

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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Family Visitation Program</b>
<b>Organization</b>	<b>The Mediation Center</b>

<b>Amount Requested</b>	\$24,000	<b>Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal</b>	Justice Resource Support
<b>New or Renewal Request</b>	Renewal	<b>Area Served</b>	District 1, 2 and 3

<b>Organization Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Family Visitation Program (FVP) is a program of The Mediation Center. The Mediation Center's mission is to create opportunity from conflict. FVP serves high-risk families where a history of violence, abuse, or neglect puts victims and children at risk during court-ordered parent/child visitation. During the last year, FVP has increased staff training in areas of child sexual abuse and now offers visits for child sexual abuse victims and their perpetrating parent when this contact is court ordered. FVP staff are also trained in the evidenced based parenting model, Triple P, which is offered to all visiting parents in order to increase their parenting skills during their supervised visitation.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure connection to and collaboration with community partners by continuing participation in the Women and Children's Safety Coalition.</li> <li>Continue quarterly meetings of the Family Visitation Program Advisory Committee to connect with community partners and increase collaboration.</li> <li>Ensure security professionals are present at visits and exchanges starting on 7/1/18</li> <li>Provide quarterly training for staff and volunteers</li> <li>Keep 30 families safe by 12/31/18 and Keep 58 families safe by 6/30/19</li> </ul>
<b>People Served</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children served range from infants to teenagers.</li> <li>Visiting parents are 43% women and 57% men.</li> <li>84% of clients are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.</li> <li>86% of clients are Caucasian, 3% are African American, 10% are Hispanic, and 1% are Asian. Nearly 45% of clients live in a rural areas of the county.</li> <li>Families are referred by domestic violence and family courts, the Department of Social Services, Pisgah Legal Services, and mental health providers. Services are provided on a sliding scale to ensure access.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serving at least 58 families through supervised visitation or the safe exchange program and help at least 39 parents increase parenting skills through the Triple P model, which is an evidenced based model.</li> <li>No instances of violence or abuse in the program.</li> </ul>

<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Amount Funded FY2018</b>	\$10,000	<b>Increase Request</b>	\$14,000
<b>Administrative Budget</b>	24% (from 2016 IRS Form 990)	<b>Total Organization Budget</b>	\$680,190 (projected FY2019)
<b>Other Funding Sources:</b> Grants, Individual donations, Government funding, Private foundations, Program Service Fees/Contracts, Special Events			

<b>Strengths</b>
Project design is evidence based, replicating a structured model, and/or best practice
Strong implementation plan
Project serves underserved, underrepresented, minority, and/or high-need population

# Family Visitation Program

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*FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants*

## ***The Mediation Center***

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## ***Mrs. Laura Jeffords***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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### Project Name\*

Name of Project.

Family Visitation Program

### Amount Requested\*

\$24,000.00

## 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](#).

Serves all districts; District 1, District 2, and District 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.

The Family Visitation Program (FVP) is a program of The Mediation Center. The Mediation Center's mission is to create opportunity from conflict. FVP serves high-risk families where a history of violence, abuse, or neglect puts victims and children at risk during court-ordered parent/child visitation. During the last year, FVP has increased staff training in areas of child sexual abuse and now offers visits for child sexual abuse victims and their perpetrating parent when this contact is court ordered. FVP staff are also trained in the evidenced based parenting model, Triple P, which is offered to all visiting parents in order to increase their parenting skills during their supervised visitation. Over the last fiscal year, FVP provided more than 620 visits to 50 families in need. Our most important accomplishment, which we have continued to achieve each year, is that 100% of families who used our services were safe from further abuse or neglect while using our program.

### 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](#).

Justice Resource Support

## 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](#).

## Shared Vision\*

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

Domestic violence remains a critical issue in our community. The 2015-2016 NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence report identified approximately 3000 calls to domestic violence hotlines; more than 1450 domestic violence clients received services in Buncombe County. There were 5 deaths related to domestic violence in 2016 and 1 death in 2017. Intimate Partner Violence is listed as Priority 3 in the most recent Buncombe County Community Health Plan.

FVP is a long-term investment in public safety. Many domestic violence victims need FVP in order to safely comply with court ordered visitation. Without FVP, the victim may be forced to meet the abuser in unsafe locations which increases the risk of domestic violence related homicide, child abuse, child abduction and ongoing trauma, all of which contribute to the cycle of violence. Children who witness violence and abuse are more likely to become abusers themselves. Our vision is to stop this cycle.

