Community Development & Agriculture Services

*FY 2018 Buncombe County Community
Funding*

WNC Communities

Mr. L. T. Ward   info@wnccommunities.org
594 Brevard Road   O: 828-252-4783
Asheville, NC 28806   M: 828-318-5656
                                        F: 828-251-9532

Ms. Linda L. Lamp

594 Brevard Road   info@wnccommunities.org
Asheville, NC 28806   O: 828-252-4783
                                        M: 828-808-1834
                                        F: 828-251-9532

Application Form

Project Name*

Name of Project

> Community Development & Agriculture Services

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 <u>Category</u>, <u>Goal</u> & <u>Objective</u> 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 > Sustainable Localized Economy > Provide incentives to businesses for growth

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.

[Unanswered]

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 primarily on community development and agriculture. The following are some of the programs managed by and groups served by WNC Communities that benefit Buncombe County and 19 western counties; WNC Honors Awards, Journey Scholarship (JS), WNC Regional Livestock Center (RLC), WNC Brewer's Grain (BGA), WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame (AHF), WNC Beef Cattle Commission (BCC), WNC Dairy Commission (DC), as well as various assemblies of informational and educational value to the leaders in western North Carolina. WNC Blue Ridge Food Ventures, a shared processing kitchen to benefit entrepreneurs is also managed through WNC Communities.

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: Anticipate 8 rural communities representing 25,000+ households for the 2017 program. JOURNEY: Since 2004, 25 youth received $23,500 in scholarships from Buncombe. Anticipate 1-2 receiving scholarships in the spring. WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER: Annually, producers continue to have over $2 million more in their pockets through this market. In 2016, to date 15,150 head have been sold for over $13 million in revenue with an estimate of 25% of the cattle coming from producers in Buncombe County. BEEF CATTLE: During the current fiscal year the membership list was purged to represent 195 active members with a third of those residing in Buncombe. DAIRY: This commission has 20 active members with a primary goal of organizing and increasing youth participation in the Jr. Beef Show. WNC BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES: During the second year of operation under WNC Communities, 69 clients have been served during the fiscal year, 39 of those live in 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 programs serve 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 these programs, community leaders, youth or farmers/ag 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, high school counselors, producers, 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 farmer express interest and attend meetings to be considered active. WNC BREWERS GRAIN ALLIANCE has a nominal fee for start-up. Entrepreneurs contact BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES to contract for the shared processing 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.

MILESTONES:
JANUARY: Plan & schedule the year's activities for Beef Cattle Commission (BCC), Dairy Commission (DC), Mountain Cattle Alliance (MCA), Journey Scholarship Committee (JS), WNC Ag Hall of Fame (AHF)
FEBRUARY: Funding requests to counties, Journey apps distributed to schools & communities
MARCH: Journey apps due and go out to Committee, BCC & MCA education sessions/meetings
APRIL: Determine 7+ youth to receive scholarships, AHF nominations in, reviewed & determined
MAY: Luncheon to induct 2 pioneers into regional Ag Hall of Fame
JUNE: Apps reviewed and finalized for distribution for WNC Honors
JULY: BCC annual tour
AUGUST: Community Best Practices Meeting, Auction to benefit Jr. Beef Show
SEPTEMBER: Jr. Beef & Jr. Dairy shows at Mountain State Fair, WNC Honors apps due
OCTOBER: MCA education program, BCC steak supper
NOVEMBER: 68th WNC Honors Luncheon
DECEMBER: Publicity for WNC Honors, annual audit
BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES works all year to develop shared processing 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 has served western North Carolina for 67 years. Experience & leadership was the catalyst for significant pieces of infrastructure like the Ag Center, Farmer's Market, Mountain State Fair, Arboretum, Research Stations, and most recently the WNC Regional Livestock Center. Since 2012, we have a successful history of working with NCSU Extension on the WNC AgOptions program. NCDA&CS selected us to complete the education center at the DuPont State Forest, disburse over $1 million in TVA settlement funds for agriculture and forestry projects in WNC as well as create & manage the Hemlock Restoration Initiative. Our framework as a nonprofit includes stellar Board leadership & a willingness to work with numerous partners in State, County & Local governments toward common goals benefiting the people in our region.

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 Work 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?

This is a small non-profit office with numerous programs that encompass a significant region of NC. Reporting on grant income and keeping up with details of these programs takes time, which is at a premium. Several staff & volunteers are detail-oriented and have the capability to create reporting documents with the current software programs available to our office. We have an IT professional on contract to provide services on an as needed basis for evolving computer needs.

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 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 and local leadership created significant pieces of infrastructure for the region such as; WNC Farmer's Market, WNC Ag Center, NC Arboretum, Research Stations and WNC Regional Livestock Center. In the past 3 years, WNC Communities; completed the visitor and education center for the DuPont State Forest, created the WNC Brewer's Grain Alliance to connect farmers to an alternative feed source, upgraded the open air arena at the WNC Ag Center, created and managed a competitive grant program to distribute over $1 million from the TVA settlement for agriculture and forestry projects, plus created and managed the School Energy Efficiency program to distribute $900,000 to school systems in 17 counties. WNC Communities continues to manage and oversee the WNC AgOptions program, the Hemlock Restoration Initiative and WNC Blue Ridge Food Ventures.

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 with County Governments and Agencies located throughout the region. Specific to each program:

WNC HONORS raise funds from private industry to provide 100% of cash awards to rural communities. WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER received donations from NC Tobacco Trust, Golden LEAF, NCDA&CS, NC Rural Center, ARC, International Paper, County Governments, Farm Bureaus, legislators and area producers. SELEX operates and Cooperative Extension promotes. NC Tobacco Trust & Golden LEAF provided funds for educational sessions. NCSU staff plan trainings. WNC BREWERS GRAIN's primary source of spent grain comes from New Belgium with CSC distributing to producers. NCSU provides research on spent grain. WNC BLUE RIDGE FOOD VENTURES receives support from CFWNC, ARC, NC TTFC, City of Asheville, AB Tech and the County to move forward to becoming their own self-sustaining nonprofit.

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.

> WNC Communities 990 FYE 6.30.2015.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.

> Most recent 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 6.30.2015.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.

> Most recent yellow book 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 Budget Form for BCSF.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.

Primary differences in budget will be the end of 2 and 3 year programs with funding coming from NCDA&CS. These programs are the TVA Ag & Forestry Fund and School Energy Efficiency. This will decrease administrative funding by $50,000 for fiscal year end 6.30.2018. There are possibilities of funding in process of confirmation. At the discretion of the WNC Communities Board of Directors, reserve funds from the fund balance and/or endowments can be utilized 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 2 part-time staff, all making over $12.50 per hour and none of the employees receive employer-provided health insurance.

Employees without employer-provided health insurance*

List the number of employees in your organization <u>without</u> 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 2 part-time staff, all making over $12.50 per hour and none of the employees receive employer-provided health insurance.