

Bridging over Trauma with Mentors for Youth in Foster Care

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants

Under One Sky Village Foundation

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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*

Bridging over Trauma with Mentors for Youth in Foster Care

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?

\$19,000.00

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.

IRS Letter of determination pg. 1 501 c 3.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.

Board of Directors of Under One Sky.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 mission of Under One Sky Village Foundation is to provide youth in foster care with a mentoring community of peers and supportive adults.

Under One Sky Village Foundation provides youth in foster care, ages 7-17, with a continuum of services that encourages emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual growth. Under One Sky helps prepare youth for the next phase of their lives including adoption, new or continued foster placement, aging out of foster care or reunification with birth family. Through self-discovery programming, youth re-discover their innate creative gifts and learn life, social and work skills to help prepare them for a successful transition to adulthood.

We are committed to meeting youth where they are, raising our standard of care to improve services for traumatized children and working with the child welfare system to provide supportive services that enhance the youth's ability to be successful in their life.

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?

A national report by The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Time for Reform: Aging Out and On their Own," provides some alarming statistics about older youth in foster care:

- One in four youth who have aged out will be incarcerated within the first two years after leaving the system.
- More than one-fifth will become homeless at some time after age 18.
- About 58% had a high school degree at age 19, compared with 87% of a comparison group of non-foster youth.
- By age 25, less than 3% earned college degrees, compared with 28% of the general population.

If these statistics can be turned around; preventing incarceration and homelessness and increasing skills and education, there is significant economic impact for our community.

"When I turned 18, close to graduating high school, the group home where I had been living for three years with my toddler told me to leave," says one young woman who has been a part of Under One Sky programs for multiple years. "I was unprepared to live on my own and had never worked a day." Since 2004, Under One Sky has provided opportunities for older children in foster care to establish permanent connections to a mentoring community of supportive adults and peers and support them through the next phase of their lives, including new or continued foster placement, aging out of foster care, or reunification with birth family.

Under One Sky works in collaboration with county departments of social services. We have partnered with them for over 15 years to identify individual youth who will benefit from Under One Sky's services.

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?

With funding from Buncombe County, Under One Sky will match a young person in foster care with a mentor to meet at least monthly for the grant year, and the organization will also:

- Build a network of employers who are informed of the aging out issues and are willing to give positive consideration and priority to applications from youth who have or will soon age out
- Collaborate with Goodwill Career Center to help youth identify career paths and strengthen interviewing skills
- Counsel youth on available college funds and aiding with enrollment processes, as well as connecting them with program partners to help them pave their way to higher education, vocational training and special summer opportunities (such as Under One Sky camp-based programs and NC Outward Bound School courses)
- Mentor youth in the program as they consider independent living and job responsibilities
- Mentor youth on skills for living such as: budgeting, purchasing a car, cooking healthy food and creating a safe living environment

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.

At a minimum, twelve youth in foster care, ages 15-17, in the care of Buncombe county's Department of Social Services could be served by this project. Their demographics range in terms of ethnicity and the Adverse Childhood Experiences that they have be dealt. But all, given their circumstances, will have experienced the trauma of abuse or neglect in their primary home, being removed from their primary home, and likely having had experienced multiple placements. These young people need an intensive mentoring community to help them heal and bridge over their trauma to the next phase in their lives.

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 hope to achieve lasting connections, networks, skills, relationships, and well-being for the youth that participate in this program. Often, the Department of Social Services does not have the resources or capacity to take this extra step for young people in foster care. They can make sure that they are safe and physically healthy in their foster homes, but to truly survive this experience and to then thrive, it takes a bigger "village" to provide opportunities for these resilient young people. Our mentoring program and systems of support help to ensure that these teens are giving socially and emotionally healthy mentors, pathways to future educational and career opportunities, and the chance to connect "beyond" the system in a way that they will have permanent connections, even if their foster parents or living situation changes.

When a child is in foster care, they are at risk of "moving" multiple times. This is not "moving" as most of us are familiar with. When a child in foster care changes homes, they are likely to also change foster families, gain or lose foster or birth siblings, exchange or lose pets, change schools, exchange bedtime routines and eating norms, and leave behind previous friendships with caring adults and peers. This is just a start, and while the foster care system works mightily to reduce such losses, they are still a reality for these most vulnerable and resilient children.

Under One Sky Village Foundation provides a community for these children that is "outside the foster care system." Thus, when all of these changes take place, we are still here. We are an anchor and a safe place to have friends, adult mentors and experiences that help children with the coping skills that they desperately need to survive, and even thrive through this rollercoaster of emotions and experiences.

We empower vulnerable youth in a way that no other non-profit does for youth in foster care, with our year-round programming and services.

Evaluation*

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

We will provide each young person with a "before and after" survey which captures their current state of mind, level of optimism or pessimism about their future, and degree of planning that they have done to prepare for independent living and life after high school.

We expect to see a dramatic difference in each of these measures after their mentor has worked with them for the year. After years of experience in providing mentors, and a track record of success stories with alumni of Under One Sky programs, we know that we are the organization that is perfectly positioned to help these young people experience successes that they themselves, with their mentor, will help to define.

During the year, in order to ensure success, Under One Sky will be monitoring the mentorships, as well as providing advice, resources, and trouble-shooting opportunities to the mentors. The mentors will be trained in a trauma-informed approach to interacting with the young people, so that we can guarantee that they will be able to meet the youth where they are in their experience of growing up in substitute care (care other than that of their biological family).

Lastly, we will work with the young person's social worker, therapist, and guardians to create a summary of their year, as well as next steps that they can take, hopefully continuing their time with the mentor beyond this grant cycle, and hopefully as long as possible.

Collaboration*

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

Buncombe County Department of Social Services-- BCDSS has been a longtime partner of Under One Sky, and has both sent youth to Under One Sky programs and advised Under One Sky on creating goals that are practical and meaningful to young people in foster care. If we receive this grant, we would rely upon BCDSS to help to identify young people that this program could help the most.

Buncombe County Guardian ad Litem Association-- BCGALA is a relatively new partner of Under One Sky and can also recommend youth to participate. If we receive this grant, we will also work with BCGALA to identify mentors to work with the youth.

North Carolina Outward Bound School-- NCOBS, based in Swannanoa, has provided generous scholarships over the past two years to local, young people in foster care. With the help of Under One Sky staff and mentors in application and preparation, these young people have participated in week-long and semester-long courses which have been life-change and empowering. Mentors have a role in the support of young people in foster care to participate in these life-changing growth opportunities.

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.

FY21_SPGrant_Budget_FormUnderOneSky.xlsx

Grant funds would be used to help develop our mentorship program to its potential. This would include paying for background checks and training for mentors, matching mentors with youth, and providing staff to support this ongoing process. Supporting the youth are the priority in both our mission and our budget. As transportation needs arise, or circumstances come up where additional supplies or materials are required, those are also in the budget. We will also bring all youth, mentors, and donors together for an annual

"Friendsgiving" gathering at the end of the program year. The budgeted amount that Under One Sky Village Foundation has committed does not come with restrictions (\$9,500).

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.

We are in the process of working with Buncombe County to determine if any funds from the Department of Social Services for young people in foster care, will be used this year for Under One Sky's programs (the Journey Experience for teenagers, and the Junior Journey Experience for 7-12 year olds). It is an annual decision for each county and is based upon state and local funding available. There are always more youth that BCDSS staff would like to attend to attend our programs, than funds that are available.

We are sometimes able to find private funding and scholarships to help to fill in the funding gap. We have already determined that we will give scholarships of \$950.00 each to two youth ages 15-17 to attend the Under One Sky Rites of Passage program, and the Buncombe County Guardian ad Litem Association is determining if they can provide the balance so that they youth can attend both the Rites of Passage program and the year-round Journey Experience. This yearlong experience would also include a mentorship for the young person.

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 continue as part of the work of our organization's mission to empower youth in foster care to chart their own future. Mentoring has been a part of Under One Sky's programs for over ten years, but not in such a concentrated way as this project proposes. Also, we serve many of the Western North Carolina counties, and while we are based in Buncombe County, we have not had as much funding to serve the youth of Buncombe county in most recent years. The state has changed how they allocate funds to the local Departments of Social Services, and our goal is to continue to reduce our dependence on the state to take care of our local young people's needs.

Our plan is to carry this forth with individual, business and corporate sponsorships, as well as looking for other grant monies that can fund the mentoring programs that Under One Sky provides.

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 this project were to be offered with partial funding, we would have to adjust our number of youth participants accordingly. This project is key to the well-being of young Buncombe County residents who are in foster care, and we hope to be able to reach, at a minimum 12 young people this year with these funds.

Resource Support

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

Under One Sky would like to grow our collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, as we know that Sheriff Miller and his staff are such advocates for youth in foster care. We see ourselves in a pivotal role to help prevent young people who have experienced foster care from entering the juvenile justice system, being incarcerated, experiencing teen pregnancy and succumbing to drugs and addiction.

Other

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

GrowingTogether.jpg

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- IRS Letter of determination pg. 1 501 c 3.pdf
- Board of Directors of Under One Sky.pdf
- FY21_SPGrant_Budget_FormUnderOneSky.xlsx
- GrowingTogether.jpg

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: FEB -7 2013

UNDER ONE SKY VILLAGE FOUNDATION
289 LAUGHING RIVER ROAD
MARS HILL, NC 28754

Employer Identification Number:
80-0749116
DLN:
17053128314012
Contact Person:
MS K WILMER ID# 52405
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
August 15, 2011
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

**Under One Sky Village Foundation
2020 Board of Directors**

**Genie Gunn, Chairperson
7 Violet Hill Circle, Apt 12,
Asheville, NC 28805**

**Beverly Nivens, Secretary and Treasurer
11 Blalock Avenue,
Asheville, NC 28803**

**David Langrall
204 Winter Street,
Swannanoa, NC 28778**

**Julie Koenke
51 Harnett Street
Asheville, NC 28806**

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

Organization Name:	Under One Sky Village Foundation
Project Name:	Bridging Over Trauma with Mentors for Youth in Foster Care
Grant Amount Requested:	19,000

FY2021 Proposed Project Revenue	Amount	Committed or Pending?
Proposed Buncombe County Strategic Partnerships Grant	\$ 19,000	Pending
Under One Sky Village Foundation Program Budget	\$ 9,500	Committed
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
Total	\$ 28,500	

FY2021 Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Grant	Other Funds	Total	Notes
Personnel	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 9,000	
Training	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	
Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	
Supplies / Materials	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	
Meetings (Food, Interpreting, Child Care, etc.)	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	
Equipment / Furniture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Printing / Marketing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Licensing / Memberships / Dues / Subscriptions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Client Support	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	
Contracts	\$ -		\$ -	
Professional Services (Legal, Accounting, etc.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Insurance and Bonds	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
Building Maintenance (Rent, Utilities, Repairs, etc.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
List other costs:			\$ -	
Total			\$ 28,500	

Overall Organization Budget	Amount	Notes
FY2019 Actual Year-End Revenue	\$ 183,247	We sold a piece of property in a strategic move to cover our budget gap for the next few years as we build our fund development infrastructure.
FY2019 Actual Year-End Expenses	\$ 314,362	
FY2020 Adopted Budget Amount	\$ 301,135	Partnerships in the business community have not been developed, and a plan is in place to fundraise and develop these sustainable sponsors.
FY2021 Proposed Budget Amount	\$ 321,000	



*We appreciate
your support of
youth in foster
care.*

