



Program Guidelines

Important Dates

Applications open in Dec and are accepted through Feb 15 of the following year.

Grant awards will be announced in April each year.

Application Process

NEW: Applications must be submitted online at www.bemc.org via the Community Programs/Community Grants tab.

Please refer to these guidelines and use the accompanying worksheet to gather your information before starting the online process. Printed packages of this info are available at each BEMC office.

The online application must be completed in one session. You will not be able to save and return to at a later time to complete it, so preparation is key!

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Questions?

Contact Heather Holbrook at 910.754.4391 or via email: heather.holbrook@bemc.org



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Find us on

Offices in Shallotte,
Whiteville, Southport/Oak Island

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The BEMC Community Grants Program was established in 2003 to provide assistance to organizations and community service agencies benefiting people within the BEMC service area (Brunswick and Columbus counties and parts of Bladen and Robeson counties).

Awarded grants are intended to enhance the quality of life for our citizens. Grants range from \$500 to \$2500 for any one project.

ELIGIBILITY:

BEMC Community Grants are made to agencies and programs, not to individuals. Areas for consideration include, but are not limited to:

- **Family Service Programs** – to benefit families, children and/or the elderly
- **Civic and Community Programs** – to provide recreational, historic, educational, environmental or technology programs or special events for the public
- **Cultural and Arts Programs** – to provide education or exhibition of the arts in the community
- **Emergency Services** – to provide or enhance services of police, fire, EMS services and especially for natural disasters
- **Development** – activities contributing to the economic health of the community

CRITERIA:

- Projects must show clear and solid benefits to the BEMC service area.
- Grant applicants must be directly involved in the project.
- Project must be clearly defined.
- Applications should include projected results and the organization should be prepared to provide follow up reports upon request by BEMC.
- Grant funds are generally expected to be expended within one year, without expectation of further support.
- Applicants should have an active Board of Directors or Management with demonstrated competency in sound financial management and/or qualify as a Tax-Exempt 501(c)3 organization.

EXCLUSIONS:

Grants will not be made for political or religious activities, payment of utility bills, coverage of operating expenses, debt retirement, loans or investments, or for projects or programs that already have funds allocated by governments or municipalities.

Grants will not be made to organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status or handicap; or to organizations or programs that might in any way pose a conflict with the goals, programs or employees of BEMC.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST... before you submit!

1. Does your organization meet all criteria?
2. Is the application complete?
3. Are narrative answers clear and concise? (100 words or less)
4. Did you proofread and check for typos, spelling and grammar?
5. Did you list and include (or attach electronically) your attachments? (max 3)
6. Did you print a copy for your records?