

Affordable Housing for the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (I/DD)

RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Arc of Buncombe County

Linda McDaniel
Post Office Box 1365
Asheville, NC 28802

linda@arcofbc.org
O: 828-253-1255
F: 828-253-1250

Linda McDaniel

linda@arcofbc.org

Application Form

Question Group

Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. To date, Buncombe County has awarded projects totaling \$23,093,499, leaving a balance of \$27,639,791 available to award.

Visit <http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding> for details.

This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

[Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP](#)

Organization Type*

Nonprofit

Nonprofit documentation

If nonprofit, attach IRS Determination Letter or other proof of nonprofit status.

Tax Exempt ltr-IRS,2006&1972 & NCDOR,1962.pdf

Name of Project.*

Affordable Housing for the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (I/DD)

New/Updated Proposal*

Is this a new project proposal or an updated version of a proposal submitted during the earlier (July 2021) Recovery Funding RFP?

Updated version of previously submitted proposal

Amount of Funds Requested*

\$50,000.00

Category*

Please select one:

- Affordable Housing
- Aging/Older Adults
- Business Support/Economic Development
- Environmental/Climate
- Homelessness
- K-12 Education
- Infrastructure and/or Broadband
- Mental Health/Substance Use
- NC Pre-K Expansion
- Workforce

Affordable Housing

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The Arc of Buncombe County, Inc. (Arc/BC) is the only local agency serving I/DD households to offer Crisis Intervention services. A long-standing focus of the Arc/BC has been to assist clients to be in safe, adequate, affordable housing.

The pandemic impacts have increased the need for safe and adequate housing. The primary focus for the continuation of grant funds will be rent/mortgage/utility assistance to prevent eviction/homelessness.

The Arc/BC requests come primarily from the client, family members, social workers, neighbors, school staff and medical staff. The Arc/BC establishes intake files to compile personal, financial, and/or medical information to enhance comprehensive client plans. The Arc/BC systems for managing requests are stable and effective but are increasing in number/cost.

The Arc/BC does not see problems as a “stand alone” issue to be managed, but as parts of a whole. Supporting strengths and weaknesses increase the likelihood of long-term success.

Project Plan*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

The Buncombe County Commissioners (BCC) accepted and will promote goals of the Affordable Housing Subcommittee (AHS). Both agree to increase rental supply and supply of affordable housing that results in home ownership. Incentives to encourage use of Federal Vouchers are also a part of a long-term plan for solutions to affordable housing. Both groups agree to also preserve the current supply of affordable housing to help clients remain in their current home. An additional focus is to identify and prioritize those at the highest risk of homelessness and move them into safe housing.

The requests increase and decrease of pandemic Federal protections resulted in additional staffing for timely management. The Arc/BC has one FT employee (ED) to manage all projects/programs. The success of this and future programs requires staffing. Therefore, the Arc/BC has requested support for a .35 Case Manager position.

The Arc/BC prides themselves in strong/numerous collaborative relationships built and maintained throughout its history. These groups are supportive and will assist the Arc/BC Executive Director (ED) coordinate “financial packages” to fulfill requests. Projects funds come from Arc/BC grants, donations and fundraisers coupled with time, supplies and funds from collaborative partners. The Arc/BC Executive Director (ED) monitors projects ensuring tasks are completed according to schedule and satisfactorily. Upon completion, payments are always made to the vendor/contractor.

Throughout the process, Arc/BC staff contact clients to determine assistance to proactively manage future needs. Clients may receive financial education/counseling from OnTrackWNC and other support services with a goal of providing positive/productive outcomes for I/DD clients. The receipt of grant funds will support the Case Manager to increase the expediency of support delivery.

The Executive Director and Case Manager will work to set up systems to prioritize those clients most at risk for eviction an expedite support services. They will be working primarily with the client in coordination with landlords, various financial institutions, and utility companies. It will be of importance to include the client in the process of identifying debt and working with Case Manager to resolve debt and increase the client’s awareness and learning of such processes whenever possible.

As the Case Manager works with clients and determines other areas of need, other resources will be utilized to best meet those needs. Any identified needs outside of the parameters of this grant, will fall to the Executive Director.

To meet these obligations, the budget has outlined salary/fringe benefit expenditures and identified allotments to assist with mileage reimbursements. To note, is that the budget also identifies other sources of income that can be utilized to meet the identified needs. The Arc/BC anticipates being able to assist a minimum of 5 client households.

Statement of Need*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

A modification of the national chapter of “The Arc” Policy & Advocacy statement on Housing follows. (<https://thearc.org>)

Being part of the community/living as independently as possible are among the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities, their families, and advocates. A home of one's own (rented or owned) is the cornerstone of independence. Across the U.S. people with disabilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), face a severe housing crisis. Without affordable, accessible housing in the community, many are at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.

Across the nation, many people with disabilities are experiencing an affordability crisis. 4.8 million non-institutionalized people with disabilities rely on federal monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Averaging about \$9,156 per year, they are priced out of every rental housing market in the nation.

Many people with IDD live with aging caregivers (age 60+). As these caregivers continue to age, many of their adult IDD children may be at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.

An accessible home offers features/technologies such as lowered kitchen counters/sinks, widened doorways, and wheel-in showers. For people with mobility devices, finding housing with basic accessibility features (e.g., an entrance with no steps) can be daunting, if not impossible or unaffordable.

Without such features, far too many people with IDD are institutionalized or homeless. Others may pay too much rent and be unable to afford basic necessities or must live in severely inadequate conditions.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. Complaints by people with disabilities often make up the majority of discrimination complaints received by HUD's Fair Housing Enforcement Office and other fair housing agencies.

[Link to COVID-19*](#)

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The CDC reports persons with I/DD are 3X more likely to have chronic medical conditions (lung disease, heart condition, underlying medical conditions) than a non-disabled person. This increases the chances of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. Congregate living settings and social inequities increase that likelihood. While funding cannot impact the harm of COVID-19, it can address issues that puts the I/DD person at increased harm.

This FRF funding will focus on rent/mortgage payments and utilities to minimize evictions and homelessness. Equally important is the that the use of these grant funds, will make funds from other sources more readily available to address issues related to the increase in unemployment during the pandemic.

Such situations are and continue to be:

Eviction/homelessness may occur without timely notice and Arc/BC seeks emergency temporary housing rather than use shelters. Shelters are an unfriendly option for the I/DD person; especially children/women. They are often bullied and taken advantage of by shelter residents. For safety/security reason, staff remove client adaptive equipment (wheelchairs, communication devices, etc.). This leaves clients unable to get to a restroom and/or communicate needs. The Arc/BC avoids utilizing shelters, even if coordination efforts and funding needs increase.

With increased reliance on Food Banks, IDD clients with medical conditions such as diabetes, require fresh fruits/vegetables, found these items were not readily available in Food Banks.

Support for school and/or work supplies, adaptive equipment/clothing purchase and repair continue.

Transportation remains critical to ensure that medical appointments, drop off at school and/or work, etc. occur and support stabilizing the family. Assistance has supported car repairs, new tires, gas, and insurance payments.

Population Served*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

The pandemic has resulted in an increase in IDD persons/families seeking assistance. Several are asking for the assistance for the first time. Arc/BC serves 3,000-3,500 individuals/families annually. Diagnoses are Down Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, chromosome disorders, and others. Additional challenges include physical disabilities and socioeconomic issues. Arc/BC serves all WNC counties with the majority being from Buncombe County (75%).

Using the HUD tables and a median income for a family of four, all clients and families will be 50% or lower than the median.

While COVID-19 impacted the local I/DD clientele of Arc/BC, there were unexpected increases that resulted from the pandemic. Fourteen families with disabled children requested services from the Arc/BC that had not done so prior to the pandemic. The pandemic restrictions and the resulting unemployment, meant that those that had previously managed a household, jobs and the care/expense that comes with raising a disabled child, were no longer able to do so. Several families with I/DD children moved to Asheville with no place to live. The number of referrals due to domestic violence increased as the pandemic lingered.

Several of the families seeking assistance had not heard of the Arc/BC and available services at the time they were referred which resulted in an increased understanding of local I/DD services. These families were especially appreciative of the support they received stating they “did not know what we would have done” otherwise.

Results*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

1. Client requests in the Affordable Housing category are met 80+% of the time.
2. Arc/BC staff will include client in planning phases 80+% of the time.
3. Arc/BC and client will develop plans for any additional education/counseling support 80% of the time.

The current Arc/BC Crisis Intervention program measures have tasks (i.e., medical emergencies and transportation) that are not included in this grant under the Affordable Housing Category. Therefore, baseline data is not available as the parameters of these measures were developed specifically based on the “Assistance to Households” category. It is not uncommon for the Arc/BC to be in this position, as every grant may define things a bit differently. Therefore, the data collection measures may be adjusted to meet the requests of the grantor. All expenditures are tracked for each grant project. The goals/objectives that were put in place for this grant are certainly attainable based on historical data.

