COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

Proposed Reallocations

May 19, 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

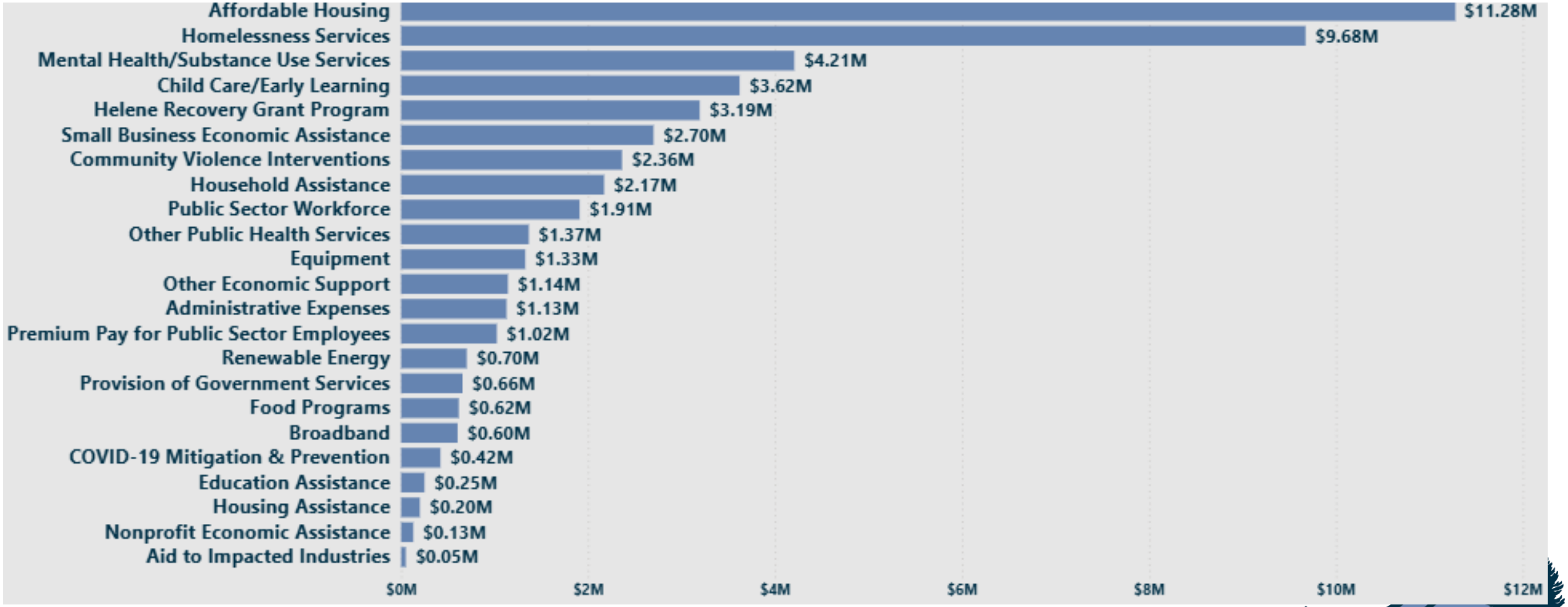
1. Public Health
2. Negative Economic Impacts
3. Public Sector Capacity
4. Premium Pay
5. Infrastructure
6. Revenue Replacement
7. Administrative
8. Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
9. Surface Transportation Projects
10. Title I Projects



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

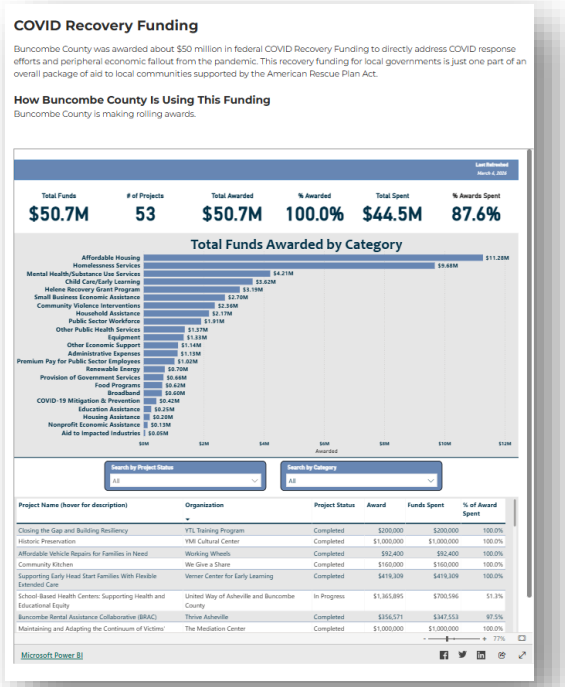
# OF PROJECTS	# OF COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS	# OF COUNTY-LED PROJECTS
54	**36** (67%)	**18** (33%)

