WNC Communities Program of Work for Community Development & Agriculture

FY 2017 Buncombe County Community Funding

WNC Communities

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Application Form

Project Name*

Name of Project

> WNC Communities Program of Work for Community Development & Agriculture

Amount Requested*

Amount Requested

> $20,000.00

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 > Educational Resources that Match the Needs of the Community > Promote programs that supplement equitable educational opportunities for all ages

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.

> Economy

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.

> Environment

Project Description

Project Description*

Description of Project

WNC Communities supports sustainable economic development opportunities that are unique to each
community, while together developing strategies that improve community life. This mission is
accomplished
through a program of work focusing on community development and agriculture with an opportunity to
serve forestry. The following are some of the programs managed by and groups served by WNC
Communities that continue to benefit Buncombe County and 19 additional counties throughout the region;
WNC Honors
Awards, Journey Scholarship (JS), WNC Regional Livestock Center (RLC), Mountain Cattle Alliance's
(MCA)
Expansion and Education Program, WNC Brewer's Grain Alliance (BGA), WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame
(AHF), WNC Beef Cattle Commission (BCC), WNC Dairy Commission (DC), as well as various assemblies
with
informational and educational value to the leaders of western North Carolina. In addition, WNC
Communities has added WNC Blue Ridge Food Ventures LLC (BRFV) located at AB Tech as an acquisition
from Advantage West to avoid closure of this valuable shared use program benefiting entrepreneurs
throughout the region.

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?

WNC HONORS AWARDS: Anticipate 8 rural communities representing 20,000+ households for the 2016
program. JOURNEY: Since 2004, 23 youth received $21,000 in scholarships from Buncombe. Anticipate 1-2
receiving scholarships in the spring. WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER: Sales for 2014 were $19.7 Million.
Total revenue since opening in March 2011 is $72.3 million with an economic impact of $108.5 million (using
1.5% factor). Annually, producers continue to have over $2 million more in their pockets annually with a local
market. In a snapshot of 19,100 head sold, an estimate of 26% of those cattle were from Buncombe.
BREWERS GRAIN: Over 50 members and growing with 20% from Buncombe. BEEF CATTLE: 250 members,
40% from Buncombe. DAIRY: 20 members, 30% from Buncombe. WNC BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES: Since
July 1st, 70 clients have been served through this shared use kitchen with 70% of those clients coming from
Buncombe County.

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.

WNC Communities' program of work serves the population within a 20 county footprint of WNC including
Buncombe County. We serve individuals regardless of age, gender, income, race, ethnicity, etc. In order for
WNC Communities to serve the region through our programs, community leaders, youth or agriculture
leaders must be willing to complete an application or nomination form associated with our various
programs

to be considered for an award, scholarship or recognition. Recruiting for our programs is through an internal
list updated annually of community leaders, producers, high school counselors, extension offices, county commissioners, state legislators, as well as submitting releases to local publications. To be a member of the WNC BEEF CATTLE or DAIRY COMMISSIONS producers express interest & attend meetings to be considered active. WNC BREWERS GRAIN ALLIANCE has a nominal fee for start-up. Entrepreneurs contact WNC BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES to contract for the shared use kitchen.

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.

SNAPSHOT of MILESTONES:
JANUARY: Plan & schedule for WNC Beef Cattle Commission (BCC), WNC Dairy Commission (DC),
Mountain Cattle Alliance (MCA), Journey Scholarship Committee (JS), WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame (AHF)
FEBRUARY: Funding requests to Counties, Journey apps distributed to schools & communities
MARCH: Journey apps due and go to Committee, BCC & MCA Education Session
APRIL: Determine 8-12 youth total to receive Journey; AHF nominations in, reviewed & determined
MAY: Luncheon to induct two pioneers into Ag Hall of Fame
JUNE: Apps available for WNC Honors
JULY: BCC Annual Tour
AUGUST: Community Best Practices Meeting; Auction to benefit Jr. Beef Show
SEPTEMBER: Jr. Beef & Dairy Shows at NC Mountain State Fair; WNC Honors apps due
OCTOBER: MCA Education program; BCC Steak Supper
NOVEMBER: 67th WNC Honors Luncheon
DECEMBER: Publicity for WNC Honors Awards; Planning for coming year year
WNC BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES works year round to develop shared use & co-packing clients

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?

WNC Communities is 66 years-old. Experience & leadership was the catalyst for the Ag Center, Farmer's Market, Mountain State Fair, Arboretum, Research Stations, etc. 2011 we completed the WNC Regional
Livestock Center & provide support to grow the market. 2012 Extension selected us to administer the WNC
AgOptions program. Past success led to being selected by NCDA&CS to complete an education center at DuPont & create a competitive grant program with TVA Settlement Funds. Over 3 years, the TVA Ag & Forestry fund awarded 6 projects in Buncombe totaling $86,800 for projects related to composting, plasticulture, improving the profitability of livestock farms, brewers grains and enhancing WNC's Local Food Economy. Our framework includes stellar Board leadership & a willingness to work with numerous partners in State, County & Local Governments toward a common goal.

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.

Each program has its own schedule and staff person (either part-time or contracted) assigned to facilitate committees, document & track progress toward implementation of the project. All meetings or programs have signup sheets to document actual attendance. Software used is Quickbooks for Non-profits for financial
reporting, MS Office with Excel and Word primarily used for tracking progress, reporting and data management.

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?

We are a small non-profit office with numerous programs that encompass a significant region of NC. Reporting on grant income and keeping up with the details of numerous programs takes time, which is at a
premium. Several staff & volunteers are very detail-oriented and have the capability to create reporting documents with the current software programs available to our office. We are fortunate our contracted accountant's background is in information technology and she is able to provide invaluable computer/equipment services on an as needed basis.

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.

WNC Communities' mission is to support sustainable economic development opportunities that are unique to each community, while together developing strategies that improve community life. Our purpose is
to provide a unique forum for leaders in WNC to convene, collaborate and carry out innovative programs to
improve the quality of life for rural communities and to enhance the economy of the agriculture sector. This
is accomplished through a program of work with a robust focus on community development & agriculture as well as branching into forestry. Our plan is consistently reviewed by leadership with an approach of maintaining the flexibility needed to incorporate new programs as funding becomes available. Generous funding from Buncombe & other counties provide the funds necessary for community development and agriculture programs not supported by grants. County support over the years has ensured our continued success and developed numerous new opportunities to serve the region.

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.

Historically, WNC Communities (WNC Development Association & WNC Associated Communities) along with State & County leadership created significant pieces of infrastructure for the region such as; WNC

Farmer's Market, WNC Ag Center, NC Arboretum, Research Stations, I-26 Corridor, Blue Ridge Parkway, etc.

In the past 3 years, WNC Communities continues support for the WNC Regional Livestock Center, completed the Visitor & Education Center for the DuPont State Forest known as the Aleen Steinberg Center, created the WNC Brewer's Grain Alliance to connect farmers to a feed supply, became the administrator & facilitator for the WNC AgOptions Program, and created a competitive grant program to distribute TVA Settlement funds known as the TVA Ag & Forestry Fund. In the past year, WNC Communities managed the School Energy Efficiency program and developed the Hemlock Restoration Initiative.

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.

The primary partners that ensure the success of all our programs are NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, and the County Governments located throughout the WNC Region.

Partners for specific programs:

WNC HONORS: Private industry provides 100% of cash awards to rural communities in the program.

WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER: Funders: NC Tobacco Trust, GoldenLEAF, NCDA&CS, NC Rural

Center, ARC, International Paper, County Governments, Farm Bureaus, legislators, producers, etc. SELEX operates & Cooperative Extension promotes. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission & Golden LEAF provide funds for educational efforts. NCSU Livestock Specialist plans training. WNC BREWERS GRAIN: New Belgium will be the source of byproduct with CSC distributing to producers. NCSU provides research on ratios of feeding.

WNC BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES support from Community Foundation of WNC, ARC, NC Tobacco Trust Fund, City of Asheville, AB Tech and the county.

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 <u>audited</u> in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Those with revenues between $100,000 and $300,000 must submit financial statements <u>reviewed</u> in accordance with SSARS 19.
- Those with revenues of less than $100,000 must submit non-disclosure financial statements <u>compiled</u> 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.

> WNC Communities 990 FYE 6.30.2014.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.

> 990 is attached

Financial Statements - Upload here

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

> WNC Communities Audit FYE 6.30.2014.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.

> Audit is attached

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.

> WNCC community-funding-budget-form.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.

> The primary difference between the current year and proposed year is the end of two programs funded through the TVA settlement funds available through NCDA&CS for which we received administrative funds to support the organization and programs. The first program to come to a close will be the TVA Ag & Forestry Fund and the second program will be the School Energy Efficiency program. Both of these programs will be completed in the current fiscal year decreasing administrative funding by $50,000 for FY 2016-2017. At the discretion of the Board, reserve funds from the fund balance and/or endowments may be needed to cover deficits.

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.

No portion of funds requested from the County will be used for capital expenses.

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

WNC Communities has 1 full-time and 3 part-time staff and none of the employees receive employer-provided health insurance.

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

WNC Communities has 1 full-time and 3 part-time staff and none of the employees receive employer-provided health insurance.