Evaluation*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

While evaluation responsibility falls with the ED, new Case Manager (if approved) and Board of Directors, the Arc/BC has volunteer committees with a wide range of experience. Working committees assist with all Arc/BC functions to include grant projects, when possible.

The Arc/BC grant budget requests funding for a .35FTE Case Manager. Data collection primarily falls with the Case Manager position. Following training from the ED, the position be responsible for intake documentation to determine client eligibility and need for services/supports coupled with the tracking of tasks/work completion. Dates for initiation and completion of each task would be documented. Client involvement/questions, provision of information and needs for learning would be documented in narrative form (much like counseling notes) to determine improvement in understand throughout process. In working with the clients their families and/or vendors, this position will be responsible for troubleshooting, solution assistance, negotiations for payment plans to not only rectify overdue payments, but to assist client in maintaining up-to-date payments.

Review and analysis will take place with the ED on a regular basis. Information, points of success to include various points for planning, will be reviewed and discussed. Reports will be shared with the Board at intervals determine in coordination with the Board members.

Quality assurances measures include adequate timeliness of completion of task/payments, of, efficient identification of ancillary needs, satisfaction of client and sound financial decision-making. Staff and Board members review actions, identifying points in the process where performance/satisfaction could be improved. The processes are modified to ensure the best possible outcome for the client and for the prudent use of funds.

Equity Impact*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

The National Core Indicators (NCI) states those with I/DD experience poorer health outcomes than those without disabilities. While some are related to a diagnosis, health disparities for the disabled are greatest among the “socioeconomically disadvantaged” meaning they come from a background of poverty that limits access to opportunity. This results in limited access to quality healthcare/health promotions programs.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) notes safe/affordable housing results in a lower rate of homelessness. Studies show children in stable housing are less likely to experience mental health issues, developmental delays, poor cognitive outcomes, to repeat a grade and drop out of school. Safe/affordable housing strengthens family well-being and reduces domestic violence. With safe/affordable housing, the family is more able to manage transportation, childcare, food, medical and other necessities. Safe houses are more likely to be free from physical hazards that contribute to chronic disease and injuries.

Assisting with items in the Affordable Housing category is key to addressing root causes of inequities faced by I/DD persons who struggled pre-pandemic. Pre-pandemic, 82% of the general population was employed and 52% of those with disabilities was employed. Of the disabled population not employed, 72% said they would like to work (US Census). The post-pandemic economic recovery for all will be slow to reach the pre-pandemic levels and for those with disabilities, it will be slower.

Project Partners*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

- 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
- 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

The projects with these grant funds grant would aid in meeting overdue payments such as rents, mortgages, and utility financial obligations. Therefore, the project will be managed by the Executive Director and Case Manager and will not include subcontractors. While amounts will vary by client, the additional goal of maintaining up-to date payments will be through setting up payment plans, working with client and other collaborative partners for educational and monitoring of learning opportunities.

These are the non-funded key partners that have historically provided financial support as well as joined the group for events and provided support to clients and families in varied areas.

These are the non-funded key partners:

- Eblen Foundation
- WNC Bikers
- Buncombe County DHHS
- St. Vincent DePaul
- Family Preservation Services
- Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry
- Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry
- Vaya Health

Capacity*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

The Arc/BC has managed 60+ years of state grants since its formation as the primary source of income to serve the clients. The Board of Directors has several long-term members that are Accountants, Attorneys, and prominent local business owners that assist with and review the work of the Arc/BC. The world of grants and subsequent reporting is quite familiar to the Arc/BC and compliance with all requirements has been a necessity for their continued operation. The Arc/BC's reputation in the community is one of being fiscally responsible in the delivery of services and financial management. Other non-profits in the local area respect the work of the Arc/BC and welcome collaboration with the Arc/BC and the clientele they serve. Additionally, all financial audits to include the Form 990 and the Independent Accountant's Review Report are submitted as required and are in full compliance with no findings noted.

Being familiar with the increasing complexities of grant reporting/record keeping, the Arc/BC is requesting a .25 FTE position to assist with the grant management. A summary of duties follows. Should the position be funded, a more detailed job description will be created.

Administrative Grant Manager:

Duties will include, but not be limited to assisting with the determination of client eligibility and need for services/supports requested coupled with the tracking of the varied tasks and completion of the work. In working with the clients and/or vendors associated with the delivery of services, this position will be responsible to troubleshooting, assisting with solutions, coordinating schedules, with the primary purpose of

providing information for reporting that clearly justifies the spending of funds and delivery of resources/supports are in compliance with the grant.

Budget*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

BuncCo Recovery Funds budget-phase 2-final .xlsx

Special Considerations*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

Not included in the current grant application.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Tax Exempt ltr-IRS,2006&1972 & NCDOR,1962.pdf
- BuncCo Recovery Funds budget-phase 2-final .xlsx

Internal Revenue Service

Date: June 9, 2005

ARC OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY INC
PO BOX 1365
ASHEVILLE NC 28802-1365

Department of the Treasury
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Person to Contact:
Robert Molloy 31-04023
Customer Service Representative
Toll Free Telephone Number:
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET
877-829-5500
Fax Number:
513-263-3756
Federal Identification Number:
56-0856544

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of June 9, 2005, regarding your organization's tax-exempt status.

In May 1972 we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax. Our records indicate that your organization is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records indicate that your organization is also classified as a public charity under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records indicate that contributions to your organization are deductible under section 170 of the Code, and that you are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,



Janna K. Skufca, Director, TE/GE
Customer Account Services

Address any reply to: P. O. Box 737, Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Department of the Treasury

56-085-65-44



District Director
Internal Revenue Service

Date: JUN 14 1972 In reply refer to: 411-12:GA:1679

Buncombe County Association for Retarded Children
508 Northwestern Bank Building
Asheville, N. C. 28801

Gentlemen:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have further determined you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code, because you are an organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

You are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. You are not liable for the taxes imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

If your purposes, character, or method of operation is changed, you must let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status. Also, you must inform us of all changes in your name or address.

If your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$5,000, you are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$10 a day, up to a maximum of \$5,000, for failure to file a return on time.

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

Please keep this determination letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,

Exempt Organization Specialist

File Copy - Dr. Alan Hill

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

W. A. JOHNSON
Commissioner

RALEIGH

September 28, 1962

Buncombe County Association for Retarded Children
P. O. Box 1365
Asheville, North Carolina

Attention: Mr. Carey S. Fendley, President

Gentlemen:

Thank you for furnishing us a copy of your charter for our examination.

We find that you were formed under Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina for the principal purposes of promoting the general welfare of mentally retarded persons, providing advice and assistance for their parents, and developing public understanding of the problem of mental retardation. We further observe that you are to operate on a strictly non-profit basis, and that in the event of dissolution your assets are to be conveyed to the North Carolina Association for Retarded Children.

It is our opinion that you qualify for exemption from franchise tax under Section 105-125 and from income tax under Section 105-138 of the General Statutes, and therefore are not required to file the regular reports and returns for those taxes.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Johnson, Commissioner



By: W. H. Hughes, Jr., Director
Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Division

JOE:mb

ATTACHMENT B-2b

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Proposed Project Budget

Organization Name:	The Arc of Buncombe County, Inc
Project Name:	Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery, IDD Clients & Families
Amount Requested:	\$50,000

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Buncombe COVID Recovery Funds	\$ 50,000.00	Contract Pending	
Arc of Buncombe County Fundraising Events, Program Specific Ask	\$ 25,000.00	Pending	Based on Agency experience, Fall Fundraiser, 9/21/22
Arc of Buncombe County Fundraising Events, Other	\$ 10,344.00	Pending	Based on Agency experience, Spring Fling, 5/11/22
List other sources here			
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Total	\$ 85,344.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Part-time staff, Case Manager, .35 FTE (14 hrs/wk)	\$ 32,000.00		\$ 32,000.00	N/A	Serving all Buncombe Co clients, annually about 1200 clients, with potential Crisis Intervention Needs
Supervision, Exec Dir, Specific Program Management = .20 FTE		\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	N/A	This is Full-time ExecDir; remaining .8 FTE workload with other Programs and covered by other funds
Fringe Benefits	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 11,200.00	N/A	Fringe=Empl match FICA, W/Comp Ins and PTO (Supports ED and Case Manager position for this program)
Mileage reimbursement		\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	N/A	Supports ED and Case Manager position for this program
Housing incl rent, utilities 3 months allowance	\$ 3,600.00		\$ 3,600.00	N/A	Support Direct Client needs with Housing Crisis Intervention; 5 I/DD or more client households
Housing incl rent & utilities, 3 mos allowance	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,600.00	N/A	
Housing incl rent & utilities, 3 mos allowance	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,600.00	N/A	
Housing incl rent & utilities, 3 mos allowance	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,600.00	N/A	
Housing incl rent & utilities, 1+ mos allowance	\$ 800.00	\$ 544.00	\$ 1,344.00	N/A	
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Total			\$ 85,344.00		