



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

**Meeting Date: 7/13/2021**

#### **New Business**

**Department:** HHS

**Presenter(s):** Phillip Hardin

**Contact(s):** Phillip Hardin

**Subject:** Homeowner Grant Program

#### **Brief Summary:**

As part of the FY22 budget, the Board of Commissioners adopted \$300,000 to create a grant program to help homeowners manage increasing housing costs. Staff presented a draft of a program and received feedback from the Board at the June 15<sup>th</sup> Briefing. Public input was also requested and collected and has been shared with Commissioners.

Based on public input and regulations for existing HHS programs, staff is providing an additional option for the Homeowner Grant Program. The new option increases the required number of years of residency from 1 to 5 years, changes the total grant cap to \$250/year, and allows for support to homeowners for other housing costs beyond taxes.

The \$250 cap and expansion of eligible housing costs better aligns with existing HHS programs and reflects the average amount of HHS' General Assistance funding provided to each applicant. HHS' General Assistance program is most similar to the proposed Homeowner Grant Program.

In order for information about this new program to be included in the tax bill mailing, staff will need final approval by July 23<sup>rd</sup>. If approved, the Communications Dept. will provide outreach to residents. The deadline to apply will be Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff will return to the Board with a program update at the Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Additionally, the City of Asheville has expressed interest in participating in this program. Attached is a draft Interlocal Agreement.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:** Approve an option for the Homeowner Grant Program.

**County Manager's comments and Recommendation:** Recommends approval.