



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

September 5, 2024

1:00 – 2:30 pm

200 College St, Room 310

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Present: Dr. Amy Russell, Dede Styles, Doug Clarke, Kate Burger, Liz Ward, Mark Mickey, Ray Hemachandra

Absent: Ann Flynn, Cathy Ray

County Staff: Rachael Sawyer Nygaard, Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson, Tim Love, Angelica Tyler (virtual)

Opening Remarks

Kate Burger called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Doug Clarke made a motion to approve the minutes from August 1, 2024, and Mark Mickey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- Review and Approve Annual Road Map
 - Staff presented the draft FY2025 road map.
- Election of Officers
 - Amy Russell made a motion to reelect the current executive committee. Doug Clarke seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - Chair – Kate Burger
 - Vice Chair – Ray Hemachandra
 - Secretary – Liz Ward
- FY2025 Site Visits
 - The site visit schedule was shared with the committee. Committee members can sign up for additional site visits if interested. Staff will reshare the link for committee members to sign up.
 - Staff will send an email reminder the day before the visit and will include their original application and their scope of work from their contract.
 - There will be an agenda item each month to do site visit debriefs.
 - There have already been three site visits.
 - AMCHC – planning larger van to have multiple exam rooms. Will allow them to double the number of patients they can serve.
 - Babies Need Bottoms – great to see how much they have grown and the additional resources they are providing. Distributed 500,000 diapers last year. 60% of their diapers are distributed in Buncombe County. Partnering with other organizations for distribution.



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- OnTrack – Has new leadership team. They have a staff of 12. OnTrack is 50 years old and the previous Executive Director was in the role for 30 years. They are working on strategic planning this year. They are looking broadly at their programs and identifying how to be more equitable. They are considering possible new branding and new programming.
- 2030 Strategic Plan updates
 - This committee aligns their focus areas and objectives with the Strategic Plan.
 - Currently have 4 focus areas: Educated & Capable, Vibrant Economy, Environmental & Energy Stewardship, Resident Well Being.
 - New draft plan has 6 focus areas: Growth & Development, Economic Development, Education, Community Health, Public Safety, Energy & Environment
 - Staff reviewed the focus areas objectives and some example goals within each objective.
 - There is a virtual community input session on Monday, 9/9 at noon. Staff will share a link for the meeting and a survey for boards and commission members input.
 - The Strategic Plan will go to the Board of Commissioners for approval in November.
 - Committee would like to see how these new categories may impact the application questions. Staff will review the application with these new categories in mind.
- Process Improvements for FY26
 - Committee driven changes
 - Use/create data to target organizations that are underrepresented in specific focus areas.
 - Improve method for geographic diversity via population served versus main location.
 - Limit organizations to only apply for one SPG project per year.
 - Do not fund capital projects.
 - Use a funding methodology that prioritizes overall scores and balance between priority areas.
 - Lock in a funding scenario methodology before awards are determined.
 - During next month's meeting, the committee would like to discuss and make funding/scoring decisions before the applications open.
 - Consider asking how their project impacts the different focus areas (i.e. on a rating scale, rate what impact your project has on the environment)
 - Demographic data
 - Cease the Harm audit consisted of internal & external services of City and County
 - One of the key findings was insufficient data-driven practices to collect racial demographic data across programs, services, pathways, and resources
 - Lack of demographic data prevents a targeted understanding of service delivery and program effectiveness
 - After a review of current data collection practices, Buncombe County is undertaking a project to collect demographic data for community investment grants:
 - Pre-award survey during application phase will help us better understand the organizations that are applying for and receiving county funds



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- Post-award data collection and reporting will help us better understand the impact of the funds on populations in our community
- Categories to include: BIPOC; LGBTQ; People with Disabilities; Veterans; Women; and Zip Code
- Including but not limited to Strategic Partnership Grants
- Will go to the County's Management Advisory Group later this month, and the plan is to implement next year.
- County Management input – Tim Love, Assistant County Manager
 - Consider prioritizing one or more focus areas over others each year
 - Limit on how many competitive grants an organization can apply for in a year
 - Commissioner support for Strategic Partnership Grant program
 - Liaison(s) from SPG committee to participate in Board of Commissioner meetings as necessary
 - Process for implementing changes: County Management Advisory Group and Board of Commissioner briefing meeting and then identify if it needs to go to the Board of Commissioners for an official vote based on the feedback received.
- Volunteers for November 19th Presentation to the Commissioners
 - The annual presentation to the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for November 19. Cathy Ray volunteered to be one of the presenters. Staff will check with Ann to see if she is interested. If Ann is not interested, Dr. Amy Russell is willing to be a presenter.

Announcements:

- School Consolidation Feasibility Study public input sessions are occurring. Reach out to Rachael if you want more information.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be October 3, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 pm – 200 College St Room 310.