

2022 Finalist Executive Summary – Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County

- **Organization Name:** Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County
- **Organization website:** www.bgccumberland.org
- **County where located/county being served:** Cumberland County
- **Organization Mission:** The mission of the Boys & Girls Club is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The organization strives to accomplish this mission by providing a safe, nurturing, diverse and educational environment where area youth gather on a regular basis during out-of-school hours.
- **Organization's Total Operating Budget:** 2021--\$327,900.
- **Project Name:** Youth for Change Center Expansion (IMPACT 100 Wing)
- **Project Description:** The Club is planning an Expansion Project for its Youth for Change Center site (IMPACT100 Wing). The building is currently rather small (was previously a credit union) and it is challenging to serve youth with our life-enhancing programs in a smaller space. This expansion will help the Club build capacity by adding a 60 foot x 40 foot extension to the building which would accommodate more young people (50+) over a 24-month period in order for more youth to engage in the Club's life changing programs and activities. Not only does this project improve the community's quality of life through the creation of more jobs, but it also promotes further youth development. In addition, The Club also hopes to incorporate green or high-performance building components in order to reduce long-term building costs.

Many of the areas in Cumberland County, NJ are extremely impoverished and families here lack access to youth programs focusing on academic success, healthy lifestyles, and other important lessons for life. Under the proposed expansion program, the Club will not only be able to more than double its capacity to serve underserved youth but also be better equipped to create a supportive environment that promotes success, so our youth are better prepared for the future. The proposed project (titled Youth For Change Center Expansion/IMPACT 100 Wing) will provide 50+ additional youth with the ability to participate in programs and activities, including service learning projects, designed to build leadership skills, as well as other related skills like teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking, in more than double the space. Research has found that Club programs are most effective when those "21st Century skills" are integrated through real-world learning experiences. As always, The Club will also emphasize collaborations with other groups with like-minded goals to create a more sustainable future.