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January 5, 2017

Haywood County Board of Commissioners  
C/O Mr. Ira Dove, Haywood County Manager  
215 North Main Street  
Waynesville, NC 28786

Dear Mr. Dove:

For more than forty years Mountain Projects Inc. has applied for and received a Community Services Block Grant through the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Part of the grant requirements are that the County Commissioners be given 30 days to review the grant application.

Enclosed is our application for FY17/18. At Mountain Project's Inc. we are requesting funds for three areas. First is an intake service to allow people to tell their story one time and receive information about all services they are eligible to be a part of. Second is a GED program. This is to assist people in working towards and receiving their diploma. Third is our Circles of Hope program that involves networking people together to provide opportunities for growth and involvement into the communities where they live.

We welcome your feedback and/or questions. Please submit them to Peter Mudge at 2251 Old Balsam Rd. Waynesville, NC 28786. My email address is [pmudge@mountainprojects.org](mailto:pmudge@mountainprojects.org)

Thank you for your time to review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Mudge".

Peter Mudge  
Central Services Manager  
Enclosure  
CC

We Provide the Tools to Change People's Lives



# North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

## Division of Social Services



### Community Services Block Grant Program

**Fiscal Year 2017-18 Application for Funding  
Project Period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

**Application Due Date: February 13, 2017**

Agency Information	
Agency:	Mountain Projects, Inc.
Federal I.D.	
DUNS Number:	
Administrative Office Address:	2251 Old Balsam Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
Mailing Address (include the 4-digit zip code extension):	2251 Old Balsam Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
Telephone Number:	828-452-1447
Fax Number:	828-452-9454
Board Chairperson:	Mr. Gavin Brown
Board Chairperson's Address: (where communications should be sent)	2251 Old Balsam Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
Board Chairperson's Term of Office (enter beginning and end dates):	2012 – As long as he is in office
Executive Director:	Ms. Patsy Davis
Executive Director Email Address:	pdavis@mountainprojects.org
Agency Fiscal Officer:	Richard Pittman
Fiscal Officer Email Address:	rpittman@mountainprojects.org
CSBG Program Director:	Peter Mudge
CSBG Program Director Email Address:	pmudge@mountainprojects.org
Counties Served with CSBG funds:	Haywood and Jackson
Agency Operational Fiscal Year:	July 1- June 30

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Economic Opportunity - Verna P. Best, Director  
2420 Mail Service Center / Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420

**Community Services Block Grant Program  
Fiscal Year 2017-18 Application for Funding  
Planning Process Narrative**

1. Explain in detail how each of the following was involved in the planning and development of this strategic plan.

- a. Low-Income Community:

The Board is composed of representatives of the low income, elected officials and community. A public hearing is advertised/announced so that all the public is welcome to attend. Board approval is mandatory and such plan is brought before the Board for their consideration. A community needs assessment was conducted by both counties in 2016. The assessment was handed out to all persons entering the organization as well as those who ride public transportation and receive child care services for their feedback. Electronic option was placed on agency web site and outreach was done with the local Department of Social Services and Health Department.

- b. Agency Staff:

The staff is represented at the same public hearing. Staff is the key to development and maintenance to this plan will insure that this plan is accountable.

- c. Agency's Board Members:

Poor/Low income representatives make up one third of the Board of Directors. The Board was invited to the public hearings and they reviewed this and all grant proposals for the organization. This grant proposal was presented to the Board on January 24, 2017. The Board was supportive and agreed on the use of CSBG funds.

2. Describe your agency's method and criteria for identifying poverty causes and list the identified causes. Also describe the methods and criteria used to determine priority and selection of strategies to be implemented that will address the poverty causes.

Mountain Projects, Inc. administers over fifty, state, local and federal grants with a mission of promoting independency and self-sufficiency. In our community, we are considered to be the experts. With this reputation those in need calling our agency for a variety of needs that can range from looking up numbers in the phone book to major human needs.

