City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Staff Resources: Tony McDowell, CFO, Finance & Management Services Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe to administer the General Assistance Program.

Background:

- From FY23 through FY26, the City of Asheville and Buncombe County jointly funded the Homeowner Grant Program, managed by the County, which was designed to assist homeowners of low and moderate income.
- Starting in FY27, the City and County have agreed to instead invest in the County's General Assistance Program, an economic public assistance program designed to assist Buncombe County residents with income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level ("FPL").
- The County will contribute $290,000 and the City will contribute $75,000.
- Grants awarded under the Program shall be funded as follows:
    - Maximum of $350 for households with income at 131-200% FPL regardless of household size.
    - Maximum of $500 for households with income at or below 130% FPL regardless of household size.
- City funding will only be available to eligible grant applicants whose qualifying residence is located within the territorial jurisdiction of the City.
- Eligible households may, in their discretion, choose to have grant funds applied directly to the allowable bill that best supports their needs, such as housing or utility bill costs.
- The City will provide the County $75,000 and the County will operate the program.

Vendor Outreach: N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Quality Affordable Housing

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Housing

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for this program is included in the FY 2026-27 General Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe to administer the General Assistance Program.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Interlocal Agreement

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe for the General Assistance Program.

Whereas, cities and counties are authorized to enter into joint undertakings through interlocal agreements as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-445 and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-461; and may appropriate funds for community development programs as authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. §160D-1311;

Whereas, Buncombe County and the City of Asheville have successfully administered the Homeowner Grant program for several years to provide assistance for persons of low and moderate income;

Whereas, Buncombe County and the City of Asheville seek to continue to support the qualifying residents by administering a General Assistance Program;

Whereas, Buncombe County and the City of Asheville deem it desirable and in the best interest of the residents to enter into an Interlocal Agreement to identify a dedicated budget for the General Assistance Program.

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the attached Interlocal Agreement for the purposes associated with operations of an economic public assistance program.

Read, approved and adopted this 22nd day of September, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk