



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 5/5/2020

Consent Agenda

Department: Budget

Presenter(s): Jennifer Barnette, Budget

Contact(s): Stoney Blevins, HHS
Jennifer Barnette, Budget

Subject: Budget Amendment for additional funding from Centers for Disease Control via NC Department of Public Health for COVID-19 Crisis Response

Brief Summary:

Buncombe County Public Health is being provided new federal funding in the amount of \$172,455 through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) via the NC Department of Public Health. This funding is intended for health departments to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities. Specifically, the health department must:

- 1) Implement and scale-up laboratory testing and data collection to enable identification and tracking of COVID-19 cases in the community with emphasis placed on priority populations
- 2) Write a COVID-19 community intervention implementation plan which describes how the health department will achieve the response's three mitigation goals:
 - a) Slow transmission of disease
 - b) Minimize morbidity and mortality
 - c) Preserve healthcare, workforce, and infrastructure functions and minimize social and economic impacts.
- 3) Identify and address additional response needs through one or more of the allowable activities, which include incident management, jurisdictional recovery, information management, counter measures and mitigation, surge management, and bio surveillance.

Funding Uses:

HHS has currently contracted with North Carolina State University for \$22,897 to

- 1) Jointly seek to develop and implement an online COVID-19 surveillance tool that can:
 - a. be utilized by residents of Buncombe County to assess themselves for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and receive appropriate guidance for management and follow-up of their illness
 - b. provide situational awareness to BCHHS public health leadership.
- 2) A secondary aim will be to use de-identified data collected by this tool for research purposes to inform targeted public health planning and response efforts, as well as expand the knowledge base concerning the epidemiology of COVID-19.

Other specific uses of the funding have not been identified however any future use must comply with the eligibility outlined by the funding agreement.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve Budget Amendment

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented.