

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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Community Development &amp; Agriculture Programs</b>
<b>Organization</b>	<b>WNC Communities</b>

<b>Amount Requested</b>	\$15,000	<b>Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal</b>	Local Economy
<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>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 focused on community development, agriculture revenue and forest health. The following are programs we manage of benefit to Buncombe County and the region; WNC Honors Awards, Journey Scholarship, WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame, WNC Regional Livestock Center and WNC Brewer's Grain. The following are agriculture groups in which WNC Communities serves as administrator; WNC Beef Cattle Commission, WNC Dairy Commission and Mountain Cattle Alliance.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning meetings to schedule activities for Beef Cattle Commission (BCC), Dairy Commission (DC), Mountain Cattle Alliance (MCA), Journey Scholarship Committee (JS), WNC Ag Hall of Fame (AHF)</li> <li>JS apps distributed, JS apps due and go out to committee; AHF nominations in, &amp; determined, Youth receiving scholarships</li> <li>Induct 2 pioneers into regional AHF, WNC Honors apps updated &amp; distributed</li> <li>BCC annual tour, BCC raise \$ for Jr. Beef Show, Jr. Beef &amp; Jr. Dairy shows at Mountain State Fair, WNC Honors apps due</li> <li>BCC &amp; MCA education sessions/meetings, MCA education program, BCC steak supper, 69th WNC Honors Luncheon, Publicity for WNC Honors</li> </ul>
<b>People Served</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural communities with ~25,000 households i.e. Avery's Creek, Big Ivy, Buckeye Cove, Cane Creek, Fairview, Leicester, Ox Creek, Sandy Mush, Shiloh &amp; Spring Mountain</li> <li>27 youth in Buncombe have received \$27k in scholarships. Anticipate 1-2 receive scholarships</li> <li>Beef Cattle membership list represents 200 active members with 1/3 of those in Buncombe.</li> <li>Dairy commission has 20 active members; 15+ area dairies &amp; smaller beef cattle operations for feeding livestock</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers of communities, youth and farms/farmers we support within programs that have existed for decades.</li> <li>Success for WNC Communities is defined from additional programs appointed by NCDA&amp;CS to manage and distribute</li> <li>\$2.5 million dollars of TVA settlement funds into the west for agriculture, forestry and school energy projects.</li> </ul>

<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Amount Funded FY2018</b>	\$10,000	<b>Increase Request</b>	\$5,000
<b>Administrative Budget</b>	2% (from 2016 IRS Form 990)	<b>Total Organization Budget</b>	\$185,000 (projected FY2019)

**Other Funding Sources:** Government Funding, Program Fees, Grant Administration, Endowment, Government Funding, Contract Reimbursement, Mtn State Fair, Fund Balance and/or Carry Over

<b>Strengths</b>
Strong implementation plan
Thoughtful plan to sustain project for future years
Diverse/Balanced funding sources

# WNC Communities Community Development & Agriculture Programs

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*FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants*

## ***WNC Communities***

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## ***Ms. Linda L. Lamp***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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### Project Name\*

Name of Project.

WNC Communities Community Development & Agriculture Programs

### 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](#).

WNC Communities serves all 3 Commissioner Districts of Buncombe County with a focus on rural communities and farms. Service area includes 19 other counties in Western North Carolina.

### Organization Description\*

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

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 focused on community development, agriculture revenue and forest health. The following are programs we manage of benefit to Buncombe County and the region; WNC Honors Awards, Journey Scholarship, WNC Agricultural Hall of Fame, WNC Regional Livestock Center and WNC Brewer's Grain. The following are agriculture groups in which WNC Communities serves as administrator; WNC Beef Cattle Commission, WNC Dairy Commission and Mountain Cattle Alliance. Other programs managed by WNC Communities that benefit the region and have dedicated funding are WNC AgOptions (NCTTFC) and Hemlock Restoration Initiative (State, Federal & County \$). Highlights are managing grant programs to distribute ~\$2 million from TVA settlement \$ for agriculture, forestry & school energy efficiency.

### 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](#).

Programs target COMMUNITY: Quality Education (Journey Scholarship) & Citizen Involvement (Honors)  
ECONOMY: Thriving Local Food Systems (Regional Livestock Center, Brewer's Grains, Mountain Cattle Alliance, Beef Cattle & Dairy Commissions)

## Shared Vision\*

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

WNC Honors is a 69 year old cash awards program to honor 60+ rural communities in the region for implementing best practices everything from neighbor helping neighbor to focusing on the needs of seniors, youth and families. Journey Scholarship provides funds to youth living in these rural communities to further their education. Hall of Fame recognizes pioneers who have been responsible for agricultural advancement. The Regional Livestock Center provides a local market for livestock sales. Commissions & Alliance provide educational sessions to producers to increase the value of the herd and oversee Mountain State Fair Shows to engage the next generation of farmers. Brewers Grain creates an efficient, low-cost and sustainable access-and-delivery system that acquires spent grain at the source and delivers it to dairies and small farms feeding livestock.

