

Buncombe County Health, Wellness, & Equity Expansion

RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Appalachian Mountain Community Health Centers

Shantelle Simpson
141 Asheland Ave. Ste. 300
Asheville, NC 28803

stennyson@amchc.org
O: 8287765956

Shantelle Simpson

141 Asheland Ave Ste 300
Asheville, NC 28801

ssimpson@amchc.org
O: 828-202-5203

Application Form

Question Group

Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. To date, Buncombe County has awarded projects totaling \$23,093,499, leaving a balance of \$27,639,791 available to award.

Visit <http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding> for details.

This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

[Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP](#)

Organization Type*

Nonprofit

Nonprofit documentation

If nonprofit, attach IRS Determination Letter or other proof of nonprofit status.

501c3 Determination Letter (1).pdf

Name of Project.*

Buncombe County Health, Wellness, & Equity Expansion

New/Updated Proposal*

Is this a new project proposal or an updated version of a proposal submitted during the earlier (July 2021) Recovery Funding RFP?

Updated version of previously submitted proposal

Amount of Funds Requested*

\$1,500,000.00

Category*

Please select one:

- Affordable Housing
- Aging/Older Adults
- Business Support/Economic Development
- Environmental/Climate
- Homelessness
- K-12 Education
- Infrastructure and/or Broadband
- Mental Health/Substance Use
- NC Pre-K Expansion
- Workforce

Infrastructure and/or Broadband

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

The Appalachian Mountain Community Health Centers' (AMCHC) Buncombe County Health, Wellness, & Equity Project will expand building capacity of the downtown health center (Dale Fell) and expand services to the vulnerable community residents. The current public health emergency and the ongoing efforts to address the collateral consequences of COVID-19 have changed the tactics and strategies of rendering high quality healthcare, particularly for the uninsured/underinsured and those with health care barriers in Buncombe County, but the mission, values, and commitment of AMCHC to ensure a thriving, healthy community remain steadfast. The AMCHC Buncombe County Health, Wellness, & Equity Project will deliver comprehensive healthcare services to prevent and respond to COVID-19 and address social determinants of health through a responsive workforce committed to excellence, equity, and a holistic approach to each patient's health needs.

Project Plan*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Appalachian Mountain Community Health Centers (AMCHC) seeks to create equitable health and wellness opportunities for the vulnerable population of Buncombe County through the expansion of integrated health care services. In our recent assessment, AMCHC identified opportunities to impact healthcare outcomes of a large population of Western North Carolina (WNC) residents. As identified in the annual Uniform Data System (UDS) report, AMCHC provided service to approximately 13,600 unique patients within its targeted population (patients living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) in 2020. This number reflects approximately 16% of AMCHC's total target population of 86,729 unique patients who fall within the minority populations of African American (6,539), Asian (928), and American Indian (1,247) across North Carolina. Understanding that various factors put vulnerable communities at risk for poor health and inadequate health care, AMCHC is prepared to enhance services for the vulnerable population of WNC in the area of primary care, women's health, dentistry, pediatrics, and behavioral health at AMCHC's Dale Fell Community Health Center (DFCHC). Currently, DFCHC offers primary care and behavioral health services. Through this initiative AMCHC will enhance outreach and health care services by adding new lines of services such as dentistry and women's health, and enhancing its current pediatric and behavioral health services. AMCHC will recruit one additional medical doctor (MD), one additional psychiatric physician assistant (PA), one dentist, one dental hygienist, and one women's health nurse practitioner (NP) for Dale Fell. With this recruiting process and enhancement of services, AMCHC has outgrown the space at the current DFCHC location and will purchase new space to house all integrated care services. AMCHC has purchased space in the heart of downtown Asheville that will house the integrated and enhanced services that meet AMCHC's new strategic plan. The current healthcare facility at Dale Fell is 4755 square feet and has a 4-6 wait-time for appointment for primary or behavioral healthcare. Space for equipment, laboratory, exam rooms, telehealth, and counseling services is not adequate to meet demand nor provide safe space for social distancing. This funding request for Buncombe County would enable AMCHC to double its footprint in the downtown area while simultaneously providing a much needed service. Though the purchase of the building adds financial strain to the non-profit health center, we recognized the need to expand as we have outgrown our current space and are not able to offer the additional health care services needed. Funding would provide the financial support necessary to ensure the health center can focus on costs of staffing and supplies. Our current goal is to relocate to the new space and begin to offer services early 2023, however, funding would allow us to relocate in 2022 and begin to serve the community.

