

# Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

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Legal Name of the Organization: Agricenter International

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EIN: 62-1143306

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Street Address of Organization 7777 Walnut Grove Road

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Office Phone: 901-757-7777

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E-mail [cdonhardt@agricenter.org](mailto:cdonhardt@agricenter.org)

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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First Name John

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Last Name Butler

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### GENERAL CONTACT FOR THIS REQUEST(if other than Executive Director)

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First Name Christine

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Last Name Donhardt

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Title: Dir. of Communications

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### DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

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Program/Project Area: Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project

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Amount Requested 100,000

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Total Organizational budget (for current year): 3,900,000

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Total Project/Program Budget: 318,350

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Dates covered by this budget: July 1-June 30, 2016

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Project/Program Name: Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

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Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

Agricenter International is a non-profit dedicated to agricultural research, education, and conservation. For over 30 years, the organization has served as steward of the 1,000 acre parcel of land owned by Shelby County Government. Agricenter and its tenants have a \$524 million economic impact on the region and bring in \$4.7 million in taxes to local government. Over 4,000 students come to Agricenter annually to learn where their food and fiber comes from. In addition to education, Agricenter also runs agriculture field trials, an RV Park, the ShowPlace Arena, Farmer's Market, and Expo center. Over 1.3 million visitors annually are on the property. The Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project grant request is to further the work that will ultimately connect the Shelby Farms Greenline to the Agricenter Farmer's Market. Over 30 years ago, when Shelby County developed the land now known as Agricenter, the greenway trail, designed to connect the Farmer's Market to Walnut Grove, was left unpaved in a 3,885 foot section. One section has a gravel base and the other is a dirt trail with desire lines. The Commission's \$100,000 Community Enhancement Grant will provide design work, grading, earthwork, signage, and some paving to further the trail. Currently, bicycles and pedestrians use Symthe Farm Road alongside the large farm tractors and auto traffic. This situation is potentially hazardous and we would prefer the bicycle trail be used instead.

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## Narrative - Organization

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Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the

In March 2016, Agricenter launched their first crowdfunding campaign to raise money for bollards for the Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project. Through a matching grant with IOBY and Livable Memphis and 36 community donors, \$3,524.27

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recent past.

(plus an additional \$100 from another source) was raised. This summer, the gates that close off the trail to 4 wheelers will be opened and bollards will be installed to allow bicycles and pedestrians to easily traverse the path. In addition, we are in the process of securing two bike racks from Shelby County Air Board Penalty Funds to be placed at the Strawberry Patch and the Farmer's Market, our most popular agritourism destinations.

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Numbers of paid full-time staff: 25

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Number of paid part-time staff: 5

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Number of volunteers: 150

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### **Narrative - Funding Request**

Please describe the program/project for which you seek funding and include how it will benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

As an endorser of the Greenprint 2015/2040 plan, Agricenter International wants to enhance the Agricenter Trail on the property to contribute to the overall regional vision of a connected community. Greenprint is a Shelby County Government-led project through the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability. It is a 25-year plan to create 500 miles of greenway trails and 200 miles of bicycle paths across three states. Agricenter's trail project has been approved through the Greenprint Project Certification process and is listed among the Shelby Farms Greenline ACCESS Project and the Big River Crossing.

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### **General Operating Support**

If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant will be used.

N/A

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### **Project Support**

Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary purpose and the need or

The Agricenter Trail Enhancement Project addresses the Greenprint strategic direction of having an interconnected network of parks, greenways, and open spaces. Objective two of the Greenprint is to improve access and use of the

problem that you are seeking to address.

greenspace, with these actions being fulfilled: • 1.1.4 - Adopt regionally-accepted criteria for prioritization of enhancing hubs and linkages as part of an interconnected network of green spaces • 1.1.7 - Preserve and integrate agricultural character and history into the system of parks, green spaces, and trails • 1.1.8 - Connect greenways and trails to historic sites and cultural resources, settlements, and communities The trail will connect Shelby Farms Greenline to the Agricenter, which showcases the agricultural character of the region. The trail will ultimately lead to the Farmer's Market, which is a cultural resource and a historic site, as it is the original 1930s dairy barn from the penal farm. The paving of the trail will use regionally-accepted criteria for linking the network of greenspaces. In addition, this trail will address a secondary strategic direction of creating a healthy and safe community by connecting the trail system to the Farmer's Market where fresh, locally grown produce is available.

How does the project contribute to your organization's overall mission?

Agricenter International was created by Shelby County Government to conduct agricultural research, educational programs, environmental conservation, natural area preservation, and recreational opportunities. Funds from the Shelby County Commission would be used to increase recreational opportunities for constituents in all Commission districts.

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### **Narrative - Evaluation**

Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period.

By enhancing the partially graveled road bed and the desire lines that constitute this unpaved section of trail, we will encourage users of all ages and abilities. In addition, with better access to the trail through installation of bollards through the fully funded IOBY campaign, we anticipate seeing more use of the trail.

Attachments:

If your request is under \$25,000 please attach the following:

1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4

certificate for civic organizations

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2. Most recent IRS Form 990 or Financial Statements (balance sheet and income statement) as of the most recent fiscal year end certified by Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the entity.

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3. Complete Budget for grant request

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If your request is \$25,000 or more please attach the following:

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1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations

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2. Copy of an annual audit as of a date within 18 months of the start of the current fiscal year.

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3. Complete Budget for grant request

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File 1 [501c3 Letter.pdf](#)

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File 2 [Agricenter Financial Statements 2015 - signed PDF.pdf](#)

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File 3 [Project budget.xlsx](#)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

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The information provided has been submitted in good faith and as completely as our records and recollections permit.

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I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the office of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

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Signature: Christine Donhardt

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Printed Name: Christine Donhardt

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Date 7/29/2016

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