City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Staff Resources: Jackie Stepp - APD Interim Police Chief

Elise Lewis - APD Financial Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution to accept the 2026 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant on behalf of the Asheville HIDTA branch and to execute all documents associated with the grant and adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $160,904.00.

Background:

- The purpose of the HIDTA program is to reduce drug trafficking and especially production in the United States, specifically in areas where drug-related activities are having a significant harmful impact.
- This unit does not focus on, or adopt cases, that are for simple possession, but focuses only on cases that deal in trafficking, manufacturing, and distribution of illegal drugs.
- The Asheville Police Department acts only as the fiduciary for the grant.
- When expenses are incurred, the fiduciary settles the claims using appropriated City of Asheville funds and then requests a 100% reimbursement from the federal government.
- The Asheville HIDTA is the direct beneficiary of the grant funds and not the Asheville Police Department.
- The Asheville HIDTA is composed of members of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, one officer from the Asheville Police Department, and various individuals from the Sheriff Offices of several Western North Carolina Counties.
- A United States Drug Enforcement Administration supervisor, who is the Asheville HIDTA manager, determines how grant funds will be expended.
- All members of the Asheville HIDTA receive reimbursement when they incur qualified expenses conducting Asheville HIDTA business.
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy has determined that the City of Asheville is eligible to manage this grant totaling $160,904.00.
- Grant funds are used for overtime, travel, services and supplies.
- All expenses are tracked and audited by local and federal authorities.

Vendor Outreach:

- None. Funding for this grant is provided by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Fiscally Resilient City

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Economic Recovery

Committee(s):

- Approved by City Council via Resolution 25-67 on 3/25/25 to apply for the grant.

Fiscal Impact:

- Matching funds are not required for this grant.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution to accept the 2026 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant on behalf of the Asheville HIDTA branch and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents associated with the grant; and adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $160,904.00.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the 2026 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant on behalf of the Asheville HIDTA branch and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents associated with the grant; and adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $160,904.00.

Whereas, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-17.1 to apply for and receive grants from the federal government, and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, has determined that the City of Asheville is eligible to receive a grant of $160,904.00 to act as fiduciary for the Asheville High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to accept the grant with the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, in the amount of $160,904.00, to act as fiduciary for the Asheville HIDTA; and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents associated with the grant..

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of July, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk

City of Asheville Budget Amendment Ordinance Number ____

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Asheville:

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $160,904.00 to accept a federal grant from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy for the Asheville High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas 2026 Grant, as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Restricted Intergovernmental Federal Grants	$160,904.00

Expenditures:

Overtime, Travel, Services and Supplies	$160,904.00

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of July, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk