Expanding Reconnecting Reentry

RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Reconnecting Reentry Inc.

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Application Form

Question Group

Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded $50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding)i, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*

Name of Project.

Expanding Reconnecting Reentry

Amount of Funds Requested*

$40,000.00

Recovery Fund Eligible Category*

Please select one:

Support local health and safety workforce

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

At the beginning of 2020, when the world was beginning to feel the effects of the pandemic, we found a huge need for the ability to connect virtually. For people returning to the Asheville Community from incarceration, that need was even greater. We started with 1 donated laptop and grew from there. Having a computer is invaluable to someone returning to our community from incarceration. Whether it is used for

higher education, online recovery meetings, or job searching. Our hope is that in gaining access to these tools, people will lead better lives and begin to thrive within the community. We would like to expand what we are already doing by purchasing more refurbished computers to give to people returning to Buncombe County from incarceration.

Project Plan*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Reconnecting Reentry currently works with 8 organizations in the community that serve formerly incarcerated individuals. Each organization can refer 1 person per month to receive a computer. Over the next 2 years, this money would allow us to serve 100 people per year.

Statement of Need*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

"Each year more than 22,000 inmates are released from North Carolina's state prison system. Ninety-eight percent of the inmates in prison today will be released in the future."- https://www.ncdps.gov/adult-corrections/prisons/transition-services

Even though we are beginning to see the effects of Covid lessen, the need for formerly incarcerated individuals to have access to computers is only increasing. Individuals who need to be able to apply for jobs online, work from home, attend virtual meetings, create resumes, etc. are returning to our community daily. Reconnecting Reentry will be able to meet this need within Buncombe County.

Link to COVID-19*

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

When a person is released from incarceration with nothing but the clothes on their back, amidst a public health crisis, it is imperative for them to receive tools that will allow them to be able to continue education, work remotely, apply for jobs while maintaining safety from spreading the virus or contracting it. These funds would allow them to be able to do all of this, remain safe, and reduce recidivism.

Population Served*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

The population would include 200 formerly incarcerated individuals residing in Buncombe County.

Results*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Input- How many computers purchased

Output- How many computers given
Outcome- How many individuals benefited from having a computer, based on self-report

Evaluation*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Tracking of computers purchased, organization monthly referrals, and self-reporting outcomes.

Equity Impact*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

We know that minorities and impoverished populations make up a larger percentage of our incarcerated population, therefore, by giving this tool of access to any person coming out of incarceration is setting them up to be successful regardless of their background, and promotes equity within our community.

Project Partners*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:
1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

We will not be using any subcontractors, however we do partner with referring agencies, these include: YMI Cultural Center, Project Reentry, Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness, RHA Jail Reentry, Buncombe County Reentry Council, UNCA Prison Education Program, Homeward Bound, and UMOJA.

Capacity*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Reconnecting Reentry has been incorporated since July of 2020, and a 501c3 since September of 2020. We have given out over 50 computers since being incorporated. We have received a WNC Bridge Foundation NOW grant for 3,000$ which was used to purchase 20 computers. Our mission is extremely specific, and managing funds is very straightforward as we do not have employees or make any profit. All monies are spent on purchasing computers.

Budget*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form <u>HERE</u>. Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

    Recovery-Funds-budget-Reconnecting Reentry.xlsx

Special Considerations*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

    I believe that the work we are doing aligns directly with what the County is doing in regards to public safety and reducing recidivism. This project was born out of a need that realized at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, and the need has only increased since.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Recovery-Funds-budget-Reconnecting Reentry.xlsx

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Proposed Project Budget

Organization Name:	Reconnecting Reentry
Project Name:	Expanding Reconnecting Reentry
Amount Requested:	40,000

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Buncombe COVID Recovery Funds	$ 40,000.00	Pending	
List other sources here			
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List other sources here			
Total	$ 40,000.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
List expenses here	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00	Operating	200 refurbished computers @ $200 each
List expenses here			$ -		
List expenses here			$ -		
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Total			$ 40,000.00		