Statement of Need*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

Statistics show health care spending has grown at an exponential rate over the past four decades. Growing public spending on health care, rising burden of chronic conditions and obesity, increasing opioid emergencies and deaths, and growing challenges in children's healthcare will only continue to exacerbate this trend. Research has shown that a rise in health costs are attributed to an aging population and a change in prevalence or incidence in the need of direct medical services (SAMSHA, CDC, NCDHHS). The underserved/uninsured have numerous known barriers to healthcare in Buncombe County. Accessibility and affordability address some barriers but a comprehensive approach is required to mitigate social determinants of health. Supportive services, food access, increased income/benefits are all shown to have positive outcomes in whole health. AMCHC deploys strategies and tactics to address each patient's immediate medical needs and provide supportive care by engaging community health workers and other community resources to help patients secure medications, food, housing resources, and access to opportunity which effect overall health and well-being. This funding request is in alignment with Buncombe County 2025 and AMCHC mission to increase accessibility and deliver quality healthcare so community members can thrive.

Link to COVID-19*

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

NC Deaths Due to Covid-19 are currently reported at 23,508. In 50 counties reported in NC, Buncombe was ranked 8th of the highest vaccinated (33.6 %) population, the actual number of resident's fully vaccinated is only 87,844. Of those vaccinated ages 65 and up (66.2%) in Buncombe County, this vulnerable population that is vaccinated only reflects a 0.2% higher rate than the state's average. While current studies show that the vaccines have a neutralizing effect on all variants, the Delta variant has shown to be more transmissible than the other known variants and also infect persons that have been previously vaccinated. After months of a decline in reported COVID-19 cases as well as increased education, outreach and vaccination efforts, the emergence of the known variants in NC is now an understood quantity that demands continued vaccination vigilance. <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/cases-and-deaths>

Population Served*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

AMCHC serves the uninsured/underinsured, Medicaid/Medicare recipients, high risk patients with complex acute healthcare needs, populations with mental health and substance use disorders, ethnic and racial minorities disproportionately affected by barriers to healthcare and federal entitlements, the elderly, persons with housing instability, all persons with barriers to whole healthcare such as income, housing instability, education opportunity, employment status, chronic health conditions known to place patients at higher risk of contracting or having complications from COVID-19, and behaviors barriers that inhibit access to healthcare.

Results*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

Collected data include demographic characteristics, living status, mode of exposure to HIV and case definition category, birthplace, income, acculturation questions regarding language usually spoken at home, selected diseases and conditions, including HIV and STDs, drug use and behavioral health conditions.

AMCHC works continuously to achieve measurable improvements in whole patient care by monitoring performance rates of quality-improvement measures. Measures that will be tracked and reported include but are not limited to those that place persons at higher risk of contracting or having complications from COVID-19:

COVID-19 Vaccine: Percentage of AMCHC patients ages 18 years and older who have received a COVID-19 vaccination;

Diabetes A1c Tests < 9: Percentage of diabetic patients whose most recent A1c lab value was less than 9.0;

Controlling High Blood Pressure: Percentage of patients ages 18-85 years of age who were diagnosed with hypertension and whose most recent blood pressure was less than 150/90;

Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening & Follow-Up: Percentage of patients ages 18 years and older with recorded BMI outside the normal parameters, who have had follow-up plan documented; and

Increased patient encounters at the new Dale Fell location.

Evaluation*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

AMCHC Quality and Data Specialist will collect and measure current data, rates, and trends through the Electronic Health Record (EHR) software. Monitoring performance measurements, rates, and trends over-time (monthly) ensures that AMCHC is effectively meeting contract requirements and achieving set goals. The Quality & Data Specialist works in coordination with the AMCHC Chief Medical Officer, the Data Quality Sub-Committee, and other clinical staff to ensure that quality measures/goals are being met. Quality Improvement (QI) meetings occur every month where a review of all of the measures are tracked and analyzed and ways to improve data collection and each measure that is currently below the set goal.

Equity Impact*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

As a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC), AMCHC has a mandated mission to provide comprehensive whole healthcare to low-income patients regardless of the ability to pay for services. The operational expansion of the Dale Fell Clinic will provide direct primary, women's health (OB/GYN), dental, pediatrics, and behavioral health services for those least likely to have access or engage with healthcare professionals and have vaccine hesitancy. The Dale Fell capital expansion, will enable AMCHC to fully maximize additional providers secured with HRSA funding to optimize capacity, increase patient volume, conduct community and outreach and engagement by providing in-home healthcare, particularly to the elderly and disabled through mobile medical and telehealth services and provide vaccination services targeted to disproportionately affected sub-populations across Buncombe County. AMCHC recognizes that health disparities affect groups marginalized because of socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, disability status, geographic location, or some combination of these relevant factors. People who identify in such groups not only experience worse health and face access barriers to healthcare but also tend to have less access to the social determinants or conditions (e.g., healthy food, stable/safe housing, education/employment opportunities, safe neighborhoods, freedom from racism and/or other forms of discrimination) that support wholehealth. Therefore, by increasing capacity and creating access points to deliver healthcare, AMCHC will provide expanded services, decrease patient care wait-times, and better serve the community so that every person, regardless of social position, ability to pay, or other socially determined circumstance, has the opportunity to attain their full health potential.

Project Partners*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

- 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
- 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

There will not be any subcontractors for this project.

The AMCHC Buncombe County Healthy Community Project non-funded key partners essential for project success are: Western Carolina University Nursing Program, Western Carolina Medical Society (LatinX community), NC COUNTS Coalition, Dogwood Health, Sunrise Community Service, Homeward Bound of WNC,

MAHEC, ADATC, Eleanor Health, seven 340B Pharmacy partners, Genoa Pharmacy, the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (HACA), Western Region Catholic Charities, and the WNC Rescue Mission.

Capacity*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

Since 2015, AMCHC, a federally qualified health center (FQHC), has provided no or low cost healthcare to the residents of WNC. AMCHC maintains six health center sites and two pharmacy sites across Buncombe, Graham, Cherokee and Jackson County and employs 105 healthcare professionals in service to the community. The AMCHC Board of Directors is composed of twelve members with broad experience and diverse backgrounds including healthcare practitioners, legal services, homeless service providers, human resources, finance, housing providers, and AMCHC healthcare consumers.

In Buncombe County, 13 healthcare professionals serve at the Dale Fell Community Health Center, the Leicester Community Health Center, and the Mays Health Clinic located in the WNC Rescue Mission. Buncombe County staff include a Chief Medical Officer, a Chief Pharmacy Officer, a Pediatrician, 11 direct healthcare service Providers, a Psych-PA, two LCSWs, a Pharmacist and pharmacy technician, two Registered Nurses, four Peer Support Specialists, and twenty operational support staff.

Since May of 2020, AMCHC conducted bi-weekly pop-up testing events for over 8 months targeted to the underserved/uninsured, held 9 vaccination events in central locations, and vaccinated over 3000 in Buncombe County. The extended operations and additional scaled access site will provide maximum access to both primary healthcare and COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

AMCHC is positioned for growth. Under new leadership since September 2021, AMCHC will be adding a school-based health services in Buncombe County, August 2022, adding women's health service in rural Robinsville, NC, adding pediatric and dental services in Buncombe County and rural Murphy County.

