



2022

Laurens County

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT APPLICATION

Applications must be received by 4/1/2022

"Late Applications shall not be considered."

Return applications to: *Laurens County*
Attn: Administration
100 Hillcrest Square
Laurens, SC 29360

Or email to: ARPA@co.laurens.sc.us

Amount you are requesting:	\$ 98,000
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SECTION I: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name of Organization:	Bridging the Gap Advocacy
Contact Name and Title:	Calvin Whitmire
Mailing Address:	101 Park Place
Street Address (if different)	
Phone Number:	Office: 864-715-1055 Cell: 864-200-1144
City, State and Zip Code	Laurens SC 29360
Fax Number:	
Email Address:	whitmirejc@gmail.com
Website:	bridgingthegapadvo.wix.com/btga
How long has your organization been in existence?	since 2014

NOTE: Attach a list of your organization's governance body: Board of Directors, Chief Officers and Executive Director.

Tax Status (check one)

- Tax-exempt charitable organization (501(c)(3)) Governmental unit
 Other Tax-exempt (specify status) Federal State Local
 Church/Religious organization Unincorporated association
 Other (specify) _____

Please attach a copy of your organization's IRS tax status determination letter (not applicable to government agencies or religious congregations). A tax exempt identification number is not sufficient.

Federal Employer Identification Number:	30-0840207
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FOCUS AREA: (check one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Needs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Development |

PROGRAM SERVICES (check one)

- Children Families Youth Senior Citizens
 Other (Specify) _____

Geographic area served:	Laurens
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Percentage of service delivered to the Citizens of Laurens County	100 %
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SECTION II FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Applicant's overall operating budget: \$ 23,840.00 Fiscal Year 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021
M/D/YY M/D/YY

Please list the history of funding to your agency from the Laurens County:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2018	\$ 16,500.00
2019	\$ 8000.00
2020	\$ 3500.00

GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF NEED FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS.

This section is limited to 2900 characters including spaces, which is approximately 400 words.

Bridging the Gap Advocacy has a need to upgrade the facilities to comply with COVID-19 Guidelines and create a safe and friendly COVID environment.

The funds will be used to upgrade the facilities to ensure compliance with American Disability Act laws and governance concerning accessibility to those with limited mobility and using wheel chairs.

The upgrade will include:

- paving the parking lot for access to the facilities / community gardens
- install sound walls to minimize distractions for those with special needs
- renovating the kitchen to provide healthy cooking and etiquette classes.

PLEASE LIST OTHER CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT) / PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP) AND OR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING YOUR ORGANIZATION RECEIVED (INCLUDING FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS), THE AMOUNTS AND WHAT IT IS WAS USED FOR:

TYPE OF FUNDS RECEIVED CARES ACT/PPP AND OR ARPA	YEAR RECEIVED	DESCRIPTION OF WHAT FUNDS WERE USED FOR	AMOUNT
CARES ACT/PPP	2021	Operating expenses	\$ 13,000
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET BREAKDOWN SECTIONS ON THESE PAGES (NO ATTACHMENTS.) You may get these figures from your most recently submitted IRS Form 990, or you may simply use your overall operating budget.

1. **CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS & OTHER SIMILAR AMOUNTS**

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Government Grants			
Municipal	\$ 1000	\$ 1000	\$ 1000
County	\$	\$	\$
State	\$	\$	\$
Federal other than COVID-19 Funds	\$	\$	\$
Foundation Grants	\$ 3000	\$ 3500	\$
Contributions/Federated Campaigns	\$ 2500	\$ 2500	\$ 4800
Membership dues	\$	\$	\$
Fundraising events	\$ 2000	\$ 1200	\$
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED INCOME	\$ 8500.00	\$ 8200.00	\$ 5800.00

2. **PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE**

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Fees / Sold Services			
Services	\$ 3500	\$ COVID-19	\$ COVID-19
Tuition / Fees	\$	\$	\$
Workshops, Seminars, Lectures, etc.	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES REVENUE	\$ 3500	\$ 0	\$ 0

