STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Update to Board of Commissioners
August 18, 2020

BACKGROUND

• Funds a broad mix of nonprofit, community-based programs working toward outcomes in alignment with Commissioner goals
• Annual grants of county general funds, adopted as part of operating budget
• Previously reviewed/decided by Commissioners directly
COMMITTEE

• Strategic Partnership Grants Committee formed in November 2019
• Purpose is to make Strategic Partnership Grant investment recommendations to the Board of Commissioners
• 21 people applied to serve on the committee
• Commissioners interviewed all applicants & appointed 9 members in January 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<th>DISTRICT 1</th>
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<td>Davidson Jones</td>
<td>Annie Carpenter</td>
<td>Kate Burger</td>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Paul Tax</td>
<td>Douglas Clarke</td>
<td>Chuck Rosenblum</td>
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<td>Liz Ward</td>
<td>Kevin McAbee</td>
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COMMITTEE FOCUS

• Utilize a standardized, points-based scoring system to review proposals
• Recommend a portfolio of grants for approval by the board
• Meet throughout the year to monitor grants and review progress
• Make recommendations for enhancing goal achievement
• Provide feedback to Commissioners regarding the overall grant application process
**GRANT CYCLE**

- Grant applications (Feb)
- Grant monitoring, support & process improvement (Year-Round)
- Committee Review (Mar – May)
- Grant period (July 1 - June 30)
- Grant Awards (June)

**POSSIBLE SLIDE ON ELIGIBILITY**

- Nonprofits in active operation for a minimum of 2 years
- Projects that meet a public purpose and align with County Strategic Plan
- Funding limited to no more than 3 years for a single project
- Funding limited to less than 30% of organization’s annual operating budget
FY2021 GRANT AWARDS

- Total requested: $2,676,860
- Total granted: $889,305
- Projects funded: 34
- Agencies funded: 32
- New projects: 47%

GRANTS BY COUNTY FOCUS AREA

Educated & Capable Community
- A county where all residents thrive and demonstrate resilience throughout their lives.
- Education: 12 projects, $307,617 (35% of funds)

Environmental & Energy Stewardship
- High quality air, water, farmland and renewable energy for future generations.
- Environment: 3 projects, $67,700 (8% of funds)

Resident Well-Being
- Our residents are safe, healthy, and engaged in their community.
- Well-Being: 13 projects, $367,988 (41% of funds)

Vibrant Economy
- A robust and sustainable regional economy that builds on our homegrown industries and talent and provides economic mobility for residents.
- Economy: 6 projects, $146,000 (16% of funds)
GRANTEES

• ABCCM
• Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)
• Asheville Area Arts Council
• Asheville GreenWorks
• Asheville Grown Business Alliance
• Asheville Humane Society
• Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS)
• Babies Need Bottoms

• Big Ivy Community Club
• Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
• Bountiful Cities
• Carolina Small Business Development Fund
• Children First/Communities in Schools
• Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation
• Eblen Charities

GRANTEES

• Eliada Homes
• Folk Heritage Committee
• Haywood Street Congregation
• Just Economics
• Literacy Council of Buncombe County
• Mountain BizWorks
• OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling
• Pisgah Legal Services
• Project Lighten Up
• Read to Succeed
• Sandy Mush Community Center
• The Environmental Quality Institute
• The Mediation Center
• Under One Sky Village Foundation
• WNC Communities
• Wortham Center for the Performing Arts
• YWCA
HIGHLIGHTS

• Committee’s inclusive, collaborative teamwork
• Created a deliberate/intentional decision making process
• Clear, well-structured application
• Diversity of projects supported
• Ability to be flexible in the time of COVID pandemic
• Online application/review software
• Transparent open meetings
• Support from staff

CONSIDERATIONS

• Capacity building and technical assistance on outcomes for grantees and applicants
• Offering a high level of support for grantees as well as a high level of accountability
• Gaining a depth of understanding of projects across a broad portfolio
• Creating structures for equity in the grant process
CONSIDERATIONS

• Assessing the needs for ongoing operational funding vs. projects limited to 3 years
• Analyzing how this grant funding stream fits in with other County or governmental funding
• Sustaining/increasing funding – maximizing funding from multiple sources

NEXT STEPS

• Staff working with grantees to finalize funding contracts
• Quarterly grantee calls for information sharing and relationship building
• Monthly committee meetings following annual roadmap, including:
  • Monitoring performance & impact
  • Visiting with grantees
  • Gathering feedback from grantees
  • Designing next cycle’s application and review
MORE INFO

www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants