

Normalized Scores 35.9

JUDGING CRITERION # 1: LOCAL (0-5)

Does the Proposal/Plan take into account local economic conditions, focusing on existing and potential competitive advantages, in its recommended solutions? Is the Proposal/Plan expected to result in direct economic benefits to the city and its surrounding area? Does the Proposal/Plan identify local assets, economic strengths and weaknesses, and describe how the city can leverage assets and strengths to result in economic benefits?

0 - 1

Failed to recognize any unique conditions in the City; recommendations could have applied to anywhere...

1 - 2

Paid basic attention to general conditions but not based on any specific City need.

2 - 3

Recognized local conditions and demonstrated an understanding of the economic climate.

3 - 4

Paid attention to specific City needs and focused on targeted economic issues.

4 - 5

Grounded by a detailed understanding of the needs of the City and its people.

3 / 5

Score: 3.0  
Comment:

This proposal is a good attempt to solve the city youth conditions before or after completing high school, and not being able to take a career related training courses. GROW (Globalizing Resources and Occupational Workforce) is to promote vocational training facility for youth in lieu of the current Youth Workforce Development Program based on resource and referral help only. It is a merge of Local resources into this process that gives a connection to the local economy and labor force. Partners are local schools, universities, local businesses and local foster care system. This is a direct effort to combat current socio-economical problems by teaching local youth trades, management and enhance their creativity that would be an asset to marketing Greensboro as diverse labor force.

2.9 / 5

Score: 2.9  
Comment:

This proposal correctly identifies the need for programs that engage under-served youth in Greensboro who face multiple challenges in completing high school and entering the labor market. This is a challenging population to serve well and this proposal to provide career pathways in skilled trades offers some interesting insights and opportunities. However, it's analysis of local strengths and weaknesses is overly superficial and does not make a clear case for how this plan will contribute to improving the broader local economy for all residents.

3 / 5

Score: 3.0  
Comment:

This proposal is presented as a project that would affect all HS grads not going to college. However, "reading between the lines" it is targeted for foster care children and address their needs. The conditions described do exist in Greensboro, but the community college and other resources present to provide the service is not identified and a duplicate initiative "youth training center is specified. This idea focused on foster care children and using existing programs could be successful.

3.1 / 5

Score: 3.1  
Comment:

The participants demonstrated knowledge of the challenges Greensboro is experiencing due to the loss of certain industries. With respect to higher education, the participants noted that 15% of college students in Greensboro do not return for their second year and that only 45% of the remaining students even graduate. The participants also cited Greensboro's relatively high poverty rate.

2.3 / 5

Score: 2.3  
Comment:

This submission is on target with some of the education/training needs of the community. However, GCS and GTCC are already cooperating to incorporate many such programs into our system through the Weaver Academy, the Aviation Academy at Andrews, the logistics focus at Western and the career ready track through certifications in the high schools.

JUDGING CRITERION # 2: FEASIBLE (0-5)

Can the Proposal/Plan yield practical and concrete results in a realistic timeframe that justify the level of required investment, addressing likely obstacles, such as resources available to the city? Does the Proposal/Plan identify economic development strategies that are achievable using existing city resources, or propose ways in which the city can utilize nonexisting/currently unidentified resources to implement these economic development strategies? Does the Proposal/Plan outline a timeline by which the city can develop actionable strategies to implement the ideal contained in the Proposal/Plan?

0 - 1

Misguided by an optimistic understanding of obstacles and underestimated the effort required to deliver results.

1 - 2

Addressed basic obstacles to general recommendations but not with specific or realistic tasks.

2 - 3

Demonstrated a realistic and efficient level of effort and attention to detail.

3 - 4

Addressed specific obstacles with recommendations tied to detailed, measurable and cost effective tasks.

4 - 5

Guided by practical and concrete recommendations; considered timing, funding, return on investment and measureable outcomes.

2.3 / 5

Score: 2.3  
Comment:

Utilizing existing facilities such as rec centers while recreating the youth vocational training center, and building upon existing Guilford County Schools early college, middle college and magnet school programs is an effort to minimize cost and utilize experienced teams and resources to focus on vocational training and financial management. Detailed budget estimate was provided. The Proposal did not mention about how this programs will be financially sustainable.

2.3 / 5

Score: 2.3  
Comment:

This proposal has practical and concrete elements but does not adequately address how to leverage existing assets and programs, nor does it adequately discuss the complexity and multiple barriers to designing and implementing these types of comprehensive programs to have measurable impacts on the population they are intended to serve. This can be done, but requires sustained investment substantially higher than what is suggested here as well as the active participation of existing secondary and post-secondary educational institutions and other social service providers and non-profits, of which there is insufficient mention in this proposal.

2.7 / 5

Score: 2.7  
Comment:

This proposal identifies a need, but does not acknowledge that the programs/resources needed are already in place and the issue should be a program structure that addressed the specific foster care children needs.

2.5 / 5

Score: 2.5  
Comment:

The proposal essentially involves creating a workforce development program for high school students to replace the functions vocational training formerly provided. The proposal did not address whether this workforce development training program would be part of a high school curriculum nor transportation for the students to and from the training programs.

1.4 / 5

Score: 1.4  
Comment:

Comments the same as criterion 1. I have nothing further to add.

JUDGING CRITERION # 3: INNOVATIVE (0-5)

Is the Proposal/Plan offering a fresh and forward-looking approach that will lead to a clear set of strategically-aligned goals that other economic development initiatives have failed to deliver? Are the ideas and strategies submitted in the Proposal/Plan duplicative of existing plans or strategies being utilized by the city? Does the Proposal/Plan outlay strategies that propose to utilize city resources in more effective and efficient ways to realize the city's economic development goals?

0 - 1

Promoted style over substance or lacked new and original methods with not enough practical thinking.

1 - 2

Raised novel and interesting concepts but failed to tie approach to clear outcomes.

2 - 3

Delivered new and different methods with focus on concrete goals and improving outcomes.

3 - 4

Raised creative and new ideas that offer a clear roadmap to improved conditions.

4 - 5

Introduced ground breaking and advanced thinking that exceeds the promise of any previous approach.

2.2 / 5

Score: 2.2  
Comment:

This proposal is focusing on Greensboro's current youth population, their potentials and contribution to the future labor force. Establishing a new entity to connect between existing establishments and programs to effectively manage the local youth development is an effort to fill-in the gaps in the current system.

2 / 5

Score: 2.0  
Comment:

This proposal makes some extremely valid points about the need to provide much stronger programming and comprehensive supports to under-served youth in the Greensboro community and it is recommended that this element be considered in any economic development strategy going forward. However, as conceived, the proposal is not sufficiently detailed, does not adequately identify existing resources, and does not offer sufficient integration with existing economic and community development objectives.

2.5 / 5

Score: 2.5  
Comment:

This proposal is about the program/resources to address a very important problem regarding children from difficult environments having a chance for education and skills that will provide a job and make them a contributing member of society. It outlines programming and resource that already exist rather than a concept of how these resources can be deployed more effectively.

2.3 / 5

Score: 2.3  
Comment:

The creation of a workforce development program for teens is not in and of itself particularly innovative. While a number of innovative ideas are thrown out in the proposal (e.g. involve downtown businesses with and on the job training), they are only mentioned in passing without much discussion. It would have been helpful to hear a little more about exactly how this workforce development, in combination with specific downtown businesses, could trigger economic development in the City.

1.4 / 5

Score: 1.4  
Comment:

Comments same as criterion 1. I have no further comments.