



October 24, 2017—Asheville, NC

PRESS RELEASE

BUNCOMBE COUNTY ANNOUNCES TIPPING POINT GRANT RECIPIENTS Partnering with communities for better outcomes

Buncombe County Government is pleased to announce that out of 47 applications received, 14 were chosen to receive a Tipping Point Grant. All funded projects received their requested amounts, up to \$5,000 each for a total of \$69,680. The applications represented a wide variety of efforts focused on areas such as youth development, cultural identity, small business development, and improving a community's built environment. Please see attached and below for a list of those applicants who were funded.

This is the second year that these grants have been offered. The idea was originally implemented with funds received through a grant awarded to the County by the Health Federation of Philadelphia. It was through this grant that the County focused on mobilizing action to build more resilient communities. The initial funding showed how small investments in communities could yield big results and amplify community involvement. Depending on available funding, we may have an additional smaller round of awards in January 2018.

Community Review Group: The following community members made up the review group: Aisha Adams; Davia Young; Doriyan Johnson; Fred Myers; Kimberlee Archie; Lakesha McDay; Laura Elliot; Michael Carter; Mirian Porras; Sara Coplai; and Tracey Greene-Washington. Applications were reviewed over a period of three weeks, and identified conflicts of interest were recused.

What are Tipping Point Grants? These are small grants to help amplify community efforts. The grants can be awarded up to \$5,000 per project. These mini-grants are meant to either amplify what is already happening or allow community residents to develop a local project aimed at creating a pathway to greater resiliency in our community - actions that will stack positive factors, such as stronger connection, communication, and development of our community leaders, while offloading negative factors like isolation, hopelessness, and violence. These initiatives help build out a resource grid in our community that enables all of us to be safer and healthier.

Who is eligible? These grants are targeted to ordinary citizens and neighbors. Applications must be from individuals or groups that have come together around a common vision. Previous recipients are eligible to re-apply for a continuation or expansion of a project, but these funds are meant to build capacity, not sustain efforts. These funds are not targeted to agencies as there are other avenues for non-profits to apply for funding such as Buncombe County's annual community development grants.

Contact: For more information about Tipping Point Grants and Buncombe County's work with community partners, contact Rachael Nygaard, Director of Strategic Partnerships at rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org or (828) 250-6536.



Project Name, Applicant & Award	Description
Altitude Accelerator Anthony Lynch \$5,000	Mentoring and skill building project to accelerate the professional development of minority males
BeLoved Asheville Homeless Voice Project Amy Cantrell \$5,000	Leadership and cooperative development project to support people who are homeless or formerly homeless in being leaders and creating economic opportunities
Black Community Healing and Restorative Justice Circle Joie Shakur \$5,000	Black autonomous space supported by various types of Black healers, utilizing a circle process as a tool to address larger scale sexual violence
Community-Casting Curriculum and Program Pilot Emma Hutchens \$5,000	Development of a curriculum for podcasting and digital media storytelling, providing inclusion of diverse and marginalized voices and teaching communication and technological skills
Father to Father Empowerment Project Robert Simmons \$5,000	Project to strengthen families by involving low-income fathers in their children's lives and increase their capacity to contribute to the well-being of those children
G.R.A.C.E. Libby Kyles \$5,000	Teen afterschool program designed to expose participants to empowerment, cultural connection and learning opportunities
JMPROTV Julio Tordoya \$5,000	Community channel project including production of live programs, reports, cultural notes and interviews that are shared through social networks with emphasis on the Hispanic community
My Sistah Taught Me That Leslie Council \$5,000	Program for girls and young women ages 11-19 focused on development, encouragement, inspiration, skills and education
Project CLIMB Shirley Whitesides \$5,000	After school program for students in grades 6-8 focusing on academic enhancement and positive intervention/prevention activities to address individual, family and community issues
Radio Emma Leonel Gutierrez \$5,000	Multilingual community internet radio broadcast and multimedia audiovisual space designed to share important information, broadcast dialogues,



interviews and music, and create a shared community voice

Project Name, Applicant & Award	Description
Raices – Expansion to Erwin Middle School Mirian Porras \$5,000	Afterschool cultural and community organizing program that involves parents and children, focusing on developing resilience and a strong sense of Latino cultural identity
Sistas Caring 4 Sistas Nikita Smart \$4,680	Doula program to serve as a bridge between community and medical professionals, as well as capacity building for employment opportunities
Southside Community Gardens Management Shuvonda Harper \$5,000	Volunteer run garden, dedicated to growing food for the community kitchen, food preservation, and community involvement
WNC Sanctuary Movement Bruno and Hinojosa Ruiz \$5,000	Interconnected group of leaders, faith community representatives, people who are Latinx, and over 500 allied community members that have come together to build networks of safety and support