2026 Charity Grant Application
Due on or before September 25, 2026

WCMA intends for this application to be clear and concise, so that the grant process is efficient for both the applicant and the WCMA reviewer. We have narrowed our information requests to that which is needed to address our funding restrictions and the six criteria that we use to evaluate a grant. Responses do not need to be lengthy. For the first criteria, there is a required limit of 150 words. For the remaining five criteria, we ask that the responses average 250 words or less. Also, we use the terminology "program" to reflect that most applicants organize their efforts under one or multiple programs. The grant request will fit under a particular program. When developing the response to information requests, it will be helpful to recognize the distinction between "program" and "grant request".

If you have questions on the intent of the application, please contact Craig Pierson (copierson@gmail.com; 419-348-9177) or David Yates (davidb.yates@yahoo.com; 724-799-9109). Also, please feel free to offer comments on how the application can be improved.

Organization Information

Name:	
Address:	
Website:	

Organizational contact	
Name:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Tax Related Information and Annual Reporting		
EIN/Tax ID#:		Attach copy of IRS 501 (c)(3) letter
Attach PDF of most recent IRS Form 990; if exempted, most recent independent audit report		
Attach PDF of most recent annual report, if it is not available on your website		

Board of Directors	
Name	Business or Community Affiliation

WCMA Sponsor Information

Name	Describe their involvement

Grant Request Information

Please reference the WCMA Grant Guidelines for funding eligibility and funding restrictions.

✓	Dollar Amount Requested: $		
	Tier 1	Social and Healthcare Services	$30,000 maximum
	Tier 2	Education	$15,000 maximum
	Tier 3	Natural or Cultural Resources or Animal Welfare	$10,000 maximum
Grant Request Percentages			
Total budget for the program: $		Grant Request percentage: % (should be < 75%)	
Total annual operating budget: $		Grant Request percentage: % (should be < 30%)	

Supporting information for WCMA critieria

Criteria 1: Insert the Grant Request Statement – 150 words maximum (see examples provided on page 6 of this application)	
• Dollar amount requested • Need being addressed • Method for measuring impact	• Program that the grant is under • Measurable impact that is intended • Timeline for the program

The following information addresses criteria that WCMA will use to evaluate the Grant Request. This can be submitted in paragraph form and we ask that responses to each criteria average 250 words or less.

Criteria 2: The **Mission** of the organization
• Insert the Mission Statement and add any relevant, helpful explanation.
• Summarize major programs and the intended and achieved impacts. For the program that includes the grant request, add information if it helps explain that program beyond the responses below.

Criteria 3: The **Need** that the program is addressing
• Explain the problem that the program is trying to solve.
• Explain why it needs to be solved.
• Describe the beneficiaries that are intended to be helped.
• Describe the grant request and how it helps the program meet the needs.
• Describe your interfaces with other WNC non-profits and the collaboration and support that you provide to or receive from them.

Criteria 4: The intended **Impact** of the program
• Include the total number of times a beneficiary is helped in a year.
• If available, include the same data for unique, unduplicated beneficiaries.
• Provide key measurable outcomes intended by the program and explain the source and reliability of the data for measuring the program impact.
• Provide any data or efforts that address the cost effectiveness of the program.
• Explain the key impacts for the local community and that of Western North Carolina. Include any successful efforts to break the cycle of need.

Criteria 5: The **Likelihood of Success** of the program
• Explain the diversity of funding and status of funding the program.
• Describe the risks associated with the complete funding of the program.
• Discuss the availability of leadership and staff that are necessary to execute the program.
• Discuss the plans for acquiring other resources necessary to execute the program.
• Explain your track record for achieving similar work in intended time frame.
• Summarize any risk mitigation plans that have been or will be developed.
• Complete the program budget spreadsheet that is included at the end of the application.

Criteria 6: The **Year End Report**
• If you had a prior grant, provide your response according to the form. This can be submitted with the application or it can be submitted separately.