Budget*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

AMCHC Buncombe County Healthy Community Project Budget_ARP 2022 ss.xlsx

Special Considerations*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

AMCHC receives direct federal funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), state funding from the Department of Health and Human

Services, and private/philanthropic funding. AMCHC is accustomed to filing monthly, quarterly and end-term reports, submitting project and demographic data, and reporting on project outcomes as well as adhering to federal/state regulatory requirements in the delivery of healthcare, grants management, and organizational financial compliance.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- 501c3 Determination Letter (1).pdf
- AMCHC Buncombe County Healthy Community Project Budget_ARP 2022 ss.xlsx

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **04/09/2015**

MOUNTAIN AREA HEALTH CENTER
C/O KAREN ROBY
123 HENDERSONVILLE RD
ASHEVILLE, NC 28803

Employer Identification Number:
46-3984362
DLN:
17053276312014
Contact Person:
DALE T SCHABER ID# 31175
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
June 30
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
October 21, 2013
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,



Director, Exempt Organizations

Letter 947

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Organization Name:	Appalachian Mountain Community Health Center
Project Name:	Buncombe County Health, Wellness, & Equity Expansion
Amount Requested:	\$6,947,000

Proposed Project Revenue Funder	Amount	Confirmed or Pending?	Notes
Proposed Buncombe COVID Recovery Funds	\$ 1,500,000.00	Pending	Buncombe County Health, Wellness, & Equity Expansion
Health Resources and Service Administration-ARP	\$ 1,519,099.00	Confirmed	Received Notice of Award from HRSA 7-14-2021
List other sources here			
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Total	\$ 3,019,099.00		

Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Recovery Funds	Other Funds	Total	Capital or Operating Expense?	Notes
Health Center Expansion Acquisition	\$ 1,500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00	Capital	Includes building acquisition/renovation and associated development costs for a minimum of 10,000 sq.ft. building centrally located near existing healthcare sites.
PSYCH/PA (1 FTE)-4 years		\$ 680,000.00	\$ 680,000.00	Operating	
RN (1 FTE)- 4 years		\$ 304,000.00	\$ 304,000.00	Operating	
CHW/Patient Health Navigator (1 FTE)		\$ 225,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	Operating	
CHW LCHC & DFHC (2 FTE) 4 years		\$ 480,000.00	\$ 480,000.00	Operating	
Project Director .25 FTE 4 years		\$ 58,000.00	\$ 58,000.00	Operating	
			\$ -		
Equipment		\$ 51,796.00	\$ 51,796.00	Operating	Autoclave, Ipads, Laser Table Counter,Ultra-Cold Freezer for vaccine storage, Advance Security for Pharmacy, Online patient portal for Registration/Payment options and patient communication with provider.
Dentist		\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	Operating	Dentist to provide preventative dental care
Travel		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Operating	
Mobile Medical Unit/Vehicle		\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	Operating	Purchase, retrofit/equip for service delivery, and maintain one (1) mobile medical unit to provide and expand comprehensive primary care service delivery and conduct COVID-19 testing and/or vaccination for persons with access barriers to healthcare in the service area.
Supplies		\$ 10,050.00	\$ 10,050.00	Operating	
RN 2 FTE (2 yrs)		\$ 320,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	Operating	Two (2) 1.0 FTE Registered Nurses (salary and benefits), one for each healthcare site in Buncombe County (Leicester and Dale Fell), to ensure the availability of comprehensive medical care and increase capacity.
Psych-PA/NP (2yrs.)		\$ 313,999.00	\$ 313,999.00	Operating	One (1) 1.0 FTE Psych PA/NP (salary and benefits) to expand access and increase capacity for behavioral health services in Buncombe County.
Part-time Pharmacist		\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	Operating	One (1) .5 FTE pharmacist, to support COVID-19 vaccination in the community and extend the health center pharmacy operation hours and availability.
Other Personnel		\$ 347,471.00	\$ 347,471.00	Operating	Support staff including; medical assistant, ACT home visit provider, patient health advocate, etc.
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
List expenses here			\$ -		
Total			\$ 4,600,316.00		