

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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project EMPOWER (Education Means Power)</b>
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.</b>

<b>Amount Requested</b>	\$15,000	<b>Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal</b>	Educational Resources
<b>New or Renewal Request</b>	Renewal	<b>Area Served</b>	Districts 1, 2 and 3

<b>Organization Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mount Zion Community Development, Inc. (MZCD's) mission is twofold: (1) empowerment of the individual &amp; community by providing spiritual, economic, socio-economic, educational, &amp; cultural opportunities to the greater Asheville/Buncombe County Community to address the needs for jobs, housing, crime prevention, education &amp; health care, &amp; (2) collaboration w/ local community-based organizations in the physical redevelopment of the "Block" for housing &amp; supportive services.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project EMPOWER will provide comprehensive sexuality education through educational curricula: Making Proud Choices! &amp; Reducing the Risk. Both are evidence-based, safer-sex curricula to reduce STD, HIV &amp; Pregnancy. Project EMPOWER is designed to empower youth &amp; adolescents to change their behaviors in a way that will reduce their risk of becoming infected with HIV, other STDs, &amp; significantly decrease their chances of being involved in unintended pregnancies</li> </ul>
<b>People Served</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project EMPOWER will serve 80 teenagers ages 11-16, male and female, who attend school in the Asheville City Schools District. Specifically Asheville Middle &amp; High School, SILSA and Montford North Star Academy located in the City of Asheville who reside in or attend school in the 28801, 28803, 28804, 28805, and 28806 zip codes. Plans are to target African American students and other minorities who have the (1) the highest antecedents for teen pregnancy, and (2) who have a high level of exposure to environmental and individual risk factors for teen pregnancy.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project EMPOWER utilizes pre-post participation satisfaction &amp; Pre-Post Teen Pregnancy Prevention Surveys to track qualitative data on satisfaction, knowledge acquisition &amp; behavior changes</li> <li>Success: measured by the following: % Will Report: (85%: An increase in knowledge on the use of condoms &amp; contraceptives. 80%: A decrease in sexual activity &amp; number of sexual partners, 90%: A decrease in unprotected sex)</li> </ul>

<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Amount Funded FY2018</b>	\$10,000	<b>Increase Request</b>	\$5,000
<b>Administrative Budget</b>	20% (from 2016 IRS Form 990)	<b>Total Organization Budget</b>	\$225,420 (projected FY2019)

**Other Funding Sources:** Buncombe Health & Human Services, NC DHHS Healthy Beginnings Grant, NC DHHS Healthy Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc., Mount Zion Community Development, Inc., Board of Directors, General Public, Fundraising

<b>Strengths</b>
Project serves underserved, underrepresented, minority, and/or high-need population
SMART Outcomes (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and, time-bound)
Project design is evidence based, replicating a structured model, and/or best practice

# Project EMPOWER (Education Means Power)

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*FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants*

## ***Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.***

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## ***Mrs. Belinda K. Grant NA***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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### Project Name\*

Name of Project.

Project EMPOWER (Education Means Power)

### Amount Requested\*

\$15,000.00

## 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](#).

Districts I, II, & III

### Organization Description\*

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

Mount Zion Community Development, Inc. (MZCD's) mission is twofold: (1) empowerment of the individual & community by providing spiritual, economic, socio-economic, educational, & cultural opportunities to the greater Asheville/Buncombe County Community to address the needs for jobs, housing, crime prevention, education & health care, & (2) collaboration w/ local community-based organizations in the physical redevelopment of the "Block" for housing & supportive services.

#### Key Facts & Accomplishments:

1. MZCD's presence represented through community partnerships in heightening community awareness about health inequities/disparities
2. Executive Director (ED): Honored by the NC. Public Health Conference for service rendered
3. ED received the first Lisa C. Clarke award via the NC DHHS. The award honors an individual or program that builds collaborations, demonstrates outstanding service in recognizing a need or identifies a service gap & opens channels of discussion between agencies.

## 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](#).

Sustainability Category: Community; Objective: Quality Education- To increase the graduation rate in the Asheville City Schools District.

## Shared Vision\*

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

To increase the graduation rate in the Asheville City Schools District by providing personalized empowerment/graduation plans for all students aligned to their career and college.

## Key Steps\*

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

Project EMPOWER will provide comprehensive sexuality education through educational curricula: Making Proud Choices! & Reducing the Risk. Both are evidence-based, safer-sex curricula to reduce STD, HIV & Pregnancy. Project EMPOWER is designed to empower youth & adolescents to change their behaviors in a way that will reduce their risk of becoming infected with HIV, other STDs, & significantly decrease their chances of being involved in unintended pregnancies. Plans: To partner w/schools in the Asheville City Schools District. In keeping abreast of relevant topics impacting society, students & their families will also be educated on the opioid crisis & the impact of its endangerment to a generation of children, youth, teens & families.

Milestones:Key steps & milestones

- 1) Reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy/HIV/STIs
- 2) Increase in contraceptive knowledge
- 3) Decrease incidence of unprotected sex
- 4) Students/Parents educated about the danger of opioid use (mailings/media/meetings)

## 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.

Project EMPOWER will serve 80 teenagers ages 11-16, male and female, who attend school in the Asheville City Schools District. Specifically Asheville Middle & High School, SILSA and Montford North Star Academy located in the City of Asheville who reside in or attend school in the 28801, 28803, 28804, 28805, and 28806 zip codes. Plans are to target African American students and other minorities who have the (1) the highest antecedents for teen pregnancy, and (2) who have a high level of exposure to environmental and individual risk factors for teen pregnancy. Per feedback from the Asheville City School's Superintendent's Office, Asheville City Schools currently has 58 African American students enrolled in the 9th grade. Therefore, Project EMPOWER will serve teens of all races/socio-economic status.

