



**City of Annapolis**  
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**Community Grant Application**  
Deadline: January 22, 2016

Organization name Box of Rain Foundation  
Contact Karen Colburn Title Executive Director  
Address POB 3557, Annapolis, MD 21403  
Phone 410-562-5492 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email kcolburn@boxofrainannapolis.org  
Federal ID # 54-2189646  
Incorporation Date 2003 501(c)(3) Registration date December 2005  
Project title Charting Careers  
Project location Annapolis, MD

Amount requested \$ 9,500.00  
Other funds \$ 27,457.00  
Total project amount \$ 36,957.00

**Certification**

"I certify that I have reviewed this application and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information provided in this application is true."

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

1/24/14

Date

Print name Anne Harrington Title Chair of the Board  
Address 1000 Moss Haven Ct., Annapolis, MD 21403  
Phone 410-340-9961 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email harrington@aol.com

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide a brief summary of your project. Please be sure to include the following items: purpose of the project, number of people to be served, and how the city grant funds will be used.

Box of Rain currently serves 65 disadvantaged youth in Annapolis public and subsidized housing. More than a quarter of our kids are in high school, many nearing graduation. And while services are available to help with academic achievement, there are few programs that focus on the soft skills necessary to realize success on the job or in college. In fact, the Community Foundation of AAC identified as its number one priority for youth development the need for "mentoring programs, especially for financial literacy and soft skills."

Many of our kids simply cannot envision an independent life that does not rely on government assistance. Without intervention, they will find themselves among our county's unemployed "disconnected youth." Box of Rain's new Charting Careers program will serve our participant kids at all levels throughout the year. Designed by a masters level Education Specialist and a masters level Life Coach & Career Consultant, this program will represent an innovative approach to improving outcomes among our city's most disadvantaged youth.

City funds will be combined with Box of Rain's funds, additional grants, and volunteer support to ensure that all facets of the program may be launched in 2016.

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY

If you received Community Grant funds last year, please evaluate progress you have made in implementing those projects. Please discuss any factors that may have hindered your progress.

Box of Rain received a grant last year to help fund its 7-week summer program. The program served more than 40 kids and provided jobs to 13 teen counselors, most of whom had come up through the program themselves. This program is the cornerstone of Box of Rain and enjoys a solid reputation in the community. The program's venues included Annapolis Sailing School, JPort Sailing, Annapolis Canoe & Kayak, Naval Academy rowing, Tuckahoe State Park Ropes Course, Chesapeake Water Park, Sandy Point and Breezy Point Parks, and a trip to Assateague Island.

No factors hindered our progress, and we have retained many of these kids in other programs throughout the year. One sign of successful mentoring is high retention!

### RATIONALE (20 Points)

Describe the issue or problem to be addressed including the size and/or severity of the problem. Provide the demographic data and geographic information used to determine the extent of the problem.

Seventeen percent of Anne Arundel County (AAC) youth aged 17–21 are unemployed, according to the Department of Labor's 2013 Census. The Community Foundation of AAC has highlighted the risks to these "disconnected youth" in its just-released 2015 needs assessment, *Poverty Amidst Plenty*; that report cited the need for mentoring programs that focus on soft skills development, and Governor Hogan has listed "improving outcomes for disconnected youth" as one of his four strategic goals to improve the well-being of children in Maryland.

More than a quarter of Box of Rain's 65 program participants are currently in high school, and about half of our kids are in middle school. Ninety-four percent are African American and 6% are Hispanic. At least 80% reside in public or subsidized housing. More often than not, these kids are inclined to follow in the path of their parents—hopelessly dependent on government housing with no inkling that life could be different. Box of Rain has done our best to "pinch hit" and help out when we can with job placement and career guidance, but there is a need for intensive programming that begins working with our kids in elementary school all the way through high school on understanding their strengths, their options, and creating realistic and achievable pathways to independence.

With our high retention rate and the long-term relationships we enjoy with our kids, we believe that a well-designed program could help them make the leap out of dependence into an independent and successful life.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION (30 Points)

Please give a detailed description of the program or project you are proposing. Please include the group of persons you plan to serve and the number of expected participants, the activities or services you will provide and location.

Charting Careers will include these components, all free to participants.

Success Factory Summer Camp – Offered as an optional 3rd summer camp day, this 7-week workshop will serve 20 elementary and middle school kids. The workshop's goal is to instill curiosity in learning and an introduction to careers. Field trip days will take them to the Baltimore Museum of Industry and a college tour. On-site days will introduce our kids to careers, demonstrated through hands-on immersion learning. For example, a naval architect will teach kids how to construct airplanes. A biologist will demonstrate a fun science experiment. An attorney will engage the kids in debate and building an argument. This workshop will be staffed by a masters level education specialist, a program assistant, and volunteers. Transportation, food, and supplies will be supplied.

Dream It! Do It! – This Fall 6-week after-school seminar will engage community volunteers to come visit up to 20 Box of Rain middle schoolers to talk about their career. Through a career workbook, kids will explore their interests, their strengths, and all that they might become. This seminar will be staffed by a masters level education specialist, a program assistant, and volunteers.

