



## Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

### Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 2/6/2024

#### Public Hearings

**Department:** Health & Human Services

**Presenter:** Stoney Blevins

**Contact:** Stoney Blevins, Health & Human Services Director

**Subject:** Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus Program Close Out

**Brief Summary:** Buncombe County received \$900K in funds through the CDBG Coronavirus Program in August 2021. The program was made available through federal funds authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), managed through US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by North Carolina Dept. of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division (REDD).

From October 2021 through March 2023 (per grant policy), mortgage and/or utility assistance was provided to 206 unique households in the amount of \$495,781. The grant period ended June 2023 with a balance of \$404,212 unencumbered. As the pandemic progressed to an end, the grant guidelines included factors that reduced the number of potential eligible recipients. Some factors included the following (not exhaustive): 1) effective implementation of local Mortgage Assistance Program, 2) co-occurrence of other COVID related economic assistance programs, and 3) Asheville City residents were not eligible to receive funds.

At this juncture, action from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is required close out the Grant.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:** Staff recommends closing the CDBG Coronavirus grant by holding a public hearing and approving the close out

**County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:** County Manager recommends as presented