

**Buncombe County FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	Sandy Mush Community Center: Safe and Sustainable Spaces
Organization	Sandy Mush Community Center

Amount Requested	\$48,000	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Community Centers
New or Renewal Request	Renewal	Commissioner Districts Served	District 3

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sandy Mush Community Center (SMCC) is a charitable 501(c)(3) organized for the benefit of the Sandy Mush community with a focus on, but not limited to, these purposes: 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.
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this project is to continue to make the improvements necessary to provide safe, appropriate, and sustainable spaces where the educational and recreational activities taking place at the SMCC can continue to flourish. Seeking funds to continue the internet services to provide access to the best in current technology for students, businesses and community members. Plan to complete the renovations and adjustments in the two floors that are currently in use to meet the expressed needs of the 4H club, the Food Pantry, the Voting Center and other community initiatives along with the regular programming that takes place in the Center. In addition to the renovations in the building, will begin the planning process to make the grounds safe and accessible. Seeking funds to complete work in the areas of the building and grounds currently in use in a planned and sustainable way which provides a foundation for expected future growth.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves a rural farming community of approximately 550 Buncombe County families with an estimated population of 1,500.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Success will be measured by the completion of proposed steps and by charting the quality and growth of community involvement and use as well as the safety of all participants. Already support 2 youth groups, 1 children's playgroup, Sunday afternoon open play for adults and children, yoga classes that are attended by many seniors, book club, history and heritage events, among others. Also have a library, are the location for the Sandy Mush Precinct, and offer free internet with over 900 users last year. The SMCC is reaching capacity so the much needed upgrades will allow for new partners and projects, and to continue to develop new spaces for valued community organizations such as 4H.

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2019	\$45,000	Increase Request	\$3,000
Project Budget	\$48,000	Total Organization Budget	\$78,000
Other Funding Sources: Donations, private foundations, classes and events, tshirt sales, building rental			

Additional Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track with performance targets for FY2019 grant Organization also received a County Recreation Grant of \$6,000 in FY2019 	

Sandy Mush Community Center: Safe and Sustainable Spaces

FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants

Sandy Mush Community Ctr.

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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.

Sandy Mush Community Center: Safe and Sustainable Spaces

Amount Requested*

\$48,000.00

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](#).

Other Sustainability Goal

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](#).

Equity in Access, Quality Education, Healthy Living, Citizen Involvement.

Organization Description*

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

The Sandy Mush Community Center is a charitable 501(c)(3) organized for the benefit of the Sandy Mush community with a focus on, but not limited to, these purposes: 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.

SMCC programming and community partnerships are supported by teams of community volunteers who have contributed over 6000 hours of service in 2018. Our current services include: Support to two youth groups, the 4H and Mountain Lady Farm Project, Free internet and computer lab, HSE program with partner AB Tech, a weekly playgroup for families, a monthly food pantry serving more than 110 families last year, mountain heritage and intergenerational gatherings, yoga classes, book club, needlework club, lectures on local history.

Project Description

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

The aim of this project is to continue to make the improvements necessary to provide safe, appropriate, and sustainable spaces where the educational and recreational activities taking place at the SMCC can continue to flourish. We seek funds to continue the internet services to provide access to the best in current technology for our students, businesses and community members. We plan to complete the renovations and adjustments in the two floors that are currently in use to meet the expressed needs of the 4H club, the Food Pantry, the Voting Center and other community initiatives along with the regular programming that takes place in the Center. In addition to the renovations in the building, we will begin the planning process to make the grounds safe and accessible. We seek funds to complete work in the areas of the building and grounds currently in use in a planned and sustainable way which provides a foundation for expected future growth.

Key Steps*

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

Internet Access: After partnering with BC in 2017-18 to connect the SMCC to high speed Internet, we need to continue to offer this valuable resource to our community members. We provide a computer lab that is open 4 days/week and a WiFi hotspot that is available 24 hrs/7 days a week. We request funding to pay for the monthly access, which benefits our students, community members seeking higher education and our local small businesses.

As the SMCC continues to increase community access and collaborate with community partners such as 4-H, we need to continue to do maintenance, make safety and accessibility improvements to all floors of our building, as well as the grounds.

- Upgrade Electrical Service to 400 amp for current safety and future capacity.
- Refinish gym floor before major repairs are necessary
- Install new floor on lower level - area used for Voting, Food Pantry, rental and Youth Programs.
- Commision Landscape Masterplan with a focus on accessibility for future installation

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](#).

