

Memorandum

To: Bennington Select Board

Care of: Stu Hurd, Town Manager

From: Tom Donahue, CEO

BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

On behalf of BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont please accept this attached information as our formal Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request.

As you can see by the attached reports we provide a significant amount of support to residents in need in Bennington. We assist with the crisis and follow through with providing a sustainable path forward. Our myriad services provide hope and opportunity to our fellow Vermonters. We are what we consider community development at the grass roots.

How will we use the funds? We are proud to serve the people of Bennington and if funds are again approved by voters we will continue to direct that support to the services documented here in the attached work programs and demonstrate significant leverage.

Other responsibilities of ours include for example being the fiscal agent for the Bennington Idea Fund and the (Bennington Rescue Squad) Medical Reserve Corp. Last year we began a TV program on public access CAT-TV public and we interview staff and other organizations with programs and events going on in the region. It is called BROC TALK Bennington. We have also been repeat guests on the Bennington Today Show on WBTN 1380 AM Radio to explain our available programs and assistance to the resident of Bennington and how to access them.

We look forward to serving you in this capacity and appreciate your consideration and support. We welcome the opportunity to present at the March Annual Town Meeting and any month at the Bennington Select Board.

Name	CY18	CY19 Expectations
Town Funding-Rutland City	10,000.00	10,000.00
Town of Arlington	1,080.00	1,080.00
Town of Bennington	6,750.00	6,750.00
Town of Benson	115.00	115.00
Town of Castleton	-	2,275.00
Town of Center Rutland	975.00	975.00
Town of Danby	492.30	492.30
Town of Dorset	900.00	900.00
Town of East Dorset	-	1,000.00
Town of Fair Haven	2,800.00	2,800.00
Town of Hubbardton	550.00	550.00
Town of Manchester Center	-	1,811.00
Town of Middletown Springs	-	200.00
Town of Mount Holly	550.00	550.00
Town of Mount Tabor	200.00	200.00
Town of Pawlet	500.00	500.00
Town of Peru	180.00	180.00
Town of Pittsford	832.50	832.50
Town of Poultney	900.00	900.00
Town of Pownal	1,620.00	1,620.00
Town of Proctor	1,125.00	1,125.00
Town of Rupert	360.00	360.00
Town of Rutland	750.00	750.00
Town of Sangate	123.30	123.30
Town of Searsburg	45.00	50.00
Town of Shaftsbury	1,530.00	1,530.00
Town of Shrewsbury	540.00	540.00
Town of Stamford	450.00	450.00
Town of Sudbury	270.00	270.00
Town of Timmouath	180.00	180.00
Town of Wallingford	450.00	450.00
Town of Welld	477.50	477.50
Town of West Haven	225.00	225.00
Town of West Rutland	1,250.00	1,250.00
Town of Woodard	270.00	270.00
Total ==>	36,490.60	41,781.60

BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

332 Orchard Road, Bennington Vermont 05201 (802) 447-7515

45 Union St., Rutland Vermont 05701 (802) 775-0878

Our Vision: The foremost organization in New England working to create prosperity for all.

Our Mission: Providing hope, opportunity and a path forward out of crisis or poverty, so our neighbors and communities thrive.

Our Value Statement:

- Respect
- Dignity
- Collaboration (we are better together)
- Commitment (serving all those in need)

Tom Donahue, Chief Executive Officer

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Mary Jean Inglee, Board President

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BROC-Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

	BUDGET 2018-2019	ACTUAL 2017-2018 Forecasted	BUDGET 2017-2018	Actual Audited 2016-2017
SUMMARY				
Funding	5,030,902	5,160,111	4,991,308	4,874,460
FEDERAL GRANTS	2,099,867	2,088,430	2,018,455	1,973,373
STATE GRANTS	2,176,737	2,240,731	2,097,969	2,097,969
FOUNDATION GRANTS	32,500	49,342	81,655	39,735
RENTAL INCOME	204,004	153,859	188,745	157,953
CONTRIBUTIONS	130,066	98,254	104,953	157,422
TOWN FUNDING	41,782	32,575	16,881	16,881
WX - EVT	115,000	268,988	182,045	209,148
UNITED WAY	5,000	6,946	24,332	-
WARMTH	54,000	59,281	108,769	79,529
OTHER	171,946	161,725	167,504	142,450
TOTAL SALARIES:	1,634,695	1,625,775	1,549,049	1,492,887
FRINGE:	704,800	677,214	722,035	599,655
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	2,339,495	2,302,989	2,271,084	2,092,542
OPERATIONS				
Indirect	510,026	500,486	489,229	485,023
Space	309,258	328,297	317,676	293,040
Insurance	38,571	49,551	43,081	39,381
Computer Services	8,058	17,234	16,519	16,519
Telephone	23,994	31,674	33,221	33,870
Postage	3,534	6,853	4,145	4,615
Travel	94,957	64,276	60,651	45,911
Equipment/Depr/Pur/Use	43,938	65,984	51,056	57,796
Supplies	29,828	60,127	26,289	46,428
Professional Services/Audit	55,026	44,427	42,677	47,250
Contracts/Dues & Subscriptions	15,570	93,413	55,682	55,682
Printing/Copying	21,677	42,088	42,374	28,080
Training and Staff Development	78,294	56,170	64,016	37,577
TOTAL OPERATIONS	1,232,732	1,360,562	1,246,616	1,191,172
TOTAL PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS:	3,572,226	3,663,551	3,517,700	3,283,714
DIRECT CLIENT SUPPORT:				
WX Health & Safety	-	-	30,904	-
WX Materials	512,886	711,746	448,953	681,794
Subcontract Labor	-	-	91,468	40,439
Direct Service -Other	330,355	250,823	351,788	37,491
Direct Service - Food	12,043	17,856	7,125	-
Direct Service Housing	148,493	149,049	115,386	74,283
Direct Service Fuel/Electric/Other	454,899	367,087	427,984	758,143
TOTAL DIRECT CLIENT SUPPORT:	1,458,676	1,496,561	1,473,608	1,692,150
TOTAL BUDGET:	5,030,902	5,160,111	4,991,308	4,875,864
Total Net	-	-	-	(1,404)

Bennington Statistics

Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing (state fiscal year)

- In the last state fiscal year, BROCC Community Action helped 63 Bennington household avoid eviction.
- 75 homeless families/individuals were placed in permanent housing by BROCC Community Action.
- 49 homeless parents and their children who receive Reach-up benefits were housed in three transitional apartments leased by BROCC Community Action – 21 of these people have found permanent housing.
- In the two programs funded by the Department of Corrections, 17 former inmates were housed in transitional units in the Bennington region – 14 found full time employment and all received skill-building assistance and case management.

Free Tax Assistance (February 1st through April 15, 2018)

- 53 households received free tax preparation from BROCC Community Action in Bennington this year- our staff member is IRS-certified.
- This service brought \$41,351 in refunds, rebates and credits back to Bennington residents, not counting the price they would have paid for preparation.

Fuel and Electric – FY 2017 totals

- **Crisis Fuel Assists** – this is a primary service for low income clients. The season begins the last Monday of each November, and continues through the end of April. BROCC Community Action is the local conduit for this benefit.

Last year, 109 households received crisis fuel assistance in Bennington County.

- **Seasonal Fuel Applications** – this program uses federal Liheap funds and is administered by the state of Vermont. It is income, not crisis-based; eligible clients receive benefits via payments made to their fuel dealers. This program offers qualifying clients the largest fuel benefit, but the lengthy application is often intimidating to clients, especially those without computers, and those with cognitive, visual or literacy challenges. In addition, many low-income clients move or are otherwise in transition, so do not receive paper applications to reapply each year. BROCC Community Action offers screenings and application assistance to ensure these benefits are secured.

Last year, 48 households received seasonal fuel application assistance in Bennington County

- **Emergency Heating System Replacement**

BROC Community Action staff help clients that are without fuel due to an inoperable or faulty/hazardous furnace. The fuel staff obtain income information and proof of ownership, and refer clients to the Weatherization program, which works with local providers to replace or repair all types of heating systems. New heating installations are often very costly, as much as \$8,500 or more, so without this assistance, clients would be unable to heat their homes. In addition to replacing the systems and restoring heat, newer equipment ensures a much higher rate of efficiency, so reduces usage and carbon output.

- **Oil Tank Replacement**

Last year, the Vermont legislature approved a new inspection requirement for above ground fuel tanks, which includes those in basements. Although inspections must be made within a three-year period, many fuel dealers have already inspected their clients' oil and kerosene tanks and deemed them to be defective. This means many low-income clients are facing an expensive replacement bill before they can receive fuel deliveries.

Thankfully, the state of Vermont has designated additional funds for tank replacement, which is managed by the Department of Agriculture. BROC staff help clients apply for this program, and refers them to the Weatherization Department, which can work with technicians to make repairs.

- **Energy Assistance Program** – this is a program operated by Green Mountain Power that reduces the cost of utility usage for low-income Vermonters. Eligible applicants receive a 25% discount on all kilowatt hours used each month. BROC Community Action has been instrumental in helping clients attain this benefit, which rewards clients with significant savings all year.

In the past fiscal year, Bennington staff helped 51 households complete an EAP application.

- **Power Partners** – when funding is available, Green Mountain Power offers the “Power Partners” option to households facing electrical disconnection. BROC Community Action staff initiate these applications and pays one quarter of the bill, one quarter is forgiven, and the clients make a payment arrangement for the remaining balance. This program helps those with substantial arrearages, often thousands of dollars, retain their electrical service.

Last year, five households were eligible for Power Partner (this program is not always operating)

- **Efficiency Vermont High Usage Applications** – this is a program that targets homes with unusually high and expensive power usage. It prompts a home visit by the BROC Weatherization staff, which introduces energy savings devices and offer tips for residents to manage both their consumption and their bills. This staff member engages both the residents and landlords in this program.

Last year, 30 Efficiency Vermont high usage applications were completed for Bennington households.

- **Coordinating with the Southwestern Vermont Firewood Project**

In Bennington, BROCC Community Action partners with the local Probation and Parole Office to issue firewood to low and moderate income residents. The wood is gleaned from federal and state lands, or from the aftermath of storms. The Probation and Parole office processes the wood, receives referrals from BROCC Community Action, and makes home deliveries. Many of the clients served are elderly, living in their own homes and still relying on firewood to stay warm.

Food and Nutrition Services

BROCC Community Action's Bennington office provides an emergency food shelf, 3SquaresVT application assistance, U.S.D.A commodities and garden plants each spring to help clients attain food security and fresh produce. The agency is a partner with the Vermont Food Bank and has significantly increased the availability of fresh food in the past year.

- The Bennington food shelf serves an average of 245 clients each month.
- In addition, BROCC Community Action partners with St. Francis de Sales Church to offer turkey baskets to needy families – this year, 125 local families have received a voucher.

Home Weatherization Program: Our expert Weatherization Technicians served 76 Single Family Homes and 4 Multi Family Units in Bennington providing \$383,424 in actual job costs to low income qualifying households at no cost to the homeowner.