

# BUNCOMBE COUNTY COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

## Project Spotlight



In order to promote a strong and equitable recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, Buncombe County invested federal funds into projects like this one.

### Project

**One Buncombe Small Business Grants**

### Lead Organization



### Award Amount

**\$500,000**

### Project Dates

**October 2021 - June 2022**

### Impact Area

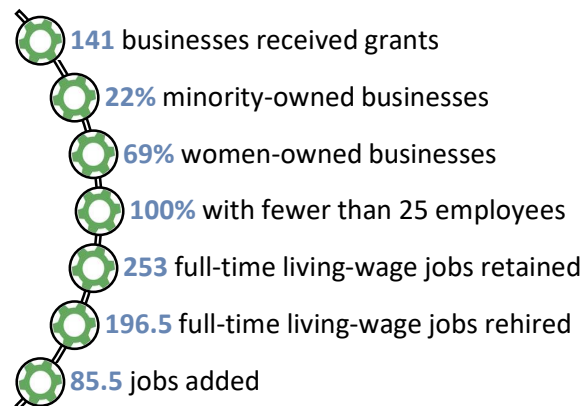
**Small Business Economic Assistance**

### How the Funds Were Used

One Buncombe grants provided relief to highly impacted businesses for the purpose of rehiring and retaining employees. Extensive outreach was conducted to share program information with potential beneficiaries, particularly with communities of entrepreneurs most impacted by the pandemic and with the least access to other relief programs. Preference was given to businesses that had a strong plan for growing the number of full-time employees; clearly demonstrated revenue reductions due to the pandemic; and could not qualify for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or other major relief programs. Grant awards were limited to \$5,000 per entity (\$2,500 for sole proprietorships). Mountain BizWorks prioritized equity and service to businesses owned by people of color; women-owned businesses; sole-proprietorships, single-member LLCs, and or other entities with only one employee.



### Results



"The importance of receiving this grant at the time that I did was the difference between whether or not I would be able to continue to pay myself. This was truly a blessing and I am both grateful and humbled by receiving the funding."

-Sala Menaya-Merritt  
Founder and Owner of It's Amira M

