

Buncombe County Coronavirus Recovery Fund Investments to Date as of 8/31/21

Expenditure Category	Expenditure Code	Organization Name	Project Name	Project Description	Award
1. Public Health	1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination	Buncombe County Government	COVID Vaccination Support	Buncombe County Emergency Services (ES) will partner with Buncombe County Health and Human Services (HHS) to support COVID vaccination planning and implementation during County Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). HHS is the lead department with responsibility for managing the public health response to the pandemic in Buncombe County, and ES is providing medical, logistical and planning support for the vaccination efforts. The primary goals are: an effective and efficient COVID vaccination program; equitable COVID vaccine access with emphasis on historically underserved communities and vulnerable populations; high community rates of vaccination, particularly among vulnerable populations.	\$ 543,714
1. Public Health	1.1 - 1.12 Various	Buncombe County Government	COVID Contingency	Buncombe County requests to set aside \$1 million to be used toward COVID pandemic response as needed. Expenses may include vaccination, testing, contact tracing, personal protective equipment, and related public health activities. Buncombe County will seek to maximize all other potential revenue sources such as funds from North Carolina Division of Public Health.	\$ 1,000,000
2. Negative Economic Impacts	2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance	Buncombe County Service Foundation & Mountain BizWorks	One Buncombe Small Business Grants	One Buncombe is a community COVID-19 response fund. In the early stages of the pandemic, this public-private partnership enabled just-in-time economic support to help families and businesses stay afloat until longer-term relief, such as federal grants and loans, became available. Now as we move into pandemic recovery, another infusion of support is needed for many small businesses. These grants will offer assistance to small businesses facing closures or revenue loss or implementing new safety measures. Grants will support businesses in their ability to re-open and rehire employees as well as facilitate a small business job retainage grant program to assist those individuals who have suffered financial damages due to the pandemic.	\$ 500,000
2. Negative Economic Impacts	2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance	Center for Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship	Building Capacity for Buncombe County Food Entrepreneurs	This project will provide direct support for limited resource businesses engaged in manufacture and sale of foods, cosmetics and natural products under FDA and County health department inspection. The applicant (CAFE) is the parent nonprofit of Blue Ridge Food Ventures, an 11,000 s.ft. shared use food processing center located at the AB Tech Enka Campus. CAFE is now developing WNC FoodWorks, a food business support facility located at the WNC Farmers Market on Brevard Road, opening in 2022. During the grant funded period, CAFE will support at least 80 small businesses in Buncombe County, including manufacturers of value-added food products, caterers and food truck operators, and farmers seeking to add value to their agricultural production. Covid recovery funds will increase engagement with underserved communities, purchase specialized food processing equipment, provide technical assistance to small business owners, and fund production time in FDA-inspected commercial kitchens.	\$ 200,000

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3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	3.1 Education Assistance: Early Learning	Verner Center for Early Learning	Supporting Early Head Start Families Entering or Re-entering the Workforce with Flexible Extended Care	Verner requests funding to extend the Early Head Start (EHS) day from 6 hours (8:30-2:30) to full-day, 9.5 hours (7:30-5:00). This provides children extended time in high-quality early care and education (ECE) settings and provides caregivers increased opportunities to seek better employment, enroll in and complete degree or certificate programs, and have time to take care of their own physical and mental health needs. Funding will allow all 88 EHS families enrolled at our 3 centers across the county to participate. Currently, we are only able to offer limited full-day hours, depending on available staffing and the family's ability to pay out-of-pocket or access other funding to cover the cost. The funds requested will allow us to leverage our federal EHS funding to provide expanded high-quality ECE while collecting data and evidence that support the benefits of an extended day for EHS children and families who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.	\$ 419,309
3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	3.11 Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons	Homeward Bound of WNC	Permanent Supportive Housing Expansion	Homeward Bound's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program serves the most vulnerable individuals and families experiencing chronic, long-term homelessness in Buncombe County. To be considered chronic, one must have experienced at least 12 consecutive months of homelessness or experienced 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years and have at least one disabling condition (mental health, substance use/addiction, and/or physical health). Clients must also be literally homeless (i.e. living on the streets, in emergency shelter, or in places not meant for human habitation). The program accepts referrals from the community's Coordinated Entry System primarily based out of Homeward Bound's AHOPE Day Center where clients engage in a vulnerability assessment and those with the highest scores are referred to the program and housed. PSH provides both rental assistance and case management support as long as they are needed to help clients remain in housing, ending their homelessness. <i>NOTE: This \$3 million award includes the \$2 million already approved for this project on 8/3/21 toward property acquisition and adds \$1 million toward renovation.</i>	\$ 3,000,000
4. Premium Pay	4.1 Public Sector Employees	Buncombe County Government	Incentive for COVID Risk to Buncombe County Employees	Buncombe County seeks to recognize the COVID-19 risk incurred to front-line essential staff working from March 1, 2020 – March 1, 2021. The nature of assigned work for many County staff required direct or indirect contact engaging with the general public. We would like to provide eligible staff with a one-time lump sum payment to reward them for their dedication as well as the risk incurred during the stated time period.	\$ 1,040,000

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5. Infrastructure	5.17 Broadband: Other Projects	Buncombe County Government	Broadband Infrastructure Expansion	Buncombe County seeks funding to facilitate the expansion of high-speed internet in unserved areas of Buncombe County. This funding will be used in addition to private provider funds as a match for the North Carolina Department of Information Technology's GREAT Grant program. It is anticipated that legislation (e.g., HB947) will allow Buncombe County to apply for up to \$4M in funding and utilize American Rescue Plans for matching. This project will produce high-quality, future-proof infrastructure to serve this region for decades. Specifically, the project will align with Treasury guidance and meet the immediate needs of unserved and underserved households and businesses, by focusing on projects that deliver a physical broadband connection and last mile-connections. Additionally, this project complies with existing statutory guidance which requires the use of a Request for Proposal process to identify potential providers. <i>NOTE: Funding approval for this project is contingent on state authorization for counties to utilize funds for broadband infrastructure.</i>	\$ 4,000,000
7. Administration and Other	7.1 Administrative Expenses	Buncombe County Government	Fund Administration	Buncombe County will administer Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Administrative activities include: award management, contracts, expense approvals, subrecipient monitoring, fiscal and performance reporting. Staff position(s) will be housed within the Strategic Partnerships Office with administrative collaboration from Budget, Finance, Strategy & Innovation, and County Manager's Office. Non-personnel expenses include supplies and professional services such as interpreting/translation.	\$ 606,472

<b>Total Investments to Date as of 8/31/21</b>	<b>\$11,309,495</b>
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*Recovery Fund awards to third party organizations are subject to subrecipient contracts and may require additional board action in certain cases such as economic development and interlocal agreements.*