

The CWA Village Project

RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Christine Avery Learning Center

CiCi Weston
PO Box 7594
Asheville, NC 28802

avery.learningcenter@gmail.com
O: 828-232-7433
M: 828-280-9606
F: 828-232-7434

CiCi Weston

PO Box 7594
Asheville, NC 28802

avery.learningcenter@gmail.com
O: 828-232-7433
M: 828-280-9606
F: 828-232-7434

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. 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.

CWA tax exempt.pdf

Name of Project.*

The CWA Village Project

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?

New project proposal

Amount of Funds Requested*

\$663,000.00

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

K-12 Education

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA) is requesting \$663,000 over 3 years to extend and support current programming by way of The CWA Village Project (TVP). TVP will support K-12 Education in the form of academic and behavioral supports, and family resources for students, and their families. CWA serves 125 students daily, with 67 of those students enrolled in our school aged program (SAP). The Village Project will provide academic tutoring and enrichment, behavioral interventions for children who are struggling to regulate their behaviors, and support parents by providing them with trainings and workshops. While CWA currently supports students with quality out of school time programming, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed urgent needs of students and families within our primary demographic. TVP will be a bridge between out of school time programming, schools, family, and community, creating the village that is missing but needed to support scholars and their families.

Project Plan*

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

The Christine Avery Learning Center currently provides out of school time programming for youth in grades K-10. COVID Recovery Funding will help address critical needs of scholars and families within our SAP. TVP will encompass three programs, academic enrichment, behavior support, and family advocacy. All components of the program have proven to be necessary in creating the support systems needed for our scholars and their families. CWA scholars currently receive academic tutoring from our community partners, however there are not enough volunteers to accommodate the needs of our scholars.

The academic and enrichment program will provide students with tutoring in literacy and math along with academic enrichment in S.T.E.M. to help mitigate the issues of COVID learning loss. This would include the hire of 6 academic support specialists who will tutor 4 scholars per week. The academic support specialists will be responsible for filling the gaps between school and home. The academic support specialist will create, implement and monitor action plans and based upon the student's academic needs. The support specialists will also communicate student needs to parents and provide parents with resources that will help them assist their children in academics while at home.

Behavior supports will be identified and facilitated by a Family Advocate employed by CWA. CWA currently has a Student Advocate on site who works across all programming; however, data has reflected an enhanced need for family advocacy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The Family Advocate will work with youth in our school aged program by providing scholars and their families with resources and supports that will help students regulate behaviors.

Family and community support will be given by way of trainings and workshops. The Family Advocate, Program Manager, and Academic Support Specialists will work to provide families with assistance that will attribute to the success of their scholar. Individual meetings and support will be ongoing for families as needed. Workshops will be held at least four times per year to discuss problems plaguing the youth in our communities, how families can get involved, and provide resources to help families remain involved.

Funds will be used over three school years (2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025) beginning in August of 2022.

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 COVID-19 pandemic has unequivocally had a negative effect on communities of color. This incongruity of resources provided to persons of color has had a major impact on the academic achievement of black and brown persons. Pre-pandemic less than 30% of black and brown students in Asheville City and Buncombe County schools met grade level proficiency, while 70% of white students were proficient. The existing achievement gap along with the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on K-12 education have put the spotlight on educational inequities. The recovery of student academic success has been difficult across the nation, additional problems such as behavior deficiencies and lack of community resources are being identified as catalysts for this problem. With Recovery Funding, CWA will provide scholar and students with the resources needed to help mitigate the community issues of COVID learning loss, youth behavior modification and regulation, as well as strengthen relationships between our families, their children and the community.

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.

COVID Learning Loss is a term coined from the loss of academic knowledge from students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has put many school aged youth at an academic disadvantage. This disadvantage is more prevalent in black and brown communities that were already underserved pre-pandemic. COVID learning loss has also widened the preexisting achievement gap which separates the academic competencies of White and Asian students from their black and brown counterparts. The pandemic exposed the need for social and emotional learning (SEL) courses, assistance with adult relationships and engagement, restorative practices to support healthy discipline practices in the schools, and advocates to help project the voices of black and brown students.

The Christine Avery Learning Center serves students from 16 schools located in Buncombe County. Data from student report cards for the 2021-22 school year reflects CWA scholar's academic progress from August of 2021 until March and April of 2022, only 36% of the scholars that attend our programs have maintained consistent passing grades, 5% of scholars grades have dropped in all subjects, 36% of scholars grades have dropped in some subjects, and 23% of scholars have raised some grades since the beginning of the school year. CWA currently partners with Literacy Together to provide academic tutors for scholars enrolled in our school aged programs (SAP). Only 9 of our scholars are able to receive tutors through outside partnerships. Data reflects 25 scholars within the program would currently benefit from having a tutor. With the funds requested we will provide all scholars with tutors, mental health supports in the form of group and individual talk sessions giving scholars a safe space to use their voice, have an outlet for their emotions, and teach social and emotional skills to help scholars be successful academically.

Population Served*

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

The number of families participating in the overall demographics of our students are as CWA's current total enrollment is 125, with 66 of those students being school age students. The number of families participating in the overall demographics of our students are as follows: 73% African American, 13% Mixed Race, 14% white, 2%- Latino. 88% of our families receive childcare vouchers which means that their family income falls at or below the 200% poverty level. All participants are residents of Buncombe County. Looking specifically at our school age program, the demographic breakdown is as follows: 93% Black and Brown students, 7% white. Twenty-eight students attend Asheville City Schools, Twenty-seven attend County Schools, and eleven attend charter schools.

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.

Performance Measures:

Scholars Academic Performance- Scholars academic performance will be measured through data collected from report cards issued by the scholars' prospective schools during the academic school year. Success will constitute a 50% increase in student academics.