3. **OTHER REVENUE**

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Publications (Newsletters, etc.)	\$	\$	\$
Concessions and/or Merchandise	\$	\$	\$
Advertising	\$	\$	\$
Space Rental Fees	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL EARNED INCOME	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

TOTAL COMBINED INCOME (1+2+3)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 8200.00	\$ 5800.00
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4. **EXPENSES**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Program Services	\$ 2500	\$	\$
Fundraising	\$ 700	\$	\$
Administration, Management, General	\$ 7700	\$ 5700	\$ 4500
Other (Specify)	\$ 1000	\$	\$
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 5700.00	\$ 4500.00

If your organization receives "in-kind" support, please list below:

SOURCE	TYPE OF IN-KIND SUPPORT
Yeargin	Computer maintenance and software upgrades
SSA - Mauldin SC	laptops, docking stations and desktops/monitors

List funds already committed for the project for FY 2022 and the sources of these funds.

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Walmart	\$ 2500
City of Laurens	\$ 1000
SCAED	\$ 3100
	\$
TOTAL	\$ 6600.00

Who in your organization is responsible for fundraising?

- Staff
 Board of Directors
 Consultants
 Members/Volunteers

5. **Will your organization's 2022 budget be significantly different than 2021 and prior years?**

- Yes** (if yes, explain in the box below)
 No

This box is limited to 880 characters including spaces, which is approximately 125 words

We are still recovering from the impact of COVID-19.

6. FUNDING REQUEST FOR BUDGET YEAR 2022

Please provide breakdown by categories:

CATEGORY	PROGRAM SERVICES FY 2022	ADMINISTRATIVE/ GENERAL FY 2022
Supplies	\$	\$ 1500
Equipment (specify) agriculture, appliances	\$ 85,000	\$
Travel/Training	\$	\$
Personnel	\$	\$
Marketing / Promotions	\$	\$ 1000
Other (specify) paving, facilities upgrading	\$ 13,000	\$
TOTAL REQUESTED	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 2500.00

SECTION III: ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Briefly state the history and purpose of your organization.

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

Bridging the Gap Advocacy was founded in 2014 by Calvin Whitmire, the current Executive Director of the organization. The organization got its name from the founder's literal desire to bridge the gap between students/parents and schools to address a problem of low high school readiness test scores, particularly for minority students and female students.

Bridging the Gap Advocacy's mission is:

- Youth Advocacy by providing after school tutoring and summer enrichment programs with an emphasis on reading and literacy. The program is open for community youth and all students within Laurens County.
- Senior Citizen care by providing opportunities for seniors to interact socially and stay connected to the community, particularly due to the isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Community Garden to increase interaction among the community members and to provide real life opportunities for youth to learn agricultural principles and gardening.

2. Describe in detail how the pandemic has affected your organization.

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

The pandemic devastated our primary revenue stream causing a 100% loss of income for the After School Tutoring and Summer Enrichment Programs. Because of COVID- 19, students were on virtual learning during school and parents elected to keep their children at home and not venture out for our After school tutoring program. We modified our program to provide virtual after school tutoring, however we did it as a volunteer service versus charging the same rate as our on-site tutoring. The emotional and mental distress has impacted, staff and students. Volunteer participation has been almost obliterated due to concerns for risk of COVID-19 transmission.

3. How will any funding awarded be utilized?

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

Funding will be used to upgrade the facility. Following is the estimate provided by a prospective contractor.

Install 30 raised beds, 2 greenhouses with handicap accessible islands to encourage senior citizens and citizens in wheel chairs participation- Cost= \$15,000.00
Tractor and tiller- Cost= \$15,000
Install irrigation drip system-Cost= \$10,000.00
Installing a Market Shelters and Storages for equipment- Cost= \$20,000.00
Installing Sound Wall Petitions for students with learning disabilities and making facility COVID-19 compliant Cost= \$5,000.00
Upgrading Bathrooms to make handicap accessible- Cost= \$3,000.00
Upgrading Kitchen area- commercial refrigerator and stove, re-tile floors and replace tables- Cost= \$10,000
New Roof on building- Cost= \$10,000.00
Pave parking lot to make it handicap accessible-Cost= \$10,000.00
Total Project Budget= \$98,000.00

4. State your organization's ability to continue operations (i.e. current staffing levels, staff qualifications, prior experience, etc.)

