City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: September 8, 2026

Staff Resources:

- Bridget Herring, Recovery & Resilience Director, Jaime Matthews, Assistant to the City Manager.

Action Requested:

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Dogwood Health Trust Leverage Fund for grant development assistance, to accept grant funds if awarded, and enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance

Background:

- The Dogwood Health Trust Leverage Fund provides eligible public and non-profit entities in Western North Carolina (WNC) with grant writing assistance to pursue competitive federal, state, and private foundation grants.
- Under expanded Hurricane Relief Eligibility rules, municipalities with annual operating budgets over $5 million located in the 12 counties most impacted by Hurricane Helene (including Buncombe County) are eligible for Leverage Fund services.
- The City of Asheville operates with an annual operating budget of approximately $275,700,000.
- The application window opens on January 20, 2026, and closes at 5:00 PM ET on October 2, 2026, operating on a rolling review basis.
- The City of Asheville has previously applied for Dogwood Health Trust funding, but is seeking Leverage Fund grant writing support to prepare complex federal applications such as FEMA HMGP applications and to pursue additional funding to address unmet needs in recovery such as debris removal, infrastructure and parks.

Vendor Outreach: N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Well-Planned and Livable Community
- A Clean, Safe, and Healthy Environment
- Thriving Local Economy

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment
- Economic Recovery

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- There is no match required and no direct financial cost to the City of Asheville for receiving grant-writing support.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Dogwood Health Trust Leverage Fund for grant development assistance, to accept grant funds if awarded, and enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Dogwood Health Trust Leverage Fund for grant development assistance, to accept grant funds if awarded, and enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance

Whereas, the City has authority, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Section 160A-17.1, to make contracts for and to accept grants-in-aid from the federal and State governments and their agencies for performing any function which the city is authorized by general law to provide or perform; and

Whereas, the Dogwood Health Trust Leverage Fund is accepting applications from municipalities that are located in the 12 counties most impacted by Tropical Storm Helene for grant writing support to maximize funding opportunities and to navigate complex applications to assist Western North Carolina communities in recovering from Hurricane Helene (DR-4827); and

Whereas, the City of Asheville sustained significant impact from Hurricane Helene and seeks funding to manage recovery, meet unmet needs and strengthen the City's infrastructure.

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

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to submit an application for funding to the Dogwood Heath Trust Leverage Fund;
2. The City Manager is authorized to accept said grant funds if awarded; and
3. The City Manager is authorized to enter into any agreement documents necessary for such acceptance.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 8th day of September, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk