Strategic Partnership Grants Committee
January 9, 2025 Special Meeting
12:00 – 2:00 pm
200 College St, Room 310

In attendance:
Committee Members:
Present: Dr. Amy Russell (virtual), Ann Flynn, Cathy Ray, Dede Styles, Doug Clarke, Kate Burger, Liz Ward, Mark Mickey, Ray Hemachandra

County Staff: Rachael Sawyer, Sara Joss, Angelica Tyler, Angelyn Johnson (virtual)

Opening Remarks
Kate Burger called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes
Cathy Ray made a motion to approve the minutes from September 5, 2024, and Ann Flynn seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- County Helene Update
    - Staff presented an update on Helene Response and Recovery including:
        - Timeline
        - Emergency Response
        - Moving into Recovery
        - Recovery Framework
        - Recovery Support Functions & Topics
        - County Financial Outlook
- FY26 Strategic Partnership Grants next steps
    - Strategic Partnership Grants will focus on community-based projects working toward aiding our community in recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene
    - Timeline
        - The applications will open Friday, 1/17 with a due date of 2/28. The committee will have the month of March to review and score the applications. This abbreviated timeline does not allow adequate time for follow-up questions during this cycle.
    - Application
        - Staff reviewed the draft application for this funding cycle.
        - The committee discussed the existing $80,000 limit for requests. They decided to leave the same limit in place for this cycle.
        - The committee requested staff clarify the language in the recovery categories. The education category will be removed and included in the Health and Social Services category.

Strategic Partnership Grants Committee
January 9, 2025 Special Meeting
12:00 – 2:00 pm
200 College St, Room 310

        - The committee would like clarification about projects related to categories that are included in other grant programs, such as Early Childhood Education and Housing.
    - The committee would like to incorporate scoring criteria that assess the strength of the connection to recovery.
- Demographic data form
    - The county is piloting a new demographic data form this year. The committee discussed how the data will be used and at what point during the process the committee would have access to the data.

Announcements:

- There were no announcements.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be February 6, 2025, 1:00 – 2:30 pm – 200 College St Room 310.

Staff Note: Due to budget impacts from Tropical Storm Helene, County management decided not to have a FY2026 grant cycle. This decision was made after this meeting.