Family Surveys- Families of students in the SAP will be asked to complete surveys at the beginning of the school year that will determine the level of need each of our families have for support and assistance in student academics and/or behaviors. Families showing need will meet with our Curriculum Specialist, Program Manager and Family Advocate to determine an action plan for each family. The plans will include a goal sheet for the families. Success with our families will be gauged by the completion of quarterly goals.

Behavior Metrics- Scholars exhibiting behavioral concerns will be assessed internally, depending upon the results of the internal assessment the scholar will be referred to outside sources. Students who do not

qualify for outside resources will work with our Family Advocate and develop a goal sheet. The goals will be worked on and with the Family Advocate, the scholar, and their family. Success will be measured by the accomplishment of set goals quarterly.

Social and Emotional Learning- All Scholars in the SAP will engage in a pre and post assessment twice a year. The assessment will determine the scholar's social and emotional competencies. Success will constitute an increase in SEL competencies.

Evaluation*

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

CWA currently has a team of current employees that consist of the Business and Operations Manager, Program Manager, Curriculum Specialist and Student Advocate, who will collect and analyze all data. With Recovery Funds we would hire a Family Advocate to support students and their families. Student academics are currently being tracked every 9 weeks using the academic report cards given by the schools. The Family Advocate, Program Manager, and Curriculum specialist will collect data from the family action plans, children's behavior metrics and SEL assessment. The Business Operations Manager will serve in the capacity of reviewer for analytical data collected and ensure data is analyzed with integrity. The Administrative team will revise and implement new strategies based on the data received.

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?

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected African American and Hispanic families. The Village Project will provide critical services to our core consumer base which consists of a primarily of African American scholars. The program will mitigate some of the deficits created by the pandemic by providing underserved populations with invaluable resources that they may not otherwise have access to.

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.

Contracted partnerships include:

A Therapist Like Me (ATLM) provides behavioral intervention and family support service for our scholars. The agency sends therapists to facilitate groups twice a month for the children attending CWA. The days and times will be determined and set unless a change is made. ATLM will conduct one psychoeducational group for parents twice per month. Group topics will be communication skills, identifying feelings, behavior modification, bullying, peer pressure, social interaction, and self-esteem lasting for 30 mins. Group topics for parents include: parenting skills, communication skills, setting boundaries, self-care, wellness, mental health support, substance use awareness, anger management, and coping skills. Groups last 90-120 minutes with a

capacity of 8-10 parents/guardians. Depending on need, each month may focus on a topic and each group that month is a different set of 8-10 families.

Non-funded partners include:

Literacy Together: We partner with Literacy Together to provide academic tutoring and reading groups for our scholars.

Mars Hill University: We partner with the Mars Hill Bonner Scholar program to provide students with community service hours, and employment opportunities. Students facilitate academic, arts and sports enrichment activities with our youth.

Buncombe County Schools: We provide transportation to youth from school to our program and provide out of school time programming to youth who attend 9 county schools.

Asheville City Schools: We provide out of school time programming to youth who attend 7 city schools.

University of North Carolina Asheville (UNCA): We work with UNCA to provide students with internships and volunteer hours to complete course requirements. Students volunteer as facilitators for out-of-school time programming.

Buncombe County Partnership for Children (BCP): We work with BCP to provide students and families with support via outside resources such as therapy and behavior resources.

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.

As a recipient of \$920,000 in grants from state and local funds, CWA has the internal knowledge to ethically and effectively manage funds. As a program who has provided quality services to over 500 youth since its inception with minimal outside assistance, CWA also has the internal staff needed to ensure all components of the project will be implemented and successful. Recovery Funds are critical to CWA's ability to meet scholars and families where they are and provide them with the services needed to ensure success.

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.

CWA Recovery-Funds-budget.xlsx

Special Considerations*

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

We do not have any special considerations.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- CWA tax exempt.pdf
- CWA Recovery-Funds-budget.xlsx

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: APR 29 2015

THE CHRISTINE AVERY LEARNING CENTER
C/O CICI AVERY WESTON
4 PINE GROVE AVE
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

Employer Identification Number:
47-1618110
DLN:
17053332319004
Contact Person:
RENEE RAILLEY NORTON ID# 31172
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
September 12, 2014
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
Yes

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to 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,



Director, Exempt Organizations

Letter 947



Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Proposed Project Budget

Organization Name:	The Christine Avery Learning Center
Project Name:	The CWA Village Project
Amount Requested:	\$663,000

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Buncombe COVID Recovery Funds	\$ 663,000.00		
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
List other sources here			
Total	\$ 663,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Family Advocate	\$ 135,000.00		\$ 135,000.00	Operating	\$45,000 per year, full time 80 hours per week
Academic Support Specialist	\$ 78,000.00		\$ 78,000.00	Operating	\$26,000 per year, part time 25 hours per week
Academic Support Specialist	\$ 78,000.00		\$ 78,000.00	Operating	\$26,000 per year, part time 25 hours per week
Academic Support Specialist	\$ 78,000.00		\$ 78,000.00	Operating	\$26,000 per year, part time 25 hours per week
Academic Support Specialist	\$ 78,000.00		\$ 78,000.00	Operating	\$26,000 per year, part time 25 hours per week
Academic Support Specialist	\$ 78,000.00		\$ 78,000.00	Operating	\$26,000 per year, part time 25 hours per week
Academic Support Specialist	\$ 78,000.00		\$ 78,000.00	Operating	\$26,000 per year, part time 25 hours per week
Contracted Services	\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	Operating	Behavior and Family Support Services
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
Total			\$ 663,000.00		