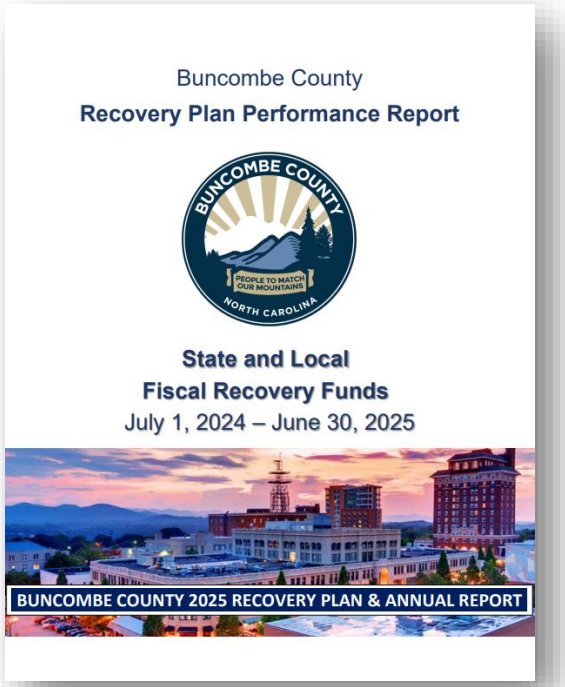
TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL OBLIGATED (Awarded to Projects)	TOTAL SPENT (As of May 1, 2026)
$50.7 M	**$50.7 M** (100%)	**$44.5 M** (88%)

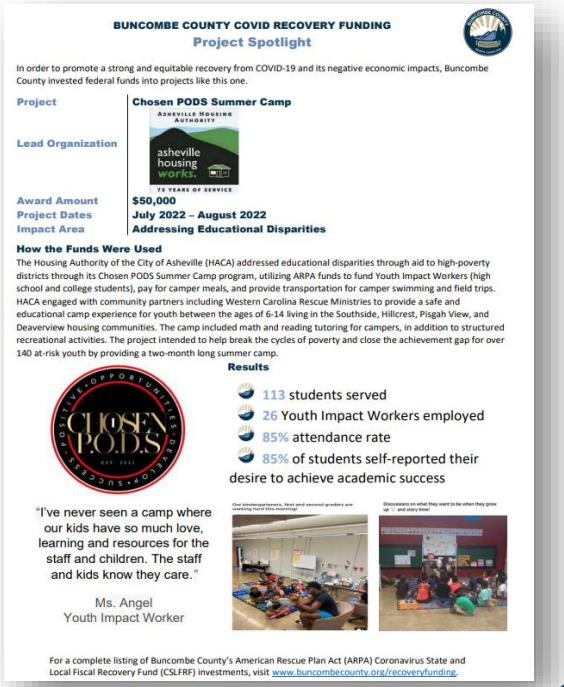
# OF PROJECTS NOT STARTED	# OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS	# OF PROJECTS COMPLETE
0	**8** (15%)	**46** (85%)

FUND TRANSPARENCY

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







EXAMPLE IMPACTS: HEALTH







- **83,000 masks** distributed
- **20,050 vaccine doses** administered
- **5,050 individuals/families** received mental health services
- **2,197 individuals** received community health services
- **5,904 individuals & families** received food & nutrition

EXAMPLE IMPACTS: ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- **214 jobs** created
- **746 jobs** retained
- **614 households** received rent or utility bill assistance
- **42 shelter beds** created
- **174 housing units** built
- **76 home repairs** completed
- **808 households** connected to broadband service







Investment in Action: Community Stories of Impact

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

BUSINESSES & JOBS WERE SUSTAINED WITH THESE FUNDS

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION! STARTED LOCALLY

SURVEY: 7600 RESPONSES ORGANIZED BY SUBJECT — NEED PEOPLE HOUSING

EMERGENCY FUNDS FIRST, THEN OPENED FUNDING TO COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

FUNDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FIRST, THEN ECONOMIC CONCERNS

CONSTANT LEARNING & ADAPTING

BROADBAND BECAME IMPERATIVE "WIFI IN THE PARK"

NON PROFITS HELP FILL THE GAPS & WE CAN INCREASE IMPACT BY PARTNERING WITH THEM

ONE PROJECT BUILDS ON ANOTHER...

FOOD DELIVERY HELPED ADDRESS ELDERLY ISOLATION

SPOT LIGHT ON HOW IMPORTANT WOMEN ARE IN THE WORKFORCE



PAY TO BUNCOMBE COUNTY 2021
PAY $50,733,240.00

FREEDOM TO TAILOR OUR RECOVERY RESPONSE

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCREASED & INTENSIFIED. WE'RE BUILDING A SECURE SHELTER WITH 2X CAPACITY

WAITLIST IS REDUCED & WE'RE ABLE TO SERVE MORE PEOPLE IN LESS TIME

SPIKE IN NEED — DROP IN FUNDS — WE MUST ALLOCATE NEW FUNDS CAREFULLY!

WE WERE ABLE TO ALIGN WITH & LEVERAGE OTHER FUNDING - IT EXPANDED OUR CAPACITY

AWARENESS OF NEED FOR DIAPER BANK GREW & WE WENT FROM 12 PARTNERS TO 75!

FUNDING TO NPs BROKE DOWN SILOS & NEW PARTNERSHIPS FORMED - SYNERGY!

SHE KEPT MAKING TORTILLAS FOR HER HEALING... NOW A BUSINESS, DEDICATED TO HER DAUGHTER

WE WERE ABLE TO GET NEW (SAFE) ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEMS FOR CLIENTS

OUR VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM TOOK OFF! HIRED MORE · SERVED MORE THEY CAN VISIT PEOPLE! REDUCED ISOLATION

HOME REPAIR PROGRAM: ALLOWS AGING IN PLACE SAFEGUARDS COMMUNITY CHARACTER IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH

HER WHOLE DEMEANOR CHANGED!

I NOW HAVE A SAFE HOME TO BE IN, & IT FILLED ME WITH SO MUCH HOPE!

REMOVING BARRIERS & BREAKING DOWN WALLS IS KEY TO DELIVERING SERVICES & BUILDING BETTER SYSTEMS

WE INCREASED TEACHER SALARIES ALLOWED THEM TO CONTINUE THE WORK

THE TIMING WAS CRITICAL FOR SURVIVORS... ALLOWED US TO MAINTAIN & EXPAND OUR SERVICES

FARMERS NEEDED A PLACE TO SELL PRODUCE WE CONNECTED TO NEW MARKETS & HELPED REBUILD EXISTING

WE CAN PAY A LIVING WAGE NOW!

WE ADDED MORE BEDS SO FAMILIES COULD SHELTER TOGETHER

INCREASED SERVICE COORDINATION MAXIMIZED THE FUNDING'S REACH

BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE, CREATE, & EXPAND FAMILY PROGRAMS HAS INCREASED COMMUNITY SAFETY

HOUSING IS HEALTH

FLEXIBILITY ALLOWED US TO GIVE DIRECTLY TO FAMILIES — $ GAS

DIGNITY
EQUITY PUBLIC HEALTH
COLLABORATION MENTAL HEALTH PIVOT
HOPE SAFETY RECOVERY
CAPACITY OPPORTUNITY NETWORK
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS INVESTMENTS

WE'RE JUST SO GRATEFUL FOR THIS FUNDING THAT ALLOWED US TO DO THIS AMAZING WORK IN THE COMMUNITY!

Caryn Sterling
drawinginsight.com

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** and 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	$63,200
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
	$3,820,508

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	$3,788,508
	$3,820,508

NEXT STEPS

Request for Board Action on June 2, 2026 to Consider approval of reallocations:

- $32,200 to Community Paramedic Collaborative
- $3,788,508 to Operational Costs for Helene Response
- Ratify 2 previous reallocations that were made during the Helene emergency:
  - $46,904 to Fund Administration to Operational Costs for Helene
  - $50,000 to Ferry Road Infrastructure

APPENDIX: PROJECT LIST

Project Name	Budget
Accelerate Buncombe (Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Community Betterment Foundation)	$750,000
Advancing Community Safety (Buncombe County)	$700,000
Affordable Vehicle Repairs for Families in Need (Working Wheels)	$92,400
All Access to Care and Support (RHA Health Services)	$1,300,000
AMOS Recovery Plan (Asheville Museum of Science)	$130,000
Broadband Infrastructure Expansion (Buncombe County) *	$604,284
Building Capacity for Buncombe County Food Entrepreneurs (Center for Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship)	$200,000
Building Capacity to Expand NC Pre-K (Buncombe Partnership for Children)	$3,201,546
Buncombe County Creative Sector Recovery Grant (Asheville Area Arts Council)	$50,000
Accelerate Buncombe (Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Community Betterment Foundation)	$750,000

APPENDIX: PROJECT LIST

Project Name	Budget
Buncombe County Employee Retention Grant (Buncombe County)	$1,909,250
Buncombe Rental Assistance Collaborative (BRAC) (Thrive Asheville)	$356,571
Capital Outlay Equipment (Buncombe County)	$1,327,997
Child Trauma Response and Recovery (Mountain Area Child Advocacy Center)	$662,500
Chosen PODS Summer Camp (Housing Authority of the City of Asheville)	$50,000
Clean Energy Upgrades for Low-Income Households (Green Built Alliance)	$232,409
Closing the Gap and Building Resiliency (YTL Training Program)	$200,000
CoC/HIAC Shelter Support (City of Asheville) *	$4,480,000
Community Kitchen (We Give a Share)	$160,000
Community Paramedic Collaborative (Buncombe County) *	$2,486,958

APPENDIX: PROJECT LIST

Project Name	Budget
Connecting All Communities (Land of Sky Regional Council)	$445,000
COVID Vaccination Incentive (Buncombe County)	$100,346
COVID Vaccination Support (Buncombe County)	$261,439
COVID Vaccine Promotion (Buncombe County)	$17,496
Coxe Avenue Affordable Housing Development (Buncombe County) *	$3,682,743
Diaper Assistance to Early Child Care Education Centers (Babies Need Bottoms)	$50,000
Electric Vans and Charging Station for Senior Meal Delivery (Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County)	$125,000
Emergency Shelter for Domestic Violence Survivors (Helpmate)	$2,000,000
EMSDC Community Equity Fund (Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation)	$750,000
Expanding Mental Health Services for Underserved Populations (All Souls Counseling Center)	$418,750

APPENDIX: PROJECT LIST

Project Name	Budget
Expanding Mountain Community Capital Fund (Mountain BizWorks)	$1,250,000
Farm Fresh for Health - Double SNAP Initiative (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project)	$250,000
Ferry Road Infrastructure (Buncombe County) *	$1,300,589
Fund Administration (Buncombe County) *	$1,080,390
Helene Recovery Individual/Household Assistance (Buncombe County)	$1,597,053
Helene Recovery Small Business Grants (Buncombe County)	$1,597,053
Historic Preservation (YMI Cultural Center)	$1,000,000
Home Repair and Support Services (Buncombe County)	$400,000
Household Assistance to the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled (The ARC of Buncombe County)	$100,000
Housing Stabilization Project (Eblen Charities)	$287,500

APPENDIX: PROJECT LIST

Project Name	Budget
HVAC and Air Filtration System (Loving Food Resources)	$81,479
Incentive for COVID Risk to Buncombe County Employees (Buncombe County)	$1,023,751
Infrastructure to Support Affordable Homeownership Development (Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity	$2,600,000
KN95 Masks for COVID Prevention (Buncombe County)	$41,042
Maintaining and Adapting the Continuum of Victims' Services (The Mediation Center)	$1,000,000
One Buncombe Small Business Grants (Mountain BizWorks)	$500,000
Operational Costs for Helene Response (Buncombe County) *	$46,904
Permanent Supportive Housing Expansion (Homeward Bound of WNC)	$3,195,000
Personnel Costs (Buncombe County)	$656,794
PODER Emma Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing NOAH Repair (Colaborativa la Milpa)	$200,000

APPENDIX: PROJECT LIST

Project Name	Budget
Recovery Starts at Home (Mountain Housing Opportunities)	$2,545,231
Renewable Energy for Volunteer Fire Districts (Buncombe County)	$701,609
School-Based Health Centers: Supporting Health and Educational Equity (United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County) *	$1,365,895
Supporting Early Head Start Families With Flexible Extended Care (Verner Center for Early Learning)	$419,309
West Haywood Street Apartments Deeply Affordable Housing (Haywood Street Community Development)	$749,000

*** Project still in progress as of 5/1/2026**