



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

September 17, 2020

Grantee COVID Discussion

DRAFT MINUTES

Welcome

Welcome and agenda review by Rachael Nygaard.

Committee Vacancy: Rachael announced there is a vacancy on the Strategic Partnership Grants Committee for someone who resides in District 1. Visit buncombecounty.org to apply. The deadline is October 9, 2020.

Committee Members Present: Kate Burger, Anmie Carpenter, Doug Clarke, Kevin McAbee, Chuck Rosenblum, Rebecca Strimer, Paul Tax and Liz Ward

Grantee Agencies Represented per Focus Area:

- **Educated and Capable Community**
 - Asheville Museum of Science, Bountiful Cities, Children First/Communities in Schools, Eblen Charities, Eliada, Literacy Council, Project Lighten Up, OnTrack, Read to Succeed, WNC Communities.
- **Environmental and Energy Stewardship**
 - Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), Asheville GreenWorks, Blue Ridge Parkway foundation, The Environmental Quality Institute
- **Resident Well-Being**
 - Asheville Area Arts Council, Asheville Buncombe Christian Ministry (ABCCM), Asheville Humane Society, Babies Need Bottoms, Haywood Street Congregation, Pisgah Legal Services, Sandy Mush Community Center, Under One Sky Village Foundation, Wortham Center for the Performing Arts, YWCA of Asheville
- **Vibrant Economy**
 - Asheville Grown Business Alliance, Carolina Small Business Development Fund, Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation, Just Economics, Mountain BizWorks

MentiMeter Questions/Discussion (reference attached Menti results for all answers)

- How has the pandemic affected service volumes at your agency?
 - Babies Need Bottoms shared that they have experienced a 357% increase in requests for diapers over 2019
 - Pisgah Legal shared that they are experiencing 3 times the call normal volume (approximately 2,000 calls per week).
- Did you organization receive any special COVID funding?
 - There was a discussion that the PPP process was not as much of a challenge as thought.
 - A couple of agencies commended Self Help Credit Union for helping them through the process.
 - Mountain BizWorks processed a lot of PPP funds as well as other local initiatives (such as One Buncombe), NCRR (Rapid Recovery), etc. There were many businesses seeking funding.
- What would you most like the committee to know in regard to nonprofit funding during these times?



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- Some grantees stated it would be helpful to use the grant funds for operation expenses this year.
- Numerous organizations shared the need for flexibility with the grant funds.
- Rachael shared that the county is committed to being as flexible as possible. She advised grantees to reach out to staff if they need to update their plans.
- Grantee voiced some concern about future years with federal dollars going away
- Grantees suggested if grants can be unrestricted, they can be based on mission and strategic planning for each non-profit.
- **Reminder:**
 - First quarterly reports for FY2021 are due by October 15, and they should be emailed to Angelyn Johnson. If the agency is on quarterly billing, please submit that invoice with the quarterly report.
 - Angelyn thanked everyone for responding with their preference for an in-person site visit or a virtual site visit. Site visits will be scheduled for one hour per agency, and the purpose is for the committee to gain a deeper understanding of the work, including challenges and successes. Grantees should be on the lookout for an email from Angelyn with details about site visits and the opportunity to schedule their site visit using calendly.