

**SHERIDAN COUNTY**  
**APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL SALES & USE TAX FUNDS**

**FISCAL YEARS 2020 TO 2023**  
**(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**NAME OF ORGANIZATION:** Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce      **PHONE:** 307-672-2485

**CONTACT PERSON:** Dixie Johnson, CEO      **MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 707, Sheridan WY 82801

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** dixiejohnson@sheridanwyoingchamber.org

**AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED:** \$120,000 (Total amount of the 4-year period)

**TAX STATUS:** 501(c)6 (although we also have a 501(c)3 foundation)

**DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION OR MISSION STATEMENT:**

**Mission:**      The Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce is a catalyst for business prosperity and a champion for a stronger community.

**Vision:**      We are the number one resource for business in Sheridan County.

**NO OF BOARD MEMBERS:** 15

**NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Patrick Akers – Qdoba
- Anna Bailey – First Interstate Bank
- Dave Berry – Advanced Communications Technology
- Adam Bunker – Confluence Collaborative
- Nicole Christensen – First Interstate Bank
- Becky Cooper – Kennon
- Jen Crouse – Sheridan College Foundation
- Travis Evans – Trihydro Corporation
- Richard Garber – Garber-Henry Consulting
- Jessica Garrelts – Cottonwood Kitchen Shop
- Sasha Johnston – Sheridan County Title Insurance Co.
- David Schwend – Cloud Peak Energy|Spring Creek Mine
- Cody Sinclair – Sheridan Memorial Hospital
- Kristin Wilkerson – Morgan Stanley
- Nate Williams - Vacutech

**PROVIDE A BRIEFLY HISTORY OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, INCLUDING ANY SERVICES PROVIDED TO AREA RESIDENTS:**

The Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce was originally incorporated in 1913 as the Sheridan Commercial Club. In its early years, this organization's accomplishments included the reduction of freight rates in the Sheridan area, air mail enhancements and airport improvements, and securing WY and SD approval to extend US Highway 14 from Rapid City to Yellowstone through Sheridan. Today, the Chamber continues serving the

Sheridan area in a variety of ways, including identifying and addressing critical community issues (i.e., addressing air service, housing, workforce development, buying local), fulfilling all community relocation requests, providing community info to convention attendees, welcoming/assisting visitors in our community and connecting vital resources with businesses to support not only their health but the health of the community overall. As the largest voice of business in Sheridan County we continue to link residents and businesses to government, boost economic development, foster partnerships between local businesses, and connect business people with each other and resources vital to their success.

**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 if you have requested 1% funding from the City of Sheridan and/or the towns of Dayton, Rancheater and Clearmont)*

The Chamber of Commerce operates not only as the largest business organization in the county but as the primary resource/information hub in Sheridan. Annually, we fulfill thousands of relocation, visitor and information requests. Each request is met with an enthusiasm by our professional staff, and at every turn we SELL SHERIDAN. This requires continual data collection, research and updating of information. We also take a lead role in economic development, with our primary focus on business retention and expansion, as well as job creation. Additionally, we also have a role in the recruitment of businesses and individuals to Sheridan. One cent optional funds are vital to support the resources it takes to update and collect data, as well as gather and distribute information and serve primarily as an operational subsidy. We have requested 1% funding from the City of Sheridan; however, we have not requested 1% funding from Clearmont, Dayton or Rancheater. As the front door to our community and in the crucial role we serve, it is paramount we have an accessible and visible office space. Currently, we are approaching the final year in our office lease, and it is vitally important we begin searching for space to accommodate our organization. One cent funding will support this need and allow us to leverage additional monies through grants and/or a capital campaign. The Chamber is actively involved in six of the seven economic development building blocks, from leadership/civic development and the role of public policy, to quality of life, to workforce development, to existing business development, to entrepreneur development, to new business recruitment. Economic vitality is a critical component of any community, and we respectfully ask to be awarded our request of one cent optional funds so we will can continue our important work in the county.

**BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION GOALS AND ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF PERSON YOU SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY:**

As a catalyst for business prosperity and a champion for a stronger community, the estimated number of persons served in the community would equal the current total population. The number of Chamber members and the correlating jobs we represent are currently 681 and 6,427 respectively.

The Chamber's 3-Year strategic plan outlines the following initiatives:

- Drive the Retention and Expansion of Member Businesses
  - Evaluate, enhance and expand our diverse programs, events, and communication tools to drive business prosperity
- Be a Proactive Voice on Vital Issues Impacting our Business Community
  - Identify, follow and advocate on critical issues affecting our member businesses
- Engage our Staff and Volunteers to Best Serve our Mission
  - Develop, encourage and recognize the outstanding people contributing to our success
- Practice Responsible Financial Stewardship
  - Manage a fiscally sound organization by utilizing strong business practices and operations

Note: In addition to our strategic plan, the Chamber also develops an annual operational plan, which enables us to maintain focus and stay accountable. Quarterly reports are required by the board of directors.

Complete this section if your agency has previously been awarded One Cent Funding for the period of July 2015 through March 2018:

Amount Awarded: Original resolution: \$20,000 annually | Revised resolution: \$17,800 annually

Have all the funds been expended: Yes

Did you receive 1% Optional Tax Funds from the City of Sheridan or the towns of Dayton, Ranchester and Clearmont. If so what amount was awarded: Yes, from the City of Sheridan only. Original resolution: \$20,000 annually | Revised resolution: \$17,778 annually. (The City of Sheridan recently passed a resolution for allocation of one cent funds to our organization in the amount of \$25,000 annually for FY's 2020-2023.)

Briefly describe the impact that the previous award has had on your program, project or organizational operations. Some discussion items to cover in this section may include:

- *Number of persons served, and demographics of persons served (income level, age, race, etc.)*

While we represent the entire business community, our current membership consists of over 680 businesses and their nearly 6,500 employees. Through our programs and events, we reach persons in all age, race, and income levels; however, the primary persons served are between 18 and 65. In addition to our board of directors, we have over 200 volunteers serving on various committees (breakdown as follows):

Ag & Natural Resources: 35  
Ambassadors: 36  
Business Retention and Expansion: 44  
Government Affairs: 49  
Leadership Sheridan County: 16  
Stroll: 19  
Fundraising: 18

- *Describe the overall impact of these funds on your program, project or organization*

One-cent optional funds are critical and go toward the general operations, programs, and committees of the Chamber for the benefit of our business members and the community overall. We remain committed to stretching the funding as far as possible while still serving the needs of our businesses and the community.

- *If your agency has not yet to spent all the awarded funds, please briefly describe your plans to expend the funds by the end of the fiscal year*

- *Did your agency use One Cent funding to leverage additional funds, either through grants or other means?*

We have not used one cent funding to leverage additional funds; however, in looking towards the future, we will be working to identify and obtain a permanent office solution for our organization and may look to leverage one cent funds for this purpose.

SIGNED: Dixie S. Johnson

Title: CEO

Date: April 20, 2018