

Project Lighten Up Community Summer Day Camp

*FY 2017 Buncombe County Community
Funding*

Project Lighten Up

Spencer Ellis Hardaway
70 South Market Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

O: 828-274-2533
M: 828-337-8090

Spencer Ellis Hardaway

70 South Market Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

seh1219@aol.com
O: 828-274-2533
M: 828-337-8090
F: 828-274-2532

Application Form

Project Name*

Name of Project

Project Lighten Up Community Summer Day Camp

Amount Requested*

Amount Requested

\$60,000.00

Service Area*

Which Commissioner Districts are served by this program?

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

District 1

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 > Safe, Low-Crime Communities > Engage with the community as a partner to problem solve community issues

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.

Environment > Partnerships for Conservation/Preservation/Restoration of Natural Resources > Protect ecological systems/wildlife

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.

Economy > Sustainable Local Food Systems > Increase demand for locally produced foods

Project Description

Project Description*

Description of Project

Project Lighten Up (PLU) is a refreshing community summer day camp that incorporates an After School Action Program (ASAP) to enrich and mentor young men. PLU and ASAP will serve underserved, undereducated and economically disadvantaged students in Asheville, low-income minority communities with special emphasis on the Shiloh, Pisgah View Communities in Asheville by providing accessible year-round educational tutorial support and services. PLU provides a safe and affordable day camp environment that will instill moral values, provide mentor and tutoring services, enhance self-esteem, and provide meaningful recreational and educational experiences. The program will afford children and youth the opportunity to constructively use vacation time in a positive environment providing an alternative to antisocial and criminal activities. PLU and ASAP will capture the imagination and curiosity of young people by providing opportunities for them to explore academic skills to create positive and powerful solutions to issues impacting their lives; while instructing Asheville's youth on how to improve their educational status, become agents for social change, take action in community projects, and carry positive messages to their peers. We challenge young people to utilize their energy, imagination, commitment and action plan to develop their own solutions. We accomplish this mission through a variety hands-on Expeditionary Learning (EL) projects. Each learning experience is designed to excite the imagination and strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills of young people while improving their academic knowledge and allowing free expression of their own ideas in their own voices. Empowering, Developing, Uplifting, Community-wide efforts, and Tutoring is what PLU and ASAP will strive to attain. Mission provide youth with viable, consistent access to educational enrichment opportunities, educational tutorial tools, to enhance the lives of youths and their families.

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?

The specific number of youth who are served directly is 80 to 90 in the summer day camp and approximately 30 to 50 students in the after school mentoring program. The program will impact indirectly over 500 individuals. This number reflects parents of attendees, caretakers, relatives, community members and Project Lighten Up staff. Having children engaged in activities that are healthy and positive, relieves stress for parents and caretakers. The program promotes critical thinking and nutritional improvement that acts as a catalyst to influence the diet of the camper's entire family in a positive way. Instead of kids spending summer and after school time watching TV, they are engaged in active recreational activities as a preventative measure against obesity, childhood diabetes, heart disease, ADD and ADHD. Provide youth with healthier life skills improves the community as a whole. Children with heightened social skills participate positively in the classroom during the school year.

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.

PLU is designed for children and youth from Kindergarten through 8th grades. And children from 5 years old to 14 years old. Youth in the 8th grade that are 15 years of age are considered under special

circumstances. The camp will enroll both male and female campers. . Parents have an opportunity to register their child/children for the Afterschool Mentoring program. Based upon statistics a large percentage of African Americans families are underserved and economically disadvantage, PLU target those families. Our specific geographical area is Asheville with special emphasis placed on families living within Asheville Public Housing Authority, the Shiloh and surrounding Communities. PLU has partnered with the Department of Social Services for referrals. Flyers and pre-registration application are sent to the Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools for distribution. PLU conducts a community Radio-Thon for financial support and to create awareness of the summer camp dates of operation,

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.

- Tutoring and Mentoring; build academic skills in reading, writing, math, computer literacy and science
 - 2. Physical Activity/Recreational Programming--based on validated and youth-tested programs
 - 3. Environmental Sciences and Health Activities--gardening, soils, sowing and harvesting and nutrition sciences nutrients, healthy eating, food preparation and tasting
 - 4. Self-Expression, Life Skills Programming--hands on experience with art skills, journaling, scrap-booking, photo-journaling, social media integration
 - 5. Cultural and Civic Engagement Activities; weekly field experiences to area landmarks, government agencies, local farms, and sustainability-focused businesses
- 2016 Milestones
- Preparation, purchase computers, building and grounds renovation, hire and train staff
 - Galvanize community support, develop assessment plan and recruit campers by June 16
 - Assess outcomes and develop follow up measures by August 15 to implement Afterschool Mentoring Program Building Minds for Tomorrow

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?

PLU has 6 years of experience operating a summer day camp. Based on Summer Learning and its Implications: Insights from the Beginning School Study," by K. L. Alexander, D.R. Entwisle, and L.S. Olson, 2007b, New Directions for Youth Development; The effects of summer vacation on achievement test scores: A narrative and meta-analytic review. H. Cooper, B. Nye, K. Charlton, J. Lindsay and S. Greathouse, Review of Educational Research, 1996 (66, 227-268) According to studies, economically disadvantaged youth experience a vastly larger Summer Learning Gap, which PLU aims to reduce. The last 5 years staff noted and parent's reported that their children benefitted from PLU with increased reading and life skills, enthusiasm and skill building for creative and physical activities, student's engaged in new experiences from tasting healthy foods to engaging with the mayor and asking insightful questions. Campers demonstrated positive expression of self-worth, respect and assertiveness.

