



## Direct Support Fund Application

### General Information

**Submission Date:** 08/01/2014

**Contact Name:** Veronica Coptis

**Group Name (if applicable):** Greene County Residents for Environmental Justice ("REJ")

**Street Address:** PO Box 55555

**City:** Carmichaels

**State:** PA

**Zip:** 15320

**Daytime Phone:** (555)555-5555

**Email:** example@gmail.com

**Website or Facebook page address:** www.example.org

**Background or Organizational History:** REJ was formed in August 2013 by a group of people who live along Tower Road in Greene County in response to frustrations over gas drilling violations in close proximity to our homes. We have since expanded to include many other Green County communities that are struggling with shale impacts like noise, air, and water pollution. There was a need for a group that would advocate for residents, push for stronger regulations on the industry and act as a watchdog for drilling related activities in Greene County.

## Project Information

**Project Title:** Community Networking Project

**Project Description:** In Pennsylvania's Greene County, many residents are already experiencing the detrimental effects of shale gas development and often feel isolated in their struggles against this industry.

The Community Networking Project will connect impacted citizens through a series of community meetings held throughout the county. Our meetings will be promoted using printed materials such as flyers and postcards which will be placed at township buildings, post offices, and public bulletin boards as well as being advertised on social media and email blasts to our list of concerned citizens. Community members will be able to meet and network with others in similar situations in order to gain insight into Marcellus issues taking place in Greene County.



We plan to identify volunteers to take on a township leader role, meaning this individual would be responsible for attending local township monthly meetings and providing REJ with a follow-up report detailing any Marcellus issues in their township. This information from each township leader will be compiled by our organization and be sent to all those involved with this project. Our hope is that by connecting the different townships through the Community Networking Project, we can increase attendance and involvement at township meetings through a support network.

Our meetings will provide citizens a safe space in which to talk about their issues and allow them to see they are not alone in these wearisome efforts.

Our group plans to hold four of these meetings strategically in Gray, Jackson, Greene, and Jefferson townships so that residents around the entire county will be in close proximity to at least one of the meetings allowing our group to have the furthest reach possible. The four networking meetings will take place within the first month and be scheduled in accordance with township supervisor meetings so that our group can organize attendance at these meetings in order to influence local decisions regarding shale gas issues within the smaller community.

There will also be a larger countywide meeting during October which will give township leaders a chance to meet and discuss some of the issues occurring in their neighborhoods. At this final meeting, we will also discuss the development of a countywide water quality monitoring program in collaboration with the group ALLARM and begin to schedule training sessions on how to use web tools such as FracTracker and eFacts.

**Start Date:** September 1, 2014

**End Date:** November 1, 2014

**Is this a continuation of another project? No**      **If yes, was it funded by the Direct Support Fund?**

**Have you applied for funds from us before? No**

**\*For the continuation of a project funded by Direct Support, please submit a current budget with this application.**

## **Budget**

Tell us what you plan to spend the funds on. See sample application for reference. If necessary, a longer budget form is available on our website.



<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Printing Cost	To print promotional materials announcing the events and materials to provide to those who attend the meetings.	\$200
Venue Rental	To rent a venue space that can be open only to those intended to be at the meetings	\$1,000
Travel	To help our group members afford to travel to the meetings throughout the county or assist impacted individuals who need travel reimbursements in order to participate	\$500
Food	To provide refreshments at the meetings	\$250
<b>Total</b>	\$1950	

## References

Please list contact information for two individuals who are willing to endorse your project, and describe their relationship with you and the project.

<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Phone/Email</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
1. Patrick Grenter	724-555-5555 example@centerforcoalfieldjustice.org	Staff at Center for Coalfield Justice which has been helping our group.
2. Ken Duffalla	724-555-5555 no email	President of Greene County IWLA who is going to help with the project.

## Organizational Information

**Do you have an annual operating budget, and if so, what is the amount?** We have a total of \$500 in our group bank account right now.

**Have you raised other funds for this project? Please list the source & amount.** We have not raised funds specifically for this project before.

## Evaluation

**How will you know whether you accomplished what you set out to do?** Our group plans to evaluate this project by tracking the number of people who attend any of the four networking meetings. If we are successful, we will be able to find at least one volunteer to take the leader position for each of Greene County's townships. An evaluation form will also be available at the meetings to rate the effectiveness of these meetings with suggestions on how to improve future



networking sessions. The number of attendees at the October county wide meeting will also be an indicator of the effectiveness of our smaller meetings.

**What do you think will change as a result of this project?** The change we expect to see as a result of this project is an increase in attendance at township meetings which will be reported by the township leaders indicating that this project has helped move more voices into the frontlines of the movement.

## **Application Submittal**

All fields are required. Completed application forms should be submitted to Em Hough at the Mountain Watershed Association. Email is preferable though mailed copies are accepted (emailed applications will receive an acknowledgement).

Em Hough  
Mountain Watershed Association  
PO Box 408  
Melcroft PA 15462  
DSF@mtwatershed.com

The Direct Support Fund is made possible by Cloud Mountain Foundation, The Plastic Solutions Fund, The Heinz Endowments and The 11th Hour Project and is a project of the Mountain Watershed Association.

Organizations serving on the coordinating committee include the Black Appalachian Coalition, Indigenous Environmental Network, Earthworks, Center for Coalfield Justice, People Over Petro Coalition, Marcellus Outreach Butler, Mountain Watershed Association, and the Center for International Environmental Law.