

## **Buncombe County Seeks Members for Community Engagement Workgroup**

Buncombe County is the recipient of a \$1.75 million grant by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to continue building on efforts in collaboration with local leaders and the community to rethink the local criminal justice system, safely reduce Buncombe County's jail population, and eliminate racial inequities. The grant brings the Foundation's total investment in Buncombe County to \$3.55 million to date and is part of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC), a \$246 million national initiative to reduce over-incarceration and advance racial equity in local criminal justice systems by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

Toward this goal, the Buncombe County SJC Community Engagement Workgroup has connected with the community through surveys, listening sessions throughout the county, a virtual town hall, and community information events on developing justice system policies. In 2021, the Community Engagement Workgroup will be focused on building deeper, more collaborative relationships with stakeholders and working to fulfill the goals of the Buncombe County Safety and Justice Challenge in partnership with our shared communities.

### **The Safety and Justice Challenge Community Engagement Workgroup is looking for 10 community members.**

Workgroup activities will include:

1. Continue to plan, facilitate and host activities such as town halls, focus groups, listening session, criminal justice info sessions, and community meetings; and
2. Review content and material related to public education campaigns, information sessions, community meetings; and
3. Develop communication strategies between community and criminal justice system organizations.

### **Community Members Needed**

Community Engagement is about involving people who are directly and indirectly affected by government policies and practices. For this workgroup, a community member is someone who is impacted by the justice system and is not affiliated with and being paid by an organization to participate in the workgroup. Community members will receive a stipend funded by the MacArthur Foundation grant.

## 2021 Community Engagement Workgroup Application/Selection Process Timeline

### Application Information

Applications are due on May 28, 2021. When applying, applicants acknowledge the following:

- Submitting an application does not guarantee being selected.
- Those applying will be prioritized if they fall into the experienced categories below. The goal is to have a diversity of perspectives and expertise.
  - Justice Involvement (previously charged or convicted, jailed or ex offender)
  - Family member of a justice involved person
  - Victim of a crime
  - Experienced Homelessness
  - Grassroots Organization
  - Faith Community
- Community members will be compensated for up to 10 hours per month at a rate of \$20 per hour.
- In order to receive payment, community members will need to complete necessary paperwork that will include tracking hours.
- The workgroup will provide activities for the coming two years of grant-funding (at least through March 2023).

### Application Questions

**Name:**

**Contact Information (phone and/or email):**

Briefly, explain why you want to be a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge Community Engagement Workgroup.

How will your life experience and unique perspective help us in community engagement activities related to the criminal justice system? Please note if you are bilingual.

## 2021 Community Engagement Workgroup Application/Selection Process Timeline

What is your perspective of the criminal justice system and criminal justice reform?

Please select which group you most closely identify with:

- Justice Involvement (previously charged or convicted, jailed or ex offender)
- Family member of a justice involved person
- Victim of a crime
- Experienced Homelessness
- Grassroots Organization
- Faith Community

Where do you live?

- Asheville City
- South Buncombe (such as Arden/Avery's Creek/Royal Pines)
- North Buncombe (such as Woodfin/Weaverville/Barnardsville)
- East Buncombe (such as Swannanoa/Black Mountain/Montreat)
- West Buncombe(such as Candler/Leicester)

Have you lived in Buncombe County for 1 year or more? Yes or No

Submit your final application by email, video, or in person to Jennifer Aviles by May 28, 2021 at [jennifer.aviles@buncombecounty.org](mailto:jennifer.aviles@buncombecounty.org) or 200 College St., Third Floor, Asheville NC 28801. If submitting a video, keep it to a maximum of 1 minute.

Questions? Call Jennifer Aviles at (828) 250-4089.