

Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

August 15, 2023

Presenters: Ray Hemachandra, Amy Russell



Background

- Committee's purpose is to make Strategic Partnership Grant investment recommendations to the Board of Commissioners
- Strategic Partnership Grant funding is granted to nonprofit organizations working toward outcomes in alignment with Board goals
- Formed in 2020 (now in 4th funding year)



Members

Kate Burger, Chair

Doug Clark

Ray Hemachandra, Vice Chair

Mark Mickey

Cathy Ray

Kim Robinson

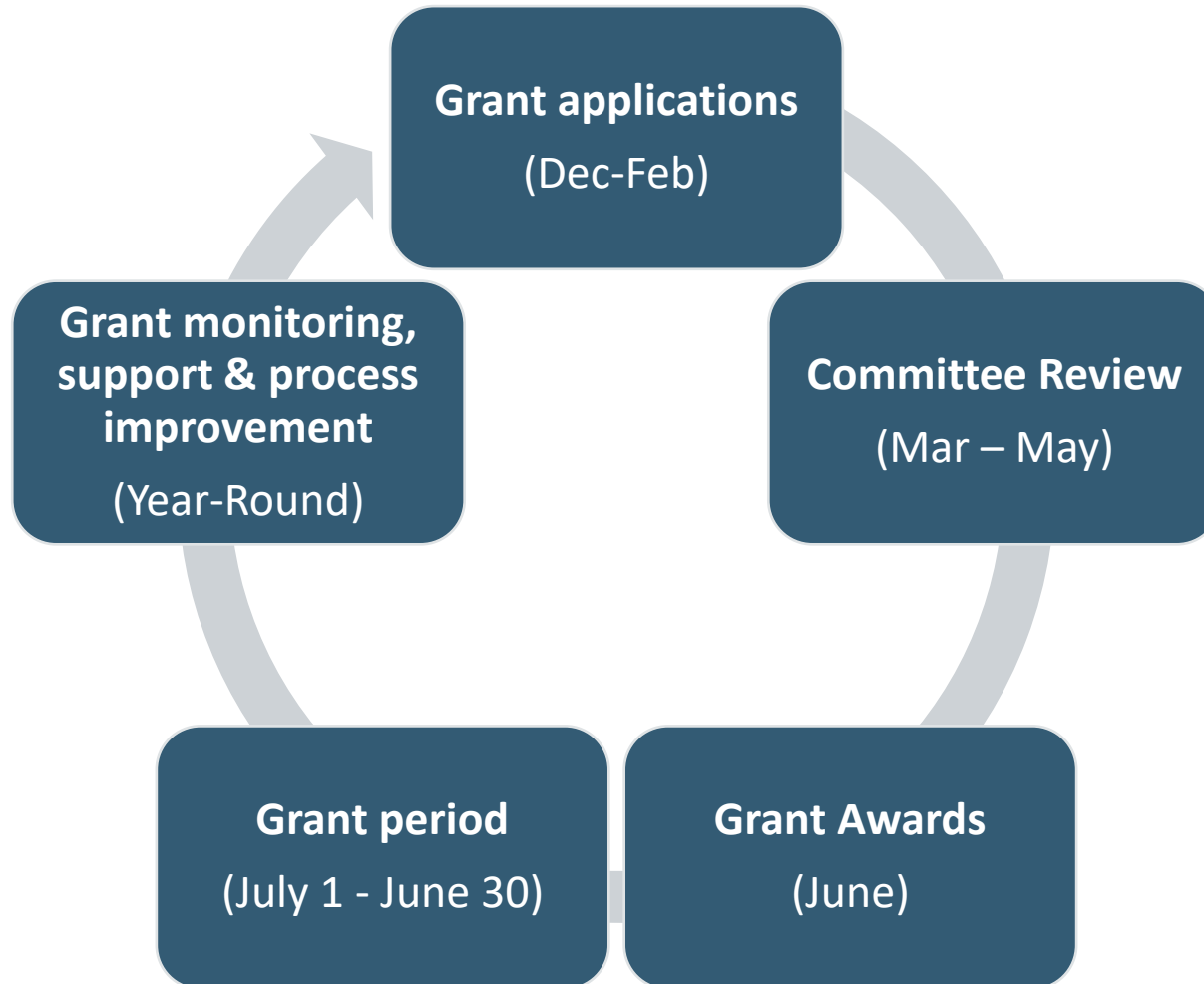
Chuck Rosenblum

Amy Russell

Elizabeth Ward, Secretary



Grant Cycle



Activities in the Past Year

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| July 2022 | Grantee Cohort call: orientation |
| Sept-Dec 2022 | Conducted site visits with all grantees |
| Jan 2023 | Grant Writing Workshop |
| Feb – Mar 2023 | Reviewed/Scored FY2024 applications |
| Apr 2023 | Finalized FY2024 funding recommendations |
| June 2023 | Process improvement discussion |



Current Grant Eligibility

- Nonprofits in active operation for a minimum of 2 years
- Projects that meet a public purpose and align with County Strategic Plan (Education, Environment, Well-Being, Economy)
- Funding limited to no more than 3 years for a single project
- Funding limited to less than 30% of organization's annual operating budget



FY2024 Grant Requests

REQUESTED

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Total Amount | \$3,254,912 |
| # Projects | 71 |
| # Organizations | 67 |

FUNDED

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Total Amount | \$900,000 |
| # Projects | 23 |
| # Organizations | 22 |

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- 16 projects were renewal applications; 55 were new project proposals
- Scored based on:
 - Need for the Project
 - Project Plan
 - Proposed Results
 - Equity
 - Organizational Capacity



FY2024 Grant Awards

| Education | Environment | Well-Being | Economy |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><u>Requested:</u> 13 projects \$708,906</p> | <p><u>Requested:</u> 6 projects \$284,896</p> | <p><u>Requested:</u> 42 projects \$1,866,510</p> | <p><u>Requested:</u> 10 projects \$394,600</p> |
| <p><u>Awarded:</u> 8 projects \$358,800 <i>62% of applications funded</i></p> | <p><u>Awarded:</u> 2 projects \$35,211 <i>33% of applications funded</i></p> | <p><u>Awarded:</u> 10 projects \$375,389 <i>24% applications funded</i></p> | <p><u>Award:</u> 3 projects \$130,600 <i>30% applications funded</i></p> |

\$900,000 Total Awarded



FY2024 Grants Awarded By Category

Educated & Capable Community **\$358,800**

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Adult Education | \$88,000 |
| K-12 Education | \$270,800 |

Environmental Stewardship **\$35,211**

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Soil & Water Quality | \$35,211 |
|----------------------|----------|

Vibrant Economy **\$130,600**

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Financial Wellbeing | \$60,600 |
| Small Business | \$70,000 |

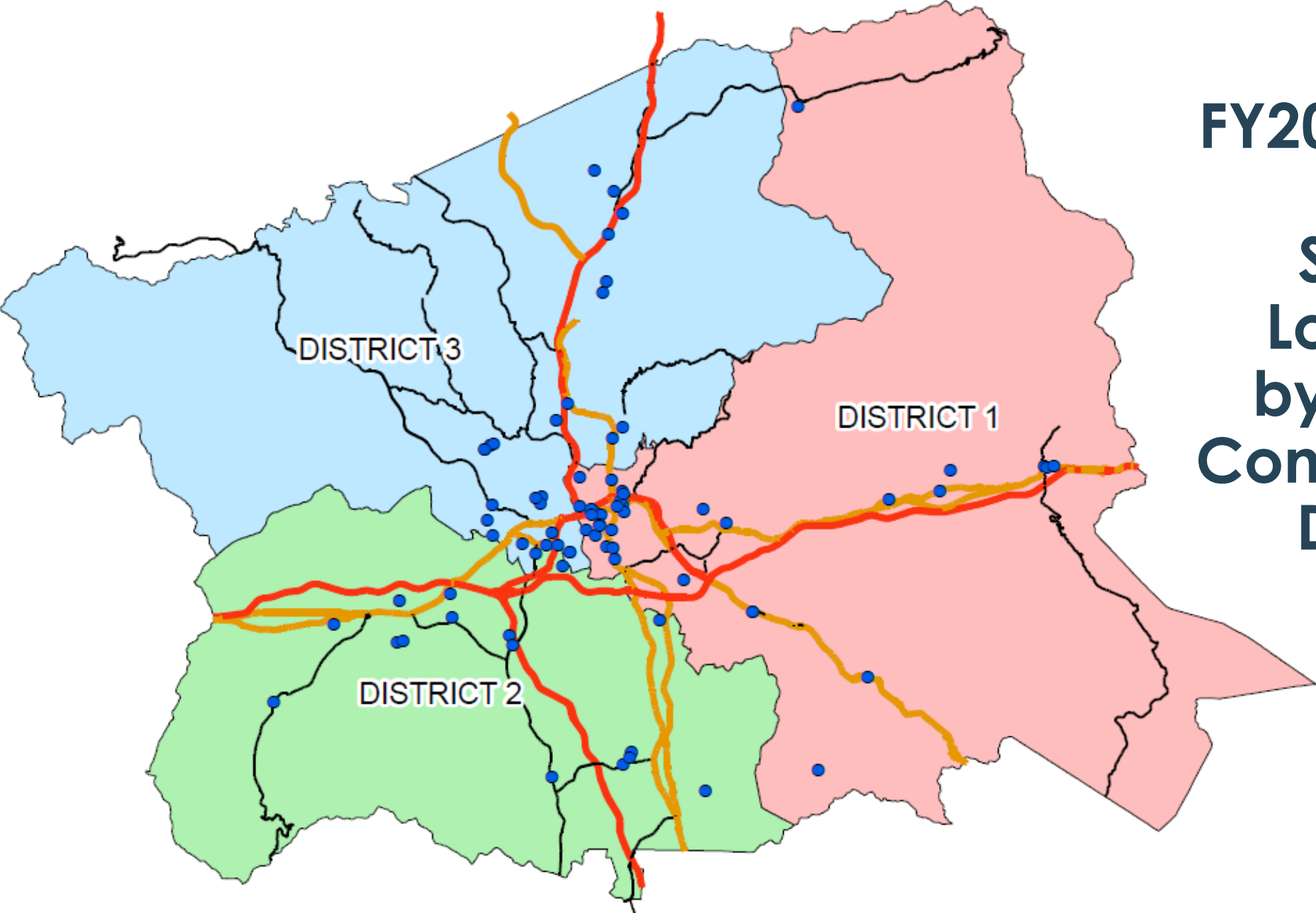
Resident Well-Being **\$375,389**

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Basic Needs | \$152,000 |
| Food | \$16,000 |
| Legal | \$128,000 |
| Safety | \$59,389 |
| Wellness | \$20,000 |



FY2024 Grants

Service Locations by County Commissioner Districts



Highlights

| Nonprofits | Committee | Infrastructure |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Richness of project proposals• Diversity and depth of projects supported• Site visits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee's inclusive, collaborative teamwork• Deliberate/intentional decision-making process• Ability to provide 80-100% of requests for funded projects• Engagement with funded organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support from staff• Online application/review software• Transparent open meetings via hybrid in-person/online option |



Process Improvement Discussions

- Request additional funding from Board of Commissioners to increase the Strategic Partnerships Grant fund
- Implement hard cap of \$80,000 on request amounts
- Explore how to better assess geographic and demographic impact within the county
- Consider “bonus” scoring for things like smallness, newness, innovation, and lean budgets
- Improve categorization of project applications and grants



Next Steps

- Staff is working with grantees on funding agreements
- Performance reports published online quarterly
- Committee site visits to funded projects
- Plan for next grant cycle (process improvement)



Thank You!



Appendix

| Organization Name | Project Name | Amount |
|---|--|-----------|
| Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project | Preserving Farmland through Farm to School Connections | \$ 24,000 |
| Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry | Educational Support Services for Women Living at Transformation Village | \$ 40,000 |
| Asheville Creative Arts - Hood Huggers | Hood Huggers Under Instruction (HHI/UI) | \$ 24,000 |
| Babies Need Bottoms | Beyond Diapers - Meeting Babies' Hygiene Needs with Wipes, Rash Cream and Baby Wash | \$ 20,000 |
| Black Wall Street AVL | Black Wall Street AVL - Strengthening BIPOC Businesses in WNC | \$ 70,000 |
| Bountiful Cities | Community Garden Network and Edible Park Support | \$ 16,000 |
| Buncombe County Schools Foundation | The Face of Hope | \$ 24,000 |
| Caring for Children Eckerd Connects | Respite Scholarship Program | \$ 25,000 |
| Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County | Student Success Support for Buncombe County Children | \$ 60,000 |
| Eliada Homes, Inc | Foster Youth Independence Program | \$ 48,000 |
| H3 Collective (formerly Under One Sky Village Foundation) | Scholarships and Outcomes Evaluation for One-On-One and Group Programming for Youth in Foster Care | \$ 20,000 |
| Haywood Street Congregation | Downtown Welcome Table | \$ 35,000 |



Appendix

| Organization Name | Project Name | Amount |
|--|---|-----------|
| Helpmate, Inc. | Domestic Violence Prevention and Outreach | \$ 59,389 |
| Literacy Together | Igniting Superhero Readers | \$ 50,000 |
| Mountain Child Advocacy Center | Adult Education for Parenting and Child Abuse Prevention | \$ 48,000 |
| OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling | Financial Capabilities Counseling & Education | \$ 16,000 |
| Pisgah Legal Services | Justice For All Program | \$ 64,000 |
| Pisgah Legal Services | Homelessness Prevention Program | \$ 64,000 |
| Read to Succeed | Positive Experiences Around Reading (PEAR) | \$ 26,800 |
| RiverLink | Clean Water for Buncombe: Stormwater Mitigation in Black Mountain | \$ 11,211 |
| W4H Asheville dba Working Wheels | Affordable Vehicle Repairs | \$ 44,600 |
| YTL Training Program | YTL Summer and Advocacy Support | \$ 80,000 |
| YWCA of Asheville and Western North Carolina | MotherLove | \$ 30,000 |

