

**Buncombe County FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	Food for Thought, Listening to Buncombe County Residents
Organization	Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council

Amount Requested	\$16,500	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Equity in Access
New or Renewal Request	New	Area Served	Districts 1, 2, and 3

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council (ABFPC) was founded in 2011 to bring together community members, organizations, decision makers, and stakeholders to develop and implement thoughtful food policy through advocacy and network development. The mission is to identify, propose and advocate for policies, financial appropriations, and innovative solutions to improve and protect our local food system in order to advance economic development, social justice, environmental sustainability, and community resiliency.
Key Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABFPC and advisory team design overall structure for listening sessions; First partner meetings - develop individualized processes; Flesh out individual community engagement strategies; Finalize individual session logistics, outreach plan, and strategy; Conduct 5 listening session and survey processes; Develop draft report for individual communities to review and revise; Conduct follow up/review sessions as requested; Finalize individual community reports; Create and review final county food report and recommendations
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through five listening sessions and surveys, expects to solicit input from over 250 residents. Emma Elementary and Enka and Erwin Middle School will engage families living in zip codes with the high free and reduced lunch eligibility rates. The Lord's Acre and Enka Middle school sites will bring in residents from more rural communities, and partnership with Bounty & Soul will solicit input from low-income populations with limited food access who are traveling from throughout the county to their food distribution sites. All five sites have higher unemployment rates and 4 out of 5 have lower median income than Buncombe County's average. Three of the five sites have higher percentages of students eligible for free and reduced lunch than county averages (57.4% and 69.7% vs county average of 55.6%).
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse listening sessions attended by 50 individuals and successful completion of a complementary community survey by at least 200 individuals. Successful output will be a final report synthesizing listening session and survey results and recommending next steps to assist Buncombe County in developing a comprehensive, proactive food policy plan.

Budget			
Amount Funded Last Year	n/a	Increase Request	n/a
Administrative Budget	11% (from fiscal agent Bountiful Cities 2016 IRS Form 990)	Total Organization Budget	\$35,090 (projected FY2019)
Other Funding Sources: Grants			

Strengths
Innovative and/or creative program design
Well-linked, creative, and/or non-traditional partnerships
Project serves underserved, underrepresented, minority, and/or high-need population

Food for Thought, Listening to Buncombe County Residents

FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants

Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council

Ms Kiera Bulan
P.O. Box 898
Asheville, NC 28802

coordinator@abfoodpolicy.org
O: 6083205024
M: 6083205024

Ms Kiera Bulan

P.O. Box 898
Asheville, NC 28801

coordinator@abfoodpolicy.org
O: 6083205024
M: 6083205024

Application Form

Question Group

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Food for Thought, Listening to Buncombe County Residents

Amount Requested*

\$16,500.00

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Area Served*

Which areas of the County will be served by this project? Which Commissioner District(s) will be served?

A Buncombe County Commissioner district map is available at [THIS LINK](#).

In collaboration with strategic partners, this project will seek engagement and input from residents from around the county. Project listening sessions will be conducted at school sites (Enka and Erwin Middle Schools and Emma Elementary), community resource sites (Bounty & Soul food distribution markets in Black Mountain and Swannanoa and Emma Resource Center), and at The Lord's Acre in Fairview. Building on existing gathering spaces and resources, the selected sites and partnerships will bring in diverse voices from around the country representing urban and rural populations.

Districts 1, 2, and 3 with special emphasis on 2 and 3.

Organization Description*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council (ABFPC) was founded in 2011 to bring together community members, organizations, decision makers, and stakeholders to develop and implement thoughtful food policy through advocacy and network development.

Our mission is to identify, propose and advocate for policies, financial appropriations, and innovative solutions to improve and protect our local food system in order to advance economic development, social justice, environmental sustainability, and community resiliency.

In 2013 the City of Asheville passed a Food Policy Action Plan, the first of its kind in the state. In 2017, with leadership from ABFPC, Asheville City Council passed a revised plan based on a year of public input and

community priorities that incorporates goals, objectives, and action steps. ABFPC is currently working with the City's Office of Sustainability on implementation.

Strategic Priority*

Which of the following priorities best reflects the primary goal of your project?

Buncombe County Commissioners are dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by setting new fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible goals that will guide decisions and improve our community for future generations. The Board has committed to strategic priorities as a guide to shape partnerships and investments of resources to insure a healthy, safe, well-educated, thriving and sustainable community.

Details about the Strategic Priorities are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Other Sustainability Goal

Strategic Priority - Other Sustainability Goal

If you selected "Other Sustainability Goal" from the list of Strategic Priorities, please list it here.

Details about the Sustainability Goals are available at [THIS LINK](#).

COMMUNITY: Equity in Access: ENVIRONMENT: Conservation & Restoration of Natural Resources
ECONOMY: Thriving Local Food Systems

Shared Vision*

What critical community problem or challenge are you hoping to improve through this project?

As identified in Buncombe County's sustainability plan, food access, farmland protection and community health are key focus issues. This project seeks to better understand community members' priorities and ideas for food system improvement and to build local leadership and engagement in food advocacy work. There are several successful food access, food education, and farmland programs happening around Buncombe County. Through this work ABFPC and partners seek to understand and articulate common themes and community-driven vision for county-wide food policy and advocacy planning. Our goal is to listen to community members in organized, facilitated, safe spaces and to draw recommendations and strategies to lay a foundation for county food system development and improvement. Project activities and partnerships will also serve to educate and inform community members about existing food and farming resources in their community.

Key Steps*

How will the project work? What are specific activities and milestones that your project entails?

Strong partnerships with embedded community partners will ensure that listening session strategies are appropriate, incorporate and respect existing work, and reflect the diversity of our county. UNCA's role will be to expand impact through collection of complementary survey data. Partners will participate in overall project design, individual session planning, and synthesis of findings.

Summer/Fall

ABFPC and advisory team design overall structure for listening sessions
 First partner meetings - develop individualized processes

Fall/Winter

Set dates for listening sessions
 Flesh out individual community engagement strategies
 Finalize individual session logistics, outreach plan, and strategy

Winter/Spring

Conduct 5 listening session and survey processes
 Develop draft report for individual communities to review and revise

Spring/Summer

Conduct follow up/review sessions as requested
 Finalize individual community reports
 Create and review final county food report and recommendations

People Served*

Who are the members of our community this project will serve? How many people will be served? Include demographics, including age, area median income, race, neighborhood and/or school.

This project seeks diverse participation from communities around the county. Through five listening sessions and surveys, we expect to solicit input from over 250 residents.

Our partnership with Nuestro Centro will bring in voices from the Latinex community. School sites at Emma Elementary and Enka and Erwin Middle School will engage families living in zip codes with the high free and reduced lunch eligibility rates. The Lord's Acre and Enka Middle school sites will bring in residents from more rural communities, and partnership with Bounty & Soul will solicit input from low-income populations with limited food access who are traveling from throughout the county to their food distribution sites.

All five sites have higher unemployment rates and 4 out of 5 have lower median income than Buncombe County's average. Three of the five sites have higher percentages of students eligible for free and reduced lunch than county averages (57.4% and 69.7% vs county average of 55.6%).

Partners*

Which other organizations are you working with to reach your goals? What other local organizations provide similar services or serve similar beneficiaries, and how do you work together?

This project relies on strong partnerships with established community organizations, each has provided a letter of support for this project.

Partners include:

- *Bounty & Soul, Black Mountain and Swannanoa
- *Nuestro Centro, Emma Community
- *The Lord's Acre, Fairview
- *United Way Resource Coordinators, Enka/Candler
- *UNC Asheville- evaluation support and data analysis

Each partner is engaged in on-the-ground, community-based work with food access, advocacy, and food education elements. By partnering as an advisory team they bring their community connections and insight to support county-level food policy and advocacy thinking and planning. Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council's role is to build the advisory team network, weave threads of connection between individualized

listening session strategies, and to synthesize ideas and priorities from listening sessions into cohesive recommendations to the county.

