

Brown Temple CME Church COVID-19 Reopening Community Engagement

*RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal
Recovery Funds*

Brown Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

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Application Form

Question Group

Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

[Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP](#)

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*

Name of Project.

Brown Temple CME Church COVID-19 Reopening Community Engagement

Amount of Funds Requested*

\$13,000.00

Recovery Fund Eligible Category*

Please select one:

Prevent and mitigate COVID-19

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Brown Temple CME Church is seeking funding to reopen the physical building in order to continue to provide a variety of services to low-wealth and African-American communities. Services include providing COVID-19 information to local community residents, partnering with local food banks to provide food to the needy, community outreach programs, as well as its community fellowship through Sunday Church School,

Sunday Services, and Mid-Week Studies. Funding will allow the leadership team to purchase HVAC filters that reduce airborne aerosols, purchase personal protection equipment, conduct health screenings, and to contract with a local consultant to create a reopening plan, as well as the consultant would provide COVID-19 information in his role as a NC Community Engagement Alliance Team Member. Brown Temple CME Church has been providing services to low-wealth and African-American communities since its founding in 1924

Project Plan*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Brown Temple CME Church has been conducting services during the Pandemic via social media, as well as “drive-in” services; however, it has not been able to allow other nonprofit organizations to use the physical building during the COVID-19 Pandemic for meetings. Likewise, the Church has not been able to continue to partner with Manna Food Bank and other similar agencies to utilize the Church to provide food to local residents as a “pickup” site. The Leadership Team will purchase HVAC filters that reduce airborne aerosols, purchase personal protection equipment for use during meetings and services, obtain the services of a cleaning company, and work with a local consultant to establish a reopening plan. The plan also includes providing COVID-19 information to members and community residents to combat vaccination hesitancy, especially in the young adult population. Dr. Joseph Fox, Owner of Fox Management Consulting Enterprises, is also a member of the NC Community Engagement Alliance Team. His role is working specifically with communities of color in western North Carolina to provide COVID-19 information. The team is also known as the Increasing Trustworthiness through Engaged Action and Mobilization (I-TEAM) Project, and it is one of 21 state teams in the Community Engagement Research Alliance Against COVID-19 in Disproportionately Affected Communities (CEAL). NC CEAL/I-TEAM was brought together in partnership by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, the University of North Carolina Center for Health Equity Research, and the Wake Forest School of Medicine’s Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity. Dr. Fox will assist with the overall strategic planning for the project, as well as guide the reopening process.

Statement of Need*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

The safety and well-being of the Church’s membership and the community is of paramount importance in planning the reopening of the physical church ministries and activities. The leadership team cautions extreme restraint related to opening the physical building and grounds for small gatherings. It will continue to monitor state and local guidelines pertaining to social/physical distancing, the use of face coverings, the use of directional signs to control the flow of attendees, contact tracing, and sanitizing procedures. The purchase of HVAC filters that reduce airborne aerosols and personal protection equipment, as well as obtaining funds to secure a cleaning company, are paramount to the reopening effort. Members will be provided with disposable gloves and a disposable face covering as they enter the building in a touch free manner. Members are encouraged to wear a face covering during the reopening period. Members will be reminded to practice safe removal and disposal of masks and gloves, as well as to wash their hands (when possible) for at least 20 seconds upon the removal of personal protective equipment. When immediate hand washing is not an option, as when leaving the church and entering their vehicles, members are encouraged to remove the personal protective equipment once outside the building without touching exposed skin, place them into a plastic bag for disposal, and to use hand sanitizer prior to touching their vehicle handle. Items should be disposed of immediately upon returning home. Establishing similar protocols for community groups meeting in the building will also be extremely important to allow the leadership team to get back to some sense of normality. Likewise, providing accurate COVID-19 information to the community of color will allow the leadership team to combat some of the misinformation and disinformation that has fueled vaccine hesitancy in local communities. This is a major need particularly in the young adult population.

Link to COVID-19*

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The Project seeks to provide accurate and timely COVID-19 information to communities of color in a place where members feel safe and have trust. Brown Temple has long been a place where community organizations meet and share information. Buncombe County had a reported population of 261,191 individuals in 2019, according to Census.gov. The population of Black/African Americans is approximately 6%, while the population of Hispanic/Latinos is approximately 7%, yielding a total of roughly 34,000 individuals of a darker hue (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/buncombecountynorthcarolina>).

Censusreporter.org indicates that 12.2% of individuals in the County live below the poverty rate. Black and Brown communities in Buncombe County, as well as throughout rural western North Carolina, have been negatively impacted disproportionately by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The problem has been amplified due to lack of resources in Black and Brown communities, as well as many individuals living below the poverty line.

