

North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

2024 Grant Proposal and Request to
the Mason Contractors Association of America Masonry Foundation

May 8, 2024

MCAA Masonry Foundation.

On behalf of President Cliff McGee and the members of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association, I would like to thank the Masonry Foundation for its generous support of NCMCA's ongoing masonry promotion and outreach initiatives. The NCMCA has made great strides in getting the young people moving in a career path for masonry while in secondary education and we have also started middle school exposure to masonry for the eighth graders with a newly built TY 54 Exploring Masonry course that was built in part by the generous grants that the NCMCA received from The Masonry Foundation.

With all the new programs that have been built through the support of The Masonry Foundation, we have seen a great need for qualified masonry instructors to lead the young students in the career path of masonry upon graduation. Another issue that has arose is the aging of our current instructors and the retirement in the near future for many of them.

Typically, a new instructor comes into the system through a process called lateral entry and the county or local education agency gives the instructor a time frame to obtain a teaching certificate. This is done mainly online and has zero application process for masonry and is focused on a general educational need for a core teacher which is not aligned with what would be needed for a trade teacher.

The NCMCA would like to pilot a new "Apprentice" program for adult masonry instructors that would have a true alignment for what is needed to teach masonry and that would formally involve a mentor that would be a current masonry instructor in a program. This new program would give the field mason a chance to be trained on school and educational processes as well as how to work with youth and give the potential new instructor a chance to learn how to be successful in the classroom environment which would be a huge component to attract the next wave of qualified instructors for the secondary education level.

This new program would align with the Department of Public Instruction Teacher Certification pathway for new instructors and would give the credit needed for the new masonry instructor to become certified and will be the education and training that they would need to make them highly successful from day one! We have many new instructors that come from the field and do not make

it long in the classroom because of the current requirements that are needed, and they have no competency training to teach masonry.

The NCMCA is asking for \$28,000.00 to get this program formatted and approved by the Department of Public Instruction so that this can be a catalyst for potential new instructors at the secondary level not only in North Carolina, but across the nation. We are promoting masonry at a great level to our youth across the country and would love to see our industry grow in the next 20 years at great strides. Our instructors will be a key component to making all the effort the Masonry Foundation does for workforce in being the reality of getting the students started in the masonry pathway at the secondary level.

The NCMCA thanks the Masonry Foundation for what it has done to get the youth promotion pathway for masonry up and running at an accelerated speed! Please think about this new program that will implement the efforts of the previous grants that have been made and I look forward to getting a huge number of new masonry instructors trained the correct way that will give them the classroom tools needed to start and maintain solid masonry secondary training not only in North Carolina, but across the Nation!

I would be pleased to answer any questions and provide additional details that the committee may wish to review as they consider our proposal.

Sincerely,



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Executive Vice President

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