



February 13, 2015

Mr. Chuck Wooten  
County Manager  
Jackson County, NC  
401 Grindstaff Cove Road  
Sylva, NC 28779

Dear Chuck:

On November 17, 2014, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners approved advancement of five years' appropriations to Webster Enterprises of Jackson County (WE) which totaled \$165,000. WE agreed to utilize these funds to offset a portion of construction costs for a new building or to expand current manufacturing operations for new product lines. High production demands and opportunities dictated that WE expand its operations to a larger space. WE entered an agreement to lease the Ashley building to accommodate these demands. The appropriations made it possible to secure the needed space. To date, Webster Enterprises has requested and received two advancements.

The following is the first quarterly status report.

December 23, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> draw)

Received requested draw - \$25,000.

\*Transition costs to move into Ashley building (\$3,464.82)

\*Lease/permits for building (\$6,439.70)

\*Labor costs (\$12,995.48)

(includes management, staff, and hourly wages associated with transition)

\*Travel expenses, visit Lovesac – (\$2,100.00)

January 28, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> draw)

Received requested draw - \$40,000

\*Purchase raw materials to support production demands (\$20,189.32)

*We Care*

140 Little Savannah Road  
Sylva, NC 28779  
828-586-8981 phone  
828-586-8125 fax



To date, \$19,810.68 remains open and available. Additional transition and material costs to support WE growth will be extracted from the remaining balance of draw.

As of today, all existing jobs have been retained in WE sewing operations. Because of increased demands, two positions have been added and applications are being accepted for anticipation of further growth. The medical device arm of the business is also experiencing growth. One position has been added and two more will be filled before month's end.

If you have any inquiries or concerns regarding the expenditure of funds provided by Jackson County or jobs retained and created, please do not hesitate to contact me. The next report will be submitted in May, 2015. Thank you for the support and vote of confidence extended to WE.

Sincerely,

Joe Rigdon  
Assistant Director

*We Care*

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February 16, 2015

Mr. Chuck Wooten, County Manager  
401 Grindstaff Road  
Sylva NC 28779

Dear Mr. Wooten:

Attached is a report on the Pilot Program for serving persons with Development Disabilities in Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

In July 2014, Webster Enterprises received \$30,500.00 to assist in developing this program. The attached report reviews expenditures to date.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Gene Robinson  
Executive Director

Attachment

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## Report on Development of Program to Serve D.D. Population

In July of 2014, Webster Enterprises (W.E.) received thirty thousand five hundred dollars from the County of Jackson. The goal of the grant was to assist W.E. in starting a D.D. (Developmental Disabilities) training program and to encourage Mental Health to pick up program funding in the following year. Costs associated with new program development include funding for additional personnel, administrative costs, travel, research, materiel, and workspace customization among others. Personnel costs alone are expected to exceed the grant total of \$30,500.

Salary expenses for the 2014/15 fiscal year follow:

Coordinator-----\$13427.20

Trainer-----\$9003.91

Total-----\$22431.11

This would make the monthly salary cost be \$3204.45 or a yearly cost of \$38453.33 for salaries alone.

The following efforts and accomplishments have been made:

1. Existing staff was used to do research and development;
2. An additional staff member was hired to work on implementing the program and work with clientele;
3. Representatives of State and local government, (Senator Jim Davis and Chuck Wooten) were enlisted to encourage open conversation with our local Mental Health Entity (LME) to get them to pick up funding for the following year.

W.E. offered this program service to the community about 15 years ago. At that time Mental Health funded the service to the tune of approximately \$120,000.00. For some unknown reason this program service was terminated.

Service to the D.D. population was the main reason that Webster Enterprises was created almost 40 years ago. Now the counties of Jackson, Macon, and Swain are the only counties in the state that do not provided work training to the Developmentally Disabled (D.D.) population. I feel very responsible and committed to the task of getting this program reinstated.

For the first time in four years and with the help of both state and local government, we are getting the dialog started with the Local Mental Health Entity (LME). An application has been filed with MH and we are awaiting our next step.

We currently have three individuals who are being served in this program but are not being sponsored by any agency. Without sponsorship, W.E. does not receive any reimbursement of their service costs.

W.E. has also just started a contract with a new company (Hubbel) that is an excellent source of training for piece work, i.e. repetitive work that lends itself to training persons with D.D. This contract will not make a profit but we hope it will allow us to bring 8-10 more trainees into this program in the near future. It is very important to have this kind of work in order to provide the training. Therefore we must seek supplemental funding in order to meet our financial responsibilities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Gene Robinson, Executive Director