Bountiful Cities and Black Mtn Parks and Recreation also support this project.

Personnel*

Who is responsible for the project? Briefly describe project leaders and the role each will play in the project. How do these leaders reflect the population or community that you serve?

The lead project coordinator is Kiera Bulan, Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council (ABFPC) staff. In 2017 Bulan facilitated the development and adoption by City Council of Asheville's revised Food Policy Action Plan. This process included research, solicitation and incorporation of community and stakeholder input, and plan development. Each community partner has identified one key staff member who will participate in an advisory council, work in partnership with Bulan and the listening session facilitator, and provide key community connections. These individuals are deeply embedded in their identified communities, provide food resources and education programs, and understand the unique needs and assets of each site. UNCA key staff is Ameena Batada, associate professor of Health and Wellness. Batada is well connected with food policy activity through ABFPC and, through her Community Health Promotion course will oversee student survey development and administration.

Success*

How will you measure results? What will success look like? How will you document the impact of your project? Include whether there is a model that serves as basis for project design.

Success for this project will be thoughtful, diverse listening sessions attended by 50 individuals and successful completion of a complementary community survey by at least 200 individuals. The goal of the project is to listen carefully and with an open mind, to understand ideas and priorities as they are expressed by community members, and to organize these findings in a thoughtful, productive way. Our successful output will be a final report synthesizing listening session and survey results and recommending next steps to assist Buncombe County in developing a comprehensive, proactive food policy plan.

Funding*

What is your plan for finding the balance of the project budget? What is your funding timeline and what are your other sources of support?

This project draws on existing grassroots efforts both of ABFPC and of partner organizations. Requested funding would bring together disparate initiatives, align processes to gather cohesive and parallel input from various communities, and produce a county-level report. No other funding is currently being sought to conduct this umbrella work, though we expect that project results and outputs will create a strong foundation for future project and funding proposal development based on community-driven needs and priority assessment.

Sustainability*

How will this project be maintained? Please describe funding sources and how you plan to sustain the project in future years.

Understanding and articulating community priorities and challenges related to food access, education, and production is the first step in the development of a comprehensive food policy and action plan at the county and individual community levels. This project includes a thoughtful structure to conduct community listening and survey processes to build this strong foundation for food system planning and advocacy. Ultimately future project concepts, scope of work, and funding needs will be determined based on findings in this initial research year.

ATTACHMENTS

Project Budget*

Download the budget form at [THIS LINK](#).

Complete the budget form for this project and the overall organization.

Save it to your computer, then upload it.

ABFPC budget Bunc. SPF 2019.xlsx

Financial Statements*

Upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements.

All financial statements must be audited, reviewed or compiled by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

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

ABFPC has a fiscal agent relationship with Bountiful Cities and does not record independent financial statements. We have included a letter of support from Bountiful Cities as well as a copy of their IRS form 990 (below) to document this relationship.

IRS Form 990*

Upload a copy of the 990 nonprofit tax reporting form that you most recently completed.

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

BCP 2016 Form 990 for Public Inspection.pdf

The included IRS form 990 is from Bountiful Cities as ABFPC's fiscal agent. It does not reflect ABFPC's finances directly as we are an independent entity. We have included this 990 to document our fiscal agent relationship with Bountiful Cities.

Board of Directors List*

Upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors.

If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

ABFPCGeneral council list.pdf

Since we are not an incorporated organization we do not have a board of directors. We do have a General Council that assumes strategic direction and oversight responsibilities for the organization, the attached list details the current members of the ABFPC General Council.

Authorized Signatory

By typing in below the name of the authorized signatory and date of submittal, you acknowledge that your governing body has authorized this application, that it is true and current to your knowledge. As a condition of any grant awarded, this organization will provide all information in the manner described in the contract to be executed between the organization and Buncombe County or its designee, including program and financial reporting.

Name & Date

Kiera Bulan 2.8.2018