COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

Proposed Reallocations

June 2, 2026

Strategic Partnerships

FUNDING OVERVIEW

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal aid to state & local governments / Coronavirus **State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds** (SLFRF)
- Aid toward recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts
- Direct, flexible funding from U.S. Treasury
- **Buncombe County allocation: $50.7 Million**

TIMELINE

March 11, 2021
ARPA Signed into Law

March 3, 2021
Expenditure Period Begins

December 31, 2024
Obligation Deadline

December 31, 2026
Expenditure Deadline

ELIGIBLE USES

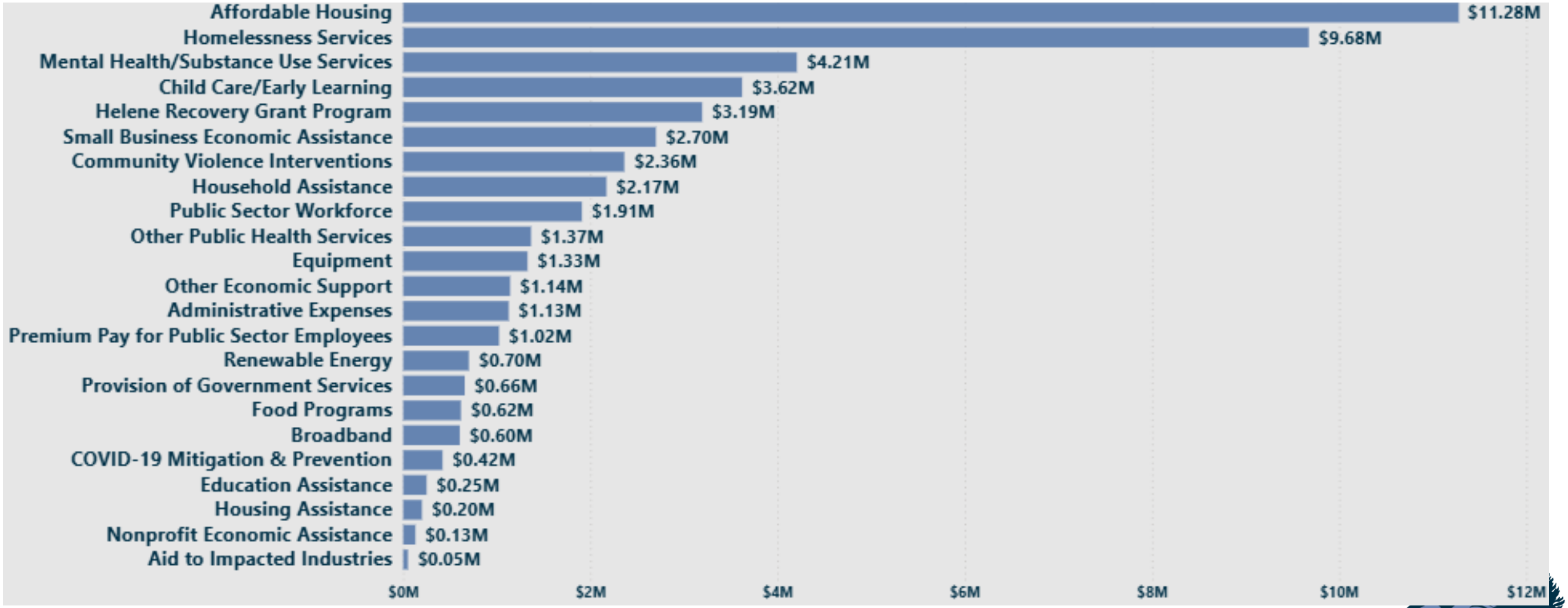
1. Public Health
2. Negative Economic Impacts
3. Public Sector Capacity
4. Premium Pay
5. Infrastructure
6. Revenue Replacement
7. Administrative
8. Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
9. Surface Transportation Projects
10. Title I Projects



PROJECT ALLOCATIONS

- Funds were allocated to projects starting in 2021 by County Commissioners according to:
  - **allowable uses of funds** (per federal guidance)
  - **community priorities** (gathered through listening sessions & a community survey
  - **a competitive application** (including multiple rounds of proposals from county departments & community-based organizations)
- All funds were fully obligated by December 31, 2024 in compliance with Obligation Deadline requirements

TOTAL AWARDED BY CATEGORY



BY THE NUMBERS

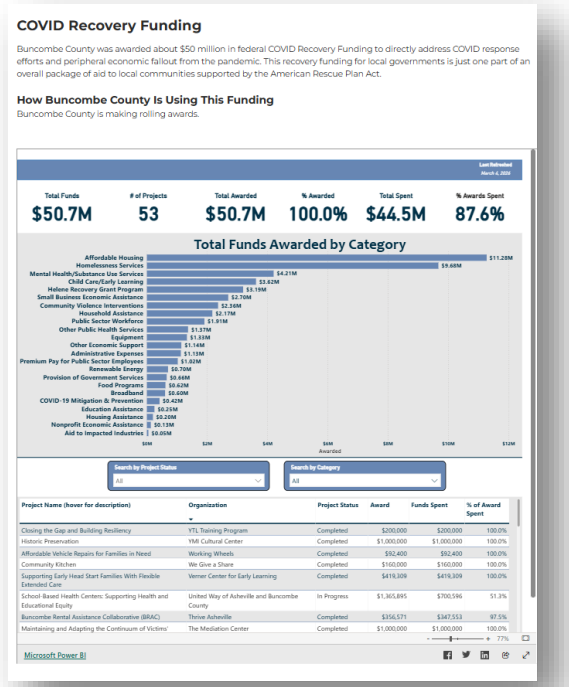
# OF PROJECTS	# OF COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS	# OF COUNTY-LED PROJECTS
54	**36** (67%)	**18** (33%)

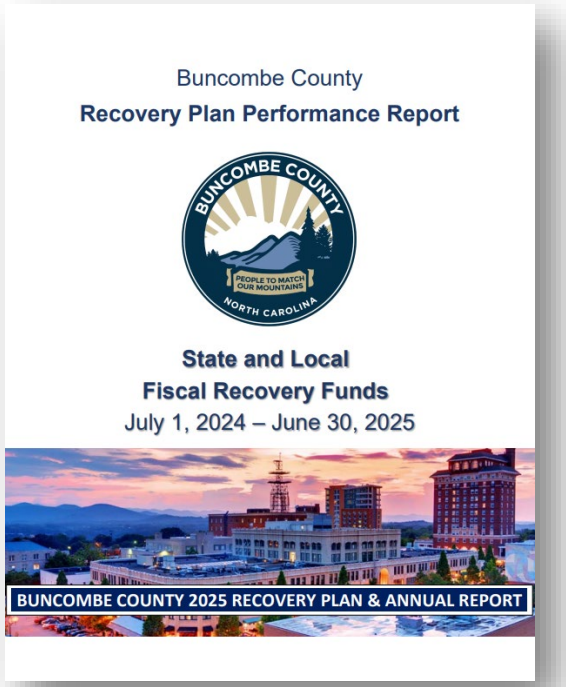
TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL OBLIGATED (Awarded to Projects)	TOTAL SPENT (As of May 1, 2026)
$50.7 M	**$50.7 M** (100%)	**$44.5 M** (88%)

# OF PROJECTS NOT STARTED	# OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS	# OF PROJECTS COMPLETE
0	**8** (15%)	**46** (85%)

FUND TRANSPARENCY

Visit **BuncombeNC.gov/Grants** & click "COVID Recovery Funding" to view the **grant dashboard**, **annual reports**, **project spotlights**, & more







PREPARING FOR CLOSEOUT

Why we're here today!

Priorities with <8 months remaining:

- **Reallocating unused project balances**
- Closing out remaining projects
- Final compliance reporting to US Treasury
- Final reporting on use of funds & community impact
- Audit-ready record retention

REALLOCATION CONSTRAINTS

If projects have unused funds, they may only be transferred to another project under specific conditions:

- Must be an **existing project** (no new projects)
- Must be a currently **open project** (no re-opening projects)
- Must be within **existing scope of work** (no new activities or categories of spending)
- Must comply with **Federal Uniform Guidance**
- Must be **fully expended by December 31, 2026**

AVAILABLE BALANCES

Broadband Infrastructure Expansion Over-obligated, unused remaining balance	$145,997
Capital Outlay Equipment Unused remaining balance, project closed	$3,457
Coxe Avenue Affordable Housing Development Unable to spend within timeframe due to Helene-related delays	$3,499,363
Ferry Road Infrastructure Unable to spend within timeframe due to Helene-related delays	$59,400
Helene Recovery – Household Assistance Returned payment, project closed	$6,300
Renewable Energy for Fire Districts Unused balance, project closed	$500
Fund Administration Personnel reduced from 2 positions to 1 for last year of grant	$101,691
	$3,816,708

REALLOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Paramedic Collaborative Funds to cover a purchase of radios for Community Paramedics	$32,000
Operational Costs for Helene Response Funds to cover emergency costs from Tropical Storm Helene that aren't covered through insurance, FEMA Public Assistance, or other disaster programs. Examples include: • Community Navigation & Helene Resource Center - linking disaster survivors with assistance • Emergency Protective Measures not able to be claimed or approved through FEMA - overtime costs, potable water, tree work, etc. • Emergency Watershed Protection - surveying damaged streambanks and preparing plans for mitigation reconstruction • Floodplain management - increased operational expenses to respond to damaged or destroyed properties re: damage assessments, plan reviews & permitting • Hazard mitigation - Preparing project plans for hazard mitigation projects based on Helene impacts	$3,784,708
	$3,816,708

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of reallocations as listed:

Project	Increase	Decrease
Broadband Infrastructure Expansion		($145,997)
Capital Outlay Equipment		($3,457)
Coxe Avenue Affordable Housing Development		($3,499,363)
Ferry Road Infrastructure		($59,400)
Helene Recovery – Household Assistance		($6,300)
Renewable Energy for Fire Districts		($500)
Fund Administration		($101,691)
Community Paramedic Collaborative	$32,000	
Operational Costs for Helene Response	$3,784,708	
TOTAL	**$3,816,708**	**($3,816,708)**