

October 1, 2019

Investing in Community: Buncombe County Announces 2019 Tipping Point Grant Recipients

Buncombe County is excited to announce it will be investing \$100,000 in 20 different community-based initiatives through our [Tipping Point Grants](#).

What are Tipping Point Grants? These are small grants to help amplify community efforts. The grants will be \$5,000 per project. These mini-grants are meant to either amplify what is already happening or allow community residents to develop a local project aimed at creating a pathway to greater resiliency in our community - actions that will stack positive factors such as stronger connection, communication, and development of our community leaders while offloading negative factors like isolation, hopelessness, and violence.

It was an extremely competitive process that saw 60 applicants competing for the 20 available \$5,000 grants. The process was unique in the fact that a Community Review Board met over a two-week period to discuss and analyze the merits of each application. "I am very excited to do something different this year and focus on our County's priorities", notes McDaniels. Now in its fourth cycle, the Tipping Point Grants received a diverse number of applications supporting the County Commissioners' six strategic priorities:

- [Affordable housing](#)
- [Clean, renewable energy](#)
- [Diverse community workforce](#)
- [Early childhood education](#)
- [Justice resource support](#)
- [Opioid awareness](#)

We are honored to announce the following 20 non-profits as recipients of the 2019 Tipping Point Grants:

Project Name & Grantee	Description
Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity	Provide a cost-effective, scalable solution to protect manufactured home residents by installing new locksets and solar-powered, motion-activated lighting to reduce breaking and entering.
Asheville Buncombe County Land Trust	Provide permanently affordable housing for low and moderate-income people that is safe and secure; preserve affordability of homes; and combat deterioration and gentrification in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
Asheville Writers in the Schools and Community	Provide an afterschool paid internship program with a summer intensive, based at the Arthur E. Edington Center that centers the creativity and leadership of Black and Latinx youth in the production of a bilingual online arts and culture magazine for youth.
Babies Need Bottoms	Provide diapers and diapering supplies to families experiencing acute diaper need, through existing community partners Bounty and Soul and B.E.A.R. Closets, and through a new partnership with Community Engagement Markets

BeLoved Asheville	Pilot 440 sq. ft. micro homes to answer to the current housing crisis and address gaps in affordable housing. Community will consist of 12 micro homes for community members who can afford housing at 30% AMI.
Brown Temple CME Church	Provide academic exploration to children ages 3-5 that aligns with NC kindergarten standards.
Community Action Opportunities	Provide a take-home library for African American and Hispanic Head Start children with book characters that look like them
Green Built Alliance	Provide a part time team leader to help serve 50 or more families with energy efficiency upgrades, safety measures, and energy education. Will provide consistent leadership on weatherization projects to support families that have high energy bills and need improvements for their homes.
Hola Community Arts	Bridge cultural communication between government, business and historically underrepresented and underserved communities building strategic partnerships to support greater engagement of these communities in policy, leadership, and initiatives.
Just Economics	Peer led staffing agency focusing on second chance hiring for justice involved citizens and diversity recruiting
Light a Path	Provide yoga, meditation, strength training, dancing, running and other wellness tools to populations without access, such as incarcerated, unhoused, youth, low-income seniors, those in transition from incarceration and those in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction. Offer 30 classes to over 150 people each week.
Literacy Council of Buncombe	Provide reading, writing, spelling, and English language tutoring to 270 adult students through one-on-one and small group instruction as the first step on many pathways to more meaningful participation in the workforce and a higher standard of living.
Mount Zion Community Development, Inc.	Program to collaborate with RHA's Partnership for Substance Free Youth in Buncombe County to host the 2020 Student Summit to continue its focus to discuss and review the opioid epidemic and other substance abuse trends affecting youth, teens and their families.
MAHEC OB (Mothering Asheville Program)	Provide education to doulas to obtain specialty training in postpartum and lactation consultation. This would allow doulas to provide continued and wrap around services to the families.
Mountain Bizworks	Purchase equipment to assist the formerly incarcerated with employment, which decreases the individual chances of returning to prison and helps that individual be a productive citizen.
Read to Succeed	Provide a weekly Early childhood/Pre-K literacy program in Pisgah View Apartments for children birth to 5 years who are not enrolled in an Early

	Childhood Program. Will work with parents/guardians on the importance of reading to children from birth to school entry and will provide each child a new book to keep each week.
RHA Health Services	Bring together a diverse group of students to take a serious look at the opioid epidemic and other substance use trends impacting youth and their families, along with a supportive space to brainstorm solutions and action plans to take back to their schools and community
The Christine Avery Learning Center	Build a stronger workforce by promoting the educational enrichment of black professionals working within the organization and Buncombe community. Supports a culture of pursuing higher education and celebrates individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to educating and supporting marginalized youth.
UNCA Foundation	Partnership between Asheville Housing Authority, Asheville City Schools and UNCA that provides a weekly club at Pisgah View Community Center that focuses on individualized academic support and social-emotional growth.
Western Carolina Rescue Ministries	Create a 45 minute program that could be presented to students throughout Buncombe County called, "Keep It 100" that will feature clients who are currently in recovery and are willing to share their real-life accounts of what led them to addiction, their highs and lows during drug use, and their life now as a recovering addict.

Community Review Group: Buncombe County extends our gratitude to the following community members for volunteering as part of the Tipping Point Grant Review Team: Amanda Bryant, Gerri Delaney, DeAngelo Collins, Brenda Mills, Kim Marmon-Saxe, Nikita Smart, and Lucia Daugherty. This team represents a diverse mix of community perspectives. Each member volunteered approximately 20 hours of time to review grant applications, participated in deep discussions about the needs in our community, and remained committed throughout the grant review process. Applications were reviewed over a period of two weeks, and identified conflicts of interest were recused.

Contact: For more information about Tipping Point Grants and Buncombe County’s work with community partners, visit [BuncombeCounty.org/Grants](https://www.buncombecounty.org/Grants) or contact Rasheeda McDaniels, Community Development Specialist at Rasheeda.McDaniels@buncombecounty.org or (828)-250-4102.