



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:	\$ 350,000
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SECTION I: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name of Organization:	South Carolina Empowerment Centre
Contact Name and Title:	Allen Lawson Executive Director
Mailing Address:	PO Box 1895
Street Address (if different)	
Phone Number:	864-923-1817
City, State and Zip Code	Laurens, SC 29360
Fax Number:	
Email Address:	scempower@gmail.com
Website:	scempower.org
How long has your organization been in existence?	11 years

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:	46-3507206
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FOCUS AREA: (check one)

- Arts
- Community Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Public Safety
- Human Needs
- Youth Development

PROGRAM SERVICES (check one)

- Children Families Youth Senior Citizens
- Other (Specify) Service all of these populations

Geographic area served:	The entire Laurens County
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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: \$ 310,000 Fiscal Year 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022
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	\$ 10,000
2019	\$ 14,000
2020	\$ 12,000

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.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the current population of Laurens County is estimated to be 67,803. Currently, per capita the income of Laurens County residents is \$23,482 a year in 2020. South Carolina Empowerment Centre has been providing services for the families in Laurens County during the entire time of COVID10. SCEC's anti-hunger programs for Laurens County has been enormously used throughout COVID19. In addition, our anti-hunger programs are recognized by Hunger Free America last year on their tour around the nation. The need for these programs has grown tremendously especially with the cost of food rising rapidly. During the past two years in response to the COVID19 pandemic, SCEC has provided over 2.5 million pounds of food including meats, fruits, vegetables, and bread to Lauren County residents. The cost of operating these programs and maintaining these anti-hunger programs has drastically increased.

Currently, SCEC currently provides seven anti-hunger programs along with resource navigation and financial literacy classes to the residents of Laurens County. Each program has grown each year. The Youth feeding program provided 301,234 meals in 2021. The Senior feeding program provided 26,880 pounds of food in 2021. Additionally, SCEC's mobile food pantries provided over 2.5 million pounds of food throughout Laurens County in the past two years. As the need has increased the need for equipment has arisen. SCEC's anti-hunger programs are free to the community except for the FoodShare Laurens hub which was a project of Blueprint Laurens (now known as Healthy Laurens). FoodShare boxes are fresh fruits and vegetables from local and state farmers and sells below cost to Laurens County residents. If the resident has an EBT card, the box of fruit and vegetables cost \$5.00. The cash price for the box is \$15.00 which is less than half the cost of purchasing the fruit and vegetables. Additionally, FoodShare Laurens has a Veggie RX program with Good Shepherd Clinic which involves qualified patients receiving these boxes for free for 13 weeks.

The equipment to operate these programs include refrigeration, freezers, two vans to transport the food boxes across Laurens County, and a mobile kitchen for feeding (used for community feeding and in case of disaster relief emergencies). Other supplies need are generators, feeding supplies, conveyers, updated lighting, and fixtures. This funding will allow us to continue providing Laurens County with the vitally needed anti-hunger programs

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
SC CARES ACT	Jan 2021	Purchase of food, rental of ref trucks	\$ 24,998.25
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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	\$	\$	\$
County	\$	\$	\$
State	\$	\$	\$
Federal other than COVID-19 Funds	\$	\$	\$
Foundation Grants	\$ 138,113.00	\$ 144,509.00	\$ 248,500.00
Contributions/Federated Campaigns	\$	\$	\$
Membership dues	\$	\$	\$
Fundraising events	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED INCOME	\$ 138,113.00	\$ 144,509.00	\$ 248,500.00

2. PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Fees / Sold Services			
Services	\$	\$	\$
Tuition / Fees	\$	\$	\$
Workshops, Seminars, Lectures, etc.	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES REVENUE	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

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	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

TOTAL COMBINED INCOME (1+2+3)	\$ 138,113.00	\$ 144,509.000	\$ 248,500.00
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4. **EXPENSES**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Program Services	\$ 150,679.00	\$ 144,509.00	\$ 245,883.00
Fundraising	\$	\$	\$
Administration, Management, General	\$	\$	\$
Other (Specify)	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 150,679.00	\$ 144,509.00	\$ 245,883.00

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

SOURCE	TYPE OF IN-KIND SUPPORT
Laurens District 55	Use of building
Victory Worship Center	Use of building

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

SOURCE	AMOUNT
	\$ 0
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$ 0

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

The cost of food, supplies, transportation needs, and utilities has skyrocketed. Because of these risen costs, it will cost more to just do the same programming without even increasing the programming yet there is a raise in the need of resources for our population. There are numerous families and seniors in need of food.

6. FUNDING REQUEST FOR BUDGET YEAR 2022

Please provide breakdown by categories:

CATEGORY	PROGRAM SERVICES FY 2022	ADMINISTRATIVE/ GENERAL FY 2022
Supplies	\$ 25,000	\$
Equipment (specify)	\$ 325,000	\$
Travel/Training	\$	\$
Personnel	\$	\$
Marketing / Promotions	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$
TOTAL REQUESTED	\$ 350,000	\$

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.

SC Empowerment Centre is a 501(c)(3) youth services agency nonprofit organization that addresses the increasing challenges youth face living in generational poverty founded in 2011. Our vision is that all youth have the support and tools to lead a productive and rewarding life. In Laurens County, we reach students from elementary to high school. Our mission is to use evidence-based approaches to support youth and empower them out of the cycle of poverty. What SCEC does: Youth Academy/Programs and Summer Camps: Emphasizes educational and workforce development along with social emotional growth & wellness. Our services include: SCDJJ TASC & YES sites, Financial Literacy, Young Professionals (Middle/High school job readiness academy), Life/Social Skills, Young Mother's & Young Father's Program, Academic Support, Mentoring, Prevention, Intervention, Postvention, Leadership/Service Opportunities, Health, & Arts (Culinary Arts, Photography). Resources & Case Management: SCEC supports young parents in Laurens County with support groups, parenting classes, food, & baby supplies. SCEC provides resource navigation, finding employment, case management, food, & financial literacy to families. SCEC Needs Assistance: SCEC distributes youth food boxes and personal hygiene kits monthly. SCEC Community Outreach: Attend and host events such as our Days of Hope, Youth Events, & Resource Events.

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 has greatly affected South Carolina Empowerment Centre operations. First, the drop in personal and corporate donations were not able to continue supporting programs during this time as they were not working, or hours were cut back at their workplace. As personal donations decreased, the community need for programs increased. United Way funding went down thus funding for agencies went down. Many individuals of the community had to spend their personal finances and savings on their current mortgages, automobiles, and utilities. There was a growing need to increase SCEC feeding programs in Laurens County. The summer of 2020 SCEC spent over \$18,000 dollars just on truck rentals to transport the food into Laurens County to be given out at numerous mobile food panties. The cost of the food is increasing as food shortages began because of the pandemic. SCEC had to rent refrigeration and freezers to hold the food until the food could be giving out to the community. This additional expense with the decrease in funding has caused a difficult financial situation that SCEC is still trying to recover.

3. How will any funding awarded be utilized?

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

The funding that is awarded to South Carolina Empowerment Centre will be utilized to purchase needed equipment and supplies to continue anti-hunger programs. Funding request specified is Mobile refrigeration trailer \$48,000, Mobile freezer trailer \$55,000, Two Vans (purchased in Laurens County) \$112,000, Mobile feeding trailer \$68,000, Supplies for Anti-Hunger programs \$25,000, Generators \$5,500, Conveyers \$12,000, Replacement lighting \$24,500 which all totals \$350,000. SCEC needs to purchase refrigerator and freezer trailers to keep the food at a safe temperature to serve to the community during mobile food pantries and other anti-hunger programs. Transportation is needed to transport food across Laurens County to distribution locations. Currently, SCEC are used vans from 1989 & 1990 with over 300,000 miles. Repairs of vans are astronomical. SCEC needs to prepare food for community events and youth meals. A trailer with an approved kitchen is needed. Addition, the kitchen will used if there was a disaster that took place in the Laurens County. The community or volunteers will need food prepared for them during the relief efforts. Other supplies such as generators and supplies are needed for distribution. Lighting needs to be updated and replaced. In addition, SCEC is program services supplies to replenish depleted supplies.

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.

