



Buncombe County envisions a healthy, safe, well-educated, and thriving community with a sustainable quality of life. Buncombe County Commissioners are dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by setting new fiscally, socially, and environmentally responsible goals that will guide decisions and improve our community for future generations. In 2017, the Board of Commissioners identified six strategic priorities goals for key policy issues:



Affordable housing: Our priority is ensuring comprehensive opportunities for affordable and safe housing as a foundation for healthy and thriving families and neighborhoods.

Goals include: Preserve and increase stock of affordable housing units, including rentals; reduce substandard housing and expand opportunities for home repair; support homeowner initiatives; address issues of homelessness with the Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Initiative.



Clean and renewable energy: Our priority is reaching 100% clean and renewable energy sources for Buncombe County Government operations by 2030 while educating, equipping, and moving our community toward the same goal within 25 years.

Goals include: Reduce costs and lower emissions of the County's facilities and vehicle portfolio; promote renewable energy projects and utilize renewable energy sources such as solar and wind; foster environmental sustainability within the community.



Diverse community workforce: Our priority is cultivating a robust, inclusive local economy featuring a diverse workforce and implementing pipelines to jobs and educational opportunities to all.

Goals include: Leverage economic development policies to attract new industries and grow existing businesses; invest in community-based jobs and education initiatives; support small businesses with an emphasis on historically underserved populations; recruit and maintain a diverse County workforce.



Early childhood education: Our priority is ensuring that every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive during their first 2,000 days, including access to quality early childhood education.

Goals include: Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders to facilitate a coordinated system approach; address issues of affordability for providers and families; support a robust career track for early childhood education students; cultivate a system that responds to family needs such as poverty and addiction.



Justice resource support: Our priority is coordinating a justice system that is efficient, effective, equitable, and that actively protects our community's public safety while holistically addressing the needs of those in the justice system.

Goals include: Offer diversion and alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders and people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders; support people reentering the community from incarceration; offer trauma-informed support for victims of crime.



Opioid addiction: Our priority is stemming the disease of opioid addiction, which is a crisis threatening the health and safety of a growing number of people in our community and beyond.

Goals include: Increase public and professional awareness about opioid addiction; limit the supply of prescription painkillers; increase access to substance abuse treatment; hold manufacturers and distributors accountable via legal avenues; follow-up when overdoses occur.

To learn about action plans for these priorities and goals, visit [BuncombeCounty.org/Commissioners](https://www.buncombecounty.org/commissioners)