


BUNCOMBE COUNTY COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

Project Spotlight



To promote a strong and equitable recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, Buncombe County invested federal funds into projects like this one.

Project	Electric Vans and Charging Station for Senior Meal Delivery
Lead Organization	 MEALS on WHEELS ASHEVILLE & BUNCOMBE COUNTY <small>TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.</small>
Award Amount	\$125,000
Project Dates	April 2023 – March 2024
Impact Area	Household Assistance: Food Programs

How the Funds Were Used

Meals on Wheels of Asheville and Buncombe County provided household assistance for food programs through the Electric Vans and Charging Station for Seniors Meal Delivery project. Meals on Wheels serves approximately 500 homebound seniors in Buncombe County, covering roughly 620 miles per week for meal deliveries. This project allowed for the purchase of two electric vans and the installation of an onsite charging station to aid with the delivery of bulk meals every weekday to 12 satellite locations throughout Buncombe County. The new electric vehicles will also help reduce the cost of fleet maintenance and gas to run the meal delivery program, while also reducing the program’s environmental impact. Since November 2023 when the new electric vans were put into service through the end of February 2024, Meals on Wheels has served a total of 42,243 meals, which is an average of 497 meals each serving day. The organization has also seen a decrease in the cost of fuel when compared with the same time period from the previous year.

Results

- **53,773** meals served
- **773** Seniors served
- **64%** reduction in fuel costs

“These vans are perfect for our meal delivery program. In addition to saving money on fuel and lessening our impact on the environment, the electric vans are larger than our previous vans so we have room to expand. And it is so convenient to have the charging stations onsite adding efficiency to the ongoing list of benefits to going electric!”

-Debbie Sprouse, Executive Director
Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County



For a complete listing of Buncombe County’s American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund investments, visit www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding