

Cover Sheet – Social Service Activity

AGENCY NAME: Amherst Boys & Girls Club

AGENCY ADDRESS: 29 A Cottage Street, Amherst, MA 01002

AGENCY PHONE NO: 413-253-1444 CONTACT PERSON: Tony Poti, Bill Crossman

CONTACT PERSON EMAIL: tpoti@amherstbgc.org , williamcrossman@aol.com

CDBG FUNDING REQUEST: \$ 40,000

1. Project Name
Amherst Boys & Girls Club (ABGC)
2. Project Description (1-2 sentences)
AMBC seeks to expand current programming. The ABGC programs and activities are designed to meet the needs of our members ages 6 – 18.
3. Project Location (Street address)
29 A Cottage Street, Amherst, MA 01002
4. Budget Request
\$ 40,000
5. Type of Activity (check one):
 - Household (family and individual) stabilization
 - Support services for the homeless
 - Youth development
 - Economic self-sufficiency (adult education)
 - Food and nutrition
 - Health services
 - Other – please explain
6. National Objective:
Total number of beneficiaries (individuals served):
Currently we have 83 Members and a goal to reach 100 by the end of 2019
Total Low/Mod beneficiaries (individuals served):
65% of members come from low/mod income households

Please submit responses to the following questions:

National Objective Description

ABGC members must complete a membership application which includes the HUD Income Limits Summary. Families self-disclose income data and sign a form attesting to their household size and income. Families also disclose whether youth qualify for free or reduced lunch

The 2016-2017 data provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reports that 25.2% of the Amherst-Pelham School District is identified as economically disadvantaged, yet 85% of youth served by ABGC reside in low-income households. Currently 77% youth served by ABGC are below the poverty line. If funded, 100% of youth served by CDBG funding will meet the criteria of falling below the income threshold for the town of Amherst. Documentation will include the income disclosure form signed by each youth's parent/guardian.

A. Demonstrate Consistency with Community Priorities

The ABGC proposed expansion of services is consistent with the Community Development Strategy identified social services priorities of Youth Development and Family Stabilization. ABGC enables parents/guardians to meet their family stabilization need by providing positive youth development activities to at risk, low income youth during critical out of school time allowing families to focus on their needs to support family stabilization rather than worry about where their children are after school. ABGC envisions a future in which youth are prepared with tools to overcome the challenges that may face them in today's world. We provide a safe, positive place that will have a significant impact upon their lives. ABGC programs and activities are designed to meet the needs of our members as well as to introduce them to new experiences and opportunities. The goal of our program is to offer a wide variety of recreational, educational and cultural activities for our members as well as to provide experiences which give opportunities for choice, individual achievement, development of self-confidence, reinforcement of values and fun. We provide positive worthwhile activities and programs in a safe secure environment with positive adult role models.

The Club provides a developmentally rich environment by incorporating the five key elements for positive youth development:

1. Creating a safe positive environment
2. Having fun
3. Developing supportive relationships with caring adults
4. Offering opportunities for and having high expectations of members
5. Recognizing members for who they are and their achievements

Expansion of services will meet the growing community need for providing stimulating activities for youth during out of school time. Families can rely on the ABGC to provide

their children with a safe supervised place to go after school and during the summer. Parents are free to engage in activities such as job training/work readiness, employment, health and mental health services, or other obligations that support family stabilization, with the security of knowing their are safe at the ABGC. ABGC aims to reduce barriers to stabilization for families by providing supervised , stimulating activities for youth, nutritious/locally sourced snacks/meals and creating a warm welcoming atmosphere for youth to gather during out of school time.

ABGC serves as a safe place for youth during out of school time which is warm, welcoming, interactive and nurturing, many who otherwise be left unsupervised during these hours. ABGC is dedicated to making a difference in young people's lives by giving them access to quality programs, activities, and social experiences in a fun and structured environment. We are open to all youth ages 6-18 regardless of their family's ability to pay membership dues.

Expansion of our programs will allows us to reach more youth and provided specialized programs. To accomplish this goal we will hire additional staff, one who will be the Program Director and instructors to do community outreach, plan and provide programs, and expand our summer program. By providing scholarships will be able to meet the need of families that need us most.

Expansion of our programs will target specific areas of need for at risk, low income youth residing in Amherst. Programs will include character/leadership development, healthy living, life skills, nutrition, substance abuse prevention, educational activities, work readiness, recreation, as well as fostering community collaboration.

B. Agency Information

The Amherst Boys and Girls Club, founded in 1909, is a youth development center in downtown Amherst where all youth are welcome including at-risk, low-income youth. The Mission of the Amherst Boys & Girls Club is: To enable all young people, especially those who need support most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. ABGC provides a protective factor against risky behaviors and choices by providing quality programing aimed at increasing youths' resiliency and providing a sense of community belonging for Amherst youth who unfortunately report feeling marginalized due to race and/or income status relative to their Amherst peers. ABGC provides programming to youth who are unable to participate in cost prohibitive activities. Aside from providing targeted youth development programming, staff and volunteers are often tasked with individually counseling youth during times of crises. It is not unusual for youth served by ABGC to exhibit anxiety over their families' financial struggles and question their own ability to overcome poverty as adults. Staff and volunteers have successfully engaged youth in activities and provided an outlet for young people where there once was none. ABGC staff is experienced at providing youth with a safe space where they are comfortable disclosing their stressors and celebrating their successes. Staff helps youth see the bigger picture beyond their immediate needs by focusing on their unique skills, abilities and talents as having

the capacity to positively contribute to their communities. Youth often see themselves as separate from their communities; one of the most important aspects of the ABGC is the inclusiveness of each member as part of a Club and integrating them in community wide activities. This tends to have a ripple effect on youth as they develop confidence and a sense of belonging to their community at large. Activities and support offered by ABGC focus on the needs of population of the youth and their families who come through our doors.

ABGC has a proven track record of successfully meeting the needs of Amherst youth for 109 years. The ABGC has a dedicated Board of Directors who diligently works toward continuous improvement. Board Members are comprised of bankers, youth development workers, small business owners, mental health professionals, managers, with more than 50% being former members of a Boys & Girls Club. At the helm of the ABGC is Executive Director, Tony Poti. Tony has over 35 years of experience in the youth and fund development fields. Tony has served in the leadership capacity at several youth serving organizations including the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley; he has led fund development including serving as the Resource Development Director for YouthConnect.

The Amherst Boys & Girls Clubs programs and activities are designed to meet the needs of our members as well as to introduce them to new experiences and opportunities. The goal of our program is to offer a wide variety of recreational, educational and cultural activities for our members as well as to provide experiences which give opportunities for choice, individual achievement, development of self-confidence, reinforcement of values and fun. We provide positive worthwhile activities and program in a safe secure environment with positive adult role models.

Short-term goals are to continue on the path of growth. In June 2018 we move into a new 2100 square foot Club. It will allow us to increased our ability to serve youth and families. Tony came on as Executive Director in September 2018. ABGC expects to increase the number of low income youth served by 20%. CDBG funding will enable ABGC to add additional staff to oversee and run programs, including an expanded summer program, increase the number of youth served, as well as provide scholarships for families unable to pay membership dues.

Long-term goals are to contribute to supporting family stabilization by expanding our programming capacity to serve our community's most marginalized young people. ABGC aims to reduce barriers to self-sufficiency for our youth and their families by providing a safe space for young people to gather thereby enabling families to focus on meeting their needs toward stabilization. ABGC aims to significantly enhance programming to meet the growing needs of youth in our community. Our goal is to focus on positive youth development and provide a safe haven for youth. We hope to serve as a protective factor against negative influences faced by our young people. We aim to support youth in recognizing their own resiliency and building their confidence as leaders in their community. ABGC would like to strengthen the relationship with all families by providing family centered meals and events.

ABGC also aims to increase our visibility and partnerships in the community, grow our Board of Directors, secure additional funds.

Our Vision: The Amherst Boys & Girls Club envisions a future in which youth are prepared with tools to overcome the challenges that may face them in today's world.

C. Project Budget Information

The budget was prepared by our Executive Director who has over 35 year in non-profit management and grant writing..

Sources of Other Project Funds: Other funds needed beyond CDBG funding will be provided by fundraising efforts of ABGC. Funding sources include community business partners, individual donors, and revenue generated by our annual gala, our annual golf tournament, our annual appeal and granting writing . UMass provides work study students who provide daily homework help for youth, administer programming, and supervise youth activities.

ABGC has sustained as an organization for over 109 years and has successfully implemented projects with limited funding sources. ABGC is experienced in providing quality programming while maintaining fiscal integrity. In comparing this project budget with other Boys & Girls Clubs of similar size and scope, our reliance on volunteers and student groups, and our small staff. The budget for this project was reviewed by the Executive Director along with the Board Treasurer and approved by the Board of Directors. In 2018, an organizational Financial Review was conducted by Boisselle, Morton & Wolkowicz, LLP 's accounting firm

Answers for Parts D—H must not exceed three (3) pages

D. Project Description

ABGC is a youth development programming center for youth ages 6-18. The proposed project will enable ABGC to continue targeted youth development services launched in 2016 to 40 at-risk, low-income youth along with drop in services for an additional 20 youth. The project will provide age-appropriate, structured activities for youth who would otherwise be unsupervised during critical after school hours at no cost to youth participants. Funds will be used to hire a program staff, pay guest instructors to facilitate positive youth development workshops. Funds will be used to provide youth with meals and snacks. 65 percent of youth served by this project will be low-income. The project will enable ABGC to continue its expansion of services launched in 2016 to promote positive youth development through participation in the following activities: a variety of structured educational and recreational programs to promote health, development, leadership, and community, regardless of income, race or religion. Our mission is accomplished through our programs that focus on Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, Arts, STEM, Sports, Recreation and Fitness and Character, Leadership, and Citizenship development.

The Amherst Boys & Girls Club open to all children ages 6 to 18 and operates Monday through Friday 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Our program and activities are designed to meet the needs of our children as well as to introduce them to new activities and experiences.

The Amherst Boys & Girls Club program goal is to offer a wide variety of recreational, educational and cultural activities for our members as well as to provide experiences which give opportunities for choice, individual achievement, development of self-confidence, reinforcement of values and fun. We provide positive worthwhile activities and program in a safe secure environment with positive adult role models.

We provide programs in six program areas are Character and Leadership Development, Education and Career Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts, Sports, Fitness and Recreation, and Special Programs and Events

Youth Development Strategy

The philosophy underlying Boys & Girls Club programming is the Youth Development Strategy. This strategy defines how youth development professionals and volunteers interact with young people. All programs and activities are designed to maximize opportunities for young people to acquire four basic senses which help them build self esteem and grow into responsible and caring adults.

The four senses are:

A sense of Competence – the feeling that boys and girls have the capability to do anything and do it well.

A sense of Usefulness – the opportunity to do something of value for other people.

A sense of Belonging – an environment where everyone is equal and young people know they are accepted.

A sense of Power – a chance to be heard and to influence decisions

After School Program: The after school program runs Monday through Friday, 2:30 to 6:00 p.m. Each day we offer 5 basic program areas, physical education, game room, arts & crafts, and homework room and computer center. We try to offer a varied and balanced program to meet the needs of all children.

Physical Education: The Physical Education program includes but is not limited to basketball, soccer, dodge ball, kickball, floor hockey, games, etc.

Game Room: Quiet passive game and table games for fun and relaxation. Learn the rules and skills of games.

Arts & Crafts: Children will explore their own creativity under the guidance of an instructor.

Homework room / Computer Center: Open to all children who need a place to do their homework or need help, do school projects, work on computers, book reports, etc.

School Vacation Program: When there is no school the Boys & Girls Club is open from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Summer Program: The program is open to all children ages 6 to 13. It will run Monday through Friday. We will offer a wide variety of programs and activities for the participants. They will include arts & crafts, sports, swimming, games, special events, reading and fields trips.

E. Project Need

Every day, 11.3 million kids are left unsupervised after school lets out. For every hour a child spends in school, he or she spends two hours out of school. And how kids spend those after-school and summer hours can significantly impact their lives. Youths without direction often find trouble. Those with access to a safe place with caring adult mentors and enriching programs have a significantly better opportunity for success. Boys & Girls Clubs provide a safe place for children to learn and grow, to develop ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, to engage in life-enhancing programs and to create a culture of hope and opportunity. We provide a safe haven for kids and opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports: crimes by juveniles peak in the afternoon between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., the hour at the end of the school day. Nearly one-third (29%) of all violent crime committed by juvenile offenders occurs between 3 p.m. and 7 pm. Young people under the age of 18 account for 21.7% of the Massachusetts population. Without the option for structured afterschool activities, school age youth are vulnerable to the many risky influences on today's youth. In response to the growing epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths, a Public Health Emergency has been declared in the Commonwealth . We cannot leave our children out in the cold to fend for themselves when the school day is over. The risk factors are way too high and there is too much at stake for our young people.

ABGC serves youth who are underrepresented in the general Amherst Pelham Regional School District student population. 78.95% of the Amherst population identifies their race as white whereas 50% of ABGC youth identify as non-white Hispanic. 81% of youth served by ABGC live in households identified as low-income. For 55% of youth, English is not their primary language at home. These factors add to the already turbulent developmental stage for youth in the at-risk group of pre-adolescent and adolescent years.

ABGC realizes that in order to better serve our community's youth, we need to provide options for them to recognize their own abilities, tap into what sparks their interests and drives them to succeed. By offering a variety of stimulating enrichment activities, we aim to grasp their attention and provide pro-social outlets for youth in a world that can seem very overwhelming for any young person, let alone the additional struggles our low-income youth face. Our young people are capable of building resiliency, fostering family stabilization, and growing up to

become self-sufficient adults. Youth served by this project do not have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities that require out of pocket expenses for their families. This project will enable ABGC to continue serving youth who would otherwise not have the opportunity for such enrichment. We are building tomorrow's leaders, workforce, and parents of the coming generation.

F. Community Involvement and Support

Youth served by ABGC are periodically surveyed and encouraged to provide input on the operational practices. Youth accessing the ABGC programs meet with the Executive Director regularly to provide input on workshops they would like to participate in. They have ample opportunity to offer feedback on programming as well as request specific workshops. Youth served by the project have the opportunity to sit on our youth advisory committee which consists of ABGC participants and are guided by the Program Coordinator. The committee is an opportunity for youth to develop their leadership skills while having a significant impact on decisions affecting their use of ABGC.

In addition, our newly acquired space is much more inviting for hosting family nights, open houses, and meeting with families. Family input has always been valuable to our commitment to serving not only children but opening our doors to the community at large. Families play a critical role in influencing our young people and we continuously take into account their needs and desires for our youth's activities. ABGC is driven by the young people we serve.

We are fortunate to be in a region with several Colleges with students eager to interact with our members by providing learning opportunities and serve as mentors. We currently have an excellent relationship with UMass. They provide volunteers and work study students that staff and run our programs

G. Project Feasibility

ABGC has successfully served the Amherst community for 109 years and plans to do so for at least another 100 years. Because of our track record as a leading youth service organization, we anticipate the project to be a feasible one. As a result of moving into a new Club in the summer of 2018 we are able to increase the number of youth served and programs offered.

By hiring a Program Coordinator who can oversee the projects' quality control, implement programs, recruitment and supervise work study students who serve as program leaders and ensure appropriate staff-youth ratio. The addition of a Program Coordinator will allow the Executive Director to focus on larger organizational sustainability and growth such as fund development, branding and relationship building. The Program Coordinator will be essential in developing, supervising and ensuring quality control of all programs offered. With this leadership structure, ABGC can successfully move into the future by better serving the youth and families in Amherst. ABGC has multiple long-term community partners. CDBG funding will enable ABGC to continue providing these critical programs during out of school hours.

The demand for services is apparent in the number of youth remaining active ABGC members for almost ten years of their lives, from age 6-18, whereas in the past members used to leave the Club once they hit their late teen years. We have young people hanging onto the security of ABGC well beyond their middle school years. There is a need to accommodate the larger number of high school age youth by providing targeted positive youth development activities, by retaining our additional space and staff to oversee the project. Longtime funders of ABGC include: The Community Foundation of Western MA, Amherst Women's Club, Florence Savings Bank, and individual donors. In an effort to diversify our funding sources and maintain organizational/programming sustainability, we've added a gala along with our annual golf tournament and annual appeal.

H. Project Impact

The Amherst Boys & Girls Club reaches out to and serves young people by implementing the five key elements for positive youth development, encouraging regular attendance and offering targeted programs. Combined, these efforts results in positive youth outcomes in three key areas, Academic Success, Charter & Citizenships and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Club provides a developmentally rich environment by incorporating the five key elements for positive youth development:

1. Creating a safe positive environment
2. Having fun
3. Developing supportive relationships with caring adults
4. Offering opportunities for and having high expectations of members
5. Recognizing members for who they are and their achievements

Youth will benefit from increased exposure to and engagement in pro-social activities, positive peer relations, continuity of adult support, opportunities to explore/develop new interests, enhanced protective factors, and recognition of individual strengths, and a connectedness to their greater community. Families of youth will benefit from supervision and meals provided to youth, knowing their children are safe, and access to program staff.

The family/provider relationship serves to reinforce support to youth and provide an additional layer of protection against at-risk behavior. The Amherst community will benefit from reduced negative behaviors typically performed during out of school hours and increased confidence in the marginalized youth population. Outcomes of the program include: increase youths' exposure to pro-social activities, reduce negative behavior, engage youth in new interests, develop life skills, and provide interactive outlets for youth who may otherwise not have the opportunity to

explore or develop what stimulates and motivates them. ABGC provides age-appropriate, structured activities for youth who would otherwise be unsupervised during afterschool hours.

ABGC maintains a list of youth members. Members are required to sign in and out of the Club during visits; they are also periodically surveyed about their experiences with ABGC. ABGC keeps an active suggestion box for youth to submit their comments, requests, and feedback. Facilitators often use pre and post testing to gain insight on the impact of workshop/class sessions. Youth openly disclose their needs and challenges. We work with youth individually to attain their goals including improving their grades, supporting them through graduating from high school, applying for and getting accepted into college, obtaining financial aid, completing job searches and applications, and refraining from negatively impactful behaviors. The primary avenue for obtaining feedback remains open communication with ABGC staff. With this project, ABGC will serve 40 low income, at risk youth from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020.

As described above, activities offered by ABGC are modeled on positive youth development and target young people who are at a point in their lives when they are preparing for adulthood. Everything we do aims to support their preparation for becoming self-sufficient, productive adults in our community. ABGC is often the entry point to other community services for youth and their families. Typically youth are the first to access ABGC and upon getting to know them, gathering data required for club membership, and determining their immediate needs, we are in a position of making referrals to local organizations that can provide the family with the appropriate support needed for family stabilization.

ABGC Annual Budget July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019	
Revenue	
Reserve Fund	50,000
Grants	30,000
Gala	15,000
Golf Tournament	15,000
Annual Appeal	20,000
Membership Fees	1,500
Other	2,500
Total	134,000
Expenses	
Salaries, Fringe, Benefits	
Executive Director	44,800
Summer Staff	6,000
Work Study Students	5000
Workers Comp	775
Payroll service fee	1000
Contractual	
Instructors	1000
Audit	4000
Occupancy	
29 A Cottage Street	39000
Maintenance	5000
Comcast	2400
Gas	3000
Water	250
Electric	3600
Insurance	4500
Operations	
Program Supplies	3500
Office Supplies (copy paper, ink, paper clips, etc.)	1000
Building Supplies (toilet paper, cleaning, etc.)	1000
Snacks	1750

Dinner	750
Memberships	
COSA	25
Other Professional Memberships	250
Chamber	100
Training	
Professional training staff	500
Branding	
Staff T-shirts	1000
Printing for professional materials	400
Postage	400
Marketing	1500
Fundraising	1000
Misc	500
Total	134,000

Amherst Boys & Girls Club
Youth Development Program
Proposed Budget
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Income:

CDGG	\$ 40,000
ABGC Fundraising	18,000
Total	58,000

Expenses:

Personnel:

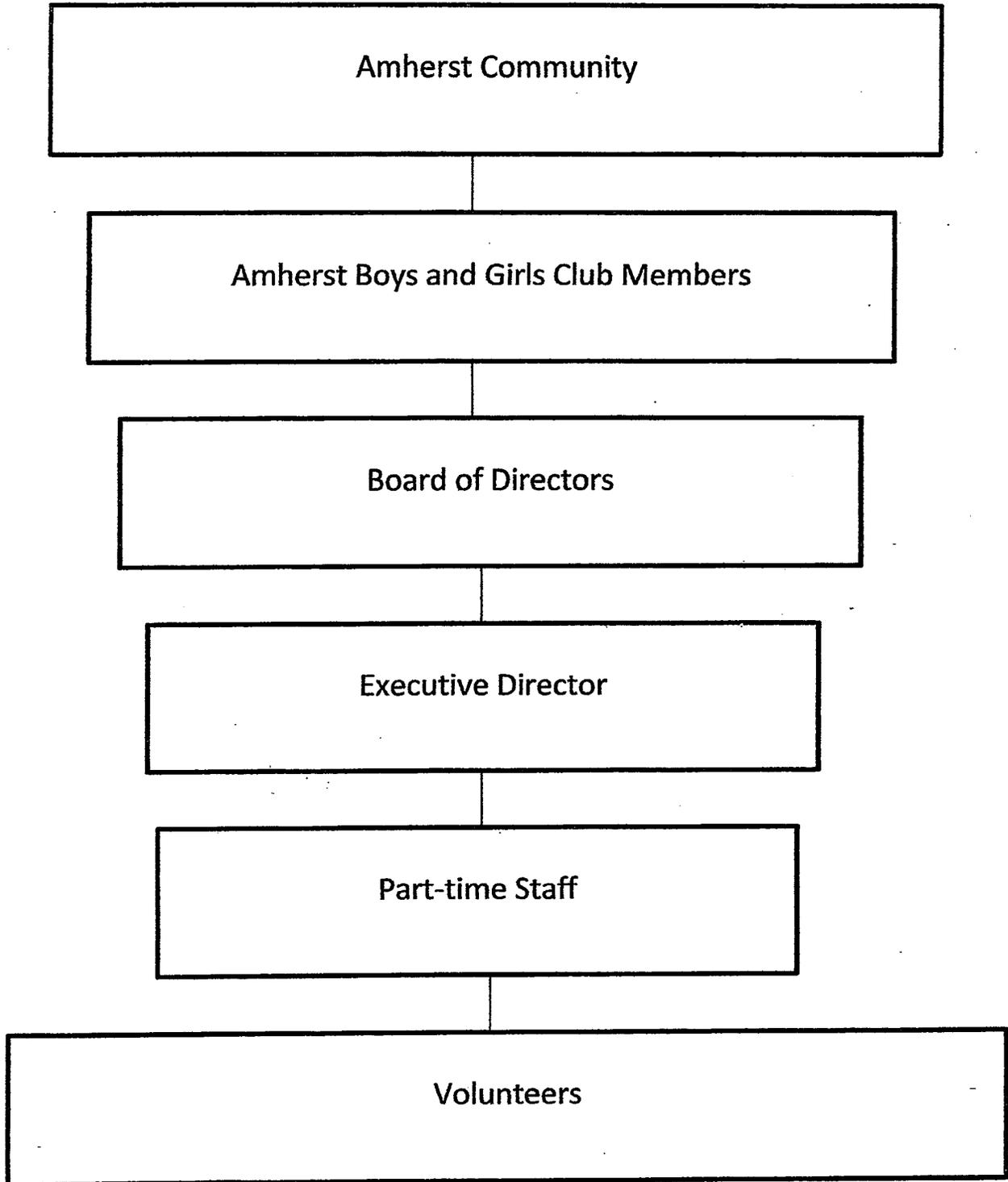
Executive Director (.20FTE)	8,000
Fringe (10%)	800
Program Director (25hrs. per week at \$15.00/hr.)	27,000
Fringe (10%)	2,700
Sub Total	38,500

Other Expense:

Occupancy	12,000
Instructor Fees	4,000
Supplies	2,000
Scholarships (%50 x 40)	2,000
Sub Total	20,000

Total \$ 58,000

Amherst Boys and Girls Club Organizational Chart



Grandparent of Member

December 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to speak on the importance of supporting the Amherst Boys & Girls Club.

This is a very difficult and challenging time for young people. There are many negative influences each day. After school many young people don't have appropriate activities like sports, band, theater, et cetera. Many are left unsupervised and may be alone at home while parents or guardians are at work. The Amherst Boys & Girls Club (Club) provides a supervised alternative for them. The Club is open every day after school and during school vacations. It has now been open during the summer months at the requests of our members.

Many of these unsupervised young people are at risk and need safe places and activities to participate in. The Club provides that safe place and activities. My grandson has been fortunate to be able to come to the Club for different activities over the last several years even though we lived in Franklin County. He has always felt welcome and safe. He recently moved to Amherst and he goes to the Club on his own or with his new friends. There are attentive and caring adult workers whom I like and he does as well. They provide very good supervision. He has also joined me and participated in events put on by the Club. Events he has been able to attend include the Drive for the Future Golf Tournament and the Feast for the Future Dinner Gala. At the gala he has sat with his friends and listened to fellow members speak. Members have given speeches the last three years which promotes youth development. Other supervised activities he and other young people have participated in included car washes, Block Parties and Amherst Arts Night Plus. There are many paintings on the Club walls which members have done.

In conclusion young people need an affordable safe, interesting and fun place to go where they can be with friends. No young person is turned away for lack of funds. The Amherst Boys & Girls Club provides this for our young people in Amherst. They can make friends; and participate in events and activities which are safe and enjoyable to them. They can experience youth participation and development. Please join me in supporting the Club. Whole communities benefit from adults working together and supporting our young people.

Thank you, sincerely,



William Crossman

Grandparent of Club Member

Board Member Amherst Boys & Girls Club