

SHERIDAN COUNTY
APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL TAX FUNDS

FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Tongue River Valley Community Center **PHONE:** (307) 655-9419
CONTACT PERSON: Erin Kilbride, Executive Director **ADDRESS:** PO Box 792, Ranchester WY, 82839
AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$50,000 **AMOUNT APPROVED:**
TAX STATUS: Non-Profit **FEDERAL ID NO:** 83-0033999 **EMAIL:** trvcc9191@gmail.com

DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION: The Tongue River Valley communities of Ranchester, Dayton, Parkman, Wolf and Wyola are closely tied geographically, economically, and socially. These communities sought to improve the quality of life for valley residents through the creation of a shared community center with locations in Ranchester and Dayton. This concept embraces the connected nature of these communities to provide needed services that require extended resources often in short supply for small rural communities. Youth, families and senior citizens of the Tongue River Valley, as well as any potential new residents of the area, all have the opportunity to benefit from the facilities and valuable programs provided. Aside from providing these quality of life opportunities to current residents of the Tongue River Valley, the TRVCC adds an asset to the community for attracting a skilled, diverse and stable workforce to the area.

The TRVCC enriches the quality of community life by providing educational, social, recreational and cultural opportunities for the residents of the valley. The TRVCC houses and coordinates programs that include, but are not limited to, after school programs, youth lunches, dance and gymnastics classes, swim lessons, adult fitness facility and classes, league sports, bingo and cribbage, social events, media center, and joint membership and coordinated programming with the Sheridan YMCA.

DESCRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS: The TRVCC Board selection process is based upon the need for diverse representation within its service area. The board chair heads a governance committee to oversee the recruitment of new board members. Beginning with an application process, the governance committee thoroughly vets each application for diversity, leadership skills, business acumen, and interest in the TRVCC's mission to the community it serves.

NO. OF BOARD MEMBERS: 12 **TERM:** 3 years, staggered terms

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Carole Petty, <i>President</i>	Sue Belish
Gina Donnor, <i>Vice President</i>	Rita Cherni-Smith
Kami Smith, <i>Secretary</i>	Marcy Schmaus
Susan Lanka, <i>Treasurer</i>	Jay McGinnis
Jean Anderson	Amber Robbins
Lorrie Anderson	Bob Szewc

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason County, rather than the City, Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens that will benefit):

The Tongue River Valley Community Center (TRVCC) respectfully requests capital funding toward completing renovation of the former Tongue River High School in Dayton, Wyoming into a community center to serve the residents of the Tongue River Valley (Ranchester, Dayton, Parkman, Wolf, Wyola).

To date, the TRVCC has raised over \$2.95 million of the \$3.62 million needed to complete renovation of the Dayton facility. The TRVCC is currently in the midst of a grass-roots campaign to raise \$250,000 from families in the Tongue River Valley to show community investment toward both capital construction and the funding of a \$4.5 million sustaining endowment fund. The \$139,000 raised to date through this grass-roots campaign reflects a significant and widespread community commitment to this important community asset.

While it is difficult to accurately assess the number of individuals served by the TRVCC, it is known that the Tongue River Valley has over 800 families that live, work, and play in the region. The TRVCC has become a central point of community for many of these families and membership continues to rise sharply, with memberships of 237 at the end of 2009 compared to 88 at the end of 2008 – an increase of 169% in just one year.

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which funds are requested):

	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1.	\$50,000	The TRVCC is respectfully requesting capital funds to be fully distributed by June of 2012, if possible. Specifically, these funds will assist in the completion of renovating the old Tongue River Valley High School. While renovations are substantially complete, the TRVCC has borrowed against long-term endowment funds in order to take advantage of the old high school building opportunity. This one-time one-cent sales tax allocation will help ensure the TRVCC's long-term viability and ability to serve a significant portion of the residents in rural Sheridan County.

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO THE SHERIDAN AREA COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE:

1. **Provide the best use of limited resources to improve the quality of community life in the Tongue River Valley.** The Tongue River Valley communities are working together to best utilize limited resources to address community needs. Along with providing facilities and programs, the TRVCC's goal is to continue to partner with the towns and other civic organizations in the area to provide the best service while minimizing duplication of effort and dividing of resources.

2. **Provide much needed, comprehensive youth programs to the Tongue River Valley.** As the TRVCC proceeds with prioritizing needs within the Tongue River Valley service area, youth programs are at the top. Several factors contribute to the urgency of this goal:
 - Local youth have no other facility (such as the YMCA) to participate in after school programs.
 - Many parents in the Tongue River Valley commute to work in Sheridan, leaving children with free time to fill between school and evening family time.
 - Sheridan County School District No. 1 uses a 4-day school week (Monday-Thursday). Parents who work outside the home must make other arrangements for student supervision on those days.

3. **Maintain a coordinated facilities presence in Dayton and Ranchester.** The TRVCC has actually been operating in the Tongue River Valley service area for 9 years. Starting as a small program space in the Tongue River Valley strip mall, local residents have worked hard to realize their dream. As operations continued, certain overarching needs became apparent; particularly the need to have facilities in the two largest Tongue River Valley communities. A range of local conditions contribute to this need, including:
 - Schools split between two communities
 - A lack of health and fitness options
 - A large senior population and commute-to-work distance.
 - Local municipal governments have also expressed a strong desire to maintain facilities in both communities and have provided support as well.

4. **Grow membership to 40% of Tongue River Valley households by June of 2012.** As membership in the Tongue River Valley Community has increased, community contributions have correspondingly increased. In addition to health and social benefits to the community, increased memberships also lead to additional community investment to help build a sustaining endowment to support future operations.

DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT ONE CENT OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):

The TRVCC has previously received some unallocated Optional One Cent Sales Tax funds from the towns of Dayton and Ranchester. These funds were combined with grants and community contributions to make 2009 a year of significant accomplishment for the TRVCC. For example:

- Acquired the old Tongue River High School and began an extensive renovation project
- Initiated grassroots capital campaign to raise funds and increase membership. Aside from grants and large gifts, the TRVCC campaign has raised over \$139,000 in local support.
- Recorded highest facilities usage ever – over 12,250 visits in 2009.
- Continued or implemented the following programs:
 - After school programs
 - Creative kids workshops
 - Youth lunches
 - Kids dance and gymnastics classes
 - Dayton pool operations
 - Media center with internet
 - Adult fitness and dance classes
 - Cardio and weight room
 - Yoga
 - Massage therapy

- Scrapbooking
- Table tennis and pickleball
- Bingo, pinochle and cribbage
- League sports
- Social events
- Joint membership with the Sheridan YMCA

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEAR(S) AND PURPOSE.

The TRVCC is not applying for City of Sheridan Optional One Cent Sales Tax funds; however, the TRVCC is applying for Optional funds from the Towns of Dayton and Rancheater. The application amount for those funds will be for \$33,000 for the four year period and will be directed to the same projects described herein. The TRVCC also currently receives operational assistance from the Town of Dayton for utilities and specific capital improvement expenses.

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement).**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LATEST IRS FORM 990 (If Applicable).**

SIGNED: *Eric R. Gilbert*
 Title: *Executive Director*
 Date: *4/1/2010*

Please complete this application. You may provide additional information if you wish.

Supplemental Information Attached:

- Media coverage regarding the Tongue River Valley Community Center
- TRVCC fact sheet
- TRVCC endowment and capital campaign brochure