



# Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

*Presented by*

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# Funding

- Part of broader American Rescue Plan, \$1.9T economic stimulus
- \$362B for state and local governments
- Includes \$65.1B in direct aid to counties

NAME	STATE	ESTIMATED ALLOCATION
Buncombe County	North Carolina	\$50,656,386

- Funding to states and municipalities is included separately; no need to pass through
- Counties will receive funds in two tranches – 50 percent within 60-days, second payment no earlier than 12 months after the first payment
- Deadline to spend funds is December 31, 2024



# Use of Funds

1. Respond to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including **assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.**
2. Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by **providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.**
3. For the provision of **government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue** (i.e. online, property or income tax) due to the public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the county prior to the emergency (i.e. January 20, 2020), or
4. Make necessary **investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.**



# Buncombe Process

- 60-90 day planning process
- Begin with commissioner priorities
- Gather project ideas from departments, community partners, & the general public
- Prioritize / score projects using standardized criteria
- Commissioner approval of spending priorities
- Staffing support to include new positions proposed on April 6 commissioner agenda
- Launch early projects by the start of FY2022



# Guidance Needed

Awaiting guidance from U.S. Treasury on eligible uses of funds including:

- Link to COVID-19 & its economic impacts
- Capital investment projects
- Definition of broadband
- Equipment and software
- Aid to impacted industries
- Assistance to households
- Education projects
- Premium pay
- Administrative costs to track & manage the fund



# Considerations

- Alignment to Strategic Plan priorities
- Balance between Community & Foundational projects
- Equitable outcomes/support for most impacted populations
- Intergovernmental collaboration
- One-time expenditures vs. recurring
- Timeframe – funds must be fully expended by Dec 2024



# Strategic Plan Priorities

COMMUNITY FOCUS			
Educated & Capable Community	Environmental & Energy Stewardship	Resident Well-Being	Vibrant Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten readiness</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy</li> <li>• Career &amp; college readiness</li> <li>• Aging in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Farmland and environmental preservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural and recreational assets</li> <li>• Transportation access</li> <li>• Jail population and public safety</li> <li>• Substance abuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median household income</li> <li>• Total employment</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> </ul>
FOUNDATIONAL FOCUS			
Equity	Operational Excellence	Resources	



# Budget Priorities

## Ranked priorities from December 2021 Commissioner budget retreat:

- Early Childhood
- Affordable Housing
- Broadband
- Climate Protection & Renewable Energy
- Equity – Achievement Gap
- Economic Development – Jobs
- K-12 Career Prep
- Equity – Racial Equity Action Plan
- Conservation Easements
- Mountain Community Capital Fund
- Jail Savings Reinvestment in Mental Health
- Reparations Task Force
- Criminal Justice Reform





# Sample Local Recovery Fund Priorities

COMMUNITY FOCUS			
Educated & Capable Community	Environmental & Energy Stewardship	Resident Well-Being	Vibrant Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood education</li> <li>• K-12 mentoring/ tutoring</li> <li>• Career readiness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EV charging stations</li> <li>• Land banking</li> <li>• Weatherization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct COVID response</li> <li>• Affordable housing</li> <li>• Shelters</li> <li>• Emergency operations center</li> <li>• Health clinics</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Community centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband</li> <li>• Small business support</li> <li>• Workforce training</li> <li>• Public infrastructure - roads, water, sewer</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul>
FOUNDATIONAL FOCUS			
Equity	Operational Excellence	Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial equity action plan implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County facility projects</li> <li>• Information technology projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premium pay</li> </ul>	

# Project Info Gathering

- Name of Project
- Submitter (commissioners, county department, community partner, member of public)
- Project description
- Alignment to strategic plan priorities
- Link to COVID-19
- Projected impact (including measurable results & demographics served)
- Project timeline
- Budget (total project cost, other project funding including secured & pending)



# Next Steps

- Receive spending guidance from U.S. Treasury
- Establish staffing positions to support the fund
- Departmental & community outreach to gather project ideas
- Prioritize / score projects using standardized criteria
- Commissioner approval of spending priorities
- Launch early projects by the start of FY2022



# Commissioner Discussion

- Any questions for staff and/or feedback on proposed process?
- Discussion about possible priorities & projects for Local Fiscal Recovery Funds



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