2025 WCMA End of Year Grant Report
Due by September 25, 2026

1. Please copy the wording from your charity application as to how 2025 grants funds were to be utilized; then demonstrate how the 2025 grant funds were utilized by your organization? Please provide either -
   A - If grant funds were individually identified and tracked in the project/program, an itemized spreadsheet detailing grant expenditures, or
   B - If grant funds were commingled with other project/program expenditures, a simple income/expense statement for the program with budget categories that align with the expense categories submitted in the original grant application.

   If you have not expended all the grant funds or don't anticipate spending them by year end, please explain the circumstances. If your grant award was substantially less than your original grant request, please indicate how the reduced grant award impacted the funding objectives and whether you were able to address the shortfall via other funding sources or if you had to curtail the planned expenditures.

2. If your grant included restrictions on how the grant was to be implemented, please describe how you implemented those restrictions. Please be as specific as possible and include if these restrictions assisted with program implementation or success measures.

3. Did you achieve all of the goals you set for your project/program as outlined in the 2025 grant application? What were the measurable outcomes you used to determine if your goals were met? If you fell short of reaching the desired outcomes, please explain. Describe the impacts of your 2025 WCMA grant-funded program on clients and/or the community you serve. Are you making progress toward meeting the goal, and will you achieve the desired outcome in the near future? If so, what is the timing?

4. What was the number of unique individuals from Western North Carolina directly impacted by the WCMA grant funding provided for your project/program?

5. Do you have photos or a brief video of your program in action, or the results of your organization's efforts that we can share with our members? If so, please provide attachments to your Year End Report. Can you provide quotes from clients or a brief story about how the funded program made a direct impact on someone's life?

***Instructions* - Please use the above format for your 2025 WCMA End of Year Grant Report. You may cut and paste the list of questions, along with your responses, into either a reply email or a word processing document sent as a PDF to** **davidb.yates@yahoo.com.**

Your report is due by September 25, 2026. Failure to file your grant report by this deadline will affect future grant awards.

Proposed Budget for the program that includes the grant request

Expense Description	Program Cost	Requested Funds from WCMA
Personnel Costs:		
Other Costs:		
Total Cost:		

Note: The above application can be downloaded or copy and pasted into a word processing document and should be submitted by email as an attachment to this link: grants@walnutcovemembers.com Attachments can be emailed in the form of a Word File or a PDF.

The basic elements of a Grant Request Statement include the following:

- The amount of Grant Request
- The program that the grant is under
- The need that is being addressed
- The impact that is intended
- Measurable outcomes for the program
- The timeline for the program

Example 1 *(126 words)*
The goal for this $25,000 grant request is to fund the operations of the XYZ program, its community-building lunch and grocery service. Four days per week, XYZ serves approximately 200 lunches and distributes 75 grocery bags for people who lack food security. This totals about 41,000 meals and 15,000 grocery bags annually. Food is rescued from locations throughout Asheville, keeping costs limited to basic operating expenses. The cost per meal or grocery bag is under $4, and total service instances to non-unique individuals are likely to exceed 50,000 annually. The organization tracks the number of meals served and bags of groceries provided. XYZ also supports their Realities of Poverty Program by hosting training, education and advocacy events. All funds are expected to be spent in 2026.

Example 2 *(121 words)*
The goal for this $10,000 grant request is under the Veterinary Services Program, which provide veterinary services to pets that have a clear need, but the owners typically cannot afford. The services average cost is near the low end of $150 - $300 per pet. The grant will fund between 50-66 pets during the fiscal year ending in June, 2026. The total number of un-duplicated people impacted by the Veterinary Services Program in 2026 is estimated to be about 1200. The organization has detailed record keeping in place to not only keep track of the number of pets served, but they also track the number of pets served by the WCMA grant. All funds are expected to be spent in 2026.

Example 3 *(98 words)*
The goal for this $25,000 grant request is to fund a pilot program to test the viability of providing safe overnight shelter during Code Purple nights to couples and individuals with pets. These two groups do not otherwise have access to shelter on about 100 cold nights from November through April. The grant will provide 20 new beds at the ABC Center and it is estimated that at least 30 unique individuals will be served in 2026. The organization has the capability to track the number of people served. All funds are expected to be spent in 2026.