



CAF

Mecklenburg's Community Action Agency

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December 21, 2012

Ms. Pat Cotham, Chairperson
Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Post Office Box 31787
Charlotte, NC 28231

RE: Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. FY 2013-2014 Community Services Block Grant Application

Dear Commissioner Cotham:

The Charlotte Area Fund (CAF) is a private, non-profit corporation and the designated community action agency serving Mecklenburg County. The agency has been providing services to the economic disadvantaged since 1963 through a variety of programs promoting self-improvement and self-sufficiency. CAF is governed by an eighteen (18) member Board of Directors representing public officials, the private sector and low-income citizens of our community. Current services funded by the Community Services Block Grant includes employment counseling, vocational skills training, computer training, GED preparation/basic skills upgrade, job development and placement, income management/budget counseling, nutrition assistance, and limited crisis intervention. CAF receives grant funding from a combination of Federal and State resources for agency activities.

Each year, CAF provides the County an opportunity to comment on the proposed work program for the coming year. The work program is developed by the agency's Board, committees and staff after receiving suggestions from the public and other agencies. The grant requires no local match. The application requires a notarized document from the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the submission of CAF's application to the Board. Therefore, we are requesting completion of the enclosed document and a copy of the meeting minutes, which references discussion of CAF's application or a letter regarding the Board of Commissioners response to our proposal. We are requesting that this information be submitted to us by January 25, 2013 so that it may be included in CAF's application package that will be forwarded to the Office of Economic Opportunity on January 28, 2013. The grant application is due February 1, 2013.

Enclosed are the major activities for two projects to be funded next year. This application begins the second year of a three-year plan targeted to assist the low-income in Mecklenburg County. The proposal is in response to the collective needs of the low-income as identified by a variety of area human service providers and the general public. This information was ascertained through needs assessment surveys, interviews and meetings. CAF conducted a public hearing on December 20, 2012 to provide citizens a chance to comment on the proposed work program and offer suggestions of their own. The Office of Economic Opportunity, which is the state office responsible for the administration of the Community Services Block Grants, has informed CAF that the planning allocation for completion of the FY2013-2014 application is \$1,069,681. In accordance with the Workforce Investment Act, participation of the Community Services Block Grant Program is mandated in the local JobLink Center.

CAF is represented on Charlotte Works Board (formerly Charlotte-Mecklenburg Workforce Development Board) as they continue the effort to meet the evolving needs of Mecklenburg's citizens and address the challenges relevant to our community's changing workforce. We maintain partner relationships with a wide range of community agencies, including the County's Department of Social Services, other organizations and churches to ensure that coordination and utilization of available resources allow us to serve the low-income residents of Mecklenburg County through the operation of our programs. We will continue to expand our existing relationships and develop others for maximum feasibility in identifying opportunities for our constituents.

We certainly appreciate the Board of County Commissioners' time and review of CAF's work program and look forward to receipt of the response. If I can be of further assistance to aid you in the review of our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the County Commissioners' appointees to the CAF Board of Directors at your earliest convenience. A list of CAF Board Members is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Karen Brackett Browning

Karen Brackett Browning
Executive Director

Enclosures

Cc: Commissioner Dumont Clarke
Commissioner Vilma Leake
CAF Board Chair Reginald Godette
CAF Board Member Aaron McKeithan