

One Buncombe, COVID-19 Rapid Relief Fund



Background and Request

Background:

- At the March 24th regular meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted to **create the “One Buncombe” fund**, a COVID-19 relief fund.
- Additionally, the Board **authorized the notification of a public hearing** to occur at the April 7th meeting to authorize \$200,000.00 in economic development appropriations in accordance with GS 158-7.1 and Ch. 166A.
- The purpose of One Buncombe is provide a donation portal to support relief efforts, and to provide relief to individuals and businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Request:

- Board of Commissioners approval for:
 - Approve the resolution authorizing the \$200,000.00 economic development appropriation.



The Need

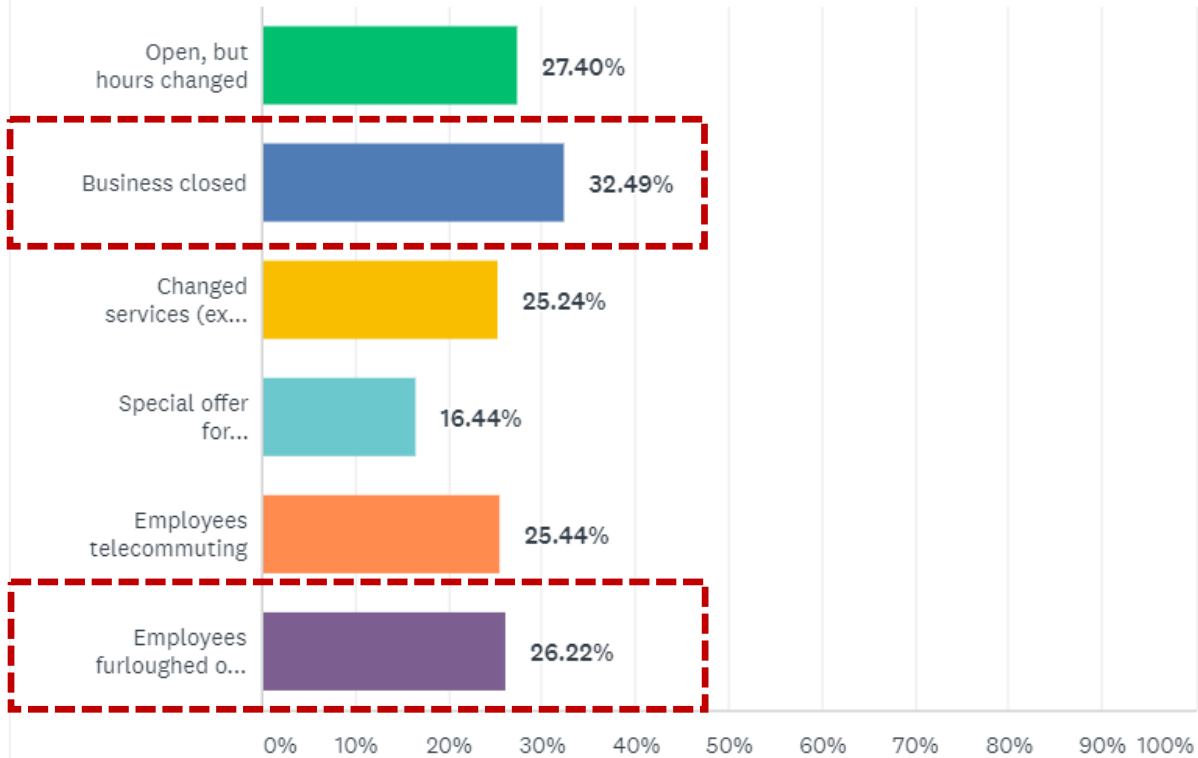
- Since the COVID-19 outbreak, **thousands of jobs have been reported as furloughed, lost, or in peril.**
- While programs may exist to support members of our community, **many of the individuals impacted by COVID-19 will not be eligible (e.g., independent contractors).**
- While programs may exist to support businesses, **many of the businesses impacted by COVID-19 will not sustain operations until disaster relief funding is available.**
- The Chamber of Commerce **survey of employers found that the most pressing needs were business cash flows and employee assistance.**



