



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 6/2/2020

New Business

Department: Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Presenter (s): Stoney Blevins, HHS Director
Jen Teague, Adult & Aging Manager**

Contact: Stoney Blevins, HHS Director

Subject: Federal Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)

Brief Summary: Federal Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) funds are provided to the county through the NC Department of Health and Human Services to provide supportive services to residents age 60 and older.

The County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of the HCCBG County Funding Plan.

Specifically, the Board of Commissioners is responsible to:

1. Designate an agency or office within the county to serve as County Lead Agency with responsibility for planning and coordinating the development of the County Funding Plan. At the discretion of the Board of Commissioners, the designation can be for more than one year.
2. Appoint a committee to serve as a Block Grant Advisory Committee and assist the County Lead Agency responsible for planning/coordinating the development of the County Funding Plan. The length of appointment to the committee is determined by the Board of Commissioners. When the Area Agency on Aging is not designated as lead agency, an AAA representative must be appointed to the Block Grant Advisory Committee. The Division strongly recommends that older adults comprise no less than one-third of Advisory Committee membership.
3. Ensure that the County Funding Plan complies with budgetary instructions provided by the Division of Aging and Adult Services.
4. Submit the recommended County Funding Plan to the Area Agency on Aging and enter into a grant agreement with the Area Agency on Aging.

Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC), at the request of Buncombe County, has been the paid Lead Agency for HCCBG and County funds for over ten years at a cost of \$30,000 per year. Beginning July 1, 2020, Buncombe County HHS has agreed to take on the Lead Agency role with LOSRC fully supporting this action. Land of Sky will continue to monitor services but Buncombe County will take responsibility for the allocations process, budget revisions, and communication to providers. Jen Teague, the Adult and Aging Services Program Manager, will be the contact for the Lead Agency as well as manage the oversight of county aging funds.

The funding plan being presented for approval reflects both HCCBG as well as county funds for SFY 21. Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the current closure of some programs, certain allocations are being withheld from some providers in the first quarter of FY21. This is to allow a pot of emergency funds if needed. If these providers resume normal service in the first quarter, the funds will be allocated to them as normal. If not, the allocations committee will reallocate those funds during the middle of the year to best meet citizen needs in our aging population.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

1. Grant HCCBG lead agency status to Buncombe County HHS for SFY 21
2. Approve the recommended HCCBG and county aging fund allocations for SFY 21.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends approval.