

# Sandy Mush Community Center: A Safe and Healthy Building for Community Use

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*FY 2018 Buncombe County Community Funding*

## ***Sandy Mush Community Ctr.***

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# Application Form

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## Project Name\*

Name of Project

Sandy Mush Community Center: A Safe and Healthy Building for Community Use

## Amount Requested\*

Amount Requested

\$26,000.00

## Service Area\*

Which Commissioner Districts are served by this program?

Access a map of Buncombe County Commissioner districts [here](#).

District 3

## Which county sustainability goal aligns best with the goals of this project?\*

Based on the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan, select a Category, Goal & Objective that align with the focus of the project and the specific results that will be achieved.

Access the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan [here](#).

Community > Equity in Access > Increase quantity and quality of recreational activities

## 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.

Community > Healthy Environments > Promote healthy buildings and homes

## 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.

Environment > Partnerships for Conservation/Preservation/Restoration of Natural Resources > Promote energy conservation programs

## ***Project Description***

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### **Project Description\***

#### **Description of Project**

Sandy Mush Community Center (SMCC) requests funds to continue the restoration and preservation of our historic community center building which serves as the center of community engagement and access to services in our rural community. Sandy Mush is located in the most rural area of Buncombe county, a 45 minute drive to Asheville and a 20 minute drive to the nearest library, public school, and public internet service. The community is a leader in farmland preservation and sustainable local agriculture through conservation easements and market endeavors such as the new Farm Heritage Trail.

The historic Sandy Mush School built in 1927 has served as the only center of recreational activities for the 550 households in Sandy Mush for over 40 years. A new Board was elected in November, 2015, to build the center's capacity to serve the community and great progress was made on programming in 2016.

We are proud of our historic building and its reuse supports the preservation goals of the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan. The building is in need of repairs to keep its use energy efficient. Several windows are broken and most need glazing as well as screen repair and replacement. Plaster repair is needed for all classrooms where activities and meetings take place. At present, the classrooms do not have individual heating units requiring the heating of the full building to utilize one room in the winter months. Repairs on stairway handrails, broken glass in interior doors, and sanding of two classroom floors that are splintering are needed to improve safety.

Sandy Mush Community Center is requesting funds to cover the repairs of this historic building and to make its use more energy efficient with zone heating in the classrooms and screens for summer cooling. This project will stabilize our community center building, reduce energy and financial waste for its operation, and allow our limited funds to be focused on programming for the community.

### **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?

The Sandy Mush Community Center serves 550 families with a population of 1,515. All households receive information about programming at the community center and benefit from some of the activities such as community beautification. During the past year of revitalization of the community center, an estimated 40% of families participated in some of the programming offered by the center.

### **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.

The area families are predominately white and Latino with a median income below \$42,000 per year. The community center reaches the households with a regular permission based email newsletter that goes to over 100 households, the community center sign board, and a print newsletter delivered to every household in Little and Big Sandy Mush through the postal service's EDDM mailing service. In addition, word of mouth, announcements at area churches, and organizational events and posters at area businesses promote activities to the community.

### **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.

The Sandy Mush Community Center Building Team has been in discussion with the Center Board and area businesses to assess the repair needs of the center in order to create the budget for this project. All work will be completed within three months of contracting services. The repairs and upgrades will be completed in full by November 17, 2017.

### **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?

Sandy Mush Community Center retains records of propane use through regular checks on the tank's meter and electric use through review of the monthly bills from French Broad Electric Coop. The use of the center building has increased every month since the reorganization in November, 2015, resulting in an increase in energy use. This trend is expected to continue in the winter and summer, 2017. The Board will compare and analyze energy use records after repairs, the installation of screens, and the installation of zone heating, anticipating a savings from these improvements.

### **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.

All quotes and final work will be documented in the Sandy Mush Community Center minutes, including photos. Energy use records will be charted and compared to the prior year based on use and weather. Excel spreadsheet will be used to aid in the review of progress toward reduced energy use.

### **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?

The Sandy Mush community has no access to Internet in our community center and very limited access throughout our area. This is an ongoing problem for families, agricultural businesses in the area, and students. The closest public broadband is a 20-minute drive away at Leicester Library whose computers receive heavy use. The community center is making plans to connect to a new fiber optic line recently installed near the center to make the inside and immediate outside of the center a hotspot for use by area residents, especially students. We are working with AT&T who has expressed a willingness to cover the cost of bringing Internet from the fiber optic line to the center building. Buncombe County is discussing a reduced rate for our community center with AT&T.

## **Organizational Profile**

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### **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.

The Sandy Mush Community Center is organized exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The purpose of the organization is community improvement and capacity building through goals including, but not limited to:

- Strengthen the sense of community and awareness of community history and its agricultural heritage
- Increase educational and health and wellness opportunities
- Increase preservation efforts, including the historic Sandy Mush School and grounds
- Strengthen and support community organizations

This project will stabilize and preserve our community center building, reduce energy and financial waste for its operation, and allow our limited funds to be focused on programming goals stated above in cooperation with area organizations.

### **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.

In accordance with the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan, recreational opportunities were increased in 2016 through a series of new programs and partnerships. The center sponsored free events including an Earth Day celebration in partnership with the local 4-H chapter, a July 4th celebration, a Halloween Trunk or Treat with the Fire Department, and regular covered dish gatherings. The community center library was reopened and an oral history project began to interview former students of the school. Regular classes were

held focusing on health such as yoga and clogging. Volunteer teams carried out trash pick-ups in the community and beautification of the building and grounds at the center.

In 2017, we will expand classes, community gatherings, and also work with the Buncombe County Bookmobile to add programming for young children. We are researching serving as a food pantry and working to bring broadband Internet to our community center for use by area students and families.

## 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.

- All Community non-profits may use the Sandy Mush Community Center for meetings at no charge.
- Sandy Mush 4-H Chapter meets monthly at the center and co-sponsored our Earth Day celebration.
- We coordinated our Trunk or Treat activities with the Sandy Mush Substation of the Leicester Fire Department.
- Sandy Mush Community Center is part of the Farm Heritage Trail. <http://www.farmheritagetrail.org/>
- We provided space and promotion for the Come To Leicester Studio Tour supporting our local artists. <http://cometoleicester.org/>
- Sandy Mush Community Center organized residents to participate in a needs assessment by The Council on Aging.
- In 2017, Buncombe County Schools Bookmobile will provide an early learning program for preschool children in the area in cooperation with the community center.
- Sandy Mush Community Center works in cooperation with the Leicester Library and Leicester Community Center to promote events and services.

## Financial Information

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### 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.

### **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.

Sandy Mush Community Center received 501c3 status in August, 2016. Our first 990 report is due on April 15, 2017 and will be filed by that date.

### **Financial Statements - Upload here**

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements (audit, compilation or review).

Balance Sheet.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.

SMCC also has income statement, monthly financial reports approved by the Board, and projections for 2017. The Board will create a budget for 2017 and pursue a volunteer CPA to review records

### **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.

community-funding-budget-form.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.

Columns A and B: SMCC was inactive most of 2015. For this reason, we have combined the active months of November and December 2015, with the fiscal year 2016. 2017 reflects the calendar year, our fiscal year.

Columns B and C: SMCC does not have an approved budget for 2016. The numbers reflected on this form are from a Projections Report submitted and reviewed by our Board of Directors on October 7, 2016.

Revenues, Line #4: Program Service Fees for SMCC are rental fees for use of the building by individuals or for profit organizations in the community.

Revenues, Line #8: Most special event dollars raised through the yearly benefit dance and the Supporting Families program are used for free programming and maintaining the building. Volunteers complete all cleaning and most maintenance work.

Expenditures, Line #20: SMCC anticipates a cost of \$26,000 to complete the upgrade work outlined in this funding request. These are not funds available in the usual revenues of SMCC.

**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.

none

**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

SMCC has no employees.

**Employees without employer-provided health insurance\***

List the number of employees in your organization without 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

SMCC has no employees.