



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 9/5/2023

New Business

Department: Strategic Partnerships

Presenter(s): Tyler Henry

Contact(s): Rachael Sawyer Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director

Subject: COVID Recovery Funding & Interlocal Agreement

Brief Summary:

COVID Recovery Funding

- Buncombe County has been awarded a total of \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“COVID Recovery Funding”) via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.
- Commissioners have been awarding funds to projects on a rolling basis. Details about awards to date are available on www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding.
- The final awards are anticipated to be approved at this meeting on September 5, 2023. Staff will establish written agreements in compliance with federal guidance for all projects once fully approved.

Interlocal Agreement

- The Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (“HIAC”), a joint committee of the City and County that acts as an advisory body for the NC-501 Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development program, has undertaken a project to expand low-barrier shelter.
- HIAC, through a competitive bidding process, identified three organizations that can expand emergency shelter services to single adults and families with children for a cost of \$1.75 million which is recommended to be shared between Buncombe County and The City of Asheville.
- The City of Asheville is willing to administer the funds by establishing and monitoring contracts with shelter providers selected by HIAC: The Salvation Army of Asheville & Buncombe County; Safe Shelter (fiscal agent = Grace Episcopal Church); and Haywood Street Congregation.
- The Interlocal Agreement Buncombe County and The City of Asheville Expanding the Availability of Emergency Shelter Beds establishes the terms for the funding, including regular performance reporting.

Recommended Motions & Requested Actions:

1. Consider approval of changes to COVID Recovery Funding awards as listed:
 - Reduce COVID Contingency by \$1,013,116
 - Reduce Broadband by \$1,500,000
 - Increase Ferry Road by \$2,264,716
 - Establish new projects:
 - HIAC Shelter Support \$875,000
 - Housing/Shelter \$3,800,000
2. Consider approval of Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement Between Buncombe County and The City of Asheville Expanding the Availability of Emergency Shelter Beds

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: Recommends approval