Example Survey Results

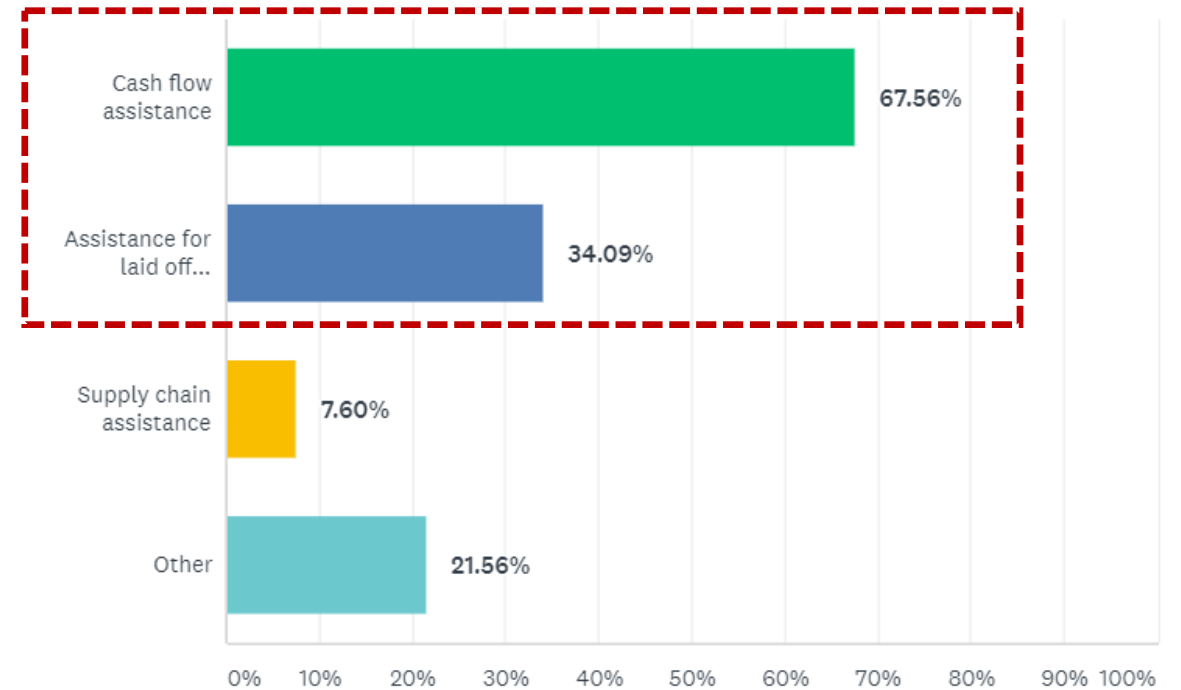
How has your business responded to COVID-19?

Answered: 511 Skipped: 1



What business resources do you need? (check all that apply)

Answered: 487 Skipped: 25



What is One Buncombe?

- **A Partnership: Local governments**, including the County of Buncombe, the City of Asheville, Town of Montreat, **Business Leaders** from the Asheville-Area Chamber of Commerce, Mountain BizWorks, Land of Sky Regional Council, Biltmore Farms, Buncombe TDA
- **A Relief Program:** The mission of the One Buncombe Fund is to **support the basic needs of individuals and businesses impacted by COVID-19.**
- **A Donation Center:** Individuals, Businesses, and Foundations are encouraged to provide **tax-deductible financial contributions.**



How does One Buncombe Work?

- **Individuals, Businesses and Foundations make donations through an online portal.**
- **Funds are allocated by a community board to support the unmet needs of:**
 - Individuals that have lost employment due to COVID-19
 - Locally Owned Small Businesses
- **Funds are administered by entities that specialize in direct assistance or small business lending.**



Individual Support Model

- **Eligibility:** Individuals that have lost employment due to COVID-19.
- **Usage of Funds: life essential needs** caused by the COVID-19 public health crisis such as electric bills, deposits, fuel oil, kerosene, natural gas, propane, wood, mortgages, rental assistance, overnight lodging, etc.
- **Model:** direct assistance grants **paid to service provider**, not directly to individuals.
- **Administered by:** Buncombe County Department of **Health and Human Services (HHS)** who will assist in navigating the available resources, including the application process for One Buncombe. Staff will ensure that all other resources are leveraged, including public assistance programs (e.g., Unemployment Insurance) and the services of our community partners.



Small Business Support Model

- **Eligibility:** Small businesses impacted by COVID-19 will be eligible. At this time, small businesses are defined as businesses with **less than 50 employees**.
- **Usage of Funds: business operations** including payroll, accounts payable, fixed debts, or other bills the business is unable to pay.
- **Model:** Low interest loans up to **\$10,000 with no payments for 6 months**.
 - Low-cost "**bridge funding**" to help businesses stay open and limit job losses until businesses can qualify for longer term disaster funding from SBA or others.
- **Administered by: Mountain BizWorks**, a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution will provide loan underwriting and administration.



