

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

Project	Family Visitation Program
Organization	The Mediation Center

Amount Requested	\$12,000	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Justice Resource
New or Renewal Request	Renewal	Commissioner Districts Served	All

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mission of the Mediation Center is to create opportunity from conflict. Offer conflict mediation services for a variety of community disputes, and provide the Family Visitation Program (FVP) which delivers supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families with a history of domestic violence, child maltreatment, stalking, sexual assault, substance abuse, mental health concerns, or child abduction risk. These services help people move through difficult conflict and avoid violence and abuse. Through these services, the Mediation Center creates a safer and more peaceful community for everyone.
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding request to continue supervised visitation and safe child exchange services to families in Buncombe County. FVP is a long-term investment in public safety because it breaks the cycle of abuse. When using FVP, domestic violence victims do not have contact with their abuser and children are not abused or neglected during visits. FVP limits or eliminations re-traumatization of child and adult victims by providing a safe, secure, and child-friendly environment where children can stay connected to their non-custodial parent and families can comply with court-ordered visitation. FVP also helps parents increase their parenting skills and improve their relationship with their child so that interactions are healthy. If supervised visitation services are not present in the community, victims are forced to visit or exchange in unsafe locations, children may have no contact with a biological parent, and children are at a higher risk for abuse, neglect, and abduction.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FVP serves families when contact between parents or unsupervised contact between children and parents creates a safety risk. Families served have a history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, mental health concerns, substance abuse, inappropriate parenting behavior, and/or child abduction attempts.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will provide supervised visitation or safe exchange to at least 60 families. Will know have been successful when there have been no instances of violence or abuse at program. To document the absence of violence and abuse, a visit monitor takes extensive and neutral notes on parent/child interactions, a security officer observes via video/audio feed, parents are surveyed twice a year by a neutral person.

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2019	\$10,000	Increase Request	\$2,000
Project Budget	\$247,787	Total Organization Budget	\$624,228
Other Funding Sources: Grants, United Way funding, federal funding			

Additional Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistent progress toward performance targets for FY2019 grant; 3rd quarter report not submitted

Family Visitation Program

FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants

The Mediation Center

Mrs. Laura Jeffords
40 N. French Broad Ave.
Suite B
Asheville, NC 28801

info@mediatewnc.org
O: (828) 251-6089
F: (828) 232-5140

Mrs. Laura Jeffords

40 N. French Broad Ave.
Suite B
Asheville, NC 28801

laurahj@mediatewnc.org
O: (828) 251-6089
F: (828) 232-5140

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.

Family Visitation Program

Amount Requested*

\$12,000.00

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.

The mission of the Mediation Center is to create opportunity from conflict. We offer conflict mediation services for a variety of community disputes, and provide the Family Visitation Program which delivers supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families with a history of domestic violence, child maltreatment, stalking, sexual assault, substance abuse, mental health concerns, or child abduction risk. In the past 5 years, FVP has provided safety to more than 250 families through more than 3,600 supervised visits and 350 exchanges. These services help people move through difficult conflict and avoid violence and abuse. Through these services, the Mediation Center creates a safer and more peaceful community for everyone.

Project Description

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

FVP requests \$12,000 to continue supervised visitation and safe child exchange services to families in Buncombe County.

FVP is a long-term investment in public safety because it breaks the cycle of abuse. When using FVP, domestic violence victims do not have contact with their abuser and children are not abused or neglected during visits. FVP limits or eliminates re-traumatization of child and adult victims by providing a safe, secure, and child-friendly environment where children can stay connected to their non-custodial parent and families can comply with court-ordered visitation. FVP also helps parents increase their parenting skills and improve their relationship with their child so that interactions are healthy. If supervised visitation services are not present in the community, victims are forced to visit or exchange in unsafe locations, children may have no contact with a biological parent, and children are at a higher risk for abuse, neglect, and abduction.

Key Steps*

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

During supervised visitation and child exchanges, a trained visit supervisor is always present to ensure the safety and well-being of the child, prevent inappropriate parenting behavior, and provide parenting skill coaching.

We protect victims by eliminating contact between domestic violence victims and their abusers, which therefore eliminates the opportunity for children to witness conflict and violence between parents.

