



KC-48

ARP Application - Kanawha County

Status: Active

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Applicant

Allison Smith
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Smithers , WV 25186
304-442-5282

Certification

Digital Signature

Allison Smith
09/24/2021

Contact Information

Organization Name

City of Smithers

Address

2 Greyhound Lane PO Box 489 Smithers, WV
25186

Website (if applicable)

<https://local.wv.gov/smithers/Pages/default.aspx>

Phone Number

304-442-5282

Email Address

allison.smith@wvstateu.edu

Project Summary

1. Brief description of the proposal

This application is for a weather protected outdoor meeting facility, located in the City of Smithers, at its GATEWAY Center.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes

The anticipated outcome is increased safety for community congregation for social and essential services.

3. Individuals or communities served

Our community needs a safe, weather-protected facility for social activities and essential services. The GATEWAY Center houses the Smithers Senior Nutrition Center, Starting Points Daycare and Afterschool Care, Smithers City Hall, Polling place, and the New River Health Clinic; staff, patients, visitors, and clients of these entities will have access to the facility. The City and the adjacent school (PK-8) will use this area during practice fire drills and real emergencies necessitating the evacuation of the building inhabitants.

4. How the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated this request

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the community's need for safe, outdoor gathering space has never been greater. The city offers a beautiful park with playground, but there is no weather protection. This protection is needed when inclement weather threatens during fire drills, building evacuations for other causes, long lines stretching out of the building for COVID testing/vaccinations, MCA-South Inductions, Polling, Pantry distribution of foods and household supplies, etc. It is essential that the city provide safe and weather protected waiting and congregation areas.

5. Amount of funding requested

90,000

6. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

89,517

7a. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

0

7b. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

0

8. How ARP funds, if awarded, will be used

If awarded, these ARP funds would be used for the purchase and installation of a weather protected facility.

9. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

If awarded funding, the City of Smithers would begin taking construction bids immediately.

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address

The City of Smithers is seeking funding for the construction of a weather protected shelter. In addition to essential congregation caused by fire drill and evacuations for safety, many municipal programs designed to provide services and safe recreation. One such example is the city's monthly Farmers Market that allows area residents to shop with Senior Coupons and SNAP. Currently these essential services must be cancelled in inclement weather. Another example: during the recent

COVID-19 pandemic, GATEWAY served as the area's testing and vaccination site and many of those services caused long lines stretching outside. Having to stand in rain and snow was a deterrent to people staying. Area community members need a safe, outdoor gathering space in all types of weather. On average, Smithers gets precipitation 146 days per year. The shelter will greatly expand the number of days for citizens to enjoy outdoor activities, to gather safely, and to take advantage of the availability of fresh foods and COVID related services.

2. Please describe goals and expected outcomes of your proposal.

A shelter will serve as a gathering space for the city's monthly farmers' market. The Smithers Senior Center and Starting Points Daycare are tenants of the Gateway Center who will also be able to utilize the shelter. Overall, the shelter will provide an opportunity to gather in an outdoor location, central to other services in the City of Smithers.

3. Please provide your project timeline

The City of Smithers already has a shelter design, as well as proposed construction costs, provided by Fayette Institute of Technology Carpentry and Building. The city will begin bid requests and move to construction immediately.

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.

Attached

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them.

N/A

6. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted.

The City of Smithers has an excellent Street Department, consisting of three employees and one contractor, that maintains municipal properties. This department will oversee the maintenance of the shelter and surrounding area.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

"Smithers exemplifies the best of small town living in the beautiful Upper Kanawha Valley. It strives to recruit stable businesses and to provide a vibrant, friendly community for residents and visitors."

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities

The City of Smithers was chartered in 1938 with a mission to govern the municipality. Despite the city's recent economic challenges, Smithers is taking a proactive role in building a brighter future. Smithers recently became a "home rule" city, allowing greater agency in creating solutions. The city recently acquired ownership of a former elementary school and oversaw its remodeling into the GATEWAY, a multi-use community center.

The GATEWAY Center now houses City Hall, including municipal government such as essential services of the police department and 911 communications tower. The city also has long-term leases with several service agencies who occupy the building, including, but not limited to, a county family resource center offering child daycare, meals, and an after-school program, as well as a

county-operated senior citizens center providing meals, recreation, and other services to the elderly.

Current programs and activities include a monthly GATEWAY Farmers Market, a monthly Art Night, and weekly Adventure Days during the summer (hosted by Adventure Fayette County). Smithers frequently hosts events, such as local/state/national polling, the recent Shakespeare Dinner Theater and Envision Summit: A Conversation with Ed McMahon. Furthermore, with the newly designated New River Gorge National Park (30 minutes), the proposed Hatfield McCoy trail development (10 minutes), and the recently purchased Mammoth Preserve two miles outside of city limits, Smithers is poised for increased traffic and development pressure. A shelter facility at the GATEWAY Center promotes safety and sustainability in the area.

3. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization.

The City of Smithers has experienced significant accomplishments in recent years. As described above, Mayor D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D., with the assistance of Smithers City Council and city staff, successfully renovated an elementary school into a vibrant community center. Additionally, Smithers and Montgomery worked together to form the Upper Kanawha Valley Strategic Initiatives Council (UKVSIC). The two cities have coordinated ways to reduce costs and maximize outcomes. The cities have both a shared Sanitary Department Technician and Code Enforcement Officer. The cities' Police Mutual Aid Agreement promotes support and backup among police officers. Through a grant from High Mark, the cities will be adding a Community Health Planning Coordinator in October. Finally, and most notable, the cities hired an Extension Agent (via a partnership with West Virginia State University) who manages grants, builds connections, and supports city activities. In addition to sharing employees, Montgomery and Smithers share heavy equipment such as lift trucks and garbage packers. In short, the communities have each other's backs and step up when the other is in need of assistance, such as temporary shelter. Smithers and Montgomery jointly received a \$40,000 Cultivate WV Grant through the WV Community Development Hub and was also awarded the WV Municipal League's 2021 Cost Reduction/Savings Award.


4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:

Mayor D. Anne Cavalier; Recorder Patsy Tucker; Teresa Dorsey (City Clerk); Frank Hill (Street Department Supervisor); Councilor Alma Bowles; Councilor Rhea Cavalier; Councilor Stephen Giannini; Councilor Robert Kegl; Councilor Thomas Whittington, Jr.; Beach Vickers (Grants Consultant); UKV Extension Agent (Allison Smith)

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:

Mayor D. Anne Cavalier, with the assistance of Beach Vickers, Allison Smith, and Teresa Dorsey, will oversee administrative tasks associated with shelter construction. The Street Department will oversee the maintenance of the shelter once it is built. This weather-protected facility will be consistent with local ordinances and will directly implement one of the goals adopted in the Smithers Comprehensive Plan.

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year

 Smithers Cash Flow.pdf
Uploaded by Allison Smith on Sep 24, 2021 at 1:16 pm

Two years of audited financial statements



Smithers Audit 2018.pdf

Uploaded by Allison Smith on Sep 24, 2021 at 1:16 pm

Current operating budget



Smithers Budget.pdf

Uploaded by Allison Smith on Sep 24, 2021 at 1:21 pm

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant



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7. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Kanawha County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s).

Attached

8. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.

N/A

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Please explain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to your request.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated challenges that the City of Smithers was already facing. The Upper Kanawha Valley has experienced both long term and sudden financial devastation. In recent years, Smithers and Kanawha County experienced the rapid decline in profitable coal extraction and processing. In 2017, the relocation of WV Tech brought an economic blow to Smithers, Montgomery, and the surrounding area. With that closure came the collapse of local businesses that had grown over 120+ years to service the needs of the college, faculty, staff, and students. WVU's Bureau of Business & Economic Research estimated an annual negative impact of \$15 million on the Upper Kanawha Valley. This impact occurred to an area already considered to be distressed (Appalachian Regional Commission). In recent years, businesses have closed, apartments and houses were left vacant, B&O taxes dropped, and property taxes declined. The COVID-19 pandemic increased these challenges.

2. How will ARP funding, if awarded, aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified challenges that Smithers had already been facing. Installing this shelter will provide a safe, outdoor space for community members to gather safely for both essential and social activities. Smithers seeks to provide better services for area residents and to capitalize on the area's natural assets in the future; securing funding for a shelter is a sustainable investment in the area's outdoor infrastructure. The city will charge private entities interested in reserving the shelter for parties or gatherings; thus, the shelter will generate self-supporting revenue for Smithers and will not be a financial burden on the city. Giving people and programs a safe place to gather will aid in the city's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Are you requesting lost revenue due to COVID-19

No

Supplementary Information

1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.

Smithers Senior Center: Jenni Sutherland (304) 663-7641; Starting Points Day Care Center: Kelly Gladwell (304) 442-0043

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.



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Attachments



Smithers Audit 2019.pdf

Uploaded by Allison Smith on Sep 24, 2021 at 1:38 pm



Copy of Grant Spreadsheet.xlsx - Sheet1 (1).pdf

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City of Smithers Comprehensive Plan, 2019.pdf

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Profit and Loss Smithers.pdf

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Shelter Smithers Estimate.pdf

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