From these calls data is collected through an unmet needs tracking system at switchboard, as well as information collected during our intake process, networking with other human service agencies, including participation in County Interagency Council (Human Services Coalition). Also information is also collected through reports from regional providers such as Manna Food Bank, On-track financial Counseling, VAYA Health and county profile information from the Head Start Needs Assessments. This data collected gives us a strong picture of poverty related causes in our

community. Above all we listen to our clients about their struggles with living in poverty and the reality of the challenges they face

3. Describe activities that your agency has undertaken to advocate for and empower low-income individuals and families to achieve economic independence and security.

Mountain Projects, Inc. operates with the philosophy that all people have value, worth and hope. We believe that no one wants to be poor, hungry, cold and without the basics. The job of our agency is to give those in need the tools they need to overcome obstacles and move themselves into greater economic security and independence. We accomplish this through the fifty state, federal, local and private grants we receive. The CSBG in-take specialists are experts in bringing these and other resources together to meet total family needs in our comprehensive approach to self-sufficiency. Without a centralized process (funded by CSBG), we could never accomplish this.

When clients are successful in reaching independence, they become spokespeople and advocates. Ongoing press coverage also educates our community on the value of those who make less in our counties. Client participation in all agency program advisory committees, the Head Start policy council and service on Mountain Projects, Inc. Board of Directors provides opportunities and empowers our clients to have more control over decisions and programs that affects their lives.

4. Describe how your agency plans to make more effective use of, coordinate and form partnerships with other organizations and programs including: State welfare reform efforts; public and private resources; religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.

Mountain Projects, Inc. recognizes the need to coordinate and combine activities not only "in-house" by those services we directly represent, but through collaboration with our Interagency Council Partners, throughout the two county areas we serve. We acknowledge that in order to accomplish this, we must continue to be a positive and active member of the Interagency Councils so we may continue to refer and rely on the other agencies and supportive service providers that exist in our communities. We have also sponsoring a grant called Community Resource Connection.

Listings of these other agencies that we partner with:

Department of Commerce Division of NC Works Carrier Center, Waynesville  
 North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
 Mountain Projects, Inc.  
 Haywood Community College  
 Haywood County Schools  
 Haywood County Department of Health and Human Services  
 Haywood Christian Ministries  
 Haywood County Government  
 Longs Chapel  
 North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation

Local Emergency Planning Committee  
 Local Business  
 Multiple Churches in our community  
 Haywood County Sherriff Department  
 Haywood County Pathway Center  
 Jackson County Department of Social Services  
 Southwestern Community College  
 Jackson County Public Schools  
 Jackson County Government  
 Western Carolina University  
 Agency Council on Aging – Southwestern Commission  
 United Christian Ministries  
 Jackson County Neighbors in Need  
 NC More at Four Program  
 Region A. Partnership for Children  
 VAYA Health  
 First Baptist Church of Sylva  
 Jackson County Transit  
 Southwestern Planning Commission

5. Describe how your agency will establish linkages between governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals, to avoid the duplication of such services and to fill identified gaps in services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management and follow-up consultations.

As mentioned in the parts of the application we assure representative on all community groups and interagency councils. Communication is daily and ongoing with our sister agencies. Forms have been developed that allows interagency referrals. The Executive Director also serves on multiple community boards. The Directors of Social Services serves on the agency board as well as school board members to assure no duplications and as many community needs are being met as possible.

6. Provide a description of how your agency will support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of the Community Services Block Grant (fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting).

CSBG will partner with Head Start and Early Head Start to recruit, screen and complete eligibility on children to participate in the program. While processing applications for Head Start, CSBG funded in-take specialists will access each family for other needed services such as housing rehabilitation, rental assistance, heating assistance, food stamps, child support etc. By this partnership, Head Start staff will be freed up to work with families on more in-depth services including parent involvement and parent training to encourage activities, to enrich the client's life and family relationships.

