

Buncombe County Tipping Point Grants: Partnering with Communities for Better Outcomes

Background

Focusing on individuals alone will never solve the pervasive effects of poverty. What is often overlooked is the fact that health, safety and wellbeing are culturally created, not professionally prescribed. Everyone needs a neighborhood where they find support and can share information through their church, community centers, little leagues, and strong relationships with each other. When neighbors connect and come together to create change, our community thrives.

Throughout our community, there are people in every neighborhood who are dedicated to making things better – this could be a mother who has informally agreed to care for neighbors kids and works on reading skills, a father who plants a community garden, a neighbor who is a teacher and advocates for students within the school system, a resident who organizes the neighborhood to pick up trash and keep community spaces clean.

These efforts are vital to the health of our community. Tipping point grants are a way to give lift to these efforts and to help amplify positive change.

What are Tipping Point Grants?

These are small grants to help amplify community efforts. The grants can be awarded for up to \$5,000 per project. These mini-grants will either fuel what is already happening or allow you to develop your own local projects that create pathways to greater resiliency in your 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 nonprofits to apply for funding such as Buncombe County's annual community development grants.

How do I apply?

Grant applications are required. The application is online at www.buncombecounty.org/apply.

Hard copy applications (including applications in languages in other than English) are available by contacting Chiloh Campbell at (828) 250-6566 or chiloh.campbell@buncombecounty.org

Tipping Point Grants are about...

Ensuring Positive Place

- Healthy public spaces that encourage gathering
- Gardens and walking trails
- Cultural identity that brings people together

Connecting People

- Rebuilding trust
- Fostering a sense of “we”
- Building a can do sense that neighbors can work together to get things done
- Supporting emerging leaders

Improving Equitable Opportunity

- Pipelines to jobs
- Apprenticeships
- Self-sustaining businesses



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Application questions will include:

- Name of project
- Description: Briefly explain the project.
- Vision: How do you see this project making a difference in your community? Describe the story that exists now within your community or group and how your project might shape a different story.
- Goals: How your project connects to “Ensuring Positive Place,” “Connecting People,” and/or “Improving Equitable Opportunity”
- Partners: Provide a list of partners involved in the project and their roles.
- Project budget: How much is being requested, and how will these funds be used?
- Sustainability: Do you have other available funds for the project? Describe how the project will be sustained going forward.

Awards

Funding decisions will be guided by a review team including community members and agency staff. We anticipate being able to fund 10 to 12 applications in the next year.

Terms

When applying for Tipping Point Grants, applicants acknowledge the following:

- Submitting an application is not a guarantee of funding.
- Grants may be awarded at a lower amount than requested and will not exceed \$5,000.
- Private individuals that are awarded Tipping Point Grants may choose to receive the funding directly or use a fiscal sponsor. Funds issued directly may be considered taxable personal income. Fiscal sponsors are entities that agree to receive & expend funds on behalf of projects.
- Insurance may be required, depending on the nature of the project. This may be held by the individual or the fiscal sponsor.
- Financial and outcomes reporting will be required.
- A signed agreement (including project scope, budget and reporting terms) will be required for all projects. Those with a fiscal sponsor will be signed by both the individual and the entity.
- We are committed to working with applicants to find creative solutions that meet these requirements.

2017 Timeline

Sept 5	Sept 16	Oct 5	Oct 6, 13 & 20	Oct 23	Nov 17
Applications open	Optional grant writing workshop*	Application deadline	Review team meets	Grants announced	Payments issued

*Grant writing workshop to be hosted by Buncombe County on September 16th, 1:00pm-3:00pm at 200 College St. This is a free session, open to anyone. Applicants will be able to get support on proposal writing and will be able to leave the workshop with an application ready to go and/or submitted.

Questions? Contact Chiloh Campbell at (828) 250-6566 or chiloh.campbell@buncombecounty.org