Life Skills Workshop – This Fall 6-week after-school seminar for up to 15 high school youth will work on soft skills, such as financial management, job interviewing, and resume preparation. A Briggs Myers assessment will help youth understand themselves and develop interpersonal skills. Staffed by a masters level education specialist and a masters level Life Coach & Career Consultant, this seminar will also bring in HR specialists, CEOs, and other speakers to talk about what to expect in the real world. Following the seminar, Box of Rain staff will begin working 1:1 with our high school Juniors and Seniors on planning and achieving their career or educational pursuits.

Parents as Partners – Research cites the importance of parents as partners in their kids' education. Box of Rain will actively seek to create these partnerships by hosting seminars for parents on the important role they play. Intermittent meetings between parents and Box of Rain staff will seek to build this critical relationship. Box of Rain will employ a part-time LCSW to work with parents.

Technology Center–Box of Rain hopes to set up a tech center to aid in all these efforts. Describe the methodology (or approach) for the proposed program/project, e.g., the procedures, tasks, techniques, or tools you will use to develop the program

Box of Rain will engage a part-time education specialist, Life Coach and Career Consultant, and LCSW to design the curriculum for the various components of the program. Executive Director Karen Colburn, degreed in psychology, will oversee the effort. The program will integrate access to technology tools with hands-on immersion experiences and volunteer engagement.

Explain how this proposal relates to the organization's mission, goals and/or strategic plan, and other activities planned for this year.

Box of Rain's mission for our kids is to:

- 1) Nurture self-esteem and a sense of self worth through accomplishment
- 2) Develop life skills that strengthen character and opportunities for social engagement
- 3) Encourage civic responsibility that leads to positive contributions to our community
- 4) Create pathways to independence and career success

Other planned activities include our 7-week summer camp, 24 after-school weeks of Revolution Kids bike repair program, 8 weeks of winter boat building, and small club after-school activities, such as Intro to High School Sailing and Girls' Club. We also have planned partnership activities this year with Pip Moyer Center and the South River Federation, among others in the works.

Our strategic plan aims to move Box of Rain toward a more holistic service model. We have observed that many of our families do not work with multiple service organizations, but prefer instead to align with one trusted resource. The Charting Careers program provides a critical service to the 65 youth coming up through our program. Working closely with the schools as we do, it is our hope that we can set our graduates on a path to independence and career success.

**TIMELINE (10 Points)**

Provide a timeline for implementation and all program/project activities for the project.

Date	Activity
Summer 2016	Success Factory Summer Camp Workshop
Fall 2016	Dream It! Do It!
Fall 2016	Life Skills Workshop
Fall 2016	Parents as Partners

Please indicate how you have determined that the timeline is achievable.

Box of Rain has a timeline in place for curriculum development and sign-up in the Spring. The timeline for implementation is comfortable and achievable.

Describe the organization's ability to implement the request.

Box of Rain is a well established, financially stable, proven mentoring organization with long-term success in building relationships with disadvantaged families in our community. We also enjoy the support of hundreds of community residents, who have a long track record of allegiance to our organization through volunteering and financial support.

### EVALUATION (20 Points)

Clearly state the specific, goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes of the project/program.

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
<p>Independent pathways for our graduating participants</p> <p>To put kids on this path as early as elementary school</p>	<p>Each participant will graduate highschool with a plan for either job/educ. pursuits</p> <p>To keep kids engaged in the program and moving through it with self understanding, career dreams, and a path</p>	<p>Progress will be measured by job placement and college placement statistics.</p> <p>Retention in the program will be measured, as well as progress toward interpersonal goals.</p>

Describe the impact (long-term effects) you expect will be produced by program/project outcomes.

Aligning with goals at both the county and state level, we aim to reduce the rate of unemployment among "disconnected youth" aged 17-21 in Annapolis public/subsidized housing. The long-term effect of such efforts could reduce dependence on government assistance for low-income residents in our city.

### **BUDGET DOCUMENTS (20 Points)**

Include a detailed program budget that includes expenses, city funds requested and pending sources of support. **Please use the attached Program/Project Budget Format.**

Outline the organizations plans for securing funding from sources other than those provided by the City of Annapolis and indicate how City of Annapolis' funds will be used to leverage a request for, or use of, other grant funds.

Box of Rain has applied for grants from several other city-based grant-making organizations and will have decisions no later than May on all grant applications. We feel that given the urgency of the problem as stated at both county and state levels, and our well-documented relationship with the public/subsidized housing communities of Annapolis, our program will receive the funding it requires to get a solid start in 2016.



## PROJECT BUDGET

Please complete the following budget chart for this project, including all budget items, the total budget for each item, and the funds that are being requested for each line item.

Budget item	City funds requested	Other funds	Source of Other funds (Federal, State, Private)	Is "Other funding" committed or requested?	Total project cost
Salaries/Benefits (list each position)					
Program Director	\$	\$ 5000.00	Corporate	Committed	\$ 6745.05
Program Assistant		20000.00	Private	Requested	3689.60
Career Consultant	9500.00			Requested	1600.00
Executive Director		2457.65	Private	Committed	6918.00
Contract Services					560.00
Rent/Leasing Costs					11795.00
Utilities/Telephone (please specify)					
Equipment					
Insurance					
Office Supplies					2800.00
Printing/Postage					
Audit/Accounting					
Other (please describe)					
Transportation					1350.00
Food					1500.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$	\$			\$ 36957.65