



## KC-37

ARP Application - Kanawha County

**Status:** Active

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### Applicant

David Mitchell  
davidt\_mitchell@msn.com  
901 Louden Heights Road  
Charleston, WV 25314  
3043439998

### Certification

#### Digital Signature

David T. Mitchell, Jr.  
09/08/2021

### Contact Information

#### Organization Name

Greater Kanawha Aquatic Education & Wellness  
Foundation, Inc.

#### Address

PO Box 8063, South Charleston, WV 25303

#### Website (if applicable)

N/A

#### Phone Number

304-721-4482

#### Email Address

jmbreese66@icloud.com

### Project Summary

#### 1. Brief description of the proposal

1. Greater Kanawha Aquatic Education & Wellness Foundation, Inc. seeks a conditional grant under the American Rescue Plan Act to provide capital funding for a 50-meter competitive pool to be built, owned, maintained, and operated by the City of South Charleston. The competitive pool would be an addition to the already planned relocation of the current City of

South Charleston Community Center which contains a pool and auxiliary facilities. The new City of South Charleston Aquatic Center will contain both a 25-meter pool and a therapeutic pool that together with the 50-meter pool will provide for the required facilities for attracting interstate swim meets.

## **2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes**

The construction of a 50-meter pool has two purposes. First it will provide 21 25-yard swimming lanes for many uses to include high school swim team practices, club team practices, a facility for fire department scuba training, pool time for lap swimming by the community, local competitive swim meets, and learn to swim programs. Second, it will also be an economic development project for regional swimming events with an estimated impact of \$10MM per year within 5 years for Kanawha County's hospitality businesses.

## **3. Individuals or communities served**

The facility is centrally located within the Kanawha County and therefore ideally located for use by all Kanawha Valley residents, High School Swim Teams, and other organizations. The facility is also located in the most populated area of the County and within a very short drive for Charleston, South Charleston, Dunbar, and Saint Albans.

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

How the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated this request: COVID-19 pandemic has had a very negative economic impact on the Kanawha County's hospitality industry. This project will help with the recovery of jobs and business income within that industry.

## **5. Amount of funding requested**

3,000,000

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

0

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

N/A

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

Funds will be used by the City of South Charleston for the construction costs of a 50-meter indoor competitive pool addition to the already planned new aquatic center.

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

Approximately 12 months from the start of construction.

## **Proposal Details**

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

The project addresses two needs for the Kanawha County. First, the County has been losing indoor pools within the County during the past few years to include the pools at the University of Charleston, the YWCA, the West Virginia State University, and the West Virginia University Institute

of Technology. The closure of these pools has resulted in the YMCA having the only indoor pool serving the Kanawha County with an estimated population of 180,000 residents. The pool has six 25-yard lanes which is inadequate to properly serve the community, the high school swim team practices, and competitive swim team practices. Secondly, a competitive 50-meter pool will provide a facility to hold year-round swimming events.

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

The primary goals for this proposal are:

- Restore indoor pool capacity that has been lost during the past several years.
- Increase business sales in Kanawha County by providing a regional venue for traveling swimming events to include hosting NCAA Division II swimming and diving conference championship meets, regional YMCA meets which are greater than can be supported by the local YMCA pool.
- Increase the ability of County residents to swim and thus reduce the number of drowning accidents, particularly for infants four years old and younger.
- Provide a local venue where the County High Schools can secure adequate practice time, local Fire Department scuba divers can train, and support learn-to-swim programs by reducing the demand time on the local YMCA pool and the new 25-meter pool to be built by the City of South Charleston.

The expected outcomes for this proposal are:

- Swimming events are estimated to provide an economic impact on Total Business Sales in Kanawha County of \$3.1 MM in year 1, \$4.6 MM in year 2, \$6.2 MM in year 3, \$10.5 MM in year 4, and \$10.5 MM in year 5. These estimates are based on constant 2021 dollars and does not take inflation into account. [Note: Estimate provided by the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau which was based on a list of swimming events to be held.]
- County High Schools will be given adequate practice time for their swim teams.
- Number of participants in learn-to-swim programs will increase within the County.

## **3. Please provide your project timeline**

The City of South Charleston has indicated that they believe construction for their facility will begin within two years. Prior to the construction phase, the City of South Charleston will need to complete the design, engineering, and bidding phases during the preceding 24 months. It is estimated that the Aquatic Center will be completed with 12 months from the start of construction. If funding is secured earlier, then the City of South Charleston has indicated that it may be possible to start construction at an earlier date.

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

The City of South Charleston has estimated that the relocation of their existing Community Center, due to flooding events, will be between \$25 MM and \$30 MM. Based on the final costs of similar projects it is estimated that the 50-meter pool addition will cost \$15 MM +/- 25%.

## **Request that any approved funds for this project be disbursed to the City of South Charleston designated for the construction of a 50-meter competitive pool facility.**

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

111<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, West Virginia Army National Guard (WVARNG). Upon request, the WVARNG has indicated they are willing to conduct a Reserve Training Opportunity (RTO) Project with the City of South Charleston in support of building the new Aquatic Center. Partnering with the WVARNG

will reduce the costs for excavation. [Note: City of South Charleston must apply for the support and any mission requirements would take priority over an RTO.]

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

The City of South Charleston will own, maintain, and operate the facility during its useful life expectancy of 30-40 years.

## **Organization Information**

**1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.**

The mission of the GKAEWF is to raise funds and work with local governmental offices to facilitate the construction of a 50-meter competitive pool.

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

GKAEWF was created on August 25, 2017 as a 501(c)(3) public charity organization. To date, efforts have included a number of meetings with local officials and have a tentative understanding with a municipality interested in adding a competitive 50-meter pool, if capital for construction can be raised. Nothing is under contract.

**3. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization.**

No significant accomplishments to report.

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

- (1) President - Gregory Olson
- (2) Treasurer - Jeffrey Breese

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

GKAEWF does not employ any full-time staff.

**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).**

GKAEWF has not received any grant awards or funding during the last three years.

**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.**

Currently, no other applications have been made; GKAEWF intends to apply for a \$15MM grant from the WV Office of Economic Development in support of this project.

## **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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

Kanawha County has more than 10% of the state's population, the state capital is located in Charleston, and 1 in 10 persons have had the virus. This makes Kanawha County one of the hardest hit areas in the state and resulted in a greater economic negative impact for businesses located in

the County than in most other counties in the state. In particular, the travel and hotel industry saw a decline of 42% nationally, the restaurant and fast-food industries were also impacted heavily due to the virus and the resulting mandates.

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

This project will have a direct impact in providing construction jobs during the building phase and jobs for operating the facility once it is opened to the public. This project will also have a direct impact on the hospitality industry within the County. The additional business activity will result in additional jobs by employers due to the increased traveling sports market.

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

No

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**Supplementary Information**

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

Mayor Frank A. Mullens, Jr., City of South Charleston, P.O. Box 8597, South Charleston, WV 25303.  
Phone: 304-744-5301, E-Mail: [scmayor@cityofsouthcharleston.com](mailto:scmayor@cityofsouthcharleston.com)  
(mailto:scmayor@cityofsouthcharleston.com)

**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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