The Project seeks to provide COVID-19 information related to debunking myths, identifying testing sites, and identifying vaccination sites to two main age groups: 20 – 54 years old and 55 – 64 years old individuals. According to Statistical Atlas, more than 115,000 individuals are in the 20 – 54 years old age group, while 42,253 individuals are in the 55 – 64 years old age group. We estimate that approximately 10,000 are individuals of color. We have targeted these two specific age groups because it appears that the older adults in Buncombe County are more prone to become vaccinated.

<https://statisticalatlas.com/county/North-Carolina/Buncombe-County/Age-and-Sex>

Population Served*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

Brown Temple CME Church, with a membership of 95 members, has a rich history of serving the Asheville and Buncombe County African-American population. The Church was originally organized in 1924, in the Stephens-Lee High School Auditorium. The early services were held in the YMI Cultural Center Auditorium, as well as in a church building located on the corner of North Market and Eagle Streets. The congregation purchased the property on the corner of Livingston and Congress Street. Construction was started; however, the officers decided to buy an already constructed church that became available. Brown Temple moved to its current location on the corner of Blanton and Phifer Street. The Church became the “hub” for community information, meeting not only spiritual needs, but providing a host of community outreach and community engagement initiatives. Brown Temple CME Church faced many challenges as it continued to serve residents. One of its major challenges was surviving the impact of Urban Renewal in March 1976 when the Church was forced to move to its current site. Despite the challenges, the Church continues to serve the community as a food distribution site in partnership with Buncombe County Engagement Food Market and Manna Food Bank. Other community services include assisting with the collection of data for the US Census Project, voter registration drives, and a health ministry in partnership with Asheville Buncombe Institute for Parity Achievement. The building is also used to host the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporation’s Summer Reading Program, the Buncombe County Faith Leaders Engagement Racial Equity Action Plan meetings, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance meetings. Members also partner with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry as a collection site for food, clothing, and other items. The outreach programs have served thousands of individuals in the local community.

Results*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The overall results and outcomes of the intended project includes:

- Providing a safe environment that is COVID-Free for members and local group meetings.
- Reestablish community outreach and community engagement activities.
- Establish a plan for a safe return to worship and business meetings.
- Obtain the necessary equipment to reduce the chance of COVID-19 infections.

Evaluation*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Once the building has undergone deep cleaning, PPE has been purchased, and a reopening plan established, the leadership team will evaluate the number of members that have returned, as well as the number of individuals attending community engagement and community outreach activities. The leadership team will continuously monitor COVID-related inflections and the ability to remain open in a safe environment.

Equity Impact*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

Low-wealth and communities of color have been negatively impacted disproportionately from the results of the COVID-19 Pandemic more than other communities. One strategy is to provide information to those communities from leaders that they trust. The Black Church has always been a source of community information, outreach, and organizing. However, funding for projects and programs has been limited, as well as access to information and resources. We will address the equity issue by providing a safe environment, as well as outreach to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our local community.

Project Partners*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

- 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
- 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

Brown Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will not require any subcontractors to implement the project.

Capacity*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The long history of Brown Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has created the ability to manage funds. The responsibilities and duties of the Treasurer include the receipt of all funds, the disbursement of all funds, and accurate reporting according to Generally Acceptable Accounting Principles. A system of checks and balances has been established using a Recording Steward that reconciles the accounts based on the Treasurer's reports, bank records, and the Recording Steward's records.

Budget*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

Copy of Brown Temple CME Church Grant Budget.xlsx

Special Considerations*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

This will help bring our congregation safely back together for reopening. In purchasing the HVAC filters it will provide a clean quality of air and personal protection during meetings and services. This system will help combat/reduce airborne aerosols such as bacteria, pollen pollutants in the air, pathogens, mold, and odors from the air and surfaces due to COVID -19. Everyone onsite will be required to follow the CDC guidelines.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Copy of Brown Temple CME Church Grant Budget.xlsx

Brown Temple CME Church COVID-19 Reopening Budget

Revenue

No other sources of revenue attached to this projec

Expenditures

Capital

Operating

Freestanding Body Non-Contact Temp Sensors Infra-Red (2)

Wall Mounted Automatic Hand Sanitizer Dispensers (7)

Hand Sanitizer Liquid Case (5)

Hand-Free Paper Roll Towel Dispenser with Motion Sensors (5)

Hardwound Paper Towels (5)

Lavex Stainless Steel Mounted Single Roll Toilet Tissue Dispensers (4)

PPE

Toilet Tissue Rolls

GPS-FC48-AC Compact Self-Cleaning Ionization System (4) and Installation

Taxes and Shipping

Consulting Fee - Reopening Plan

Total Expenditures

tt.	\$	-
	\$	-
	\$	3,200.00
	\$	560.00
	\$	950.00
	\$	360.00
	\$	200.00
	\$	120.00
	\$	560.00
	\$	100.00
	\$	5,400.00
	\$	750.00
	\$	800.00
	\$	13,000.00