

Service Area*

Which Commissioner Districts are served by this program?

Access a map of Buncombe County Commissioner districts [here](#).

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3

Which county sustainability goal aligns best with the goals of this project?*

Based on the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan, select a Category, Goal & Objective that align with the focus of the project and the specific results that will be achieved.

Access the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan [here](#).

Community > Healthy People > Increase access to mental health and substance abuse prevention programs

If applicable, select a second sustainability goal that aligns with project goals.

Result 2 is optional - Select if project aligns with more than one Sustainability Category, Goal & Objective.

Community > Affordable, Green, and Liveable Housing > Work in partnership with other organizations to assist families in finding safe, affordable housing

If applicable, select a third sustainability goal that aligns with project goals.

Result 3 is optional - Select if project aligns with more than one Sustainability Category, Goal & Objective.

Project Description

Project Description*

Description of Project

For individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Buncombe County, Homeward Bound's AHOPE Center serves as the front door to the community's homeless housing service system. AHOPE is open daily to provide basic services (showers, mail, phone, storage, snacks) through a core of volunteers, to build relationships that help transition people out of homelessness, and to conduct the community's Coordinated Assessment System through AHOPE case managers. Coordinated Assessment is a system where all literally homeless persons (living in emergency shelter, on the streets, or in places not meant for habitation) are assessed to help determine the most appropriate housing intervention that will meet their specific needs to end their homelessness. AHOPE case managers use a valid and reliable vulnerability assessment tool to triage those most in need in terms of their mental health, substance use, and/or physical health. This tool allows members of the Coordinated Assessment Workgroup to review the scores and move the most vulnerable into housing first, as it is available and funding allows. While waiting on housing, AHOPE case managers work with clients to make the transition from homelessness into housing by helping them access mental and physical health, substance use providers for treatment, as needed.

How many people will this project serve?*

State the number of individuals or households in Buncombe County that will be served by this project. Also state the number of people that will experience the desired result. For example, if dropout prevention services are being delivered to 100 students, how many will successfully graduate from high school?

Homeward Bound expects to serve 1800 literally homeless individuals (i.e. those in emergency shelter, living on the streets, or in places not meant for habitation) at AHOPE Center in fiscal year 2016 -2017. All of these individuals will be assessed for the appropriate housing intervention utilizing the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). 235 of these individuals will move into housing either through the agency's Pathways to Permanent Housing (PPH) program or non-supportive housing in the community. PPH offers rental assistance and case management services to support individuals and families in permanent housing. The agency also expects that the AHOPE Center will assist 450 individuals by referring them to a mainstream mental health treatment and/or substance use treatment provider.

Describe the people this project will serve.*

Characterize the demographics of the project's target population in terms such as age, gender, income, race, ethnicity, geographic area, etc. Include information about method of referral/recruitment of the target population.

AHOPE's Coordinated Assessment System serves all literally homeless (living in emergency shelter or on the streets) individuals and families in Buncombe County. Current demographics of the population served are 65% male and 35% female. In terms of age: 4% are under 5; 5% are from 5 to 12; 3% are from 13 to 17; 13% are from 18 to 24; 22% are from 25 to 34; 19% are from 35 to 44; 21% are from 45 to 54; 10% are from 55 to 61; and 3% are over 61. 96% are at or below 50% Area Median Income (\$19,600 for a household of 1). In terms of ethnicity: 97% are non-Hispanic, non-Latino; 3% are Hispanic. In terms of race: 70% are white; 24% are black; 4% are multiple races.

Clients learn about AHOPE through the agency's street outreach team interacting with homeless individuals at parks, campsites, the library, businesses, and other community areas. Others are referred by community partners, social service agencies, the hospital system, behavioral health organizations, and United Way's 2-1-1.

What key steps will you take to achieve the results of this project?*

Describe the core elements of your implementation plan, including milestones that will take place within the funding timeframe.

