

Sandy Mush Community Center - Accessible and Energy Efficient Spaces

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants

Sandy Mush Community Ctr.

Christopher Jayne
19 School Road
P.O. Box 1686
Leicester, NC 28748

ccjayne@gmail.com
O: 828-273-1592

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P.O. Box 1686
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O: 828-273-1592

Application Form

INSTRUCTIONS

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 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

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

Project Name*

Sandy Mush Community Center - Accessible and Energy Efficient Spaces

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

Resident Well-Being

Funding Request*

How much funding is this project requesting for FY2021?

\$55,500.00

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.

Sandy Mush Community Center 501(c)(3) 11 August 2016.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.

2020 BOD Contact Information and Terms.pdf

APPLICATION

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.

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 2019. Our current services include: Support to two youth groups, the Sandy Mush 4H meets at the Center, and Mountain Lady Farm Project, a staffed Library with regular open hours, a computer lab, high Speed internet is available at all times via Wifi hotspot. a vibrant

children's program including a weekly playgroup for families and support of a weekly homeschool class, modern playground was installed in 2018 is a destination for families, a monthly food pantry in partnership with MANNA serving more than 50 families per month, regular programming including mountain heritage and intergenerational gatherings, yoga classes, book club, and lectures on local history. The center is the voting location for Sandy Mush.

The Sandy Mush Community Center building, a 1920's era historic school, and grounds are owned by Buncombe County and leased by The Sandy Much Community Center organization.

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 SMCC - Accessible and Energy Efficient Spaces project addresses a number of issues that are critical to the continued growth of the Center and its ability to serve the needs of the Sandy Mush Community. First is internet access - SM has very limited broadband availability and cellular coverage is spotty at best. We need to continue our partnership with Buncombe County, which began in 2017-18, to provide High Speed internet to our community. We provide a computer lab that is open several days/week and a WiFi hotspot that is available 24 hrs/7 days a week. This is the only option for many of the residents of Sandy Mush to access the internet and is critical for groups using the center.

The second issue is accessibility to the center. Many of the people who use the center have physical disabilities, are older, or are generally unable to navigate the out-of-date access to the center. We have been working with BC Permits and Inspections and Architect George Stowe to develop and approve a Life Safety Plan for the center that will address accessibility as well as other safety and code issues. BC Permitting is requiring that we update accessible ingress and egress on the plans before approving the Life Safety plan for implementation. We have engaged a Landscape Architect to help with a Master Site Plan to focus on accessibility to work with the team to address other issues such as Handicapped parking. Much of this work was funded by the 2020 BC Strategic Partnership Grant.

Third, our historic building is being increasingly used year-round, and although we have made major improvements in energy efficiency such as storm windows and upgraded heating and cooling, we are still working to make the space comfortable for all our users, and as efficient as possible for energy and resource conservation. Our guests are often uncomfortable in the heat of the summer and the cold of winter with our current system, which is also noisy to the point of distraction during events.

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?

The first part of the project is to keep our Broadband internet service up and running. The statistics collected by our provider show a continuing increase of use of the service with 300-500 individual device connections per month. We request funding to pay for the monthly access, which benefits our students, community members seeking higher education and our local small businesses. One way to measure past and future success of the internet being available is the increasing number of community groups and private rentals such as the Sandy Mush Forest Restoration Project which has had three community meetings at the Center

The second part of the project is to bring accessibility to the center up to current code. This requires the construction of new, accessible routes on both the east and west side of the building as required by BC

Inspections and Permitting. We will also implement the suggestions of the Landscape Architect to help make access a welcoming experience to all our users. We request funding to bring access of this historic County owned building up to current code.

Third is energy efficiency and building comfort. The plan is to add a zone to the heating/cooling system installed in partnership with BC in 2018 to the yoga room, and to move the Mini-split heat pump to the children's room. This should make all more comfortable in the winter and summer. We also request help to have a High Volume/Low speed fan installed in the gym. This will move warm air down in the winter and pull cool air through the building in the summer, greatly helping the comfort level while reducing noise and energy cost by keeping the heated air down in the winter, and outside in the summer. We also request funding to replace three traditional hot water heaters with on-demand, point-of-use heaters, greatly increasing efficiency,

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.

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 over 100, averaging over 50 families per month, 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.

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.

The first result we hope to achieve with the SMCC - Accesibile and Energy Efficient project is to keep a source of reliable Broadband internet in the community. This allows our community members to improve their well-being by being informed about issues such as health, environment, politics, etc. and to be connected to family and friends and the outside world. It also helps with an Educated and Capable Community by allowing our community members access to information, continuing education, etc., that much of the country takes for granted. The internet we provide also allows our residents to contribute to, and benefit from, a vibrant economy and to engage in environmental stewardship. An easily accessible internet and available computer center is a must have for modern small business and keeping up with the world.

The second part of the project, bringing the County owned building up to current accessibility and safety codes, will allow ALL our community members equal access to our programs such as 4H, Youth programs, Yoga, Intergenerational gatherings and meals, the food pantry, movie night, Council on Aging, voting, and more. The primary focus area is Resident Well-Being, but making the center accessible contributes to all of the Commissioner's focus areas.

The third part of the project, upgrading the heating/cooling capabilities and increasing energy efficiency will allow our users to be more engaged in the community center activities and programs for a greater part of the year. This also helps us be better Environmental Stewards - decreasing waste is the best form of energy

sustainability. As a farming community we value our farmland, our clean air and water, history and our future. Our future depends on having a Educated and Capable Community with a Vibrant Economy and a healthy and safe population that is engaged in their community. This project will help us achieve this goal.

Evaluation*

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

Once we have completed the steps in the project - the internet continues to be available, we have installed access that is up to current code, and we have fixed the heating and cooling issues and installed the efficient water heaters - we can chart the quality and growth of community involvement and use as well as the safety and well-being of all participants. We will also be able to see results in our energy bills.

We already support 2 youth groups, children's playgroup, homeschool group. 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. With the ongoing support of Buncombe County, we have seen steady and strong growth of our Community Center. The upgrades implementing with the 2020 Grant cycle will allow us to increase our capacity, and the proposed improvements will help us welcome more of our community members into a safe and comfortable environment while being as energy efficient as possible.

Collaboration*

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

First and foremost, our volunteers contribute well over 6000 hours per year of labor to keep SMCC running and much of the labor of building improvements and upkeep. Our community members and local businesses, through contributions and rentals provide our operating expenses. For this project, our volunteers will continue to keep the internet equipment maintained and running with the help of the service provider. Our Capital Improvements Team will work with designers and contractors to make sure the accessibility upgrades are implemented, and much of the energy efficiency measures will be implemented with the help of our volunteers.

Buncombe County has partnered with us to help fund the internet access, to help with major upgrades to the County owned building such as Kitchen renovations, electrical service upgrades, heating/cooling updates, and energy efficiency measures such as storm windows. The county has also helped us with advice and suggestions from multiple departments including facilities management, permitting and inspections and recreation services. We hope to continue this productive partnership.

In addition, MANNA is our food pantry partner and Eblen Charities helps the community with energy needs. The food pantry also received a generous grant from WNC Communities Foundation People in Need program to help with kitchen renovations to bring our downstairs kitchen into ADA compliance. Also, 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.

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.

SMCC FY21_SPGrant_Budget_Form.xlsx

Grant funds will be used as follows:

Internet service for one (1) year - \$8,000.00

Accessibility improvements a required by County to meet current code - \$27,500.00

Energy efficiency and comfort upgrades, new zone, move mini-split, water heaters - \$6,500.00

Energy efficiency and comfort upgrades, High volume/low velocity Fan inc. install - \$11,500.00

Total Grant Request = \$55,500.00

These funds will cover the internet service in whole, and the needed Capital improvements being made to County owned property. There will be a significant number of volunteer hours that are not included in the above.

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.

Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant 2020 - Sandy Mush Community Center Safe and Sustainable Spaces - \$35,958.00 Project on track for completion by June 30, 2020

Buncombe County Recreation Grant - \$6000.00 Water Fountain and Basketball Goal for Playground - in process

Sustainability*

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

This will be the third year SMCC has requested Buncombe County Strategic Partnership funding for providing internet to the community and making much needed improvements to the County owned building for safety, sustainability and community well-being. We received grant funding in 2019 and 2020 cycles. These funds have allowed SMCC to focus on providing a variety of excellent programs and day to day center operation, while continuing to improve the Building and grounds. With the exception of the internet service, the projects are one-time improvements that will help the Center to continue to be self-sustaining and as energy efficient as possible.

High speed Managed Internet Service with Wifi community service is maintained through a contract with our 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 accessibility and efficiency improvements, our volunteers are able to maintain the ongoing upkeep of the building and grounds.

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

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?

If offered partial funding, SMCC would have to prioritize the projects as each has a relatively set cost.

Resource Support

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

Continue to offer the great support you have given over the years that has made it possible for the SMCC to grow into the thriving Community Center it is today.

Other

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

The Sandy Mush Community Center is a totally volunteer run organization. We have several contracts for cleaning and mowing, but no one on payroll. This means that all our operating expenses go to providing programs and services, and regular building upkeep and maintenance. We have generous community members and business partners that have made us sustainable in that department. However, we have a relatively modest budget with the exception of the ongoing, necessary building improvements and upgrades.

This is why we are requesting a grant amount in excess of the thirty percent (30%) of our annual operating budget. If we count the minimum 6000 hours of volunteer labor ($6000 \times \$20/\text{hr} = \$120,000$), the restricted grant funding and donations designated for use this year of about \$69,000.00, and our Budgeted expenses of \$24,700. we are looking at an annual budget of \$213,700.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Sandy Mush Community Center 501(c)(3) 11 August 2016.pdf
- 2020 BOD Contact Information and Terms.pdf
- SMCC FY21_SPGrant_Budget_Form.xlsx

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 11 2016**

SANDY MUSH COMMUNITY CENTER
PO BOX 1686
LEICESTER, NC 28748-0000

Employer Identification Number:
84-1722906
DLN:
26053607005246
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
July 21, 2016
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
Yes

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.

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.

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. 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.

Letter 5436

SANDY MUSH COMMUNITY CENTER

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey I. Cooper". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey I. Cooper
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosure:
Addendum

SANDY MUSH COMMUNITY CENTER

ADDENDUM

If you have been in existence for at least three years and you have not filed a Form 990 return or notice for three consecutive years, you may soon receive a letter (Notice CP120A) that we automatically revoked your exempt status, as required by law, for failure to file a return or notice for three consecutive years. This letter will serve to reinstate your exempt status, so you will not need to re-apply. However, you may need to file the appropriate delinquent Forms 990 for all years you have operated as a tax-exempt organization.

Based on the information submitted with your application, we're treating your Form 1023-EZ as an application for reinstatement under Revenue Procedure 2014-11. Your effective date of exemption, as shown in the heading of this letter, is the submission date of your application.

Sandy Mush Community Center

2020 Board of Directors Contact Information

Christopher Jayne, President

316 Surrett Cove Road
Leicester, NC 28748

ccjayne@gmail.com
828-273-1592

Christopher began a two-year term as president January 2019

Vanessa Campbell, Vice President

90 Bald Creek Road
Leicester, NC 28748

fullsunfarm@gmail.com
828-683-1607

Vanessa began a two-year term as vice president January 2019

Bruce Larson, Secretary
acting Treasurer
349 Clarks Branch Road
Leicester, NC 28748

brucedeanlarson@gmail.com
828-683-5548

Bruce began a three-year term July 2017. He began a one-year term as secretary January 2020

Martha Ball

P.O. Box 1383
Leicester, NC 28748

marthaball@bellsouth.net
828-275-0076

Martha began a three-year term January 2018

Amanda Barnes

165 Sugar Creek Road
Leicester, NC 28748

humblebee4me@gmail.com
828-683-4690

Amanda began a three-year term December 2019

(Limited internet access--call if time is critical)

Al Davis
70 Hendl Way
Leicester, NC 28748

addavi@ymail.com
828-683-2000

Al began a three-year term January 2020

Kurt Eckel
26 Early View Road
Leicester, NC 28748

kurteckel@gmail.com
828-689-8422

Kurt began a three-year term January 2018

John Loyd
126 Worley Cove Road
Leicester, NC 28748

jloyd126@gmail.com
828-712-9428

John began a three-year term January 2019

Deni Surrett
133 Surrett Cove Road
Leicester, NC 28748

lynnsurrett828@gmail.com
828-458-3871

Deni began a three-year term February 2019

Strategic Partnership Grants Proposed FY2021 Project Budget (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

Organization Name:	Sandy Mush Community Center
Project Name:	Accessible and Energy Efficient Spaces
Grant Amount Requested:	\$55,500.00

FY2021 Proposed Project Revenue	Amount	Committed or Pending?
Proposed Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships Grant	\$ 55,500	Requested see text for explanation
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
Total	\$ 55,500	

FY2021 Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Grant	Other Funds	Total	Notes
Personnel			\$ -	
Training			\$ -	
Travel			\$ -	
Supplies / Materials			\$ -	
Meetings (Food, Interpreting, Child Care, etc.)			\$ -	
Equipment / Furniture			\$ -	
Printing / Marketing			\$ -	
Licensing / Memberships / Dues / Subscriptions			\$ -	
Client Support			\$ -	
Contracts			\$ -	
Professional Services (Legal, Accounting, etc.)			\$ -	
Insurance and Bonds			\$ -	
Building Maintenance (Rent, Utilities, Repairs, etc.)			\$ -	
List other costs: Internet			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
Total			\$ -	

Overall Organization Budget	Amount	Notes
FY2019 Actual Year-End Revenue		
FY2019 Actual Year-End Expenses		
FY2020 Adopted Budget Amount	\$ 24,756	
FY2021 Proposed Budget Amount	\$ 26,000	Based on annual growth