City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: October 27, 2026

Staff Resources: Nikki Reid, Housing and Economic Development Director, and Emily Ball, Homeless Strategy Division Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of (1) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute funding agreements Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina in the amount of $411,616; Operation Gateway in the amount of $63,497; and Pisgah Legal Services in the amount of $102,726 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative; and (2) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $924,025 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative.

Background:

- The City of Asheville is the designated Lead Agency for the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (CoC). The CoC oversees homelessness response in Asheville and Buncombe County.
- The CoC has been invited to participate in a 3-year pilot initiative on homelessness prevention called Right at Home. Right at Home is seeking to pilot prevention services (e.g. rental assistance, case management) in 10 communities across the country and has selected Asheville-Buncombe for inclusion in the pilot.
- The CoC Board unanimously approved this opportunity at its May 8, 2025 meeting and City Council subsequently approved submission of a Planning Grant which was awarded in June 2026.
- The resulting 3-year implementation plan was approved by the CoC Board on June 11, 2026 and subsequently approved by Right at Home via an awarded $6M implementation grant, which City Council approved acceptance of on October 13, 2026.
- The City of Asheville will administer the $6M implementation grant in its capacity as the designated Lead Agency for the CoC and will manage agreements with service providers as approved by the CoC Board on September 10, 2026 based on competitive process.
- Right at Home is a network approach to service delivery, with 3 organizations providing screening, financial assistance, and case management services, and 1 organization providing legal services:
    - Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry: $924,025
    - Homeward Bound: $411,616
    - Operation Gateway: $63,497
    - Pisgah Legal Services: $102,726
- Services are expected to begin by the end of 2026, with 250 households to be served in year one of the 3-year pilot.

Vendor Outreach: The CoC's Funding Committee published a Request for Applications to CoC Member organizations, reviewed and scored all applications received, and recommended the 3 highest-scoring applicants for selection. The Funding Committee published a separate Request for Applications to CoC Member organizations for legal services and received and scored one application and recommended the applicant for selection. The CoC Board approved all recommended applicants at its September 10, 2026 meeting.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Quality Affordable Housing

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- People
- Housing

Committee(s):

- Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care Board Approval - September 10, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- Previously accepted grant funds are the revenue source for these funding agreements.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt (1) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute funding agreements Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina in the amount of $411,616; Operation Gateway in the amount of $63,497; and Pisgah Legal Services in the amount of $102,726 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative; and (2) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $924,025 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Resolution with Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute funding agreements with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina in the amount of $411,616; Operation Gateway in the amount of $63,497; and Pisgah Legal Services in the amount of $102,726 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative.

Whereas, the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community-based collaborative body responsible for homelessness in Asheville and Buncombe County and has designated the City of Asheville as its Lead Agency; and

Whereas, the CoC has been invited to participate in a 3-year pilot initiative on homelessness prevention called Right at Home as one of 10 selected communities; and

Whereas, the CoC Board unanimously approved this opportunity at its May 8, 2025 meeting and City Council subsequently approved submission of a Planning Grant which was awarded in June 2026 with the resulting 3-year implementation plan approved by the CoC Board on June 11, 2026; and

Whereas, Right at Home has approved the CoC's plan and will provide $6M over 3 years for implementation to prevent homelessness for at least 1,000 households; and

Whereas, City Council accepted the $6M implementation grant from Destination: Home for Right at Home on October 13, 2026; and

Whereas, the CoC issued Requests for Applications for implementation partners and approved service providers for year one with funding amounts at its September 10, 2026 meeting as follows:

- Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry: $924,025
- Homeward Bound: $411,616
- Operation Gateway: $63,497
- Pisgah Legal Services: $102,726

Whereas, the City of Asheville will administer the $6M implementation grant in its capacity as the designated Lead Agency for the CoC and will manage agreements with service providers as approved by the CoC Board;

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

The City Manager is authorized to execute funding agreements with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina in the amount of $411,616; Operation Gateway in the amount of $63,497; and Pisgah Legal Services in the amount of $102,726 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative.

Read, approved and adopted this 27th day of October, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

_____
Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $924,025 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative.

Whereas, the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community-based collaborative body responsible for homelessness in Asheville and Buncombe County and has designated the City of Asheville as its Lead Agency; and

Whereas, the CoC has been invited to participate in a 3-year pilot initiative on homelessness prevention called Right at Home as one of 10 selected communities; and

Whereas, the CoC Board unanimously approved this opportunity at its May 8, 2025 meeting and City Council subsequently approved submission of a Planning Grant which was awarded in June 2026 with the resulting 3-year implementation plan approved by the CoC Board on June 11, 2026; and

Whereas, Right at Home has approved the CoC's plan and will provide $6M over 3 years for implementation to prevent homelessness for at least 1,000 households; and

Whereas, City Council accepted the $6M implementation grant from Destination: Home for Right at Home on October 13, 2026; and

Whereas, the CoC issued Requests for Applications for implementation partners and approved service providers for year one with funding amounts at its September 10, 2026 meeting as follows:

- Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry: $924,025
- Homeward Bound: $411,616
- Operation Gateway: $63,497
- Pisgah Legal Services: $102,726

Whereas, the City of Asheville will administer the $6M implementation grant in its capacity as the designated Lead Agency for the CoC and will manage agreements with service providers as approved by the CoC Board;

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

The City Manager is authorized to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $924,025 as approved by the Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care to implement the Right at Home homelessness prevention initiative.

Read, approved and adopted this 27th day of October, 2026.

_____

Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

_____
Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk