



Adult & Community Education of Martha's Vineyard

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EIN number 26-3371336

October 11th, 2013

Dear Chilmark Selectmen,

The Adult and Community Education of Martha's Vineyard (ACE MV) is currently planning its budget for 2014 and beyond. As part of our effort to ensure that our programs continue to enrich and strengthen our community, we're seeking public financial support from each island town. Therefore, we are requesting that ACE MV be placed on your October Agenda.

Last September, during the All-Island Selectmen's meeting, ACE MV had the opportunity to present to you some of the ways in which ACE MV benefits our community. Now in our 6th year, ACE MV has provided accessible educational opportunities, job skills training for people of all ages, college credit courses through affiliation with Cape Cod Community College, Fitchburg State University and other institutions of higher learning, and enrichment classes for life-long learning. Enrollment is high and demand for our classes continues to grow, and we can no longer function well on mostly volunteer labor.

We are seeking a total of \$130,587 from all six towns in order to keep these programs running. This amount is roughly half of our projected budget and will be used to pay for administrative needs and staff. This will allow the revenue from our classes to be used on teacher stipends, materials, overhead and other budgetary expenses. We propose using the 50/50 formula used by the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority to fairly divide the costs to each town.

A breakdown chart for each town is shown on the table below:

50/50 Formula	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	West Tisbury
FY '15	2.87%	10.63%	30.85%	21.30%	19.37%	14.98%
Amount requested from ACE MV	\$3,748	\$13,881	\$40,286	\$27,815	\$25,295	\$19,562

At this time we are also working to modify our status as a 501 (C) (3) so that we can accept funding from a public school system. We have been examining models in other communities, including Nantucket, which funds their entire adult education program

Adult and Community Education of Martha's Vineyard (ACE MV) is a non-profit organization that provides a diversity of educational programs, including enrichment classes, practical training, college preparatory and credit courses, and special programs, to all generations, economic classes, and cultures on an Island with limited adult education opportunities. By collaborating with many other organizations and businesses, ACE MV makes life-long learning accessible and rewarding. ACE MV is a 501 (C)(3) private non-profit tax-deductible organization.

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as part of the Nantucket Community School with a budget significantly higher than the amount we are requesting from all six towns. At the same time, we are exploring the option of working with the Superintendent and the MV Public Schools as a fiscal agent. The Board Task Force will also explore taking over the 501 (c) (3) status to support ACE MV as FACE (Friends of ACE) as the libraries and public school sports groups do to continue grants and funding for scholarships for GED and other essential programming. We plan on having this process completed in late November.

Thank you for your consideration. ACE MV looks forward to working with the towns to ensure that our programs have a solid future in helping to promote a robust and healthy island community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Ditchfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Lynn Ditchfield,

Executive Director on behalf of the ACE MV Board of Directors

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