



JACKSON COUNTY NON-PROFIT GRANT APPLICATION

AGENCY: Circles of Hope Jackson County, a Mountain Projects agency

1. Provide a brief description of the Agency's mission, goals and programs.

The mission of Circles Jackson County is to collaborate with public service and non-profit agencies in order help people help themselves out of poverty and move Jackson County from a Tier 1 to a Tier 2 county. Our goal is to assist 10% of our friends, family and neighbors below the poverty line become self sustaining.

Our program provides weekly training and support to clients referred to as Circle Leaders. Our Circle Leaders are provided mentors/coaches referred to as Allies. We meet weekly at First Baptist Church for food, child care and fellowship followed with programs to strengthen financial and personal skills required to acquire living wage jobs. Allies meet with assigned Circle Leaders periodically to become friends and assist their Circle Leader develop goals for achieving a living wage job or the education required for a living wage job.

2. Describe program changes (if any) being considered for FY 2017-2018.

Our program is expanding! We are currently serving 15 families and intend to serve as many as 30 to 40 families by the end of 2017. We cannot continue to serve our clients with a part time coordinator and 30 volunteers. A full time coordinator will be required to manage an expanding program and become a stronger partner with others in our community. In addition, a part-time or full time Case Manager will be required to assist families find needed resources and overcome barriers to moving out of poverty.

3. Provide information about needs being addressed by your agency.

Needs we address include skills needed to manage personal finances and get lives and families in order. We are the only agency in our county that provides long term (1-3 years) support for our families, provide the chance for having more friends (social capital) find job opportunities and education and develop saving habits. Our Allies provide goals setting and barrier busting support needed by our Circle Leaders. In addition, our Big View Team is working with landlords to overcome barriers to achieving affordable housing. Recent research data tells our story. Our last cohort experienced the following results:
Monthly income improved from an average of \$954 to \$1,520.
Savings improved from an average of \$34 to \$38
Friends (Social Capital) improved from an average of 14 friends to 23 friends.
Sense of Hope (scale of 1 - 10) improved from an average of 4 to 9!
Two have returned to college, another is now earning a living wage and will be starting their own business.

FY 17 \$1,500.00

11-5840-699-09

\$ 20,000.00



JACKSON COUNTY NON-PROFIT GRANT APPLICATION

4. What other agencies (if any) provide services similar to your agency? How do you coordinate service delivery with those agencies?

Circles Jackson County is unique in services being provided to those in poverty. Other programs are designed to address immediate crisis and needs. We coordinate with those agencies to provide long term support for their clients. We partner with agencies such as HUD, GED, Public Health, Blue Ridge Health, DSS, Neighbors in Need, Head Start, Christian Ministeries and Meridian. Our purpose is to help those agencies accomplish their goals through service coordination and long term support of mutual clients.

5. Describe sources of funding and the stability of that funding. If local, state, or federal funding sources are expected to change, please explain.

Funding sources include monthly and annual donations from community members and Circles of Hope volunteers. More than 7 churches provide meals for our weekly meetings at no charge. Grants include Jackson County, Community Foundation, Hennessee Foundation and Blue Ridge Health Foundation and Sylva Rotary.

6. How many individuals were served by your agency? Individuals should be counted as if they participate in no more than one agency program.

2014-15 program year 5
2015-16 program year 11
2016-17 program year 25 (estimate for full year)
2017-18 program year 35 (projected)

7. Describe anticipated uses of County funds and reason needed (are other sources available?).

County funds can create jobs with our agency. As the projections indicate, we will need to expand from one part time Coordinator to a full time Coordinator and a part time Case Manager. Other sources are uncertain at this time.

8. Amount of budgeted salaries and benefits for next year. _____

Salaries: \$35,000 Coordinator, \$15,000 Case Manager
Benefits: \$14,000 Coordinator,

