
Grant awards range from \$250 to \$2,500

Applications must be received by 5:00PM on January 27, 2018
Please use this word document to complete the application

Organization: _____

Project: Handicapped Accessible Ramp for Community Meeting Room

EIN (not for profit 501(c3) number _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Executive Director: _____

Contact for this grant: _____

1. Please provide additional contact information: phone number, address, email address, names of staff members and names of board members, if any.

The applicant has no staff members. The following are board members:
Board member 1 name, phone, email, and address
And so on....

2. Please provide the committee with a brief (3,000 characters max) description of the community need/problem for which you are requesting a grant. (i.e. Need in the community, Need of the population served, etc.)

In a rural area finding the resources or services you need can be an almost insurmountable problem. This challenge increases when you are low income, elderly or disabled. As our information highway is increasingly based on the internet, many of our residents have no way to reach the highway. Below are some examples of difficulties experienced by local residents.

- Access to internet service is limited and expensive.
- Many older or low income households do not have computers or are not computer literate.
- Local service providers may not have a local office, a local phone listing, or regular business hours.
- Regular newspaper service is limited and television and radio stations are usually based outside the area.
- Public transportation is extremely limited and many consumers do not have reliable private transportation or cannot afford to drive long distances.

These same challenges impact service providers who are trying to reach and provide services to those in need.

- Without a local office and erratic service hours it is often difficult to find locations for meeting with those they wish to help.
- Meeting rooms for classes or small groups are limited in availability.
- Private interview spaces are not available.
- Some spaces that are available are not accessible to those with handicaps.
- Many spaces that are available have no internet access.

The data below indicates the need in Mitchell County to find services and resources to these segments of the population.

Although the county is touched by the Lake of the Ozarks and benefits somewhat from its revenue and job opportunities, many people live in poverty in isolated areas outside of the small incorporated towns. Although the unemployment rate is one measure of employment status, many individuals have jobs that are in the "shadow economy" which means they are employed as casual labor and therefore do not qualify for unemployment. Unemployment in Mitchell County for November 2016 was 5.1%, MO 4.7%. The area has attracted a large retirement population, many of whom struggle with inadequate income from pensions and social security.

Statewide poverty among seniors has declined in recent years, while it has increased in Mitchell County. Poverty for seniors in Mitchell County increased from 10.4% to 14.2% compared to the state for the same years- 9.9% and 8.31%. Data Source: US Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2014. Additionally, 25.2% of children 18 and under are living below poverty, compared to the state's 21.5%.

3. Please provide the committee with a brief (4,500 character max) description of the project's primary goal and expectation of project impact. (I.e. Future of community, Promote the Community Foundation of the Lake with this project, Long-term expectations/outcomes showing progress to resolve the situation or need, Individuals served, Collaborative opportunity, etc.)

During the past year this food pantry has acquired a building to serve as the home of the food pantry and in addition to serve as a community resource center. This center is targeted to provide a home for agencies and other organizations that provide services to low income households. In addition to the food pantry, this building already houses the offices for Community Action Agency, a church, and for one additional agency, and an instructional kitchen. With services being provided in this building since July 2017, we have already realized that:

- A central, highly visible location attracts more consumers and donors. For example, in the first six months of 2017, we served an average of 275 households. Following a July move into the new building, our services began to rapidly increase. In November we served 500 households. In 2017, 4,448 households received food one or more times. The amount of food has also increased. In Dec., 2017 the average number of pounds per household was 121.
- Donations to our food pantry in all forms have increased. Food donations increased from 3,114 pounds in June to 10,461 pounds in December, 2017.
- Consumers show increased interest in additional services offered in conjunction with food distributions.
- Additional agencies have expressed an interest in offering programs in the center or in utilizing the spaces available.

We believe that providing a facility, centrally located within the community will enhance consumer access to both information and resources. As an example, consumers who come for a food distribution have also used the opportunity to apply for utility assistance from Community Action. Another example has been the difficulty in finding a location for the summer feeding program. Last year, lunches were provided in a local park, requiring that food preparation take place off-site. The resource center will be able to house both the food preparation and the food service.

Already in place are cooperative agreements with Mitchell County Health Center; Capital Region and their Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities program and Mitchell Job Center, Veterans Representative. We have also received inquiries from 4-H groups, Habitat for Humanity, a Health Clinic; Area Agency on Aging, and Head Start. These initial inquiries show both a need and an interest in a centralized location. The high visibility of the facility would also increase the visibility of the Community Foundation in a community that has yet to reach its potential among donors.

4. Please provide the committee with a brief (3,000 character max) description of the project delivery, numbers served and collaborative opportunities. (i.e., Per person served, Percent of requesting agency's budget, etc.)

The reason for having a resource center with a community room is to create and enhance collaboration among agencies that serve the community. Service providers in Mitchell County generally

travel in and have no permanent location for meeting with clients. This room will be available and resolve the situation of having a Mitchell County location that is convenient, familiar and accessible. In a recent agency team meeting, those in attendance expressed a desire to be the first users of the "new facility" by holding a resource fair for their clients and potential new clients. Another effort already underway is a brainstorming session. Invitations to this event have already been sent to over twenty agencies or organizations that provide services in our county. The purpose of this session is to enlist the participation of as many agencies as possible in planning the optimum potential for this facility.

Mitchell County Food Pantry has experienced such a growth in users of its services, from 275 households to 500 households in the past six months, that we feel confident in the continued growth not only in the food pantry but with all the services that will be available to low income, elderly and disabled through the community room and other areas of the building. We also know that Community Action, which moved into the building in July, has encountered growth in the number of households that they serve. In the month prior to moving, Community Action had 159 walk-ins and calls for assistance. Following the move, the data for one month shows 222 walk-ins and calls for assistance. We feel unprepared to estimate the numbers served by this project, however, we will endeavor to track these numbers so that we can assess the impact with this project as well as share the impact with our community and the foundation.

Every large project requires many pieces to make a whole. For Mitchell County Food Pantry acquisition of the building was a big first piece. Following the building acquisition, multiple parts of the remodeling project encountered numerous unexpected difficulties. As this grant is being written, the instructional kitchen is being completed. The final piece of the current puzzle will be a community room. (There is additional space which can be remodeled for future growth.) The community room has a moving partition wall and a dedicated entrance making it available as a separate space. (In 2014, Mitchell County Food Pantry was faced with a challenging "bump" that made access in our previous warehouse space difficult. At that time, a grant from the Community Foundation, removed the bump.) In 2018, our "bump" is the need for a handicap ramp to allow safe access into the community room without going through other parts of the building. This ramp will provide access to wheelchair users and others with limited mobility. It will also improve access for children coming for meals in the summer and groups using the room for meetings or classes.

BUDGET

5. Please provide the committee with a brief itemized total project budget inclusive of the Community Foundation request, as listed below.

Project Expense	Explanation	Agency Funding 2017 (in-kind or internal budget)	Agency Funding 2018 (in-kind or internal budget)	Other Sources (see below)	Community Foundation Requested Funding	Total Item Expense
Handicapped Accessible Ramp	Materials and labor for ramp and railings	\$ 0.00	\$1,500.00		\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00
Labor for installing flooring in community room	Materials for flooring (purchased 2017)	\$ 0.00	\$2,040.00	\$4,505.00 Neighborhood Assistance Program funds for materials/internal budget for labor	0	\$6,545.00
Labor for installing ceiling in community room	Materials for frame (purchased 2017)	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	\$847.00 Neighborhood Assistance Program funds for materials/internal budget for labor	0	\$1,347.00
Labor for firewalls	Materials for firewall	\$ 0.00	\$ 350.00	\$500.00 Neighborhood Assistance Program funds	0	\$ 850.00

TOTAL: \$ 0.00 \$4,390.00 \$5,852.00 \$2,500.00 \$12,742.00

Other source: Please include a short narrative of resources and grant history also including if your agency has applied for other grants for this project and has your agency received other grants for this project.

Ninety-five percent of the materials to complete the remodeling of the building to house the food pantry and community resource center have been purchased with Neighborhood Assistance Program funds. These were purchased in 2017.

For 2018, our project is nearing completion. The items to complete the remodeling include installing flooring in the community room; completing the installation of firewall near security office and installing ceiling framing and ceiling tile placement.

Applications for the MFA Foundation grant, Walmart Foundation grant and the Community Foundation are being finished and if awarded will be used to assist in the completion of the items listed above instead of from internal funding.