Median Income: To qualify for free lunch, children's family income must be under \$15,171 in 2015 (below 130% of the poverty line). 34.7% of students at Asheville High receive free lunch.

## 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?

Project EMPOWER participants and Community Advisory Council are involved with program planning and evaluation from inception to final decisions. Evaluation tasks include interpretation of evaluation information, and, development of recommendations for future program.

Agencies represented: Asheville City Schools District (referrals, meeting space, computer access); Buncombe County Health & Human Services & the Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP) (Technical Support, Community Updates/Resources, Statistical Data); Mission Hospital (Statistical Data); Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc. & the Baptist Ministers Union: (financial support, leased office space, in-kind services); WNCAP (Policy updates, statistical data); WRES (Public Affairs: Audio-Visual), The Urban News (Public Affairs); A teen and a former teen mom will be represented on Project EMPOWER's Community Advisory Council. The CAC's role is to provide feedback to staff to enhance quality services.

## 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 Executive Director (ED), Belinda K. Grant, is a CSW, MA (Appalachian State University) and a B.S. (Presbyterian College), and has 30+ years of experience in social work and over 23 years experience working with youth and teens. Project EMPOWER's Outreach Worker, Sapphire De'Bellott is a 2017 graduate of AB-Technical Community College with an Associates Art Degree. Sapphire has experience in working with the population served and is one of the co-founders of Word on The Street Online Magazine

Both staff members provide direct services to program participants. ED provides overall program and staff supervision. Both staff members possess the skills necessary to maintain program effectiveness: ability to establish rapport with participants; strong written/verbal communication skills; mission driven, action-

oriented, positive attitude, self-directed, Interpersonal & multi-disciplinary project skills; task facilitation, and, ability to interface & engage diverse groups & partnerships.

## 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.

Project EMPOWER utilizes pre-post participation satisfaction & Pre-Post Teen Pregnancy Prevention Surveys to track qualitative data on satisfaction, knowledge acquisition & behavior changes

Success: measured by the following: % Will Report:

85%: An increase in knowledge on the use of condoms & contraceptives

80%: A decrease in sexual activity & number of sexual partners

90%: A decrease in unprotected sex

Documentation of the impact of the project:

Data will be logged into a state database to track quantitative data & monthly activities w/ participants

Pre-post: Participant Satisfaction & Teen Pregnancy Prevention Surveys

Making Proud Choices! & Reducing the Risk are evidence-based safer-sex approaches to reducing STDs, HIV & pregnancy & proven to empower adolescents to change their behaviors in a way that will reduce their risk of becoming infected with HIV/STDs & significantly decrease % of unintended pregnancies

Opioid Epidemic:

90% will report an increase in opioid education

## 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?

Project EMPOWER has received funding from the N. C. DHHS's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative since 2003. Mount Zion Community Development, Inc. (MZCD) will continuously seek opportunities for capacity building grants to increase the ability to concentrate on service areas for youth and teens as well as operating grants to assist with ongoing day-to-day and operating expenses.

Funding Timeline:

The contract for FY19 has been submitted to the NC DHHS for a pending execution date of June 1, 2018

Other Sources of Support:

Contributions From:

1. Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.'s Board of Directors
2. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Asheville, Inc.
3. General Public
4. Fundraising Activities (Fundraising Activity scheduled for November 2018)

Other Activities inclusive of but not limited to the following:

- a. Partnership/Donations from Faith-Based organizations/institutions
- b. Media/Communication/Advertising via WRES 100.7 FM
- c. Media/Communication/Radio via The Urban News

## Sustainability\*

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

The Project EMPOWER Program has received funding from the NC DHHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative since 2003 & the Buncombe County Service Foundation since 2015.

Sustainability Maintenance:

1. MZCD's board of directors is a key to program sustainability in ensuring its mission & financial sustainability.
2. Local Initiatives: MZCD will keep itself abreast of Buncombe County's sustainability plan in the continued development of its goals, objectives, indicators, outcomes, to implement a financial plan to serve youth/teens.
3. MZCD will continue to research and keep itself abreast of state funding for teen pregnancy prevention initiatives.
4. To reduce day-to-day expenses, MZCD will also seek financial opportunities that provide non-monetary help
5. On-Going Fundraising Initiatives
6. Outreach & Collaboration: To heighten community awareness of this program's goal of quality education & to increase the graduation rate of this population by impacting teen pregnancy/HIV/AIDS/STIs

## 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.

BCSF Strategic Partnership Grants FY2019 Budget 2-9-18 BKGit.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.

MZCD is exempt from an audit due to receiving less than \$300,000 in federal awards. Financial Statement Plan: At the recommendation of Corliss & Solomon, PLLC, MZCD has secured a bookkeeper who has a more extensive background of bookkeeper laws and accepted accounting principles/fiscal management. To that end, Corliss & Solomon will continue to review MZCD's financial records/accounting system with a potential plan to complete a financial statement for Fiscal Year-End 2017.

### **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.

MZCD 2015 Form 990 Final for Public Inspection.pdf Year End 2016.pdf  
MZCD Year End 2017 currently in progress with Corliss & Solomon, PLLC.

### **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.

MZCD Board of Directors 2018.doc  
Uploaded

### **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

Belinda K. Grant February 9, 2018