



CAF

Mecklenburg's Community Action Agency

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December 15, 2017

Ms. Ella B. Scarborough, Chairperson
Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Post Office Box 31787
Charlotte, NC 28231

RE: Charlotte Area Fund, Inc. FY 2018-2019 Community Services Block Grant Application

Dear Commissioner Scarborough:

The Charlotte Area Fund (CAF) is a private, non-profit corporation and the designated community action agency serving Mecklenburg County. The anti-poverty 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 31, 2018 so that it may be included in CAF's application package that will be forwarded to the Office of Economic Opportunity on February 2, 2018. The grant application is due February 12, 2018.

Enclosed are the major activities for two projects to be funded next year. This application begins the third 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 1, 2017 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 FY2018-2019 application is \$1,382,682. In accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Charlotte Area Fund as the recipient of the Community Services Block Grant is a required partner of the local workforce system that is funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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 workforce development 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 we can be of further assistance to aid you in the review of our programs, please do not hesitate to contact Pamela J. Henson, Interim Executive Director, at Pamh@charlotteareafund.org or (704) 372-3010 ext. 201, CAF Board Chair Reginald Johnson at (704) 433-5657 or any of the County Commissioners' appointees to the CAF Board of Directors at your convenience. A list of CAF Board Members is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Karen Brackett Browning

Karen Brackett Browning
Executive Director

Enclosures

Cc: CAF Board Chair Reginald Johnson
CAF Board Member Reginald Godette
CAF Board Member Abbie Butler