Sandy Mush is located in the northwest rural farming community of Buncombe County, with many youth attending Erwin District schools. Sandy Mush is within Buncombe County District 3.

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 Sandy Mush Community Center serves our rural farming community of approximately 550 Buncombe County families with an estimated population of 1,500. Our families are predominately white with a small Latino population with overall median income below \$42,000 per year. The SMCC is committed to providing services to all of our community members. Currently, 15-25 children and their families enjoy weekly playgroups and weekend and summer recreational sessions. The Sandy Mush 4H Club, the oldest 4H in Buncombe County, boasts 35 members and 24 families; 100 community members participate in cultural and heritage celebrations; The Food Pantry serves 110 families a year (25% are 0-17, 50% are 18- 64, and 25% are 65 +.) The 65+ sector receives counseling from the Council on Aging. 15- 20 adults benefit from regular yoga classes. The SMCC is a Voting Center in our District, serving voting members of the community.

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?

The SMCC is partnering with two local youth organizations to provide safe community facilities for their youth programming at no charge: the Sandy Mush 4-H Club and the Mountain Lady Farm Project. Additionally, we partner with both youth groups for our April Spring Fling event as a fundraiser for each of their programs.

Due to our continuing high speed fiber Internet connection and the set up of our computer lab, we are currently working with AB-Tech Department of Transitional Studies program leaders to offer high school equivalency online and class instruction at the SMCC. This partnership has the potential to help many of our community members obtain the education they need in order to improve their career prospects.

Council on Aging partners with SMCC twice a quarter to provide help with Medicare, Medicaid, Energy, and Disability questions to our elderly.

MANNA is our food pantry partner and Eblen Charities helps the community with energy needs.

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?

Ultimately the SMCC Board of Directors is responsible for the projects. We also have strong committee leadership with experienced volunteers who will oversee the projects.

Terri Wells and Mark Diaz will continue to lead the internet program, which has been operating very smoothly.

Kurt Eckel and Frank Barbra will continue to lead the building committee, they have continued to make amazing progress on building renovations. They are working closely with Architect George Stowe and other professionals including County permitting and Planning to make sure the renovations are completed with safety and sustainability as priorities. Frank has worked closely with local contractors to get competitive bids throughout renovation process.

Terri Wells and Vanessa Campbell will continue to lead the Outdoor Recreation committee. They successfully oversaw the installation of our new playground. They will be helped by Local Landscape Architects and committed volunteers.

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.

Success will be measured by the completion of our proposed steps and by charting the quality and growth of community involvement and use as well as the safety of all participants. We already support 2 youth groups, 1 children's playgroup, Sunday afternoon open play for adults and children, yoga classes that are attended by many seniors, book club, history and heritage events, among others. We also have a library, are the location for the Sandy Mush Precinct, and offer free internet with over 900 users last year. We keep records of the use which will allow us to see growth. The SMCC is reaching capacity so the much needed upgrades will allow for new partners and projects, and to continue to develop new spaces for our valued community organizations such as 4H.

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 annual cost of AT&T internet service is \$8000. For this we need to partner with Buncombe County to provide a service that has previously been denied to our community. We have very strong volunteer support to help with the daily monitoring of the system.

For the safety, accessibility, and sustainability improvements to the SMCC building and grounds, we continue to count on Buncombe County to help with the major improvements to this Buncombe County owned property. A \$40,000.00 investment will help ensure that this community resource can continue to thrive and grow to meet community needs. Community investment of funds and volunteer hours provide on-going maintenance.

Sustainability*

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

High speed Managed Internet Service with Wifi community service is maintained through a contract with AT&T ISP and the SMCC volunteers provide regularly scheduled open hours and technology support. We are continuing to build community awareness and investment in this service to help supplement Buncombe County funding as we continue to build community revenue streams for this program.

Building and Grounds improvements will be sustained through volunteer labor and community funding for ongoing maintenance needs. Once we are able to get assistance on the safety and accessibility improvements, our volunteers are able to maintain the ongoing upkeep of the building and grounds.

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.

SMCC strategic-partnership-grants-FY2020-budget.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.

SMCC_Financial_Statements.pdf

I have included 2018 Year end statements and 2019 Approved Budget.

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.

2017 Form 990-N.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.

SMCC Board of Directors.pdf

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

Christopher C. Jayne 02-08-2019

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

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- SMCC strategic-partnership-grants-FY2020-budget.xlsx
- SMCC_Financial_Statements.pdf
- 2017 Form 990-N.pdf
- SMCC Board of Directors.pdf