

Household Assistance Helene Relief Program: City of Asheville CDBG Funds Request

Regular Meeting
January 21st, 2025



Background and Requested Action

Background

- On November 1st, the Board of Commissioners approved the reallocation of \$1.597M in ARPA funds for Helene Relief Household Assistance Programs
 - \$300K to Grace Covenant, serving 122 households
 - \$1.297M to Buncombe County Economic Services
- BC Economic Services announced an application for Household Assistance grants between 12/5 – 12/18, receiving 5,826 applications
- The City of Asheville requested that Buncombe County accept and manage \$624K in CDBG-DDRF funds

Requested Action

- Authorize County Manager to execute Interlocal Agreement with City of Asheville for CDBG-DDRF Funds
- Approve Budget Amendment for CDBG-DDRF Funds



Interlocal Agreement Details

- CDBG-DDRF = Community Development Block Grant – Declared Disaster Recovery Fund
 - Supplemental Fund available to the City of Asheville as an entitlement community
- Buncombe County and City of Asheville Staff worked on an Interlocal Agreement:
 - If accepted, the CDBG funds would go toward rental assistance for City of Asheville households with incomes at 80% AMI or less
 - Anticipated \$4,500 average award and estimated 124 households served
 - These households will also be eligible for utilities assistance through Buncombe programs
 - Administrative Fee: 10%
 - Grant payment structure: cash advance
 - Reporting: as the participating entitlement community, City of Asheville is responsible for reporting to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Asheville City Council voted on January 14th, 2025, to authorize the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County



Next Steps and Timeline

Next Steps

- If approved and the Agreement is executed, Buncombe County staff will manage City of Asheville CDBG-DDRF funds and provide rental assistance to an estimated 124 households in the City of Asheville

Timeline

- Household Assistance Application Review is underway
- January 22nd, make first request for payment to the City of Asheville
- By February 5th, disburse payments for first round of applications on a rolling basis
 - During this time period, Economic Services staff will continue to process applications and prepare for second request



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Questions?

