



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

February 4, 2021

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

In attendance:

Committee Members: Annie Carpenter; Chuck Rosenblum, Doug Clarke; Kevin McAbee; Kim Robinson; Liz Ward; Paul Tax; Rebecca Strimer;

County Staff: Rachael Nygaard; Angelyn Johnson;

Other: Sunshine Request

Opening Remarks

Doug Clarke called the meeting to order. Kevin McAbee conducted roll call attendance. Doug welcomed new member, Kim Robinson. Committee members all introduced themselves and welcomed Kim.

Approval of Minutes

Doug Clarke made a motion to approve the minutes from December and Annie Carpenter seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

New Business

- Grantee Updates – all second quarter reports published on www.buncombecounty.org/grants
 - Quarterly reports for the second quarter have been published to the website. Each report includes three sections: 1) A narrative update including project updates, COVID impacts, activities for equity, diversity, & inclusion, and description of operational excellence; 2) Progress towards goals reports; 3) Budget report
 - ABCCM Code purple – local homeless coalition has developed a new plan for code purple, so ABCCM will not be using the funding for this project. ABCCM has volunteered to turn the money back over to the county and the funds will go into Buncombe County general fund for other priorities.
 - Big Ivy Community Club – they noted on their quarterly report that no funds have been received or spent due to County's audit restrictions. The county received community complaints about fund misuse of this organization. County conducted a monitoring of the contract and identified some areas that need improvement, such as improved organizational structure, accounting, etc. The organization has hired a consultant to help them better manage their organization (updating bylaws, board structure) and accounting. If they fully rectify the issues, they will have access to full grant amount in this fiscal year.
- Grant process review: (see [updated committee roadmap](#) for more info)
Angelyn reviewed the upcoming important dates and also reviewed the evaluation process in the grants software.
 - Feb 12: Applications due - 6 submitted; 17 in draft; expected a lot more by the deadline;
 - Feb 15: Applications open for committee scoring
 - March 4: Committee deadline to submit questions for grantees
 - March 4, 1:00-2:30: Committee meeting
 - March 31: Committee deadline for grant scoring
 - April 1, 1:00-2:30: Committee meeting
 - April 15, 1:00-2:30: Committee meeting
 - April 29, 1:00-2:30: Possible committee meeting, if needed



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- Grant writing workshop reflection –Doug & Rebecca attended and felt there was a good level of attendance and engagement. Rebecca was impressed with structure and content, and Doug was impressed with the attendance.
- Chuck asked how much was budgeted in FY21; Rachael indicated it was flat budget; Kevin indicated that means with new applicants, we may need to not fund everything we funded last year; Rebecca agreed, noting that no projects will expire under the 3-year limit imposed by Commissioners; Annie mentioned that we should look back on all the quarterly reports for existing grantees; Rachael described that new scoring tool will be applicable to new and existing grants;
- There was a general discussion around application review process.

Announcements

- Rachael announced that the One Buncombe fund is reopened and is assisting local small businesses with grants to help retain or rehire staff. The county also received a multi-million dollar grant for individual assistance with rent and utilities.
- Rebecca announced she is attending the two part webinar series “[Philanthropy and the Case For Reparations](#)” and encouraged the committee to attend if possible.

Public Comment - There were no public comments

Next Meeting - March 4, 2021; 1:00 – 2:30 pm; Virtual Meeting

Adjourn: Doug Clarke made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Annie Carpenter seconded the motion.