CSBG funded workers will also partner with programs such as HUD Self-Sufficiency, Senior Services Outreach program and Family Reunification through DSS to strengthen families and improve living conditions of low-income people.

7. Describe activities that your agency has undertaken or plans to undertake, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals.

Mountain Projects, Inc. Food Services department cooks and delivers more than 800 meals per day five days per week to the seven western counties of North Carolina to be delivered and served.

In addition, we provide nutritional supplement (Ensure) at cost to clients in need, sick or at risk of malnourishment.

Our Senior Congregate Nutrition programs serve meals five days per week in the three sites. On the days when the centers are closed for holidays or inclement weather, shelf stable meals are provided to the participants to take home. Our Head Start Program has started a food pantry for children under the age of four and need special food to promote healthy growing. The program is focused on assuring children have food on nights, weekends and holidays.

Other needs are referred to local soup kitchens the Open Door, and the Community Table, Haywood Christian Ministries, Jackson United Christian Ministries and Department of Social Service emergency food. Emergency needs at non-traditional times have been provided by using donations to the agency.

8. Describe how your agency will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The local WIOA Youth program RA-TEC (Region A. Training Education Consortium) works with students and families in Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain Co to increase after high school credential employment, increase job retention and earnings, increase levels of occupational skills. This will affect our business communities by the quality of the workforce, reduced welfare dependency thus making our workforce in the 4 counties more productive and more competitive regionally and at the state level. Key components of this reform include streamlining services through a One-Stop service delivery system, empowering individuals through information and access to training resources through Individual Training Accounts, providing universal access to core services, increasing accountability for results, ensuring a strong role for Local Boards and the private sector in the workforce investment system, facilitating State and local flexibility, and improving youth programs. Case management provided by WIOA Youth Case Managers help students and parents identify and enroll in the proper secondary diploma program. WIOA Youth have the opportunity to enroll in a program paid Work Experience in conjunction with their high school diploma program. Enrichment activities are designed and offered to enhance the overall

WIOA Youth program. These programs include but are not limited to the REAL WORLD EXPO, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Education Enrichment Program.

9. Describe how your agency will ensure coordination with the emergency energy crisis intervention program under title XXVI (relating to low-income home energy assistance).

Mountain Projects, Inc. also receives HARP – Heating Appliance and Replacement Program Housing Rehab/Mountain Projects, Inc. funds. This service allows for the purchase and installation of heating appliances to replace inefficient or hazardous heating systems within customer's homes. Mountain Projects, Inc. has access to this program via our Housing Rehab/Weatherization department. The Housing Repair/Weatherization program has several funding resources. Eligible customers applying for services from Mountain Projects, Inc. will be referred and the department will determine which program the client qualifies for and will be best served by.

10. Describe the needs of low-income youth and your agency's efforts to promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of low-income youth.

In Region A, Western North Carolina Teen Institute and Prevention Services (WNCTIPS) addresses youth substance abuse prevention through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG). This funding is provided through a contract with VAYA Health, our local Managed Care Organization (MCO). Community Coalitions and evidenced-based curriculums are used to target community and individual risk factors for substance misuse. Curriculums are facilitated, by trained personnel, in Jackson and Macon Counties. Jackson and Macon Counties have youth groups who meet and address substance related issues within their local communities. Coalition efforts are promoted throughout the 7-county region. Additionally, WNCTIPS has promoted the implementation of a 12-hour class, Prime for Life, as an early intervention tool for those youth who have received a citation for underage drinking or simple possession.

11. Describe your agency's method for informing custodial parents in single-parent families that participate in CSBG programming about the availability of child support services. In addition, describe your method for referring eligible parents to the child support office[s].

All customers applying for services are interviewed in our "Central Intake" department. During that process, all individuals are advised of all eligible services that would be available to them. These would include but not be limited to Child Support Services.

Referrals are made at that time to the appropriate department and appointments are set up.

**Community Services Block Grant Program  
Fiscal Year 2017-18 Application for Funding  
OEO Form 210**

**Agency Strategy for Eliminating Poverty**

**Planning Period:** July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020

**Section I: Identification of the Problem (use additional sheets if necessary)**

1. Give the Poverty Cause name(s), rank the poverty cause(s) and identify which one(s) the agency will address.

**Information, Referral and Follow-up (Central Intake)**

Linkages- Many residents of Haywood and Jackson Counties do not understand the human service system or how to access services that is needed to help their situations. Often we see families who apply for one service but are in need of many more. For example often Head Start families apply for child care but live in homes that are sub-standard and at high risk for health and safety issues. To assist the family in comprehensive manner CSBG resources allows us to operate a one stop to meet the total needs of the family. It is our belief that the cycle of poverty cannot be broken by looking at one need at a time. When the big picture of the situation is not addressed it can actually promote poverty.

2. Describe the poverty cause(s) in detail in the community with appropriate statistical data (include data sources).

**Data Sources; Community Commons, Community Action Partnership,  
Community needs assessment tool.**

- (A) Explain why the problem exists.

In the rural mountains of western North Carolina many live in isolations and often without the understanding of services that could improve their conditions and situation. Haywood County is 554 square miles and Jackson is 491. To make matters worse services provided are several miles apart. It is often a challenge for low-income residents with limited resources to access the service they need. In addition in an agency like Mountain Projects clients could be faced to tell their story multiple times as well as provide proof of income. There for we utilize CSBG to link clients with resources. Our geographic location and the square miles of mountain terrain lead to a lack of communication and understanding of human services. Central Intake was designed to help a client to apply one time for all programs administered through Mountain Projects, Inc. In the past a client would apply for Head Start by providing all documentation needed to complete the application. If Section 8 was needed they would have to make an appointment to apply and provide the same documentation for that program. It is often a challenge for low-income residents with limited resources to be able to complete necessary paperwork. By doing multiple applications we are able to reduce the amount of time and travel for the population we serve. With Central Intake the client can apply for several programs in less than an hour. A copy of a referral, completed application

and the required documentation are sent to the requested programs. During the application process the Intake Specialist informs clients of other programs that may be of service to them. Information is not only given to the client but referrals are made to other agencies. Mountain Projects has become known as the one stop service for human needs. Clients often call us for a little bit of everything including looking up phone numbers for partnering programs. In doing this we are able to inform the public about other programs. The poverty rate for Jackson is 20.4 and Haywood is 12.3. In Haywood County 55% of the children in our public schools is eligibility for free or reduced lunches.

(B) Identify the segment of the population and give the number of people experiencing the problem.

Reporting area. Families in poverty by family type; Male Households 11.68%, Married couples 39.61%, Female households 48.71%.

Poverty Rate Change age 0-17, 2000-2013; increase 12.7%  
Senior poverty; 8.1%

(C) Provide demographic information of those adversely effected inclusive of:

Haywood County Population; 59,012 (2014ACS). Poverty Rate 2000; 14.2% Poverty Rate 2013; 24.2%. Increase 10%.

Jackson County Population 40,598 (2014ACS). Poverty Rate 2000;12.5%. Poverty Rate 2013;20.4%. Increase 7.9%.

<b>Population by Sex/Age</b>	
Male	28,502
Female	30,534
Under 18	11,535
18 & over	47,501
20 – 24	2,824
25 – 34	5,811
35 – 49	11,940
50 – 64	13,241
65 & over	12,416
<b>Population by Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic or Latino	1,999

Non Hispanic or Latino	57,037
<b>Population by Race</b>	
White	56,405
African American	624
Asian	215
American Indian and Alaska Native	303
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	15
Other	844
Identified by two or more	630

Jackson County Population 40,598 (2014ACS). Poverty Rate 2000;12.5%. Poverty Rate 2013;20.4%. Increase 7.9%.

<b>Population by Sex/Age</b>	
Male	20,043
Female	20,228
Under 18	7,123
18 & over	33,148
20 – 24	5,199
25 – 34	4,637
35 – 49	6,677
50 – 64	7,894
65 & over	6,084
<b>Population by Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic or Latino	2,038
Non Hispanic or Latino	38,233
<b>Population by Race</b>	
White	33,489
African American	745
Asian	348
American Indian and	3,804

Alaska Native	
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	16
Other	1,087
Identified by two or more	782

(D) Explain how the persons are adversely affected.

The inability to find jobs (living wage or otherwise) due to lack of education, training or competition has resulted in the following for our clients and their families: being forced to seek public assistance, being evicted, foreclosed or unable to qualify for safe, stable, secure housing, not being able to afford transportation or losing transportation due to repossession, emotional stress and strain due to an inability to provide basic needs for the family or self, and food insecurity because of the rising cost of groceries.

**Section II: Resource Analysis (use additional sheets if necessary)**

(E) Resources Available:

a. Agency Resources:

Child Care and Head Start  
Housing Rehab and Weatherization  
New Home Ownership  
Public Transportation  
Foster Grandparents Program  
Senior Companion Program  
Congregate Nutrition and Senior Centers  
In Home Services for Seniors Volunteer Center  
Crisis Heating Assistance  
Section 8 Rental Assistance  
Community Resource Center  
Circles of Hope  
Healthcare Navigators

b. Community Resources:

NC Works Career Center  
Community College  
Public Schools  
Vocational Opportunities  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Local Government  
Western Carolina University

**(F) Resources Needed:****a. Agency Resources:**

CSBG funds in the amount of \$187,789 are needed to continue funding the In-Take, Referral and Eligibility component of the comprehensive approach to service delivery system for the Mountain Projects, Inc. Community Action Agency. While completing an application the eligibility specialist will inform the client that CSBG has limited emergency funding for only crisis situations. The eligibility specialist will determine the need for receiving crisis supportive services on an individual bases. This approach partnered with other (Non CSBG resources) for information and assistance for those above poverty guidelines but still in need of assistance (Elderly) enhances our service implementation to assure all persons have the knowledge they need to obtain & retain independence and self-sufficiency. This comprehensive approach also ensures that all National ROMA goals are achieved with limited CSBG resources and builds partnerships across funding lines to maximize service to clients.

**b. Community Resources:**

The community offers so much support of our agencies efforts to look at a holist approach to a family and help offer solutions. Community partnership and resources included: United Way Safe at Home program, Jackson Neighbors in Need, Share the Warmth, The Manna/Rotary Weekend Meals Backpack program, Plottfest fundraiser for Head Start. All of these resources supplement government service to meet the needs of our clients and assures basic human needs are met.

**Section III: Objective and Strategy****(G) Objective Statement:**

The objective is to assist in providing ways for people to move out of poverty and removing barriers through providing assistance, skills, reinforcement, training, networking, education, encouragement, emergency help, and follow-up.

**Strategies for Objective:**

The organization begins with gathering information through, needs assessment, geographic information, customer satisfaction surveys, interviews, and cooperation with other agencies.

After the assessment process, using the ROMA cycle the organization develops a plan, sets up implication, tracks results, evaluates results and re-assesses the plan.

The organization continues to use this ROMA cycle to provide the best possible services that will have the most impact in the community to meet the objective.

**Community Services Block Grant Program  
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Application for Funding  
OEO Form 210**

**Agency Strategy for Eliminating Poverty**

**Planning Period:** July 1 2017 to June 30, 2020

**Section I: Identification of the Problem (use additional sheets if necessary)**

1. Give the Poverty Cause name, rank the poverty cause(s) and identify which one(s) the agency will address.

**General Educational Diploma**

Lack of High School diploma. With the poverty rate of 20.4 in Jackson county it is difficult to find employment without a high school diploma or a General Educational Diploma GED. With only low paying jobs or odd jobs it is difficult to make ends meet. By attaining a General Educational Diploma a person has a better chance of going on to a community college to get additional training or finding a better job with benefits.