98% of all persons experiencing homelessness in Buncombe County go to AHOPE for basic services (shower, mail, phone, storage, snacks). Those who are literally homeless (living in emergency shelter or on the streets) are referred by volunteers at AHOPE to a case manager who conducts a vulnerability assessment. The assessment tool produces a score (0 to 20) identifying the level of vulnerability with 0 being no vulnerability to 20 being the most vulnerable. Scores are reviewed bi-weekly at the community's Coordinated Assessment workgroup. Those with the highest vulnerability score are matched with the most appropriate housing intervention (permanent supportive housing providing long term financial and case management support OR rapid rehousing providing short to medium term financial and case management support). While waiting for housing, AHOPE staff work with clients to help with the transition from homelessness to housing by referring them to behavioral and physical health treatment.

Describe the evidence of success that backs this project's approach.*

What evidence of success (i.e. evidence-based research, practice model, accreditation, industry standards, and/or other framework) are you using as a basis for your project design?

Coordinated Assessment is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated, evidence-informed approach to ending homelessness more effectively and efficiently. AHOPE case managers assess those who are literally homeless utilizing the VI-SPDAT (a valid and reliable tool recommended by HUD) and work with the most vulnerable to transition into housing first. Housing First is a best practice standard in homeless housing services. According to Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, "the research is clear that permanent supportive housing using a Housing First approach is the primary solution" to ending chronic homelessness. Homeward Bound began implementing Housing First in 2006 in line with the local 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and to date has provided permanent supportive housing for 1,334 individuals with an 89% housing retention rate.

Describe your data collection, tracking, and reporting procedures.*

Explain your methods for documenting project, service and client information. Include a description of any software or other tools utilized.

AHOPE case managers document outcomes on Excel spreadsheets and utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a state-wide database for demographic information, homeless/housing history, and services accessed on those served. Both the Excel spreadsheets and HMIS are used to produce monthly reports. Each month the AHOPE Director and Data Specialist run report outcome data detailing the number served, demographics, housing status, income level, and services obtained. Homeward Bound reports progress on outcomes each month to funders.

Explain your technological resources and capacity.*

Explain your current technological strengths and barriers and how this impacts your ability to track data and report outcomes. Who is responsible for adaptation and use of technology within your organization?

Homeward Bound participates in the state-wide HMIS system ensuring that every program participant's information has been entered in the system. The agency has a written technology plan that addresses general technology, making sure staff properly use equipment and software. Homeward Bound Senior Staff monitor technology needs at the agency, addressing issues through a contracted Information Technology provider. The agency's HMIS Agency Administrator assists in ensuring data quality within HMIS.

Organizational Profile

How does the proposed project support your mission and strategic plan?*

State your mission and the date of your most recent strategic plan, and explain how the proposed project helps advance your organizational goals.

Homeward Bound's mission is "working with others to end the cycle of homelessness." The agency's most recent strategic plan covers calendar years 2015 through 2018. The strategic plan helps the agency build infrastructure and financial resources to end chronic and veteran homelessness by 2017. Implementing Coordinated Assessment is a vital part of achieving this goal by matching each literally homeless individual and family with the right housing intervention and focusing the use of limited housing funds. The plan also helps Homeward Bound collaborate with community stakeholders to ultimately develop and implement homelessness prevention and a housing crisis system of care to decrease a person's likelihood of becoming homeless or amount of time in the homeless service system. The strategic plan focuses on the agency's mission by building awareness of homelessness and how individuals, businesses, and faith communities can partner with Homeward Bound to end homelessness as we know it.

What expertise/accomplishments do you have that are relevant to the proposed project?*

List your organization's strengths as well as accomplishments from the past 3 years that position the organization to be successful with the proposed project.

AHOPE serves approximately 200 unduplicated individuals each day, engaging the most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals. At AHOPE, clients understand they will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their issues. AHOPE volunteers and staff focus on the solution homelessness: permanent housing. AHOPE uses basic services as a way to draw people in to the center, allowing for the opportunity for assessment and development of plans to move into permanent housing. Since 2006, Homeward Bound has provided supportive housing for 1,334 individuals with a housing retention rate of 89%. Homeward Bound has been the lead agency in the community to implement this HUD mandated Coordinated Assessment System.

Describe partners that are critical to the success of your organization.*

List any external partners, intermediaries or advisors important to your success, and describe their role and evidence of their commitment. Describe successful collaborations with these people or groups.