## Key Steps\*

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

### ACTIVITIES

JANUARY: Planning meetings to schedule activities for Beef Cattle Commission (BCC), Dairy Commission (DC), Mountain Cattle Alliance (MCA), Journey Scholarship Committee (JS), WNC Ag Hall of Fame (AHF)

FEBRUARY: JS apps distributed to schools & communities

MARCH: JS apps due and go out to committee; BCC & MCA education sessions/meetings; AHF nominations in, reviewed & determined

APRIL: JS determine youth receiving scholarships; DC planning for Jr. Dairy Show

MAY: Induct 2 pioneers into regional AHF; Requests out for \$ for Honors

JUNE: WNC Honors apps updated & distributed; DC requests for \$ for Jr. Dairy Show

JULY: BCC annual tour

AUGUST: BCC raise \$ for 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: 69th WNC Honors Luncheon  
 DECEMBER: Publicity for WNC Honors

## 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.

WNC HONORS: rural communities with ~25,000 households i.e. Avery's Creek, Big Ivy, Buckeye Cove, Cane Creek, Fairview, Leicester, Ox Creek, Sandy Mush, Shiloh & Spring Mountain. JOURNEY: Over 27 youth in Buncombe have received \$27k in scholarships. Anticipate 1-2 receive scholarships in 2019. WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER: Producers continue to have over \$2 million+ in their pockets with this market. In 2017 over 16,705 head were sold through the arena for ~\$12 M in revenue an estimate of 25% of the cattle coming from producers in Buncombe. BEEF CATTLE: During the current fiscal year the membership list represents 200 active members with 1/3 of those in Buncombe. DAIRY: This commission has 20 active members with a goal of organizing and increasing youth participation in the Jr. Beef Show. BREWERS GRAIN: currently providing an efficient & sustainable supply of low-cost feed of brewer's spent grain to 15+ area dairies & smaller beef cattle operations for feeding livestock.

## 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 primary partners to ensure the success of our programs are NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services with County Governments and Agencies located throughout the region. Specific to each program:

WNC HONORS funding comes from private industry to provide 100% of cash awards to rural communities that participate. JOURNEY: The endowment providing scholarships is with the Community Foundation of WNC. REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER supported by NC Tobacco Trust, GoldenLEAF, NCDA&CS, NC Rural Center, ARC, International Paper, County Governments, Farm Bureaus, legislators and area producers. SELEX operates the facility and NCSU with NC Cooperative Extension offers educational opportunities. WNC BREWERS GRAIN program partners with New Belgium Brewing to provide the spent grain at a cost well below market with CSC handling distribution to large producers. NCSU provides research and NC Cooperative Extension agriculture agents provide appropriate criteria on mixing and feeding livestock.

## 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?

Each program or agriculture group has a dedicated staff person assigned to facilitate committees, track progress toward implementation & document outcomes. The Executive Director is Linda Lamp with over 20 years in nonprofit management and program development. A North Carolina native, she holds a unique perspective on how to guide and encourage rural communities to develop their own grassroots solutions, as well as facilitate committee determinations for funding distributions. Agriculture programs for area producers are managed by Mike Ford. He has direct experience through his family farm located in the county. The Vice President of the Board, LT Ward is a native of Buncombe County and has spent six decades volunteering and leading efforts to improve the quality of life for those in the mountains. His role is financial

oversight of the organization, as well as managing partner of 3 LLCs created to preserve the nonprofit and enable large agriculture programs to progress.

### **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.

WNC Communities has served the west for 69 years. In our framework as a nonprofit, we have followed a consistent model of strong board leadership with a willingness to work with numerous partners in State, County & Local governments toward common goals benefiting the people in WNC. Historically, this has led to significant pieces of infrastructure like the Ag Center, Farmer's Market, Mountain State Fair, Arboretum, Research Stations and the Regional Livestock Center. We measure results by the numbers of communities, youth and farms/farmers we support within programs that have existed for decades. Success for WNC Communities is defined from additional programs appointed by NCDA&CS to manage and distribute ~\$2.5 million dollars of TVA settlement funds into the west for agriculture, forestry and school energy projects. Opportunities like these would not be possible without the long-term support of our County Governments in the west.

### **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 balance of the program/project budget and other sources of support come from other county funding, program fees and contract reimbursement for a portion of the staff needed during the Mountain State Fair. The funding timeline is to get requests out to counties in February and March. Specific programs are funded by the General Assembly, NCDA&CS and foundations with the funds coming in monthly during the course of the fiscal year. Contract reimbursement comes in during the month of October.

### **Sustainability\***

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

WNC Communities Board and Staff have worked diligently to create sustainable funding sources to underwrite the organizational budget to ensure proven rural community development, agriculture and forestry programs can continue. This has been accomplished by increasing endowment funding to supports the overall organizational budget. Another strategy has been to develop reasonable program fees to generate income. It is also critical to maintain funders interested in supporting specific programs like NC Tobacco Trust Fund underwriting the WNC AgOptions program or the State funding the Hemlock Restoration Initiative. It is important to be a viable regional nonprofit, so that when state funds are available, they can be utilized for programs in the west. What impresses state legislators is the willingness of county governments to put some skin in the game. This support has been critical to the longevity of WNC Communities and our programs.

## **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.

strategic-partnership-grants-FY2019-WNCCommunities.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.

WNC Communities Audit FYE 6.30.2017.pdf  
WNC Communities' audit for fiscal year end June 30, 2017 is attached.

## 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.

WNC Communities 990 FYE 6.30.2017.pdf  
WNC Communities' 990 for fiscal year end June 30, 2017 is attached.

## 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.

Board of Directors FYE 6.30.2018.pdf  
WNC Communities' Board of Directors list for fiscal year end June 30, 2018 is attached.

## 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**

Linda L. Lamp, February 8, 2018