Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 1/19/2021

New Business

Department: Health & Human Services
Presenter(s): Jennifer Barnette

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

Subject: CARES Funding for Low-Income Energy Assistance

Brief Summary:
Buncombe County Health and Human Services will spend $485,577 to expand the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

The General Assembly passed Session Law 2020-4, the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act, which appropriated federal CARES Act funding. The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program is a seasonal program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills. To be eligible for LIEAP, a household must:

• Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
• Have income equal to or less than 130% of the federal poverty limit
• Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts and cash on hand, at or below $2,250
• Be responsible for their heating cost

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:
Approve budget amendment

County Manager’s Comments & Recommendation:
County Manager recommends as presented