Project	Gang Prevention Education for At-Risk Children in Asheville
Organization	Gateway Group of Asheville

Amount Requested	$85,000	**Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal**	Education/Youth Support
New or Renewal Request	New	**Commissioner Districts Served**	District 1

Organization Description	• Organization provides resources, programs, coaching, workshops, training and other services to promote healthy, strong, effective and successful families through effective parenting and co-parenting.
Project Description	• To promote public safety and deter young people from joining gangs, the proposed project will establish an evidence-based gang prevention education program targeting 4th and 5th grade students in neighborhoods known for high rates of criminal activity. In its pilot year, the curriculum would be delivered in partnership with one elementary school (Isaac Dickson Elementary) and one public housing community (Pisgah View), reaching an estimated 300 students.
People Served	• Two areas within Asheville City will be the focus of the project in its first year. Specifically, pilot locations chosen for the program include the Pisgah View community center, a neighborhood of 256 apartment units operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville, and Isaac Dickson Elementary School. Isaac Dickson was chosen in part due to its close proximity to the Hillcrest community and Pisgah View.
Outcomes	• Serve approximately 300 4th and 5th grade students in the 2019-2020 school year • Improve student attitudes and understanding of gang behavior, consequences of joining gangs, and strategies for staying away from gangs, as demonstrated through pre- and post-testing

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2019	n/a	**Increase Request**	n/a
Project Budget	$85,000	**Total Organization Budget**	$138,000
Other Funding Sources: The amount requested will be sufficient to pilot the Gang Alternatives Program in Asheville, so no additional funding is being sought for the first year			

Additional Information

Gang Prevention Education for At-Risk Children in Asheville

FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants

Gateway Group of Asheville

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Application Form

Question Group

Please complete the form below and upload the required files for your application. Organizations submitting more than one project must complete one submission form for each project. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Priority is given to nonprofit organizations with projects that contribute to Buncombe County's strategic priorities or sustainability goals.

For FY2020, no Strategic Partnership Grant applications will be considered for the strategic priorities "Affordable Housing" or "Early Childhood Education." Funding for affordable housing projects is managed through Buncombe County's Affordable Housing Services Program. Funding for early childhood projects will be managed through the newly forming Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.

Project Name*
Name of Project.

> Gang Prevention Education for At-Risk Children in Asheville

Amount Requested*

> $85,000.00

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.

> Justice Resource Support

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.

Organization Description*

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

Launched in 2016, the Gateway Group of Asheville (GGA) provides resources, programs, and services for effective and healthy parenting, marriages, and relationships for families and individuals. Currently, the organization conducts two parenting programs based on curricula from the National Fatherhood Initiative, with many clients being referred through Buncombe County Health and Human Services and Buncombe County Child Support Services. More than 155 men have successfully completed Gateway Buncombe National Fatherhood Initiative Program, with a reunification rate of 86%. The Healthy Parenting & Co-Parenting Motherhood Program, which helps mothers improve the relationships they have with fathers for the benefit of their children, has reached 75 participants to date and has a reunification rate of 88%.

Project Description

What do you propose to do? What is your plan? What are your goals?

According to a 2018 North Carolina GangNET report, based on a law enforcement database tracking gang activity, there are between 1 and 5 documented gangs in Buncombe County. It also reports that 78% of NC gang members are African-American, a disproportionate number that is likely "the result of socioeconomic variables… emphasiz[ing] the need for gang prevention programs." In July 2018, multiple Asheville news outlets reported that city crime rates had already doubled from the previous year, particularly in public housing neighborhoods. To promote public safety and deter young people from joining gangs, the proposed project will establish an evidence-based gang prevention education program targeting 4th and 5th grade students in neighborhoods known for high rates of criminal activity. In its pilot year, the curriculum would be delivered in partnership with one elementary school (Isaac Dickson Elementary) and one public housing community (Pisgah View), reaching an estimated 300 students.

Key Steps*

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

The Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) curriculum is delivered in school settings via (8) 45-60 minute lessons over a 2-month period, meeting weekly during health class as part of the school's safety plan. In community or after-school settings, the program is delivered in a series of (12) 60-90 minute lessons.

The following timeline outlines one-year project activities beginning July 1, 2019:
July 31, 2019: Facilitators and volunteer advisory board members recruited and hired
August 31, 2019: Agreements with target sites formalized, and facilitator training with Gangfree Life Academy completed
September 30, 2019: Gang Alternatives Program delivery begins
December 31, 2019: Gang Alternatives Program delivery complete
January 31, 2020: Results analyzed and reported; expansion planning and fundraising begins
June 30, 2020: Target sites for 2020-2021 planned and agreements formalized

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.

Two areas within Asheville City will be the focus of the project in its first year. Specifically, pilot locations chosen for the program include the Pisgah View community center, a neighborhood of 256 apartment units operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville, and Isaac Dickson Elementary School. Isaac Dickson was chosen in part due to its close proximity to the Hillcrest community (within 1 mile) and Pisgah View (within 3 miles). Both pilot sites are located in Commissioner District 1. Replication is planned for other public housing communities and elementary schools throughout Asheville City in future years.

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.

The project will benefit Asheville City, which has an estimated population of 91,901, with 82.9% being White/Caucasian (including 5.9% of Hispanic ethnicity), 12% African-American, 2% Asian, 2.4% two or more races, and 0.3% American Indian or Alaska Native. Median household income in Asheville is $46,464. The GAP curriculum will be delivered to approximately 300 4th and 5th grade students in Asheville City, with approximately 187 of these being students at Isaac Dickson Elementary, a Title I school with 36.63% eligible for free and reduced lunch. With a total enrollment of 543, the school is demographically 70% White/Caucasian (including 8% of Hispanic ethnicity), 20% African-American, 8% two or more races, and 2% Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander. The remaining GAP students will meet in the community center in Pisgah View, a neighborhood whose population is approximately 40% African-American, with a median income of $31,698, and a median age of 26.5.

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?

GGA will implement this program in partnership with the Pisgah View community and Isaac Dickson Elementary School. The following individuals have been working with GGA to plan the pilot project:
- Dr. Douglas L. Semark, director of Gangfree Life Academy and founder of the Gang Alternatives Program (GAP), will provide training for facilitators and supply curriculum resources.
- Mr. Gene Bell, CEO of the Asheville Housing Authority and leader of CHOSEN (a group of African-American men who volunteer in the community) will help to coordinate delivery of the program at the pilot community site, Pisgah View.
- Dr. Eric Howard, Director of Student Support Services for Asheville City Schools, manages school safety and will help to coordinate delivery of the program at Isaac Dickson Elementary.
- Support for the program has been expressed by Cpt. Gary Gudac, Lt. Sean Aardema and Lt. Jonathan Brown from the Asheville Police Department, as well as Buncombe County Sheriff Quentin Miller.

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?

Ronald Gates, President and Executive Director of Gateway Group of Asheville, will serve as the Project Director. Gates was certified as a Gang Free Academy facilitator in 2016 and will be responsible for recruiting the facilitators and board members to launch the Gang Alternatives Program in Asheville. Pastor and co-founder of Greater Works Church of God in Christ since 2007, Gates is also a certified pastoral counselor and recovery coach, formerly served as a case manager for a men's homeless shelter and veteran support organization, and currently operates the Gateway Buncombe National Fatherhood Initiative Program. As an

African-American man, his leadership reflects the population of the community to be served, and he will ensure that the facilitators and advisory board members recruited to the program are also representative of the community served.

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.

GGA proposes to achieve the following:
- Hire and train three part-time facilitators and recruit an advisory board
- Conduct the Gang Alternatives Program at one school and one community site
- Serve approximately 300 4th and 5th grade students in the 2019-2020 school year
- Improve student attitudes and understanding of gang behavior, consequences of joining gangs, and strategies for staying away from gangs, as demonstrated through pre- and post-testing

Data from an external research study of the Gang Alternatives Program in Los Angeles showed that 69% of students had significantly improved attitudes toward gangs and gang-related behavior; 87% had significantly increased understanding about the consequences of joining a gang; 96% were able to apply what they learned; and 90% knew more about strategies to stay away from gangs. Similar success is anticipated for the Asheville pilot and will inform replication, with a goal of expanding to 4 additional sites for a total of 6 next year.

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 amount requested will be sufficient to pilot the Gang Alternatives Program in Asheville, so no additional funding is being sought for the first year.

Sustainability*

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

Once successful pilot data has been obtained, the Gateway Group of Asheville and the advisory board for the Gang Alternatives Program will seek additional community and foundation support to replicate the program at additional sites. This will include holding fundraising events within the communities, and submitting grant proposals to area community and regional foundations as well as the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission.

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.

GGA_budget_template_2.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.

Financial statements for 2018 are currently being compiled and will be forwarded within the next 2-3 weeks.

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.

GGA_990_2017.pdf

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.

GGA_Board_2019.docx

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

Ronald Gates, 2/8/19

Other attachments or supplemental information may be submitted to Rachael Nygaard at rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- GGA_budget_template_2.xlsx
- GGA_990_2017.pdf
- GGA_Board_2019.docx