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.

We will track progress at meeting our renovation, fundraising, purchasing, hiring and training milestones monthly. We will track our recruitment efforts weekly in late April to June. We will log daily camp participation, types of activities for each camper team, field experiences, and concerns.

Outcome Evaluation

1. We will develop age-appropriate pre- and post-surveys for the campers to track, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding academic, life, health and environmental science learning and experiences. These will be delivered using a Web based service (survey monkey.com) and/or hard copy depending on availability of computer resources.

2. Counselor's will record problems and progress noted daily (individual or group progress with life skills).

3. Campers will keep journals where they reflect on activities or respond to prompts 2 times during the week.

Hire and engage college students and interns (from UNCA and/or Warren Wilson) to assist with these evaluation efforts.

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?

On site at PLU there are two computers used for administrative purposes. An additional 5 computers are for campers. Plans are to add 5 tablets and 10 laptops for campers to improve written communication, reading, math skills, easy access information and increase research skills. In addition, journaling, photo-journaling, social media would be used to updating, research and instructional supplement for tutoring. The tablets and laptops have multifaceted use for other educational programs throughout the year. Additional tablets and laptops PLU can tremendously impact the learning opportunities of student in both the summer day camp and the afterschool mentoring program. Economically disadvantage students low score is not determine by their ability but their inability to access to the tools of technology. PLU director will be responsible for insuring that the technology is adapted and used to its fullest potential with the support of a UNI Asheville technology intern and camp counselors.

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.

Our last strategic plan was September 2015. This will be the 7th year of operations for PLU. PLU mission is to provide children and youth of the Asheville community, particularly the youth from middle and low income community, with a safe, happy and affordable day camp environment and access to a mentoring program, that will instill moral values, provide mentoring and tutoring, and enhance their self-esteem. By converting idle summer time into meaningful recreational and learning experiences, we aim to keep youth out of trouble while fostering productive citizens. By continuing and growing the program, we can address the educational gap and health disparity among youth and provide economic stimulus to our community. Along with this comes improved health, happiness, sustainability, equity, and inclusion. From this success we hope to build an even stronger program in 2016 and beyond to increase the self-determination and autonomy of low-income families through the Asheville area.

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.

PLU directly served 450 children and has impacted many more indirectly including family members, camp employees, many other community members and business owners. We have a strong experienced leadership, access to a community center and a historic facility, Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church. In 2013, PLU focused on building community, developing academic partnerships and gaining business support that would be invested in youth empowerment, academic success and environmental awareness in 2016. Transferable community building, environmental science and youth education skills have been developed over the last 2 years at nearby Shiloh Community Garden. In addition, over the last year, the Camp Director has been working with a small team of UNCA students, ABIPA and Shiloh's community members to develop a long range plan for youth to participate in healthy eating, in youth training and employment through business mentorships and develop a social business plan for Hire A Youth Dispatch service

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.

Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Church Afterschool program
 ABIPA: help promote healthy eating among campers.
 UNC Asheville Health and Wellness
 Lauralee Petritz, educator, social justice activist and community organizer, is an integral team member who worked closely with the camp director in 2015 to secure support, organize college student volunteers, and set up activities and excursions.
 Dr. Ameena Batada--health parity and youth education expert,
 Amy Lanou, food politics and nutrition policy expert, serve in an advisory capacity on evaluation and programming and recruit service learners and interns for project.
 Gary Deetz, Permaculture Designer
 Dr. David Gillette UNCA, Ecology is the study of the home
 Warren Wilson College Service Learning Corps
 Recycling led by Green Works Environmental Educators Christine Brown and DeWana Little Community Engagement Coordinator

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.

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.

As soon as we receive from Accountant will submit separately

Financial Statements - Upload here

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

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.

As soon as we receive from Accountant will submit separately

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.

Copy of community-funding-budget-form 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.

We request \$60,000 for the Community Summer Day Camp to operate from June 13, to August 12, 2016 In addition, we have developed an Afterschool Mentoring Program: Building Minds today for tomorrow. Using the format outlined in "How to Build a Successful Mentoring Program Using the Elements of Effective Practice: National Mentoring Partnership" We are requesting an additional \$25,000. The total amount to operate the summer day camp and the afterschool Mentoring Program is \$76,790. We anticipate raising \$8,500 from our community of churches, business and individual donors through our Radio-Thon. Through camp registration fees we anticipate and income of \$8,500. Our request is for \$75,000 the total cost for PLU: Community Summer Day Camp and the Afterschool Program of Building Minds today and for the Future. We intend to purchase 10-15 desk top computers that will enable economically disadvantage youth the opportunity to enhance their computer skills and greater access to technology.

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.

None of funds requested will go to acquire or upgrade physical assets such as property, buildings, or equipment. the portion of requested funds are to purchase ten tablets and ten disk top computers. the cost of the tablets and desk tops is not to exceed proposed budget amount in line item in numbered 202 in the amount of \$24,000.00

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

None

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

Our employees are part-time seasonal.

1 Employee (\$20.00 - \$24.99) 13 Employees (\$7.25 - \$12.49)

2 Employees (\$15.00 - \$19.99)

3 Employees (\$12.50 - \$14.49)