

# Asheville Dream Center Adopt-A-Block Addiction and Recovery

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*RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*

## ***Asheville Dream Center***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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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. To date, Buncombe County has awarded projects totaling \$23,093,499, leaving a balance of \$27,639,791 available to award.

Visit <http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding> for details.

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](#)

## Organization Type\*

Nonprofit

## Nonprofit documentation

If nonprofit, attach IRS Determination Letter or other proof of nonprofit status.

Determination Letter ADC.png

## Name of Project.\*

Asheville Dream Center Adopt-A-Block Addiction and Recovery

## New/Updated Proposal\*

Is this a new project proposal or an updated version of a proposal submitted during the earlier (July 2021) Recovery Funding RFP?

Updated version of previously submitted proposal

## Amount of Funds Requested\*

\$2,415,800.00

## Category\*

Please select one:

- Affordable Housing
- Aging/Older Adults
- Business Support/Economic Development
- Environmental/Climate
- Homelessness
- K-12 Education
- Infrastructure and/or Broadband
- Mental Health/Substance Use
- NC Pre-K Expansion
- Workforce

Mental Health/Substance Use

## Brief Project Description\*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The Asheville Dream Center is proposing continuing and expanding the Adopt-A-Block outreach program and using this program to springboard into a residential substance abuse program. We currently partner with volunteers and other organizations to visit low income/at-risk families with the goal to reach all Asheville Housing Authority Properties. Our outreach program includes distributing food, diapers, beds, washers/dryers. We also offer mentorship, personalized care and guidance to each person to prevent homelessness, addiction relapse and overcome social and economic barriers. Such inequalities put many of these people in constant struggle, we are helping overcome educational barriers, obtain employment and give the social support needed. Our goal is to lead them out of subsidized housing and off of government assistance. Our program helps individuals develop positive social skills, secure employment, continue education, and engage in healthy community.

## Project Plan\*

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

Adopt a block was founded by the Los Angeles Dream Center in 2000 and was replicated in Asheville in March of 2020. The LA dream center has impacted over 50,000 lives and adopted over 135 blocks in many under resourced communities. Asheville Dream Center is currently serving 410 apartments every week in the Hillcrest and Klondyke Community. This is structured with a site coordinator that oversees and designates volunteers for necessary projects and needs. Team leaders take each group of volunteers to their specific rows and apartments to do outreach and needs assessments. Consistent team leaders take 4 to 5 volunteers to assigned apartments to maintain and develop relationships with each family. Through these relationships the program meets the practical, spiritual, social and mental needs of families. We would like to continue to work with these families, but our proposed project is to expand to the additional 10 properties under the Asheville Housing Authority. With the requested funding we will be expanding into Pisgah View by the end of 2022 which will bring our number of apartments served to 665. As part of our 5-year strategic direction our plan is to expand into the other 8 properties with a total of 1917 apartments.

Congruently we are launching an addiction/recovery residential program, so that men and women who are overcoming life controlling issues such as drugs, alcohol, depression, and abuse receive the support and resources they need to transition to a place of resiliency and recovery. The program is structured to eliminate distractions while providing personalized care, mentorship and guidance to focus on the foundations to rebuild their lives. This program will help individuals develop positive social skills, continue in education, secure employment, obtain independent housing and reintegrate into the community. This program is an intense 10–12-month residential program that takes a holistic approach of focusing on the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of a person. This is accomplished through a structured environment, work therapy, change groups and curriculum that focuses on character development, recovery principals and life skills training. This facility will be structured with a director to oversee all programming, staffing and facility operations. The home will also consist of a couple that are the residential house parents who are certified as peer support specialists that will help provide food, mentorship, and education. The home will have 4 resident advisors who work 12 hour shifts to oversee the programs of the residents. They are responsible for overseeing that the rules and regulations of the program are met. Qualified and trained volunteers will augment staffing. When transitioning out of the facility they will continue to stay connected through a support network and receive follow up care for 1 year. Our strategic plan is to have this fully implemented by June 2023 with appropriate funding.

## 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 focus of our program is to serve individuals that reside in public housing with focus on the disproportionately impoverished African American community that reside there. We currently work closely with HACA leadership and property managers so that our leadership team can respond to the needs of the current or incoming residents.

The poverty threshold for an individual in Buncombe County as of 2020 is \$13,465 and for a family of four is \$26,246, the current percent of individuals in poverty is 12.3% this equates to 30.6 thousand out of 248 thousand individuals (census.gov, datausa.io) Those living below the poverty level for whites in buncombe county is 11.6% and for black is 19.2% (data.citizen-times.com/americancommunitysurvey/buncombecounty) In 2019 41.7% of children live in poor or low-income homes (nchild.org). The Median household income in 2019 was \$52,207 and the median household income for black households was \$33,324 (data.citizen-times.com/americancommunitysurvey/buncombecounty). The needs that this project will address is preventing homelessness, substance abuse treatment and counseling, support for abused women, meeting practical needs of families, mentorship for finances, job training and education. The residential treatment

facility would focus on rampant substance usage disorders that plague those living in low income and project-based housing units. In 2018 there were 265 reported opioid overdoses, 79 buncombe residents died of unintentional overdose and 606 naloxone reversals were reported (buncombecounty.org)

### 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.

We started the Adopt-A-Block program at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and began building relationships with families in the areas that we were serving. We personally saw substance abuse and physical abuse rise exacerbated by the lack of support and resources during the pandemic. The lack of childcare as children were at home from school created an issue where many single moms had to quit their jobs to take care of their children. Prior to COVID-19 Buncombe County's unemployment rate was 3.4% but increased to 17% in April and May of 2020, creating even more financial hardships for the population we serve. We saw families suffer through depression, fear, and anxiety and many of them turned to substance use to cope with the distress. One by one, we helped several families by providing the practical needs, necessities and mentorship resulting in some being able to leave abusive situations, start back to school and to begin reaching out to us as needs arose. In 2021 we gave 32 beds to children sleeping on the floor and 24 washers and dryers to single moms and grandmas due to limits on the bus for number of people. In 2022 we have already provided 18 beds to children. These are just two of the areas that we were able to assist out of many more. We have trained alcohol and substance abuse counselors ready to help families that are facing life-controlling addictions. The use of these funds would not only assist in expanding our Adopt-A-Block program to help families in all 12 Asheville Housing Authority Locations, but to also address the need of a residential addiction and recovery program. Our goal is to build healthy families physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially.

### Population Served\*

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

Hillcrest and Klondyke Apartments are composed of 915 residents currently with the following demographics:

- 314 white
  - 532 black
  - 37 multiracial
  - 32 nonaffiliated
- Of those
- 577 females
  - 338 males
  - 441 children under the age of 18
  - 67 between the ages of 18 and 25
  - 183 between the ages of 25 and 40
  - 120 between the ages of 40 and 65
  - 40 individuals over the age of 65

Expanding into Pisgah View would bring the number of apartments served to 665 with 1082 residents with similar demographics.

## 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.

By serving the most vulnerable population on a consistent basis and connecting them to the proper resources adopt a block can begin to create sustainable communities within the Asheville Housing Authority Properties. Needs assessments will be done initially on everyone to determine the level of involvement and care that is appropriate. By doing a needs assessment on everyone we can get baseline result to work from.

The following performance measure will be tracked:

Number of program participants obtain living wage employment

% of program participants enrolled in higher education

% of individuals that maintain housing after 3 months, 6 months, 9 months and 1 year.

Long term impact would be rehousing people in unsubsidized housing

Working within this community over the past two years we have already seen individuals return to school, seek out employment and work on finding alternate housing solutions. By coming alongside of them and leading them to resources and providing mentorship we are able to see them gain confidence and strength to start the next stages of self-sufficiency.

## Evaluation\*

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

Individuals within the adopt-a-block communities as well as our residential program will be tracked throughout the entire process. An initial intake is done on each individual and accurate information is entered in a residential management database. This will be updated as progress is made with each individual whether that is documenting the items needed and then given or progress made on their long-term goals. Residents within in the adopt-a-block communities, we will not only track the items requested and given but also any noteworthy information that could help with our interactions such as interventions/assistance they are receiving, participants residential movement, educational engagement.

Within the residential program more detailed information will be tracked. This will include any classes attended, short-term and long-term goals, meetings with staff, medical information and steps to self-sufficiency.

Process of intake to residential facility: Individual fills out an application and through personal phone interview an assessment is done on the individual. Once accepted into the program, the individual is allowed to bring two bags of clothing. Distractions of a cell phone are not allowed but they can make one ten-minute phone call to let any family know that they have arrived and are entering the program. Then they are assigned to an intake room where they will stay up to three days for an evaluation. During this time, they are required to learn the rules of the program. Once they accept the rules, they can accept the program. After the 3 days a holistic evaluation will be given to each client to determine next steps and program entry.

## 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?

Our service delivery method is meeting people where they are in real time and delivering services in their environment. By taking volunteers into their place of residency we are helping to alleviate the stigma associated with individuals who are living in Asheville Housing Authority properties. We begin by building relationships with these individuals so we can start meeting their basic needs. This fulfills the lower level of the hierarchy of needs pyramid so they can begin progressing upwards. By helping to meet the individuals' basic needs and providing mentorship we can then begin working on the next steps of growth for these residents this includes enrolling in higher education and obtaining living wage employment, this will lead them to the goal of being out of subsidized housing and off government assistance.

Resources during COVID-19 were limited for individuals struggling with substance use, and people in need of childcare especially for those in project-based housing. Addressing the ones struggling with substance use we are going to be able to provide a celebrate recovery meeting within the project based residential community.

Being involved with these residents over the past two years we have been able to advocate for them and help them to get connected to the necessary available resources. By continuing our programs and expanding into other properties we will be able to provide services to more individuals who are struggling.

Our residential treatment facility will take those individuals within Asheville Housing Authority Properties who are ready to break the chains of addiction and move them to a path of recovery.

## 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.

Project Partners:

1. Affordable Bedding: Supplying 40% off mattresses, bed frames, and box springs
2. Guaranteed Appliances: Supplying 10% off used washers and dryers (Guaranteeing product for one year)
3. Babies Need Bottoms: Supplying all diapers, wipes, shampoos, and clothes
4. Jordan Peer Recovery: Supplying groceries for families
5. Change Agent: Peer support specialist/ class leaders
6. Dream City Church- Peer support specialist/ class leaders
7. The Gathering Church- Mentorship
8. Elevation Outreach- Financial support for projects and mentorship
9. World Vision- Food for families at Thanksgiving
10. MAPS- Supplies ultrasounds, pregnancy counseling, abortion recovery
11. Phoenix Dream Center- Supplies programming for Substance Abuse and Recovery and administrative financial support
12. LA Dream Center- Supplies programming for Substance Abuse and Recovery
13. South Texas Dream Center- Supplies programming for Substance Abuse and Recovery

## 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.

Angela Pennell, currently has an associate of applied science, Bachelor of Science Business Management. Additional Trainings include Mental Health First Aid, Motivational Interviewing, Conflict Resolution, Conscious Leadership, Crisis Intervention Training, Leadership for Women, DDS Marketing/Sales Training, CME Trainings, Trauma Informed Care, Suicide Prevention, and QuickBooks certifications. Over the past 5 years she has worked with adults and children struggling with mental health diagnosis, substance use, abuse/neglect, and homelessness. She has successfully managed a transitional residential facility which included management of federal and state grants and managing the funding therein.

Michelle Coleman -Executive Director currently is finalizing her Doctorate in Strategic Leadership to graduate in May, Masters Degree in Sports Marketing and Management, and a Bachelors in Literature. Over the past 12 years, she has worked with adults struggling with substance abuse, mental health, homelessness, human trafficking, domestic abuse, and foster care. She worked as the Director of Public Relations at the Los Angeles Dream Center for 5 years and assisted in all programs. She and her husband have also worked for 5 years in Sacramento where they successfully launched after-school programs for children, job training classes, and parenting classes, education support and financial classes to assist in adults having the tools needed for a holistic healthy life.

Matthew Coleman- Program Director of the residential substance abuse program. Matthew is a graduate of the Men's Discipleship Recovery Program in LA with the Dream Center. He was a program coordinator in his second year of transition and worked with all areas of the program. He is a personal success story of the residential program by continuing his education and now is the lead Pastor of Dream City Church Asheville.

## 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.

Recovery-Funds-budget-template.xlsx

## Special Considerations\*

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

The Dream Center Network was founded in 1994 with the first Dream Center in Los Angeles with a single mission - to find a need and fill it, to find a hurt and heal it. Since 1994 the Dream Center Network has been finding needs and filling them all over the world. The Dream Center Network now collectively consists of 84 Dream Centers around the world, including centers in 29 states and 11 different countries. With a vision to transform the world, each Dream Center strives to provide the help and resources necessary to individuals and communities in need. The Dream Center Network continues to grow each year, reaching thousands of people across the globe.

We are going to continue a program here in Asheville that has already been tested and proven in cities such as Los Angeles, Phoenix, Atlanta and they have seen a decrease in crime around these Dream Center

sites. These Dream Centers have been able to go into the impoverished areas of their city and begin giving these individuals hope and resources. This has allowed them to start seeing real change in their communities.

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Determination Letter ADC.png
- Recovery-Funds-budget-template.xlsx



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

ASHEVILLE DC  
1854 HENDERSONVILLE ROAD SUITE A 5  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28803

Date:  
12/04/2021  
Employer ID number:  
84-4466931  
Person to contact:  
Name: Mr. Scian  
ID number: 31369  
Telephone: 877-829-5500  
Accounting period ending:  
December 31  
Public charity status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:  
Yes  
Effective date of exemption:  
March 5, 2020  
Contribution deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum applies:  
No  
DLN:  
26053502008371

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

*Stephen A. Martin*

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 947 (Rev. 2-2020)  
Catalog Number 35152P



<b>Total</b>	\$ 4,812,984.80		
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