CALL FOR PROJECTS
Fall 2014 & Spring 2015

Application Deadline: March 3, 2014

Application for CPC Project Assistance

Instructions: We encourage non-profit organizations and municipal agencies to contact the CPC with ideas for projects that can benefit the community while providing meaningful service-learning for RWU students. Please fill out the Application for Project Assistance, answering all applicable questions and including all supporting documents.

In order for any project to be considered for assistance, completed applications must be submitted to CPC Project Coordinator, Stephany Hessler, by 5 pm on March 1, 2014. Applications may be submitted by:

Email: shessler@rwu.edu
Fax: (401) 254-3565
Mail: RWU Community Partnerships Center
Roger Williams University
One Old Ferry Road
Bristol, RI 02809-2921

Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Stephany at (401) 254-5211.

CPC project services are performed by students in support of their educational experience. Applicants shall understand that any deliverables generated through an accepted project are intended to provide conceptual information only to assist design and planning and as such are not intended, nor should they be used for, construction or other project implementation. Professional and/or other services may be needed to ultimately implement a sponsor's desired goals.

SECTION 1: Organization Information

Name of Organization: Smith Hill Community Development Corporation

Mailing Address: 231 Douglas Avenue, Providence RI 02908

Name of Project Contact Person(s): Jean Lamb, Deputy Director

Contact Information:
Phone: 401-521-0159, ext.3
Fax: 401-521-6348
E-mail: jlamb@smithhillcdc.org

Type of Organization:
- Public (town, city, municipality, special district, government agency)
- Private (citizen, non-profit)
- Other (please explain)

Description of Organization and Mission:

See Attached

How did you hear about the CPC?

The Housing Network of RI
SECTION 2: Project Description

Title of the Project: Nexus

Project Location (Address, City, State, and Zip): Wanskuck Neighborhood, Providence

General Project Description (you may attach a longer narrative if necessary):

See attached

Potential Scope of Work/Tasks for RWU CPC\(^1\)(you may attach a longer narrative if necessary):

See attached

What will be the final product output for this project? (survey, website, design plans, drawings, etc.)

Phase I - Needs Assessment
Phase II - Strategic Plan

Proposed Project Schedule (when the tasks/project needs to be completed):

Phase I - End of Fall 2014 Semester
Phase II - End of Spring 2014 Semester

Please provide the names and contact information for any staff members or volunteers who will be playing a primary role in the proposed CPC project.

Jean Lamb, Deputy Director (521-0759, x.3)

Councilman David Salvatore, Ward 4

Denise Brophy - Library Manager (874-4445)

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What resources/previous work would the CPC be building upon that you already have completed? (Please select all items that are applicable)

- [ ] Strategic Plan
- [ ] Marketing & Communication Plans
- [ ] Additional organizational documents
- [ ] Preliminary photos of the site/project
- [ ] Maps
- [ ] Previous research
- [ ] Survey results
- [ ] Architectural or building plans

What active support would your organization be able to contribute should your project be selected?

- [ ] Funding
- [ ] Volunteers
- [ ] Staff time
- [ ] Consultants
- [ ] Other (please list)

Councillman David Salvatore

SECTION 3: Project Outcomes

Please describe how this project will benefit your organization and the advancement of your mission:

See attached

Please describe how this project might benefit the overall community, including specific groups that could benefit from this project (i.e. target populations, neighborhoods, specific town/city/region).

See attached

Please explain why you have chosen to seek assistance from the RWU CPC with your project request, instead of undertaking the project using fee-for-services from a paid professional:

As a small non-profit, we rely on developer fees and limited corporate funding to operate. Our pipeline has been clogged, but movement has begun. We also like to utilize the new perspectives of emerging public administrators, architects, community developers and giving them the opportunity to present their ideas.
Please describe how this project will benefit RWU students.

Students will learn the basics of researching the needs of a community, developing a strategic plan to present to organization to be used for funding to move forward. This will enhance their current knowledge and be used as a springboard for their futures.

**SECTION 4: Financial Information**

What is your organization’s annual operating budget? Please include a copy of your most recent budget with the application.

$500,000

What are your major sources of funding?

Developer fees, rental income,
limited fundraising

How much funding from your annual operating budget is set aside for this project (if any)?

At this time, funding for this project would be minimal, if any. If needed, we may find resources if required.

**SECTION 5: Private Sector Involvement**

Have you or your organization discussed the project with practicing professionals (e.g. architect, engineer, planner, consultants, etc.)? (please circle one): [ ] Yes [ ] No

If no, please explain why:

**SECTION 6: Supporting Documents**

Please include the following items when submitting your application:

- [ ] Budget for the current fiscal year
- [ ] List of current Board members
- [ ] Copies of supporting resources identified in section 2 as needed to support your application

* 1) Providence Tomorrow (Charles + Wanskuck Neighborhood Plan)
  2) City of Providence Consolidated Plan
  3) City of Providence Comprehensive Plan

* These are large documents and will be forwarded after this electronic submission.
SECTION 1: Organizational Information

Description of Organization and Mission:

The Smith Hill Community Development Corporation (SHCDC) is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Smith Hill and its neighboring communities. This is achieved through the development and management of quality housing, with a focus on meeting the "affordability" needs of our residents. Success in improving our communities, inclusive of the development of quality affordable homes, is achieved along with our ongoing and expanding social, educational and recreational programming and services, developed and implemented by the organization in concert with, and supported by, our many community partners.

SECTION 2: Project Description

General Project Description

The SHCDC was invited by Councilman David Salvatore of Wanskuck (Ward 14) to bring our services to his neighborhood, which is in dire need of community development that includes but is not exclusive to housing rehabilitation. Wanskuck has no CDC serving it. The City’s Neighborhood Plan and Councilman Salvatore trust our ability to get the job done in this neighborhood. In addition to continuing our work in Smith Hill, additional efforts will move into Wanskuck. Future concentration identified on the forthcoming maps, incorporates the other work by both the Councilman and the Parks and Recreation Department creating a truly focused impact area. In 2012 an investment of $392,000 was made by Councilman Salvatore in the local city park, increased lighting, traffic and streetscape improvements in and around this focus area. It is important to note that this focus area is being coined by the Councilman, at least in conversation as the Wanskuck “mini-knowledge district”, within this concentrated focus area are both the Veazie Street School and the Wanskuck Branch of the Providence Community Library. The SHCDC will be bringing to Wanskuck, our entire litany of services, beginning by focusing on the immediate blight and numerous issues brought on by empty lots used as dumping grounds, abandoned houses and foreclosures.

Potential Scope of Work/Tasks for RWU CPC

Research the history of the neighborhood and its future to develop a neighborhood revitalization plan. This plan in conjunction with other works created by the CDC will incorporate data collected that could be used in its plans to work towards acquisition of blighted properties targeting the ones with highest demand and need and building on other layers of community work that may have begun.

SECTION 3: Project Outcomes

Benefits to the Organization

The benefits are what we want not only for Smith Hill neighborhood but for our neighboring community. We are measured by our success in improving the communities we serve. The development of plans, timelines, and measurable outcomes will help us to achieve that goal. Equally as important is the newfound funding opportunities that will arise from the expansion into a new neighborhood that will help support the management of the new developments and help foster future ones.
Benefits to the Community

It is the requirement by the City of Providence to adhere to the Neighborhood Plan and the City’s Consolidated Plan. In all issues identified, the SHCDC has successfully accomplished these tasks in Smith Hill and has the standing and history of success to accomplish the same in Wanskuck. You will see that the issues below are both what the Smith Hill CDC intends to do and what the Councilmen and the City have requested. In all cases, the degree is high to which our plan and services will impact these needs. The following is taken directly from the Neighborhood Plan.

- Increase opportunities for and access to safe and affordable housing.
- Concerns about neighborhood character focused mainly on poorly maintained properties and absentee landlords, the need for more trees and landscaping, as well as lighting and streetscape improvements.
- Enforcement of building codes and increased enforcement of building code violations. Suggested solutions included targeting specific streets for landscaping and lighting improvements.

Housing Needs

- Shortage of affordable rental housing with supportive services for extremely low-income renters. Many of the City’s lowest income renters also have special needs - e.g. disabilities, homeless or at-risk of homelessness, substance abuse issues, and mental illness.
- Affordable homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households. Many residents have stable low to moderate incomes; these incomes are not adequate to compete in the housing market.

Community Development Needs

- Walkable Neighborhoods: As noted in the neighborhood revitalization plan, the sidewalks need repair to encourage community togetherness as well as to provide residents with easy access to local businesses and services. In a neighborhood with an extraordinary low income population, many of which do not have cars, the ability to walk safely to businesses and services is essential.
- Revitalization and beautification: Streetscaping along commercial corridors and the remediation of Brownfields and blighted areas are needed to increase the appeal of the Wanskuck.
- Code Enforcement: Residents and focus group participants were very concerned with code enforcement; particular minimum housing code standards being met on non-owner-occupied residential properties. Enforcement of environmental regulations regarding property cleanliness was also mentioned as a need.
SHCDC
Annual Budget Summary
For the Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2014

12 Month Budget

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| Net Income                       | 0.00  |

For Management Purposes Only