

Electric Vans and Charging Station for Senior Meal Delivery Program

RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County

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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.pdf

Name of Project.*

Electric Vans and Charging Station for Senior Meal Delivery Program

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?

New project proposal

Amount of Funds Requested*

\$160,000.00

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

Aging/Older Adults

Brief Project Description*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County serves nearly 500 homebound seniors. Meals are delivered each weekday by volunteers through 41 different meal delivery routes covering Buncombe County. All meals are individually prepared and packed at our main campus located at 146 Victoria Road which houses a commercial kitchen. Each week day, we operate two meal delivery vans that travel 124 miles round trip, dropping off meal carriers at 12 different satellite locations, where volunteers then pick up to make meal deliveries to the homes of the seniors. These two vans cover 620 miles per week. We propose to use the ARPA funding to purchase two electric vans and install an onsite charging station. The new electric vans would replace the two aging vans currently in operation, eliminating dependency on the rising cost of fuel, lessening our environmental impact, and reducing maintenance expenses. Our current vans are approximately 10 years old with well over 100,000 miles each.

Project Plan*

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

If funding is approved, the vans and charging station would be ordered and implemented as soon as available. We have also included funding to wrap the vans with the Meals on Wheels logo and contact information.

Statement of Need*

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

Meals on Wheels provides hot, prepared meals Monday through Friday to homebound seniors who have limited driving ability and limited physical mobility, all of which makes it difficult for them to shop and prepare meals for themselves. We have seen an increase in the number of seniors who need our meal delivery service these last two years. We have added 100 additional seniors to our program and have increased meal delivery routes from 38 to a total of 41. COVID has been a factor in the increased need. We anticipate the rising costs of groceries will also increase the number of seniors who will reach out to a program like Meals on Wheels to help them with nutrition needs. Our two meal delivery vans are a critical part of our meal delivery process. Of our 41 routes, 17 of those routes are in the Asheville area, and volunteers can easily and economically pick up meals/meal carriers at our 146 Victoria Road location. However, 24 of our routes are more rural, and it is actually more efficient and cost effective for volunteers to pick up meals/meal carriers closer to those communities. The Meals on Wheels vans are loaded every morning by 9:00 AM. The vans then drop off meals/meal carriers to 12 different satellite locations in areas such as Weaverville, Leicester, Fairview, Enka Candler, etc. This type of delivery system helps in recruiting and retaining volunteers. For example, volunteers who live in the Weaverville area often deliver meals for the Weaverville route. Volunteers who live in Fairview often deliver meals on the Fairview route, etc.

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.

Senior hunger and isolation are a growing concern only made worse by the pandemic. According to Meals on Wheels of America, more than 9.5 million seniors are threatened by hunger, 18 million live alone and 50% may be malnourished. Here in Buncombe County, we have seen a 26% increase in the number of seniors needing our service since the pandemic. Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County is focused on alleviating hunger and isolation among vulnerable homebound seniors, helping prolong their independence. Homebound seniors represent a vulnerable population who have limited driving ability and limited physical mobility that makes it difficult for them to drive, shop and prepare meals. Our program of daily meals and visits is literally a safety net - a vital lifeline of nutrition and companionship for these seniors. We are currently serving nearly 500 seniors. More than half live alone. Many are our neighbors in need who would not know what to do without a program like Meals on Wheels.

Population Served*

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

Meals on Wheels serves homebound seniors, age 60+, who have limited ability to drive and mobility issues that make it difficult for them to shop for groceries and stand for periods of time to prepare meals.

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.

Electric vans would

- 1) Reduce reliance on gas and decrease gas expense. Last FY we spent approximately \$4,400 on gas. This FY gas expenses have doubled to \$7,800 and we still have three months left in our current FY.
- 2) Lower maintenance expense.
- 3) Provide better performance and enhanced safety (not sure how to measure this).
- 4) Support our mission to serve approximately 500 seniors each week and 120,000 meals annually.

Evaluation*

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

We use a database called Seniors Express to record all intake information regarding our senior program participants. This database is also our collection source for daily meals. Through this database, we are able to run a variety of reports to analyze seniors served, meals served, etc. All our capital and operational expenses are entered into QuickBooks and managed by our Finance Director.

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?

Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County is committed to a culture of service that recognizes, promotes, respects and values diversity. We strongly believe we are strengthened by our diverse community and value the richness this diversity brings to our organization, our staff, our senior participants, and our volunteers. Collectively, we share a mission and vision of working together to provide nourishment, companionship and independence to seniors. Through that shared mission and vision, we also recognize and address the social and economic inequities within our community, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable seniors, eliminate any barriers that may limit their access to these resources that promote an enhanced quality of life. We recognize that promoting these principles and values are at the core of advancing our mission in service to our community.

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.

I don't foresee the use of subcontractors for this project. The electric vans would be ordered directly from the distributor as would the charging station. Wrapping the vans with logo and contact information would be done through a local printing company like Allegra.

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.

Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County has been serving homebound seniors for 46 years. We apply, receive and report on annual funds from the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) and have a stellar track record of managing and reporting those grant funds (combination of state and federal funding).

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.

Recovery-Funds-budget-template (1).xlsx

Special Considerations*

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

Meals on Wheels of Asheville & Buncombe County is a critical and essential program focused on meeting the nutrition and social needs of vulnerable homebound seniors. During COVID, that need became even more essential. We remained operational during the height of COVID and served as a vital lifeline for our senior neighbors in need.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- 501c3.pdf
- Recovery-Funds-budget-template (1).xlsx

Internal Revenue Service

Date: May 8, 2007

**MEALS ON WHEELS OF ASHEVILLE AND
BUCOMBE COUNTY INC
146 VICTORIA RD
ASHEVILLE NC 28801**

**Department of the Treasury
P. O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201**

**Person to Contact:
Mrs. Turner 17-57018
Customer Service Specialist
Toll Free Telephone Number:
877-829-5500
Federal Identification Number:
56-1115597**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of May 8, 2007, regarding your organization's tax-exempt status.

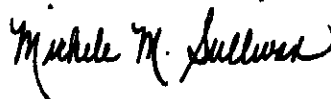
In September 1976 we issued a determination letter that recognized your organization as exempt from federal income tax. Our records indicate that your organization is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records indicate that your organization is also classified as a public charity under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our records indicate that contributions to your organization are deductible under section 170 of the Code, and that you are qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,



**Michele M. Sullivan, Oper. Mgr.
Accounts Management Operations 1**

List expenses here			\$	-		
List expenses here			\$	-		
List expenses here			\$	-		
List expenses here			\$	-		
List expenses here			\$	-		
List expenses here			\$	-		
List expenses here			\$	-		
Total			\$	160,000.00		