

# The Rising Above Project

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## *FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants*

### ***Positive Changes Youth Ministries***

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Asheville, North Carolina 28801

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# Application Form

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## INSTRUCTIONS

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As part of the FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants program, Buncombe County requests proposals for community-based projects working toward outcomes in alignment with Strategic Plan focus areas.

Please refer to the Grant Guidelines published on the Strategic Partnership Grants website at [buncombecounty.org/grants](http://buncombecounty.org/grants) for complete information about the grant program, including: Purpose; Funding; Eligibility; Timeline; Grant writing workshop; Review process; Awards; and more.

**Applications are due by 5:00 on February 14, 2020.**

## BASIC INFORMATION

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**BASIC INFORMATION – Before completing the application, please tell us a little about the request.**

### Project Name\*

The Rising Above Project

### Strategy\*

Recognizing that some projects will use more than one strategy, select the strategy that most closely applies to this project:

- Environmental Stewardship - High quality air, water, farmland and renewable energy for future generations
- Educated & Capable Community - A county where all people thrive and demonstrate resilience throughout their lives
- Vibrant Economy - A robust and sustainable economy that builds on homegrown industries/talent and provides economic mobility for all
- Resident Well-Being - A county where residents are safe, healthy, and engaged in their community

Educated & Capable Community

### Funding Request\*

How much funding is this project requesting for FY2021?

\$40,000.00

## Grant Guidelines\*

Have you read and understand the information presented in the FY2021 Grant Guidelines Strategic Partnership Grants?

Click here for the Grant Guidelines.

If no, please contact County staff to request assistance: Rachael Nygaard, (828) 250-6536 or rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org.

Yes

## Nonprofit Status\*

Upload proof of nonprofit status, such as IRS Determination Letter or documentation from the North Carolina Secretary of State. If this documentation is not available, briefly state the reason.

PCYM IRS.pdf

## Board of Directors\*

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.

Positive Changes Youth Ministries Board of Directors.docx.pdf

# APPLICATION

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**APPLICATION QUESTIONS – Responses to these questions will be scored by the grant committee. Each question is worth 10% of the final score.**

## Organization\*

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

Positive Changes Youth Ministries (PCYM) is a local non-profit organization that recognizes that the youth are our future. Over the last six years PCYM's program has went from a free afterschool and summer camp program for low income families to a college readiness program. Our Mission is to empower the youth with the tools and skills needed to be successful in life, through life skill building, leadership training, tutoring, mentoring and career interest exploration, community service, college exploration, and academic success incentives. Thus far, we took over 90 high school students and their parents from low-income families on college exploration trips where we were able to visit over 35 colleges and universities across the country. Since, we have successfully implemented a college readiness program to support the youths' dream of attending college. All of our seniors were challenged to apply to ten colleges/ universities of their choice, which all students accomplish and 80% of our seniors attend an institution of higher education.

## Need for the Project\*

What is the main issue this project is established to address? What data or qualitative factors/stories are available to show that need?

The Rise Above project is a part of the workforce development component of the Positive Changes Youth Ministries. In all of our initiatives around college readiness we still have youth who have no interest in attending college but want to move out of poverty or establish that financial security for themselves and their families. In trying to figure out options for our youth to achieve this I noticed a gap in programming and resources to support this group of youth. The Rise Above project will allow us the opportunity to add in trade schools on our College Exploration Trip while expand the youth's knowledge around other career path options within the skilled workforce with a career fair. Through this project we will also be able to further develop the skills of the youth by hiring them for internship positions. The youth will get entry level training to provide needed support by working with key staff within the trade job of their choice. Four high school youth will be hired into a 25-30hrs a week internship where they will be trained in community engagement and recruitment, administration, program development, and event planning. These four high school youth will be tasked with the development and implementation of a Trades fair. This initiative is important in helping our youth to gain workplace skills, discipline, professionalism, and self determination that will help to support their transition into college and/or the workforce. One thing that we have learned working with youth who are striving for higher education is that they need skill building training to prepare them for college life. We need to be preparing our youth for college life / adult life so that they are able to maintain and be successful. Given the rising statistics across the nation of college dropout rates and a lack of skilled workforce, high school student preparedness is a need in all aspects.

## Project\*

Explain the project and how it will work. Include the overall purpose and any models or evidence-based practices that will be included. What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan?

According to the NC Public Schools website's District report card 2018-19 school year for Buncombe County, African American students account for 06.6% of the high schools' population; however, the cohort who graduate college ready is 30.5% with only 70% of AA students graduating. Most of these graduates exit high school without basic skills and/knowledge that would allow them to compete in the workforce environment and/or become successful within their college careers. In the data presented by "The State of Black Asheville" there exists a persistent achievement gap between white and black students, with our white students performing above NC proficiency rates and our black students performing under state proficiency percentages...in reading and math. Taking into consideration that high levels of intergenerational poverty create a digital divide among our students, and many of these students lack opportunities to enrich their learning outside of school. The Rise Above Project will help our youth to explore different career options and allow them to make informed decisions about their future.

## People Served\*

How many people will be served by this project? Describe the people served, including demographics such as geography, income, race & ethnicity, age, etc.

This project is open to all economically disadvantaged communities. Project Rise Above will serve 30 youth with the Expansion of the College Exploration Trip 2020, 10 youth with the internship component, and 50-100 youth with the Career/Trades Fair.

## Results\*

What results do you hope to achieve with this project? Be specific about how much impact the project will have in line with Commissioner focus areas.

We are hoping to decrease the achievement/opportunity gap by helping our youth and young adults to recognize that college is not the only option to rise above / or change their socioeconomic. We are also partnering with other youth focused organizations to take a solution based approach to removing some of the barriers that are preventing minorities from reaching their full potential in life.

## Evaluation\*

How will you know you have succeeded? Explain the project evaluation process, including specific measures that will be tracked.

The success of this project will be measured in three different ways:

1) Pre and Post assessments (to gauge knowledge gained and the overall experience) 2) The number of participants that apply for college and/or a workforce development programs 3) Long-term evaluation of success will be measured by the number of college attendees that complete the first year (Freshmen), trade school and/or a workforce development program. All of the data collected will determine the success of this project with an expected retention rate of 30% and a completion rate of 70%.

## Collaboration\*

List any formal and/or supportive partners. Describe their roles in the project. How will they make it stronger?

we partner with several organizations currently and with regards to this grant as well as the ever increasing number of organizations that we are in conversation with about the potential for partnership. As an grass roots organization we are intentional about not recreating the wheel but to partner with organizations that can share in the mutual benefit of collective impact to increase capacity and quality programming. Collective impact is also a process that we are working to accomplish.

## Budget\*

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

Explain how grant funds will be used, specifically what type of expenses will be covered by County funds. Describe other sources of revenue, including type of funding, source, restrictions and status.

PCYM FY21\_SPGrant\_Budget\_Form.pdf

These grant funds will be used for operational expenses, to cover some of the travel expenses for the expansion of College Exploration Trip, contracted services, meetings and client support.

## Other County Funding\*

List all other Buncombe County funding that is provided to your organization. For each item, list the project being funded, amount of funding, source (grant, departmental contract, etc.) and whether funding is to be renewed for FY2021.

Isaac Coleman Funding: it will not be renewed for 2021

### **Sustainability\***

How will the project continue to succeed after the funding of the grant? Explain your plan for making this an ongoing effort.

This project will sustain through the solidifying of other sources of income as well as the expansion of strategic partnerships that are being established for this project.

## ***OPTIONAL INFORMATION***

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**OPTIONAL INFORMATION – This information will not impact grant scoring but will be helpful to the committee.**

### **Partial Funding**

If the project were to be offered a grant for partial funding, what factors would need to be considered?

Any funding is better than no funding and as a project that is truly needed in our community we would have to adapt to the funding being provided.

### **Resource Support**

Beyond this grant request, how can Buncombe County support your organization with this project and in strengthening your work?

### **Other**

Is there anything else that you want the committee to know?

## File Attachment Summary

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

- PCYM IRS.pdf
- Positive Changes Youth Ministries Board of Directors.docx.pdf
- PCYM FY21\_SPGrant\_Budget\_Form.pdf

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: OCT 11 2018

POSITIVE CHANGES YOUTH MINISTRIES  
71 SHORT MADISON AVE  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-1915

Employer Identification Number:  
46-5029084  
DLN:  
17053123313028  
Contact Person:  
EDWINA O MCCURDY ID# 31229  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
August 15, 2016  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

Based on the information you submitted in your application, we approved your request for reinstatement under Revenue Procedure 2014-11. Your effective date of exemption, as listed at the top of this letter, is retroactive to your date of revocation.

Based on the information you submitted in your application, your exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(4) is reinstated for the period August 15, 2016, to the effective date shown in the heading of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

Letter 947

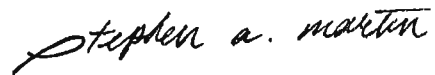


POSITIVE CHANGES YOUTH MINISTRIES

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen A. Martin".

Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

### **Positive Changes Youth Ministries Board of Directors**

1. Calvin Little, Chair: Asheville, NC
2. Betty Johnson, Vice Chair: Asheville NC
3. Treasurer: is vacant
4. Thomas Littlejohn, Development: Asheville NC
5. Christine Brown, Secretary: Asheville NC

### **Audited financial statements**

Currently Positive Changes Youth Ministries has not been required to have a full audit.

# Strategic Partnership Grants

## Proposed FY2021 Project Budget (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

<b>Organization Name:</b>	<b>Positive Changes Youth Ministries</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>The Rise Above Project</b>
<b>Grant Amount Requested:</b>	<b>40000</b>

<b>FY2021 Proposed Project Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Committed or Pending?</b>
Proposed Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships Grant	\$ 40,000	
Sponsorship	\$ 5,000	committed
In-kind	\$ 8,000	committed
Other Grants	\$ 25,000	Pending
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 78,000</b>	

<b>FY2021 Proposed Project Expenses</b>	<b>Proposed Grant</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Personnel	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000	
Training	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
Travel	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 35,000	
Supplies / Materials	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	
Meetings (Food, Interpreting, Child Care, etc.)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	
Equipment / Furniture			\$ -	
Printing / Marketing	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Licensing / Memberships / Dues / Subscriptions	\$ -		\$ -	
Client Support	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	
Contracts	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	
Professional Services (Legal, Accounting, etc.)	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Insurance and Bonds	\$ -		\$ -	
Building Maintenance (Rent, Utilities, Repairs, etc.)	\$ 5,500		\$ 5,500	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 78,000</b>	

<b>Overall Organization Budget</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
FY2019 Actual Year-End Revenue	\$ 45,000	
FY2019 Actual Year-End Expenses	\$ 40,000	
FY2020 Adopted Budget Amount	\$ 50,000	
FY2021 Proposed Budget Amount	\$ 100,000	