Milestones: (1) Ensure connection to and collaboration with community partners by continuing participation in the Buncombe County Safety Coalition. (2) Continue quarterly meetings of the Family Visitation Program Advisory Committee to connect with community partners and increase collaboration. (3) Keep 35 families safe by 12/31/19 (6) Keep 60 families safe by 6/30/20.

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](#).

This project will serve the entirety of Buncombe county and all commissioner districts.

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.

FVP serves families in Buncombe County when contact between parents or unsupervised contact between children and parents creates a safety risk. Families served have a history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, mental health concerns, substance abuse, inappropriate parenting behavior, and/or child abduction attempts.

Children served range from infants to teenagers. Visiting parents are 43% women and 57% men. 80% of clients are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. 88% of clients are Caucasian, 6% are African American, 6% are Hispanic. Nearly 45% of clients live in a rural areas of the county.

Families are referred by domestic violence and family courts, the Department of Social Services, Pisgah Legal Services, and mental health providers. Services are provided on a sliding scale to ensure access.

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?

We have long-standing partnerships with Buncombe County DSS, Helpmate, Buncombe County judges, Pisgah Legal Services, and Mountain Child Advocacy Center. Each of these partners work with children and families to prevent ongoing violence or trauma. All provide referrals, resources, and expertise. These organizations and others are active in the Family Visitation Advisory Committee which brings together local experts whose partnership is critical to the program's success. Members ensure effective outreach, give input on complex policy issues, and strengthen community connections.

FVP works collaboratively with each of these partners to ensure children and families receive appropriate services in a timely manner. There is not another provider of supervised visitation or safe exchanges in our community. These services are paramount to ensure the safety of the clients of our partners.

We continue be a part of the Buncombe County Safety Coalition.

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?

The Project Director will oversee the Family Visitation Program by ensuring compliance with regulations, organizing regular meetings of partners, coordinating annual assessment and strategy sessions, leading the FVP Advisory Committee, ensuring grant goals are met, and working closely with core and collaborating partners. The Project Director will continue to refine policies and adapt best practices. She will hire, train, and

supervise the Client Services Coordinator, Visit Monitors, and Volunteers. The Project Director will design and maintain systems to track and monitor data.

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.

Will we know this project has been successful when we have provided supervised visitation or safe exchange to at least 60 families.

Most importantly, we will know we have been successful when there have been no instances of violence or abuse at our program. To document the absence of violence and abuse, a visit monitor takes extensive and neutral notes on parent/child interactions, a security officer observes via video/audio feed, parents are surveyed twice a year by a neutral person. All concerns are evaluated and documented in visit notes. To track parenting-skill development, visit monitors document progress during the 15-minute coaching sessions that occur before and after each visit. Visits occurred and parenting skills practiced are tracked on structured forms, and compiled into an Excel spreadsheet. FVP also follows all best-practice standards of the International Supervised Visitation Network.

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?

We have applied for funding from The Governor's Crime Commission, and have received this funding for several years in a row. We have also applied for Untied Way funding and for renewed federal funding through the Justice for Families Act. The Family Visitation Program operates on a sliding scale, and these fees provide some ongoing funding to the program.

Sustainability*

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

The Mediation Center is dedicated to the ongoing operation of the Family Visitation Program. Over the past few years, we have been developing our training program which provides for-fee training in mediation, conflict resolution, and related topics to professionals in a variety of fields including attorneys and therapists. While this program is in its infancy, it is growing into a new and substantial source of unrestricted funds for the agency. Funding from these activities is not adequate to support the entire Family Visitation Program, but we are dedicated to continuing to grow unrestricted sources of funding so that we can be more sustainable and ensure that families in need can depend on life-saving supervised visitation programming.

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.

190702 ADV Buncombe County Service Foundation 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.

TMC 2017 Audit Report FINAL.PDF

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.

TMC 2016 Form 990 Final for Public Inspection.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.

181207 ABD Board List.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

Laura Jeffords

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

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- 190702 ADV Buncombe County Service Foundation Budget.xlsx
- TMC 2017 Audit Report FINAL.PDF
- TMC 2016 Form 990 Final for Public Inspection.pdf
- 181207 ABD Board List.docx