



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Dinwiddie

Program Title: Dinwiddie County Resource Council

Program Category: Health & Human Services

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: W. Kevin Massengill

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: W. Kevin Massengill

Title: County Administrator

Signature: 

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**Problem:**

For years, the Dinwiddie County Department of Social Services (DSS) has struggled with ways to assist individuals and families that fall into a “gray area”. These are the people who do not qualify for public assistance, but have needs to be met. These needs range from feeding their families, to home repair, to transportation. At the same time, Dinwiddie Fire & EMS report a high volume of calls that are not emergent in nature. In some instances, citizens were calling 911 when they ran out of medication or needed assistance moving from one room of their home to another. Many of these calls resulted from a lack of family or social support. While Dinwiddie’s first-responders willingly provide the assistance, their talents are best utilized in legitimate, life-threatening emergencies. County leadership began to see a correlation between these two problems, when studying *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* data for the past several years. Dinwiddie County’s rank fell as compared with other Virginia localities and this was a problem.

**Awards Criteria:** Health & Human Services

The Dinwiddie County Resource Council is an example of true **collaboration**. Considering the need for assistance demonstrated in calls to DSS and to Fire & EMS, and the need to improve the overall health of our community, the County set out to create a formal process for discussion and a database of local public and private resources. At the table are representatives from all County departments, Dinwiddie County Public Schools, local civic and non-profit organizations, state agencies, federal agencies, the faith community and citizens.

**Program Description:**

In an effort to identify all available resources in Dinwiddie County, major stakeholders were identified and invited to the table. The first meeting convened in March 2017. Using the most recent data from “County Health Rankings and Roadmaps” as a guide, the group discussed the County’s strengths and areas of weakness; then brainstormed possible causes of these issues and resources available to address them.

The discussion revealed that there are many, many resources available to the citizens of Dinwiddie County through local and state government and private entities, however there is a lack of awareness. The Resource Council’s purpose is “Working together to build a community of empowered citizens”. To achieve or fulfill this purpose, the Resource Council must “Connect, Support, Empower, Learn, Grow and Gain”.

Since inception, the Resource Council has met bi-monthly and identified sub-committees to address more specific areas: Access to Support and Life Services; Career and Life Readiness; Economic Barriers; and Communication & Outreach. Sub-committees meet more frequently and report back to the Resource Council during regular meetings.

In an effort to address the issue of “lack of awareness of local resources”, the Resource Council hosted the first-annual *Live Well Expo* in March 2018. This event was held at Dinwiddie County High School on a Saturday morning and showcased a variety of local resources and activities geared toward healthy lifestyles and encouraging citizens to “Live Well”.

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This inaugural event boasted 60 vendors and several hundred patrons! Attendees were able to participate in a variety of FREE health screenings, including: vision, hearing, dental, and blood-pressure. They received information on diet and nutrition, the importance of physical activity, as well as the benefits of stress reduction and relaxation. There were fitness demonstrations, free chair massages, samples of healthy fruits and vegetables, and opportunities to speak one on one with local leaders. Families received information on kindergarten registration, Tdap vaccines were provided to rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and Virginia Blood Services was on-site with their Bloodmobile. There was something for everyone.

The Resource Council is currently building on the success of the *Live Well Expo*, by planning a *Learn Well Expo*, which will focus on reading and education; a *Lead Well Expo*, which will benefit those who are leaders in the community; and finally a *Love Well Expo*, which is being developed by the faith community as a way to connect congregations in service to others.

The Resource Council is also working on developing an Asset Map for the County. This will allow providers and citizens to quickly identify and access available resources. The information being collected will be placed in a database that includes ALL resources (food pantries, clothes closets, transportation services, child care, services for seniors, support groups, medical services, mental health services... the list goes on and on). This database will be placed on the website of all participating Resource Council agencies and organizations for use by citizens and professionals.

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A Faith-Based Initiative was formed as a subset of the Resource Council. This initiative includes pastors and representatives from all Dinwiddie County churches and religious groups. At this point there are 45 pastors included and the list grows with each meeting. Faith leaders, regardless of denomination or affiliation, come together to network, share information and strategize ways to support the Resource Council and the community.

This level of collaboration has never before been achieved in Dinwiddie County, and even in its infancy, the Resource Council has had a significant impact on the community. There has been no financial implication. Many incorporate Resource Council activities into their responsibility to the organization by which they are employed, and others volunteer their time. The Resource Council has energized County leaders and established an inviting, collaborative environment in which the community can be strengthened. The model would be easily replicated in other localities.

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**Executive Summary:**

Dinwiddie County established the Resource Council in an effort to improve the overall health of Dinwiddie County and develop a searchable database of local resources. The Resource Council includes representation from local, state, and federal government as well as churches and local civic and non-profit organizations. In its first year of existence, the Resource Council hosted the inaugural *Live Well Expo* aimed at increasing awareness and encouraging the adoption of healthier lifestyles. The Resource Council birthed the County's Faith-Based Initiative, which brings together pastors and representatives from all County churches and congregations, regardless of denomination, for collaborative discussion of ways they can support the strengthening of the Dinwiddie Community. The Resource Council is led by the County Administrator and Director of Social Services, and has not had financial implications. The model would be easily replicated in other localities.

**Brief Overview:**

Working together to empower a healthier Dinwiddie. The Resource Council is a partnership of local, state and federal government agencies; public schools; civic and non-profit organizations; the faith community; and citizens. This group was established to examine factors leading to the County's *Health Rankings and Roadmaps* rank, and strategize ways to improve the overall health and vitality of Dinwiddie County.

Through this initiative, the *Live Well Expo* was born as a means to increase awareness of local resources and encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles. Following the success of the *Live Well Expo*, planning began for a *Learn Well Expo*, *Lead Well Expo* and *Love Well Expo*. Each would target a different audience and deliver messages and development in their specific focus areas.

The Resource Council is also working to create a database of resources that can be easily accessed when a citizen is in need of assistance. Efforts are underway to collect and compile information on each and every resource available in the County. This is no small feat but the finished product will be a searchable, and easily updated database that will serve citizens and professionals indefinitely.

The Resource Council has not carried financial implications and would be easily replicated in other localities.