2. Describe the poverty cause(s) in detail in the community with appropriate statistical data (include data sources).

Data Sources; Community Commons, Community Action Partnership, Community needs assessment tool.

**(A) Explain why the problem exists**

In the rural mountains of western North Carolina many live in isolations and often without the understanding of services that could improve their conditions and situation. To make matters worse services provided are several miles apart. It is often a challenge for low-income residents with limited resources to access the service they need. 21.2% of the residents of Jackson County have less than a high school education. There are so many reasons a person drops out of school. Some of the students have trouble fitting in to the traditional classroom setting. They may have dropped out because of pregnancies, having to go to work to help support their family, missing too many days of school, or not having enough credits to graduate. The poverty rate in Jackson County is 21.7%. As studies show and prove education is related to income and poverty. When the great recession hit in 2008 we saw long term employers who had hired uneducated residents start to go out of business.

Mountain Projects provides General Educational Diploma classes on Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. Since the class is late in the day Mountain Projects provides a meal, drinks and snacks to all students. To some this may be the only hot meal the student receives. Mountain Projects is the only agency that provides a meal or supplies to the clients. The General Educational Diploma classes are relaxed and unthreatening with lots of encouragement and praise. Several times a year someone from Southwestern Community College comes to the class to speak on school opportunities. There is a lab on site with 5 computers for students to work on the General Educational Diploma software.

Our General Educational Diploma is nontraditional. It operates in the evening and provides a meal. No other programs are offered in nontraditional ways to address basic educational needs.

(B) Identify the segment of the population and give the number of people experiencing the problem.

Haywood County Population 59,012  
No High School Diploma; 13.49%

Jackson County Population 40,598  
No High School Diploma; 13.6%

(C) Provide demographic information of those adversely effected inclusive of:

Haywood County; 553.69 Square Miles  
Population; 59,012 (2014ACS). Poverty Rate 2000; 14.2% Poverty Rate 2013;  
24.2%. Increase 10%.

Jackson County; 494 Square Miles  
Population 40,598 (2014ACS). Poverty Rate 2000;12.5%. Poverty Rate  
2013;20.4%. Increase 7.9%.

(D) Explain how the persons are adversely affected.

The inability to find jobs (living wage or otherwise) due to lack of education, training or competition has resulted in the following for our clients and their families: being forced to seek public assistance, being evicted, foreclosed or unable to qualify for safe, stable, secure housing, not being able to afford transportation or losing transportation due to repossession, emotional stress and strain due to an inability to provide basic needs for the family or self, and food insecurity because of the rising cost of groceries.

**Section II: Resource Analysis (use additional sheets if necessary)**

3. Resources Available:

a. Agency Resources:

Child Care and Head Start  
Housing Rehab and Weatherization  
Community Resource Center

b. Community Resources:

Department of Commerce Employment Security Office  
Southwestern Community College  
Public Schools  
Jackson County Health Department  
Department of Social Services  
Local Government

4. Resources Needed:

a. Agency Resources:

CSBG funds in the amount of \$13,000 are needed to continue funding the General Educational Diploma program.

b. Community Resources:

The high drop-out rate through the years has made it harder to find employment. Most employers require a high school diploma or a General Educational Diploma. The unemployment rate is higher and makes it that much harder to find a job. Our community counts on Mountain Projects as a linkage for our community residents that are interested in getting their GED for employment or to attend the local community colleges.