## Key Steps\*

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

During supervised visitation and child exchanges, a trained visit supervisor is always present to ensure the safety and well-being of the child, prevent inappropriate parenting behavior, and provide parenting skill coaching.

We protect victims by eliminating contact between domestic violence victims and their abusers, which therefore eliminates the opportunity for children to witness conflict and violence between parents.

Milestones: (1) Ensure connection to and collaboration with community partners by continuing participation in the Women and Children's Safety Coalition. (2) Continue quarterly meetings of the Family Visitation Program Advisory Committee to connect with community partners and increase collaboration. (3) Ensure security professionals are present at visits and exchanges starting on 7/1/18 (4) Provide quarterly training for staff and volunteers (5) Keep 30 families safe by 12/31/18 (6) Keep 58 families safe by 6/30/19.

## 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.

FVP serves families in Buncombe County when contact between parents or unsupervised contact between children and parents creates a safety risk. Families served have a history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, mental health concerns, substance abuse, inappropriate parenting behavior, and/or child abduction attempts.

Children served range from infants to teenagers. Visiting parents are 43% women and 57% men. 84% of clients are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. 86% of clients are Caucasian, 3% are African American, 10% are Hispanic, and 1% are Asian. Nearly 45% of clients live in a rural areas of the county.

Families are referred by domestic violence and family courts, the Department of Social Services, Pisgah Legal Services, and mental health providers. Services are provided on a sliding scale to ensure access.

## 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?

The Family Visitation Program has Memorandums of Understanding with Buncombe County DSS, Helpmate, the 28th Judicial District Judges, Pisgah Legal Services, Guardian Ad Litem, Child Abuse Prevention Services, and 211. All partners are committed to providing referrals, expertise, and advice.

Collaborating partners and community representatives serve on the FVP Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee ensures effective outreach and supports program development. Over the past six years, the advisory committee has strengthened community relations, helped improved client services, and increased community awareness about FVP.

FVP collaborates with community partners through involvement in the Children's Collaborative of Buncombe County, and the Buncombe County Safety Coalition . Participation in these collaborative partnerships has increased referrals and community awareness.

## 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?

Meg Hollifield, MSW, Program Director, has experience as a child mental health therapist, and has worked with children in therapeutic foster care. Meg was a volunteer visit monitor from 2009-2015 and has been the Program Director since 2015. Meg supervises all staff and manages the program. As Program Director, Meg has led FVP in achieving strategic changes including developing program policies and staff training requirements to enable FVP to serve child sexual abuse victims. Meg has also implemented Triple P, an evidenced based parenting model. These changes have been instrumental in expanding services for victims and increasing parenting skills.

Donna Snyder, BA, Client Services Coordinator, coordinates services for families. Donna has worked at the Family Visitation Program for 4 years and has many years' experience with children and families. Donna has experience working in a school for children with severe psychiatric problems, and holds the Family Development Credential.

## 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.

We will consider this project a success by serving at least 58 families through supervised visitation or the safe exchange program and help at least 39 parents increase parenting skills through the Triple P model, which is an evidenced based model. Most importantly, we will know we have been successful when there have been no instances of violence or abuse at our program. To document the absence of violence and abuse, a visit monitor takes extensive and neutral notes on parent/child interactions, a security officer observes via video/audio feed, parents are surveyed twice a year by a neutral person. All concerns are evaluated and documented in visit notes. To track parenting-skill progress, visit monitors document progress during the 15-minute coaching sessions that occur before and after each visit. Visits occurred and parenting skills practiced are tracked on structured forms, and compiled into an Excel spreadsheet. FVP also follows all standards of The Supervised Visitation Network.

## 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?

The Family Visitation Program is currently on year two of a three year federal Justice for Families grant from the Office of Violence Against Women. We have applied for continued funding from the Governor's Crime Commission for 18-19. United Way funding is committed for the coming year. We continue to develop our individual donor program. We also have pending funding applications with several smaller foundations.

## Sustainability\*

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

The Family Visitation Program has received yearly funding from the Governors Crime Commission since 2008 and expects to continue to receive this funding. Additionally, FVP has been supported by the United Way of Buncombe County since 2010. The Family Visitation Program is currently on year two of a three year federal Justice for Families grant, and plans to reapply after this grant ends.

## 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.

180130 ADV Buncombe County Service Foundation 18-19 Budget Form.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.

Mediation 2016 Final Audit Report (002).pdf

## 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.

TMC 2015 Form 990 Final for Public Inspection.pdf

## 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.

180130 ABD Board List.docx

## 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

Laura Jeffords 2/6/2018