Appalachian Mountain Health

Building Reuse Grant and Public Notices for Economic Development Agreement

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting October 6th, 2026

Background

- Appalachian Mountain Health (AMH) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides affordable healthcare services in Buncombe County
- AMH purchased and is renovating a medical facility in East Buncombe County
- Awarded a **$480,000 Building Reuse Grant** from NC Commerce for job creation and building investment activities
  - Building Reuse Grant requires Board authorization to proceed
  - Require 5% match provided by local philanthropic organization
    - Project will be at no cost to the County
- **Building Reuse Project:**
  - **Eligible Construction Costs:** $2.5M
  - **Jobs:** 48
  - **Wages:** $39.81/hour average

Appalachian Mountain Health
Black Mountain Project

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) founded in 2015 that currently serves patients across Buncombe, Cherokee, Graham, and Jackson counties
- The Black Mountain FQHC Expansion and Renovation project will establish a comprehensive primary care, dental, and behavioral health facility
  - Will serve approximately 16,000 – 18,000 residents in the Black Mountain-Swannanoa service corridor
- Addresses a critical healthcare access gap that resulted from the closure of a medical practice in this area in October 2025
- Anticipated outcomes:
  - Improve health outcomes
  - Reduce reliance on emergency services
  - Strengthen the Black Mountain-Swannanoa area's healthcare infrastructure

Building Reuse Grant Program Overview

- The Building Reuse Program is administered by the Rural Economic Development Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce.
- **Purpose:**
  - Renovate vacant buildings,
  - Renovate or expand existing facilities, and
  - ***Renovate, expand or construct health care entities that will create new, full time jobs.***
- **Investment:** State will fund no more than 50% of the total direct investment project.
- **State Incentive:**
  - Driven by number of new jobs created.
  - Must meet job creation commitments within 18 months and maintain the jobs for 6 months after creation.
  - Requires a local government match and local responsibility in the event of “clawback”.
    - Match provided by Dogwood Health Trust for this grant opportunity

Appalachian Mountain Health Building Reuse Grant Award

- As part of their $14 million total investment, AMH will **invest $2.5 million in renovations** to their new Black Mountain-Swannanoa facility
- To make these investments and hire 38 full-time positions, the Rural Economic Development Division of NC Commerce has awarded this project a **$480,000 Building Reuse grant**
- Partnership between Buncombe County, Appalachian Mountain Health and N.C. Commerce
- Buncombe County is the applicant and require direct recipient
  - Pass through of funds will be structured with an Economic Development Agreement with AMH
- Requires a **5% match ($24,000)** to enable this investment
  - Match will be provided by Dogwood Health Trust
  - This project will be at no cost to the County

Request and Next Steps

Request for Board Action

- Authorize the County Manager to coordinate with Appalachian Mountain Health and participate in the NC Commerce Building Reuse Grant Program.

Next Steps

- **Publish Notice of Public Hearing**
- **Public Hearing:** October 20th, 2026
  - Formal vote on economic development agreement and budget amendment to accept Building Reuse Grant Award