

ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

As a non-profit, multi-service agency, RCA provides a wide range of services that together meet the most essential needs of the county's low-income residents.

Since RCA's services greatly relieve communities of the full financial burden of addressing the needs of their low-income residents, we ask every community in the county to support our agency based upon the level of service we have provided to its residents. The amount we request equals a percentage of the total dollar value of services we provided during the previous year. We realize how difficult it is for the town to provide financial support to human service agencies during a period when you are struggling to curb municipal spending. We are requesting funding despite this because we know that every dollar you contribute to Community Action results in a far greater savings to your town's welfare budget. Our proven ability to mobilize local, state, federal and private resources to comprehensively address poverty-related issues enables us to provide more of an impact in services per dollar than the same dollar spent through a direct local welfare grant.

Unlike single-purpose agencies that provide one type of service to the community, Rockingham Community Action's mission and scope is broad: to assist people already living in poverty with direct services, to prevent more families from falling into poverty, and to assist families in finding long-term solutions to their economic needs so they can eventually become self-supporting. As a multi-service agency, we are able to keep administrative expenses extremely low and provide a wide range of services for the least possible cost.

As an agency that operates a large number of services under one umbrella, we seek funding from many different types of sources, including municipal funding and put the funds together in a way that enables us to bring comprehensive, integrated services to residents of Rockingham County. Despite the overall size of our budget, none of our programs, including state and federally funded Programs, is self-supporting. We need financial support from many different sources to supplement program funds to operate our programs. Our funding sources realize that we need to seek additional sources of revenue to adequately operate these programs. In fact, most of our funding sources expect us to raise local funds and some funding sources require us to seek local matches.

We choose to direct the funds raised by Rockingham County municipalities to our Outreach Program, as our Outreach Program has no significant federal, state or private funding. Support for our Outreach Program strengthens our entire agency and all of the services we provide. We need the financial support of every community in Rockingham County to continue our work. Your support is critical to the continuance of our Outreach Program and to the broad range of services our agency provides to your residents.

On behalf of the RCA Board of Directors, I thank you for your consideration of our funding request.

Respectfully,
Lauraine Hutchinson, Outreach Center Director