SCEC Executive Director, Allen Lawson, is a LPC with experience working as an adult and adolescent drug and alcohol counselor while working to obtain his Doctor of Education in Community Care and Counseling. Also, our Director of Operations, Angel Bible, has multiple Masters with emphasize on nonprofit management while working to obtain her Doctor of Education in Community Care and Counseling. The strategies' implementation of SCEC programs is developed to ensure success of the families in strategically move out of generational poverty. Last year, South Carolina Empowerment Centre became a Hunger Free America Partner Site which has helped to implement evidence based anti-hunger strategies. South Carolina Empowerment Centre has two Ameri Corps members that assist Laurens County residents with resource navigation, case management, and financial literacy. Additional, South Carolina Empowerment Centre has two AmeriCorps Vista to focus on capacity building for anti-hunger and job readiness programs which is allowing SCEC to increase sustainability. South Carolina Empowerment Centre are adding five additional AmeriCorps Vista this summer because of the increase in needs of our local community.

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.

Currently, SCEC is in partnership with Fact Forward and Department of Health on the PREP grant for Laurens County. Also, SCEC is the DJJ TASC site for Laurens County and Youth Empowerment Site (job training for DJJ students) for eighth circuit. Additionally, SCEC is a part of Healthy Laurens, Wholespire Laurens, and Laurens County Youth Prevention which are all coalitions. SCEC is an United Way funded agency. SCEC works with local schools to provided programs and resources for Laurens County youth and families. SCEC is a Feeding America agency and a Harvest Hope partner agency.

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.

South Carolina Empowerment Centre plans to increase all its current anti-hunger programs along with the other programs. SCEC will be increasing with five new AmeriCorps Vista members to assist in the anti-hunger programs this summer. The biggest need that SCEC has in continuing current programs is needed equipment. This need could be resolved with the funding to continue providing services to the residents of Laurens County in the future. SCEC has written for grant funding to increase capacity of current programs. SCEC is partnering with local coalitions such as Wholespire to provide fresh fruit and vegetables for Laurens County's youth in the upcoming school year.

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.

Bryant Allen Lawson 3/28/2022
Signature of Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director Date

Bryant Allen Lawson Executive Director
Name and Title (please print)

Angel Bible 3/28/2022
Signature of Chief Financial Officer or Board Chairperson Date


Angel Bible Chairperson
Name and Title (please print)



South Carolina
**Empowerment
Centre**

2022 BOARD ROSTER

Name of Board Member	Position
Angel C Bible	Board Chair
(Johnny) John B Walker	VP
Veronica Stoddard	Secretary
Vacant	
Vacant	
(Allen) Bryant Lawson	Non-voting


Signature of Sponsor Representative

3-28-2022
Date

South Carolina
Secretary of State
(<https://sos.sc.gov/>)

Mark Hammond

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South Carolina Empowerment Centre

Public Id: P48642

Bryant A Lawson , CEO

62 BRIDGEWAY DR

LAURENS, SC 29360-7452

Status: Registered. Information from this organization's annual financial report is listed below.

The following financial information has been provided to the Secretary of State's Office by the above named organization. The Secretary of State's Office has not independently verified this financial information. If a charity has recently registered with the Secretary of State's Office for the first time, there may not be any financial data available. Below are figures for the organization's fiscal year **7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020**.

Financial Report

TOTAL REVENUE:	\$144,509.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES:	\$141,186.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$141,186.00
NET ASSETS:	\$9,670.00
FUNDRAISER COSTS:	\$0.00

Financial Report File



SCEC_990_2020.pdf (/DisplayFinancialReport.aspx? ReportType=Charity&CopyID=133876)

Next Report: 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021 Due Date: 05/15/2022

According to the financial information filed with this office, this organization devoted **100.0%** of its total expenses to program services during the year reported.

Disclaimer: The South Carolina Secretary of State's Charities Search Webpage is provided as a service to customers to research charitable organizations on file with our office, or that have been the subject of an administrative action. Users are advised that the Secretary of State, the State of South Carolina, or any agency, office, or employee of the State of South Carolina do not guarantee the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of the information provided, as it is the responsibility of the charity to inform the Secretary of State of any updated information. Furthermore, the information provided does not constitute legal advice.

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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAY 21 2014**

SOUTH CAROLINA EMPOWERMENT CENTRE
PO BOX 1895
LAURENS, SC 29360

Employer Identification Number:
46-3507206
DLN:
17053329374033
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 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
October 31, 2013
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,



Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

Letter 947