

## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the 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: Community Support Program  
Program Category: Health & Human Services

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Marie Grant  
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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: W. Kevin Massengill  
Title: County Administrator  
Signature: 

**Dinwiddie County**  
**2021 VACo Achievement Award Submission**  
**Community Support Program**

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**PROBLEM:**

It was March 2020; the Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency and the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Government offices and schools closed, businesses closed, people were not able to work and our most vulnerable citizens were at great risk of being unable to meet basic needs.

**AWARD CRITERIA: Health & Human Services**

Dinwiddie County launched a Faith-Based Initiative in 2018 (which won a VACo and NACo Achievement Awards in 2020). The Faith-Based Initiative held the first-ever LEAD WELL Summit in February 2020. This event brought together leaders from all facets of the community – faith, government, schools, businesses, civic, and non-profits, in an effort to coordinate practices that will lead to a stronger, healthier community for all people. The theme for the half-day event was “Servant Leadership”, which is a concept applicable to leaders and organizations in all sectors of the community, and featured international faith-based leader Dr. John Kinney as keynote speaker. The event boasted more than 300 participants, and subcommittees were formed to delve deeper into issues raised during the summit – one of which was food insufficiency. The LEAD WELL Summit was a huge success and participants left the event ready to conquer the world – unfortunately, one month later, COVID-19 changed the world.

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**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Recognizing the extreme hardship the pandemic placed on families in Dinwiddie County, a local business owner, who had recently volunteered to serve on the food insufficiency sub-committee, reached out to the Dinwiddie County Department of Social Services to find out how she could help. At the time, the Director of Social Services was busy designing a plan for how to support the County's most vulnerable residents during the pandemic; across town the County's Director of Parks & Recreation was trying to figure out how to keep his staff working during the pandemic, when all programs were temporarily suspended.

This was the perfect scenario for **partnership** and **collaboration!** Five local businesses stepped up to offer meals for seniors and disabled County residents, and Parks & Recreation staff delivered the meals to those in need. The Community Support Program launched in April 2020 providing meals three days/week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and continues today providing meals four days each week. Initially participants were identified through the Adult Protective Services division of the Department of Social Services, but that was not a criteria for eligibility. As the program gained momentum, non-DSS involved individuals were added to the list of participants. The partners agreed that 40 people would be the maximum number of enrolled in the program at any given time. To date, 65 people have participated in the program. Currently, there are 38 meals delivered each program day.

Lunch is the meal provided and is delivered to the participants' homes Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week. Participants also receive a "snack pack" each Friday,

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provided by the Department of Social Services, which includes additional items intended to carry them through the weekend (applesauce, crackers, cookies, Ensure, and juice). The first Friday of each month, Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen provides homemade donuts (which are a local treat)!

Staff time and the cost of gas for delivery vehicles are the only expenses associated with this program. Meals are provided by five local businesses:

- Brother's Pizza (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- Guisseppie's Pizza (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- Sutherland Slip-In Deli (Mondays and Fridays)
- Route 1 Country Store (Mondays and Fridays)
- Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen (First Friday of each month)

When Parks & Recreation programming resumed in the spring of 2021, Community Transformers, a local non-profit organization stepped in to assist with delivery of the meals.

The Community Support Program was a win-win-win venture for Dinwiddie County. Through this program, we were able to support our most vulnerable residents, sustain employment for valued Parks & Recreation staff who would otherwise have been unable to work, and provide an opportunity for local businesses to get involved, thereby strengthening the community.

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**Brother's Pizza**



**Giuseppe's Pizza**



**Sutherland Slip-In**



**Route 1 Country Store**

**Mrs. Yoder's Donuts**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Dinwiddie County's Community Support Program was born of a need to provide meals to elderly and disabled citizens, sustain employment during a pandemic, and provide opportunities for businesses to make a meaningful contribution to the community. The solution was nothing short of amazing! Through an innovative partnership, five local businesses prepared and donated meals, delivered by County staff 4 days each week, to 40 of the County's most vulnerable citizens. The only expense to Dinwiddie County is staff time and gas for delivery vehicles. While this program will not continue in perpetuity, it successfully met an immediate need and has been operational for more than one year. The model is easily replicated by other localities to meet short or long-term needs.

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**BRIEF OVERVIEW:**

When the COVID-19 pandemic changed world, Dinwiddie County faced a three-fold conundrum: the needs of our most-vulnerable residents, the continued employment of staff, and the vitality of local businesses. Through an innovative partnership between the County's Departments of Social Services and Parks & Recreation, and local businesses, a collaborative solution was achieved for all three.

The Dinwiddie County Community Support Program provides meals for up to 40 elderly or disabled residents, four days each week. Parks & Recreation staff delivered meals during the height of the pandemic, when they would have otherwise been unable to work, and the Community Support Program provided an opportunity for businesses to give back to their communities. A local non-profit assumed responsibility for meal deliveries when Parks & Recreation programming resumed in the spring of 2021.

This Community Support Program operates with minimal cost to the County – just staff time and gas for delivery vehicles. The response has been incredible and the program lifted the spirits of so many people during this difficult period. The Community Support Program is a true example of innovation, partnership, and collaboration.