Homeward Bound believes that in order to end homelessness as we know it, the community has to work together. Homeward Bound partners with Buncombe County Health and Human Services to link clients to mainstream benefits, with behavioral health providers through Smoky Mountain Center to refer clients to mental health/substance use treatment services, with Pisgah Legal Services on the SOAR project to help

clients apply for Social Security Disability and Medicaid, with Mission and MAHEC to provide needed physical health care, and with the VA Medical Center to outreach veterans at AHOPE. The agency also collaborates with the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville to house people. The Housing Authority prioritizes chronically homeless individuals with case management services that help them remain housed. Homeward Bound also works in partnership with the City of Asheville and the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee in their oversight of the Coordinated Assessment System.

Financial Information

Nonprofit financial assurance requirements:

Financial statements, prepared using a recognizable basis of accounting (i.e., modified accrual) and IRS Form 990s must be submitted to Buncombe County annually.

- Organizations with annual revenues of \$300,000 or greater must submit financial statements audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Those with revenues between \$100,000 and \$300,000 must submit financial statements reviewed in accordance with SSARS 19.
- Those with revenues of less than \$100,000 must submit non-disclosure financial statements compiled in accordance with SSARS 19.

All financial statements must be reported on by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

These requirements are considered minimum requirements. Organizations may submit a higher level of assurance than is required.

IRS Form 990 - Upload Here

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the 990 form you most recently completed.

HBofWNC990 - 2013.pdf

If your organization does not have a 990, briefly state the reason.

Include a statement of intent to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements as listed above.

Homeward Bound's IRS Form 990 is much larger than 10MiB. The first 16 pages of the document were uploaded.

Financial Statements - Upload here

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements (audit, compilation or review).

Homeward Bound 2014 FS.pdf

If your organization does not have financial statements, briefly state the reason.

Include a statement of intent to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements as listed above.

The agency's fiscal year 2014-2015 audit is currently underway.

Complete Budget Worksheet - Upload Here*

Download the budget form [Here](#).

Complete the budget form for this project/program and the overall agency. Save it to your computer, then upload it by clicking Choose File.

CA Budget 2016-2017.xlsx

Budget Narrative*

Describe all differences between current year and proposed year. List all pending funding sources with expected date of notification. Please detail any other information that may help clarify the budget.

Line 3 and 6: Homeward Bound reallocated its Emergency Solutions Grant funding in the next funding cycle to rapid rehousing. This will come out of the Coordinated Assessment budget. This means that the agency will allocate increased unrestricted contributions toward the Coordinated Assessment project.

Pending funding sources: Landwirth Foundation – April/May 2016; HUD Continuum of Care funding – January-March 2016; CDBG and City of Asheville Strategic Partners Grants – March/April 2016.

In general, Homeward Bound expects next year's budget to be very similar to the current fiscal year budget.

What (if any) portion of requested funds will be used to support capital expenses?*

Capital projects are defined as those used to acquire or upgrade physical assets such as property, buildings, or equipment. Please detail.

N/A

Employee Wages

Please provide information about the wage breakdowns of your employees. Living wage for Buncombe County has been identified as \$11.00 per hour for employees with employer-provided health insurance and \$12.50 per hour for employees without.

Employees with employer-provided health insurance*

List the number of employees in your organization with employer-provided health insurance in each wage category. For salaried employees, use hourly wage equivalents.

\$7.25 - \$10.99 per hour

\$11.00 - \$14.99 per hour

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour

\$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour

\$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour

\$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour

\$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour

\$40.00+ per hour

N/A

Employees without employer-provided health insurance*

List the number of employees in your organization without employer-provided health insurance in each wage category. For salaried employees, use hourly wage equivalents.

\$7.25 - \$12.49 per hour

\$12.50 - \$14.99 per hour

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour

\$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour

\$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour

\$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour

\$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour

\$40.00+ per hour

- \$7.25 - \$12.49 per hour = 0 # of employees
- \$12.50 - \$14.99 per hour = 1 # of employees
- \$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour = 39 # of employees
- \$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour = 8 # of employees
- \$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour = 3 # of employees
- \$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour = 1 # of employees
- \$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour = 0 # of employees

\$40.00+ per hour = 0 # of employees