

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

<b>Project</b>	<b>Changing Together</b>
<b>Organization</b>	<b>The SPARC Foundation</b>

<b>Amount Requested</b>	\$42,874	<b>Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal</b>	Justice Resource
<b>New or Renewal Request</b>	New	<b>Commissioner Districts Served</b>	All

<b>Organization Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believe can promote stronger individuals, healthier families &amp; safer communities by keeping people out of institutional care &amp; maintaining them in their home community with resources, education &amp; support. Believe in second chances &amp; peoples' ability to make different choices in order to be a better parent, a better spouse, a better community member.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prison prevention program serves individuals coming out of prison as well as individuals who are at risk of criminal activity due to life circumstances. For 8 years, this team has mainly served males with felony records. This past year the team expanded services to non-felony individuals, females &amp; others requesting support in order to avoid the justice system. This program includes outreach services to marginalized communities to offer employment support. Services specifically for women, by women, will involve outreach to prison followed by support after release. Life Skills group for former offenders is led by a former offender who has made the transition to become an inspirational community member. Groups will focus on teaching the use of daily skills to successfully transition into the community &amp; hands-on activities to role play reactionary responses v. responses of clarity. Overall goal is justice recovery &amp; economic mobility for residents living in poverty.</li> </ul>
<b>People Served</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals often arrive to services penniless &amp; hopeless. Whether they recently returned from prison, have been unemployed for years due to criminal background, have no criminal background but lack employment experience &amp; self-efficacy to take first steps, clients receive non-judgmental, comprehensive support to help them meet their personal goals.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Second Chance Act (SCA) Model serves as a foundation for program. The goal of this model is to focus on addressing individuals' needs for pro-social relationships &amp; anchoring them in the community. All case management clients complete an intake where the intake matrix identifies their level of risk. 75% of case management clients will have a reduction in their risk score and an increase in their stability after receiving services through SPARC. All records are kept in a secure on line portal.</li> </ul>

<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Amount Funded FY2019</b>	n/a	<b>Increase Request</b>	n/a
<b>Project Budget</b>	\$90,494	<b>Total Organization Budget</b>	\$1,491,960
<b>Other Funding Sources:</b> Grants, City of Asheville, Bank of America			

<b>Additional Information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing Together receives a County contract for \$91,700 from the Family Justice Center cost center for Focused Deterrence to decrease domestic violence and violent crime.</li> </ul>	

# Changing Together

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## *FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants*

### ***The SPARC Foundation***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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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.

Changing Together

### Amount Requested\*

\$42,874.00

### 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.

We believe we can promote stronger individuals, healthier families & safer communities by keeping people out of institutional care & maintaining them in their home community with resources, education & support. We believe in second chances & peoples' ability to make different choices in order to be a better parent, a better spouse, a better community member.

Our prison prevention program supports individuals from low income communities. We focus on employment, life skills, housing, relationships and more to ensure our clients remain in the community. Many of our clients have barriers to employment due to criminal records.

Our domestic violence program educates & supports individuals and has a focus on accountability & behavior change.

Our Family Centered Treatment program keeps kids out of foster care by working intensively with parents to achieve child safety through functional family systems.

## Project Description

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

Our prison prevention program serves individuals coming out of prison as well as individuals who are at risk of criminal activity due to life circumstances. For 8 years, this team has mainly served males with felony records. This past year the team expanded services to non-felony individuals, females & others requesting support in order to avoid the justice system. This program includes outreach services to marginalized communities to offer employment support. Services specifically for women, by women, will involve outreach to prison followed by support after release.

Our Life Skills group for former offenders is led by a former offender who has made the transition to become an inspirational community member. Groups will focus on teaching the use of daily skills to successfully transition into the community & hands-on activities to role play reactionary responses v. responses of clarity.

Our overall goal is justice recovery & economic mobility for residents living in poverty.

## Key Steps\*

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

SPARC's Changing Together team is a foundation for this enhanced work of expanded population & services. Case managers will continue to build collaborative relationships with companies willing to give our clients a second chance to ensure employment pathways exist; maintain visibility in marginalized communities through outreach efforts; obtain access to regional prison facilities for connections with individuals to be released; offer Life Skills group to former felons; maintain a client support budget that can be accessed when a barrier to healthy living is identified (real examples include: eyeglasses, ID fees, bus passes, work uniform). The bulk of our work is spent one on one with clients where their strengths & needs are identified; goals set; strategies put into place. Top needs: employment; food security; housing; transportation. Female clients require support with these same needs while also addressing needs of their children. Services are in place and we are ready to serve.

## 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](#).

All districts are served with this program and no one from a marginalized community in Buncombe County is turned away. We serve individuals from public housing communities located within the city, to rural areas deep in the county. Additionally, many clients are initially homeless as they return from prison.

## 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.

Individuals often arrive to our services penniless & hopeless. Whether they recently returned from prison, have been unemployed for years due to criminal background, have no criminal background but lack employment experience & self efficacy to take first steps, our clients receive non-judgmental, comprehensive support to help them meet their personal goals. The current demographics of case management clients: 52% white; 46% black, 2% Asian/pacific islander. The median income is less than \$15,000/year. Their age range is 25-50 years old. We expect future demographics to be similar as we continue these outreach efforts. Individuals often learn of our services through word of mouth. We do not turn away any individual requesting support. There is no limit to the amount of support an individual may receive.

A part time case manager is able to serve 75 individuals/year. Our female prison outreach will serve 30 women/year. The Life Skills group will serve 10 men/week for 52 weeks.

## 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?

SPARC staff are engaged with other agencies providing similar, yet different services. Goodwill: group workforce development; GO: culinary & construction workforce development; Re-entry Program: individual front end support for those coming out prison; the Justice Resource Center: individual support to those engaged in the court system. SPARC provides on-going, unlimited support to any Buncombe resident from a marginalized community with needs in the areas of employment, housing, food security, etc. We also work with violent offenders & sexual offenders who are referred by the other agencies noted here.

These partners meet consistently to collaborate to meet all client needs. We may partner with the DA's office to support an individual in obtaining a valid driver's license for employment; or connect with AB Tech for a certification class. The needs of people in our community are vast & unique. None of these agencies could be successful without the existence of the others.

## 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?

We have three case managers who are responsible for the activities described in this project. We are requesting funding for one part time case manager (CM) and one female outreach staff. One CM is a former

warden with extensive experience and comfort with our population. The other CM is in recovery from substance use & understands the challenges faced by our clients.

Our lead Life Skills facilitator is an inspirational instructor who has experience in & recovery from the justice system. Our female outreach staff is a former felon whose conviction was 25 years ago. Through hard work, she has gained stability in her life & wants to support other women in their recovery journeys. Due to their experiences & understanding of the needs of clients, they are all project leaders.

These staff all work within the Changing Together team which is led by Missy Reed, Program Director. Missy has worked in criminal justice for 30 years. Of these staff, 67% are people of color and 33% are white.

## 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.

The Second Chance Act (SCA) Model serves as a foundation for our program. The goal of this model is to focus on addressing individuals' needs for pro-social relationships & anchoring them in the community. In CA, peer mentors were assigned to women in jail & were responsible for staying connected after release. In MN, a program offered weekly support group meetings. In MA, a SCA inspired program recruited former offenders & former gang members who had unique perspectives on how to re-enter society & preserve freedom. Our program mirrors these examples within the SCA Model. Complementing our program with trauma-informed practices offers comprehensive support to clients.

All case management clients complete an intake where the intake matrix identifies their level of risk. 75% of our case management clients will have a reduction in their risk score and an increase in their stability after receiving services through SPARC. All records are kept in a secure on line portal.

## 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?

Changing Together receives funding from Buncombe County to coordinate & manage law enforcement initiatives to decrease violent crime and domestic violence (VCI and DVI respectively). In coordination with APD, BCSO, DA, Probation & Attorney General, our community's most violent offenders are identified & encouraged to seek support from our case managers. This funding supports one full time Program Director & one part time Project Staff.

In order to expand the expertise of this team to more people in need, we have achieved grants this past year from the City of Asheville & Wells Fargo. In fiscal year 19-20, we will apply for funding from the Community Development Block Grant offered through the City of Asheville. We will also apply with Bank of America who has a priority focus area of economic mobility & workforce development.

All staff for this project are in place. If this funding is achieved, staff will continue their work through the next fiscal year with great momentum.

## Sustainability\*

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

The SPARC Foundation has support from the U.S. Attorney General's Office for our Changing Together program and its expansion of services and populations this past year. Through establishment of these

services and corresponding outcome data, we intend to offer continued evidence for the effectiveness of our program in reducing crime, increasing community safety, enhancing workforce development and creating economic mobility. Federal Grants through Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) may provide future funding. SPARC has an established relationship with GCC through past grants and currently with a grant funding domestic violence work.

## 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.

SPARC BCSP 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.

financials.pdf

The attached financials are prepared by SPARC's business manager. SPARC is currently undergoing a third party audit with Goldsmith, Molis & Gray. Audited financials can be sent once completed.

### 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.

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.

Current Board Members Feb 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

Jackie Latek 2/8/19

Other attachments or supplemental information may be submitted to Rachael Nygaard at [rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org](mailto:rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org)



## File Attachment Summary

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### ***Applicant File Uploads***

- SPARC BCSP budget.xlsx
- financials.pdf
- 990 2017.pdf
- Current Board Members Feb 2019.docx