

FY26 Strategic Partnership Grants: Hurricane Helene Recovery

Buncombe County

As part of the FY2026 Strategic Partnership Grant program, Buncombe County requests proposals specifically for community-based projects working toward aiding our community in recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene.

Please refer to the Grant Guidelines published on the Strategic Partnership Grants website at buncombecounty.org/grants for complete information about the grant program, including: Purpose; Funding; Eligibility; Timeline; Grants Fair; Review process; Awards; and more.

Projects may not apply for funding from more than one county grant program. Application must be submitted to grant program most closely fitting the proposed project. This grant program does not accept applications for Housing, Early Childhood Education, Aging Services, or Juvenile Crime Prevention, as separate county grant programs address these areas. Details about Buncombe County grant programs are listed at buncombecounty.org/grants

Applications are due by 12:00pm on February 28, 2025.

Scoring will be based on the following criteria:

1. Project Plan - Project includes clear, reasonable actions that are likely to meet the need
2. Proposed Results - Project includes quantifiable results and plan for measuring success
3. Capacity - Organization is structured to carry out the project as described
4. Equity - Organization has a demonstrated commitment to equity that is reflected in the proposed project plan
5. Budget - Includes a clear, reasonable and efficient budget matched to proposed project.
 - Scoring will be on a scale of 1 to 5 with a maximum total score of 25.
 - Each criterion is weighted equally and worth 20% of the total score.

Grant Guidelines*

Have you read and understand the information presented in the FY2026 Strategic Partnership Grant Guidelines?

[Click here for the Grant Guidelines.](#)

- Yes
- No

Demographic Information*

Have you completed this demographic form [\(\(\(INSERT LINK\)\)\)](#)? We strongly encourage all organizations to complete the demographic form to help advance equity in Buncombe County's approach to community investments and contracts. Each organization only needs to submit one form, even if you are applying for multiple community investment grants.

- Yes
- No

Funding Request*

How much funding is this project requesting for FY2026?

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Recovery Category*

Select the category (or categories) that directly apply to this project: (check all that apply)

- Debris Management**
Focused on storm debris, including solutions for debris removal on public and private property and waterways, managing specialized debris types, evaluating hazardous materials considerations, coordinating disposal, and exploring sustainable re-use of debris.
- Economic Revitalization**
Focused on stimulating economic recovery, supporting local businesses, responding to workforce needs, and ensuring the long-term economic stability and prosperity of the area with a focus on revitalization of critical economic sectors.
- Education**
Focused on successful recovery and increased resiliency for students and educational institutions, including childcare/early childhood education as well as elementary and secondary education in varied educational settings
- Health & Social Services**
Focused on ensuring the health and well-being of residents with attention to the social determinants of health, including consideration of medical, behavioral, and environmental health concerns and social service recovery needs.
- Housing**
Focused on supporting people in moving toward housing permanence through connecting survivors to home repair opportunities, removing barriers to temporary housing units, connecting survivors to short- and long-term rental opportunities, and coordinating rental and mortgage assistance for survivor households with economic impacts.
- Infrastructure and Access**
Focused on restoring and enhancing essential public infrastructure and accessibility to private property, including comprehensive damage assessments, coordination of repairs/restoration, and mitigation of future hazards such as floods and landslides.
- Natural & Cultural Resources**
Focused on the restoration and sustainable management of natural and cultural resources, including coordinating capabilities to maintain, conserve, renew, and rehabilitate resources such as parks, farmland, watersheds and streambanks in alignment with relevant environmental and historical preservation laws.

Organization Overview*

Provide a brief overview of the work your organization does in our community (2-3 sentences).

Character Limit: 500

Project Overview*

Provide a brief elevator pitch of what your project wishes to accomplish with this funding (2-3 sentences).

Character Limit: 500

Project Plan*

Explain the project, how it will work, and who it will serve in more detail. How is this project directly correlated to the impacts of Hurricane Helene? What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan? Include any collaborative partners critical to success.

Character Limit: 1500

Service Locations*

If services are provided in person, please list the name and physical address(es) of each location.

Character Limit: 1500

Population Served*

Provide a narrative description of the population that will be impacted by this project.

Character Limit: 1500

Results*

List 3-5 proposed performance measures (things you will track to measure results) for your project in bullet point form.

Here is an example:

Your project proposed providing paid internships for individuals who lost their jobs due to the storm.

- Performance measure example 1: # of paid internships provided
- Performance measure example 2: # businesses participating in providing paid internships
- Performance measure example 3: % of individuals completing a paid internship that secure permanent employment

Character Limit: 1500

Equity*

Describe how your organization will incorporate an equity lens in carrying out your project.

Buncombe County defines equity as the state of being just, impartial and fair. We define racial

equity as when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved.

Character Limit: 1500

Organizational Capacity*

Describe key personnel involved in managing your project and their ability to carry out the proposed project plan.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget Narrative*

Explain how grant funds will be used, including a summary of what expenses will be covered by County funds.

Character Limit: 1500

Budget*

Complete a copy of the attached budget form.

It is important to fully complete the budget form in the attached required template, including: all sources of proposed revenue for the project (committed & pending); all planned expenses for the project (paid for with grant funds & other funds); and 3-year overall organization budget (non-itemized total). Explanatory notes are encouraged and a completed budget form in the template provided is required.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Nonprofit Status*

Attach proof of nonprofit status, such as IRS Determination Letter or documentation from the North Carolina Secretary of State. If this documentation is not available, briefly state the reason.

Character Limit: 1500

Board of Directors*

Attach a current list of your organization’s Board of Directors. If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

Character Limit: 1500 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Other

Is there anything else that you want the committee to know?

Character Limit: 1500