How will One Buncombe be Governed?

- **Fiduciary:** Buncombe County Service Foundation (BCSF), a 501(c)(3) organization will serve as fiduciary for all donations.
- **Governance:**
 - **Board of Directors:** 9 Community members including local government, banking, business, and philanthropic community
- **Administration:**
 - Individual Support: administered by BCHHS
 - Small Business Support: administered by Mountain BizWorks



One Buncombe Board Members

Name	Organization	Role
Kit Cramer	Asheville Chamber, President/CEO	Chair
Don Warn	Buncombe County, Finance Director	Treasurer
Richard White	City of Asheville, Assistant City manager	Secretary
Suzanne DeFerie	Former President/CEO Asheville Savings, EVP First Bank	Member
Phillip Hardin	Buncombe County, HHS Economic Services Director	Member
Guadalupe Chavarria	Small Business Owner, Studio Chavarria	Member
Sybil Tate	Buncombe County Assistant County Manager	Member
David Bailey	Former CEO United Way	Member
Brad Galbraith	Agent/Broker Biltmore Farms	Member



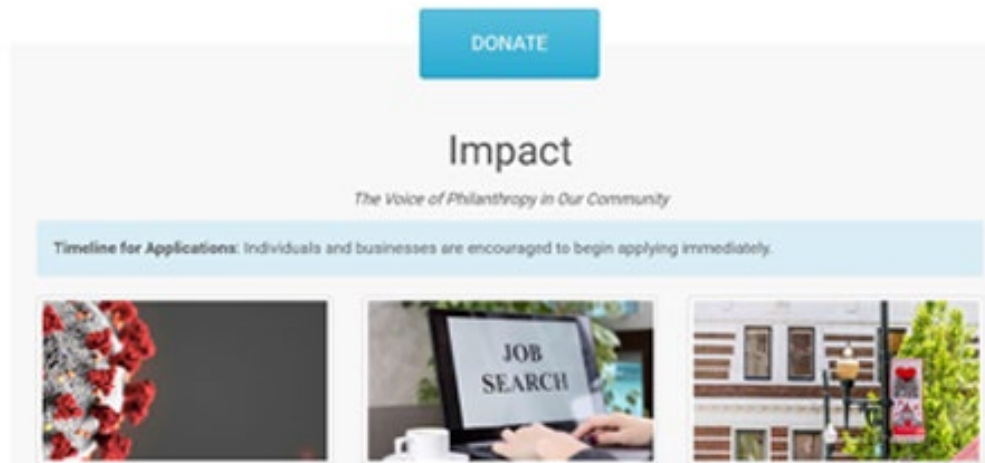
Status Update

- **How many people have applied for assistance?**
 - As of Tuesday morning, BCHHS has **received 1,662 applications for individual assistance**. 480 requests have been processed for \$101,279.70 in approved expenditures. Began with 9 workers processing claims and now at 20.
- **How many businesses have applied for loans?**
 - Mountain BizWorks received **71 applications in the first week**, they closed on the first 5 loans last week totaling \$45,000 helping to retain 73 jobs and are on track to approve a significantly larger round of around 20 loans this week.
- **How much money is in the fund?**
 - The One Buncombe website is now tracking online donations in real time, as of this morning we are at **280 citizen donations of \$64,238**. We are around \$725K and have a goal of reaching one million for one buncombe by April 24.





Our community is engaged in a battle with an invisible enemy; **COVID-19**. Each day brings new reports of shuttered businesses, layoffs and furloughs, and children unable to attend school. These are the moments that define communities, and ours will be defined by its willingness to help one another. It is this spirit that has driven the creation of the “**One Buncombe**” Fund. Together we will get through this.



**One Buncombe Donations
can be made at:**

www.onebuncombe.org



These are the moments that define communities, and ours will be defined by its willingness to help one another. It is this spirit that has driven the creation of the “One Buncombe” Fund. Thanks to everyone dedicating themselves to public service and leadership during these times.



The Request

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One **BUNCOMBE**



A COMMUNITY WITH COMPASSION, DONATE TODAY!
ONEBUNCOMBE.ORG



Appendix



Our Initial Partners

- Buncombe County
- City of Asheville
- Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Mountain BizWorks
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- Town of Montreat
- Biltmore Lake Charitable Fund
- Ramble Charitable Fund
- Buncombe TDA