**Section III: Goal and Strategy**

5. Long-Range Goal:

To enroll 30 people from the General Educational Diploma/Adult High School Diploma program by June 30, 2020

6. Strategies for Achieving Long-Range Goal:

- a. 10 clients will enroll into the General Educational Diploma/ Adult High School diploma in a 12 month period. Mountain Projects will provide a classroom, computer lab, and supplies to youth and adults in Jackson County who have dropped-out of school.
- b. Continue public awareness of the General Educational Diploma class.
- c. Keep General Educational Diploma clients informed of Mountain Projects services.
- d. To inform drop-outs on services available through Mountain Projects, Southwestern Community College and our other partners

**Community Services Block Grant Program**  
**Fiscal Year 2016-17 Application for Funding**  
**OEO Form 210**

**Planning period** July 1 2017 to June 30, 2020

**Section I: Identification of the Problem (use additional sheets if necessary)**

1. Give the Poverty Cause name, rank the poverty cause(s) and identify which one(s) the agency will address.

**Circles of Hope**

1. Give the Poverty Cause name, rank the poverty cause(s) and identify which one(s) the agency will address.

Circle of Hope

Lack of jobs that pay a living wage – It's so difficult to break the cycle of poverty when wages do not pay enough to cover benefits that are being received by families. Examples include rental assistance, food stamps, Medicaid, etc. Families have little or no encouragement to break the cycle. Circles of Hope will provide comprehensive Case Management and daily encouragement through assigning Allies to support by breaking the cycle of poverty. Allies are business and faith based leaders in the community. For one year the Allies will commit to partnering with a family to reaching goals to obtain self-sufficiency. Allies help support daily decisions and helps Circle Leaders to think differently about life, to set and achieve employment/educational goals leading to a living wage job. Allies donate their time to the Circle Leaders. The Circles Coordinator is a part of the team to assure proper guidance, assistance and support on a weekly basis. This program bridges social classes and allows Circle Leaders to think beyond daily survival.

2. Describe the poverty cause(s) in detail in the community with appropriate statistical data (Include data sources). Explain why the problem exists. Identify the segment of the population and give the number of people experiencing the problem. Explain how the persons are adversely affected.

In addition to the information about location and poverty already outlined in the grant. A living wage for our area is in excess of \$12.00 per hour (Living Wage Calculator). To earn this wage you must be college educated. The median household income is \$36,405 or \$17.65 per hour and individual income is \$21,033 or \$10.11 per hour. The population of Jackson County is 41,265 with a poverty rate of 23.5% (9,697 people). According to living wage guidelines one adult needs to earn at least \$20,966 or \$10.08 per hour. A family of one adult and one child has expenses of \$43,946 and needs a living wage of \$21.13 per hour.

**Section II: Resource Analysis (use additional sheets if necessary)**

3. Resources Available:

a. Agency Resources:

In kind support for office space

b. Community Resources:

The community has generated \$36,000 toward the operating cost of the program. Support includes :

The Faith Based Community, Local Community Colleges and over 30 volunteers.

4. Resources Needed:

a. Agency Resources:

CSBG funds of \$13,000 needed for course development and delivery for both Circle leader candidates and their Allies. Coaching support is provided to "Allies and publicity is needed for recruit new candidates for both Circle Leaders and Allies.

b. Community Resources:

The Circle of Hope has a Guiding Coalition that assist in the implementation of the program to fit our community. A part of the Guiding Coalition is the Resource Team which is dedicated to continuing to raise support for the program. CSBB funds on \$6,000 is needed to sponsor fundraising activities

**Section III: Goal and Strategy**

5. Long-Range Goal:

To reduce poverty in Jackson County by 10% within the next 5 years

6. Strategies for Achieving Long-Range Goal:

Circles of Hope Jackson County will collaborate, communicate and cooperate with the other partner agencies in our county. Those partners include the Public Schools, Department of Social Services, United Christian Ministries, Smoky Mountain Center (VIA), Good Samaritan Clinic and Public Health Department. A total of 20 Circle Leaders will be recruited and trained to get their lives in order and move out of poverty. They will receive experiential training along with Ally coaching and community support for their Circle Leader group and community volunteers.