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

Our organization will continue its operation as staffed and also make efforts to increase our volunteer pool. In an effort to gain more volunteers, we will collaborate with students from local colleges; partner with churches and promote senior citizen and retiree involvement.

5. Discuss your organization's relationship with other programs in the community designed to meet the same or similar needs, especially those that provide services/assistance to those most impacted by the pandemic. Describe collaborative partnerships that may result.

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

We collaborate with churches, the Laurens County School Districts, and the YMCA to continue to provide services to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, for example educating the public on the seriousness of following CDC guidelines. Also providing virtual assistance as well as face to face assistance academically, socially and encouraging physical activities to reduce stress and mental anguish.

Bridging the Gap Advocacy
Budget For Operation Upgrade

2022

Installing 30 raised beds, 2 greenhouses with handicap accessible islands to encourage senior citizens and citizens in wheel chairs participation-

Cost=\$15,000.00

Tractor and tiller- Cost= \$15,000.00

Install irrigation drip system-Cost=\$10,000.00

Installing a Market Shelters and Storages for equipment –Cost=\$20,000.00

Facility upgrade: Installing Sound Wall Petitions for students with ADHD, AD, AUTISM, and other learning disabilities and making facility Covid 19 compliance –

Cost= \$5,000.00

Upgrading Bathrooms to make handicap accessible –Cost=\$3,000.00

Upgrading Kitchen area- commercial refrigeration, and stove, retiling floors, replacing tables,

Cost=\$10,000

New Roofs on building- Cost=\$10,000.00

Paving parking lot to make it handicap accessible-Cost=\$10,000.00

Total Project Budget=\$98,000.00

Date:

DEC 22 2014

BRIDGING THE GAP ADVOCACY
205 LUREY STREET
LAURENS, SC 29360-0000

Employer Identification Number:

30-0840207

DLN:

26053752001854

Contact Person:

CUSTOMER SERVICE

ID# 31954

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

June 30

Public Charity Status:

~~170(b)(1)(A)(vi)~~

Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:

September 12, 2014

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

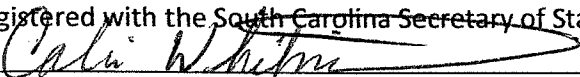
6. What is your plan for continuing your program(s) in the future, including funding sources?

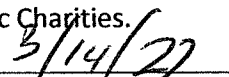
This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

Bridging the Gap Advocacy will continue to leverage funding opportunities, collaborate on major projects that will provide funding, continue to research applicable grants and to promote fund raising events.

Bridging the Gap Advocacy will build relationships within communities, local church and business leaders, as well as city and county officials.

I hereby certify that the applicant organization complies with all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, physical disability, or national origin, and that all funds that may be received by applicant organization from Laurens County will be solely used for the purposes set forth in this application and will comply with all laws and statutes. In particular, organizations receiving Community Assistance Funding will comply with state regulations requiring organizations to be registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State's Division of Public Charities.

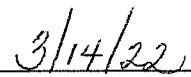

Signature of Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director


Date

Calvin Whitmire, Executive Director

Name and Title (please print)


Signature of Chief Financial Officer or Board Chairperson


Date

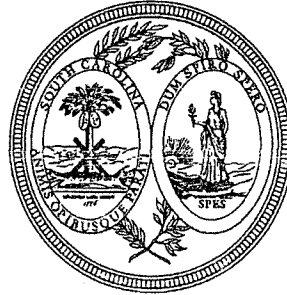
Susan Cooke

Name and Title (please print)

Bridging the Gap Advocacy Board of Directors 2021 - 2022

<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Area of Expertise</i></u>	<u><i>BGA Position</i></u>
Susan Cooke	Education &Business	Treasurer
Dr. Jerman Disasa	Education	Board Member
Harold Ligon	Education	Secretary
Robert Lytes	Education & Business	Board Member
Doris M. Patterson	Education	Vice-President
Calvin Whitmire	Education &Business	President
Lynn Todd	Education	Board Member
Dr. Byron Parker	Medicine	Health Advisor
Sharon Lone	Agriculture	Clemson Ext. Partner

The State of South Carolina



Office of Secretary of State Mark Hammond

Certificate of Incorporation, Nonprofit Corporation

I, Mark Hammond, Secretary of State of South Carolina Hereby certify that:

BRIDGING THE GAP ADVOCACY,
a nonprofit corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina on September 12th, 2014, and having a perpetual duration unless otherwise indicated below, has as of the date hereof filed a Declaration and Petition for Incorporation of a nonprofit corporation for Religious, Educational, Social, Fraternal, Charitable, or other eleemosynary purpose.

Now, therefore, I Mark Hammond, Secretary of State, by virtue of the authority in me vested by Chapter 31, Title 33, Code of 1976 and Acts amendatory thereto, do hereby declare the organization to be a body politic and corporate, with all the rights, powers, privileges and immunities, and subject to all the limitations and liabilities, conferred by Chapter 31, Title 33, Code of 1976 and Acts amendatory thereto.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of South Carolina this 12th day of September, 2014.


Mark Hammond, Secretary of State

ACTION ITEMS

BTGA BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM REQUIRED EXPECTATIONS

2017 GOALS

Bridging the Gap

Advocacy (BTGA)

established mutually

agreed upon goals. This

action plan is a tool to

help monitor our efforts of

engaging as BTGA Board

members.

Several activities are

listed for which each

board member should

participate. Select at

least three activities

from each section that

you are willing to

commit to supporting

this year.

To the best of your

ability, please honor

your commitments.

*How vested are you
in this organization?*

√	Expectations	Date(s)
	Make a personal contribution (required)	
	Obtain contributions from individuals	
	Obtain golf sponsorships – Par for the Clot	
	Obtain walk sponsorships – Turkey Trot	

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

√	Expectations	Date(s)
	Attend monthly board meetings	
	Attend the annual Education meeting	
	Attend Advocacy Days	
	Attend annual Family Camp or Holiday event	
	Active leadership over an HSC committee	
	Pursue corporate sponsorships for HSC	
	Recruit potential board members	
	Obtain donations for the Year End Appeal	
	Support Da Boyz events	
	Support Educational Dinners	
	Support CARE Women events	
	Support YES young family events	
	Attend NHF Washington Days Advocacy	
	Attend HFA and/or NHF meetings	
	Attend regional and mandatory meetings	

Bridging the Gap Advocacy Annual Budget, 2021-2022

Finalized by BGA board on June 28, 2021

Expenditures

Facility

Utilities (CPW Electricity, Security Light, Water, Sewer)	\$ 4,000
Alarm System, North Star(44.99/mo)	\$ 540
Spectrum Communications (80/mo) & Land Line	\$ 1,500
City of Laurens, Sanitation (11/mo)	\$ 132
Cell phone	\$ 600
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	\$ 1,800
Building and Van Insurance (General Liability)	\$ 3,000
Pest Control	\$ 500
Special Building Projects and Supplies	\$ 7,000
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance	\$ 1,500
Property Taxes	\$ 100

Program Operations

Household Supplies	\$ 500
Commercial Printing, Print-A-Matic, Banners, Signs	\$ 350
Marketing & Community Awareness	\$ 350
Special Events (Kickball)	\$ 1,000
Snacks/Pantry	\$ 500
Office Supplies (paper, printer cartridges)	\$ 500
Administrative Assistant	\$ 2,400

Miscellaneous \$ 600

TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES \$ 26,872

Income

Church Donations	\$ 1,000
Private Donations	\$ 2,500
Civic Donations	\$ 2,500
Corporate Donations	\$ 2,500
Fundraisers	\$ 3,000
Grants Anticipated	\$ 8,000
After School/Summer Camp	\$ 3,500
Copies	\$ 100

TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME \$ 23,100

