

# BUNCOMBE COUNTY COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

## Project Spotlight



In order to promote a strong and equitable recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, Buncombe County invested federal funds into projects like this one.

### Project

**Incentive for COVID Risk to Public Employees**

### Lead Organization



**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**  
HUMAN RESOURCES

### Amount

**\$1,023,750.63 actual (vs \$1,040,000 award)**

### Project Dates

**December 2021**

### Impact Area

**Public Sector Employees**

### How the Funds Were Used

Buncombe County utilized ARPA funds to reward front-line essential staff for the heightened risks to COVID-19 exposure they incurred working from March 10, 2020, the day North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper declared the state to be under a COVID-19 State of Emergency, to March 10, 2021. Eligible duties included those of first responders as well as forward-facing staff providing mandated services to the public. These funds provided eligible staff with a one-time lump sum payment on December 31, 2021, to reward Buncombe County employees for their dedication as well as the risk incurred during the stated time period. To better understand premium pay determinations, please see [Buncombe County's COVID Premium Pay Policy](#).



### Results

- 708** total workers served
- 96** EMS workers served
- 57** Sheriff's Office workers served
- 124** Social Service workers served

*"During the initial response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, as frontline workers many County workers provided care in situations that involved being in direct and indirect contact with the virus. While all efforts were taken to have employees stay home and stay safe, the nature of some jobs did not provide that option. In response to this, Commissioners approved COVID premium pay in acknowledgement of employee sacrifices during the pandemic."*

Avril Pinder  
Buncombe County Manager



For a complete listing of Buncombe County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) investments, visit [www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding](http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding).