

School Nursing Services for Charter Schools

RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Buncombe County Government

200 College St Suite 300
Asheville, NC 28801

Ellis Vaughn

ellis.vaughan@buncombecounty.org

Application Form

Question Group

Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

[Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP](#)

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*

Name of Project.

School Nursing Services for Charter Schools

Amount of Funds Requested*

\$71,000.00

Recovery Fund Eligible Category*

Please select one:

Prevent and mitigate COVID-19

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

This project aims to provide school nursing services for two Buncombe County public charter schools. Asheville PEAK Academy and Art Space have requested school nursing services for the upcoming school year. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to have a robust school nurse presence not only for communicable disease surveillance and investigation including COVID-19 but to assist with connecting

families with community resources for health, social, and economic needs. Chronic disease management is also a crucial role played by school nurses to increase students' attendance and academic success. School nurses also provide education and training to students, families, and staff. This project would fund one full-time school nurse who would cover both schools. The school nurse position would be employed through the current Buncombe County HHS contract with MAHEC to provide school nursing services. Each charter school would pay a portion of the cost of services at \$15/student.

Project Plan*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

This project will be an expansion of current school nursing services provided by Buncombe County. The school nurse will split their time between each school evenly but remains available by phone to each school at any time. This funding would provide the cost of one full-time school nurse for the 2021-2022 school year. Students at these schools would receive the same nursing care currently provided to students within Buncombe County and Asheville City school under the current MOU. Current services include but not limited to:

- * Communicable Disease surveillance and investigation
- * Staff Training on chronic and complex medical issues requiring a health plan
- * Infection Control activities
- * Respond to medical and dental emergencies
- * Participation in school safety team
- * Management of acute care problems
- * Health Assessment and Immunizations review
- * Health Screenings
- * Participation on student services teams to develop IEPs for students with identified needs.
- * Medication administration oversight
- * Development and implementation of emergency and individual health plans.
- * Case management of students with chronic illness or complex medical needs.
- * Diabetes Care
- * Administer epinephrine in schools program with staff training.
- * Screening programs to reduce or eliminate barriers to learning with referral and follow-up.
- * Emergency/Disaster preparedness.

Statement of Need*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Peak Academy and Art Space schools have approximately 500 students between them, who without this funding would not have access to school nursing services. The School Nurse Association of North Carolina reports the following:

- * 32% of time spent by the school nurse is providing mental health services.
- * Students assessed by a school nurse instead of teachers are 50% less likely to be sent home and keeping them in class and ready to learn.
- * 18% of students have a chronic illness.

"It is the position of NASN that school nurses play an essential role in keeping children healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The school nurse is a member of a unique discipline of professional nursing and is often the sole healthcare provider in an academic setting. Twenty-first-century school nursing practice is student-centered, occurring within the context of the student's family and school community (NASN, 2016a).

It is essential that all students have access to a full-time school nurse all day, every day (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2016)." Reference: National Association of School Nurses. (2016). The role of the 21st century school nurse (Position Statement). Silver Spring, MD: Author.<https://www.nasn.org/advocacy/professional-practice-documents/position-statements/ps-role>

These school nursing services would allow students in Buncombe County to access equitable nursing services increasing their health, wellness, and ability to learn.

Link to COVID-19*

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

School Nurses have provided surveillance, investigation, testing, and vaccination for COVID-19 throughout this pandemic. For example, in the Buncombe County schools, school nurses investigated 798 students and 266 staff cases of COVID-19 from 10/8/2020 through 04/22/2021. The school nurses were also able to provide surge capacity for the pandemic response throughout the county providing these services for community members as well. By adding this position, it will increase the ability for rapid detection and implementation of control measures to quickly stop the spread of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease in these schools and surrounding communities.

Population Served*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

Asheville PEAK Academy- K-2 grades- 75% of students identified as economically disadvantaged.

Kindergarten

57 Total Students

20 White - 35%

13 Hispanic/Latino- 23%

24 Black 42%

29 Male - 51%

28 Female - 49%

First Grade

22 Total Students

4 White - 18%

2 Hispanic/Latino- 9%

16 Black - 72%

7 Male - 32%

15 Female - 68%

Second Grade

23 Total Students

2 White - 9%

3 Hispanic/Latino- 13%

18 Black 78%

13 Male - 57%

10 Female - 43%

Total Number of Students 102 (still enrolling)

26 White - 25%

18 Hispanic/Latino- 18%

58 Black 57%
 49 Male - 48%
 53 Female - 52%

ArtSpace- K-8th grades- 401 students enrolled-minority enrollment 15% with the majority of those students identifying as Hispanic. 15% of students are eligible for free lunch and 19% eligible for reduced lunch.

Results*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The outcome will be improved health and attendance for students as measured by:

1. Case Management for chronic illness and other complex medical conditions- students create goals in their individual nursing care plans. The student will meet or exceed 50% of set goals. Progress assessed at mid-semester and end of the school year.
2. Staff training will be completed for 100% of students with a medical condition who require a health plan or treatment at school within 10 days of identification of the condition.
3. School nurse will complete immunization and health assessment audit for all students in K and 7th grade and any new North Carolina students in any grade.
4. Number of students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19 and case investigation completed.

Evaluation*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

School nurses are required to report data to the school nurse manager by the 5th of each month for the previous month. The information is reported to Buncombe County quarterly and to the state annually. The state analyzes the data and publishes findings for public access. Data is reviewed by the school nurse manager, MAHEC Director of Nursing, BCHHS contract monitor, and NCDHHS/NCDPI for quality assurance measures. Finally, a school health advisory committee meets on a regular basis composed of a diverse group of stakeholders. The advisory committee reviews the data and identifies areas for quality improvement based on the data and the needs of students and staff.

Equity Impact*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

COVID-19 has disproportionately affected people of color, and children with special health care needs are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. Providing school nurse support for students in these schools will increase their access to healthcare and support COVID-19 recovery. A school nurse would provide both physical and mental health support for students, all of whom have been impacted by the pandemic. Many students will be returning to school in person full-time for the first time this school year, following a year of remote and/or hybrid learning. Many students also experienced a delay in routine and non-routine medical care due to the pandemic, and a school nurse can help to bridge the gap.

Racism is one root cause of disparity related to COVID-19. School nurses can play a vital role in advocating for racial equity in schools, and the MAHEC school nurses routinely receive training in this area, such as

Racial Equity Institute training. One disparity highlighted by COVID-19 is healthcare access, and school nurses provide vital healthcare services including preventative health screenings and ongoing case management.

Sources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html#higher-risk>

Project Partners*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

- 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
- 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

MAHEC currently provides all contracted school nursing services for Buncombe County HHS and would include this school nurse position.

1. MAHEC would provide the school nursing services.
2. MAHEC would perform 100% of the scope of work.

Capacity*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Buncombe County Health and Human Services and MAHEC have successfully administered the school health program in partnership since 2015, with a current total of 34 full-time school nurses and 4 PRN school nurse positions in the program including managing funds provided by the schools, state dollars, and local county dollars.

Budget*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

School Nurse Services Charter School Recovery-Funds-budget.xlsx

Special Considerations*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

This would provide one FTE school nurse to provide nursing services for two Buncombe County Charter Schools.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- School Nurse Services Charter School Recovery-Funds-budget.xlsx

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| Total | \$ | 77,705.00 | | |
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