

One Buncombe Fund Public Hearing Comments for April 7 Meeting

- **Jan Getz, Asheville, NC 28804:** I am in favor of the \$200,000 general fund going to the One Buncombe emergency relief fund.
- **Harris Wagner:** I endorse the use of \$200,000 of Buncombe County general fund to help fund One Buncombe.
- **Greg Borom, Director of Advocacy, Children First/Communities in Schools BC:** Thank you for your leadership around the One Buncombe Fund to support individuals and small businesses during this crisis. Following are specific questions and comments:
 1. The description for funds for individuals reads: “Funds will be used for life essential needs caused by the COVID-19 public health crisis such as electric bills, deposits, fuel oil, kerosene, natural gas, propane, wood, mortgages, overnight lodging, etc.” Rent payments are not named specifically – will these funds be available for rent? If not, please reconsider as a way to stem a tide of evictions that may follow this crisis.
 2. The website reads: “HHS employees will screen applicants to ensure all other potential sources are leveraged, including public assistance programs (e.g., Unemployment Insurance) and the services of our community partners. The assistance worker will also make referrals to human services partners and programs to assist the client in alleviating their immediate crisis.” How quickly can individuals expect the screening to be completed? Will it take into account the new federal relief package (including the rebate payments)? How will the existing stay on eviction proceedings and utility shut offs impact decisions or necessary documentation of bills individuals will need to produce?
 3. I understand that citizenship status is not a consideration for application. Thank you. Making funds available to all who call our county home indeed lives up to the title “One Buncombe.” This assistance is critical as the recent federal relief packages do not fully extend benefits and assistance to cover our neighbors that have mixed-status households or have filed taxes using an ITIN.
 4. I cannot find the names of the 9-member oversight board for One Buncombe on the website. Who are the members and what public reporting and oversight will be available?

Thanks again for leveraging this public/private partnership to support individuals and businesses.