

# Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

August 15, 2023

Presenters: Ray Hemachandra, Amy Russell



# Background

- Committee's purpose is to make Strategic Partnership Grant investment recommendations to the Board of Commissioners
- Strategic Partnership Grant funding is granted to nonprofit organizations working toward outcomes in alignment with Board goals
- Formed in 2020 (now in 4<sup>th</sup> funding year)



# Members

Kate Burger, Chair

Doug Clark

Ray Hemachandra, Vice Chair

Mark Mickey

Cathy Ray

Kim Robinson

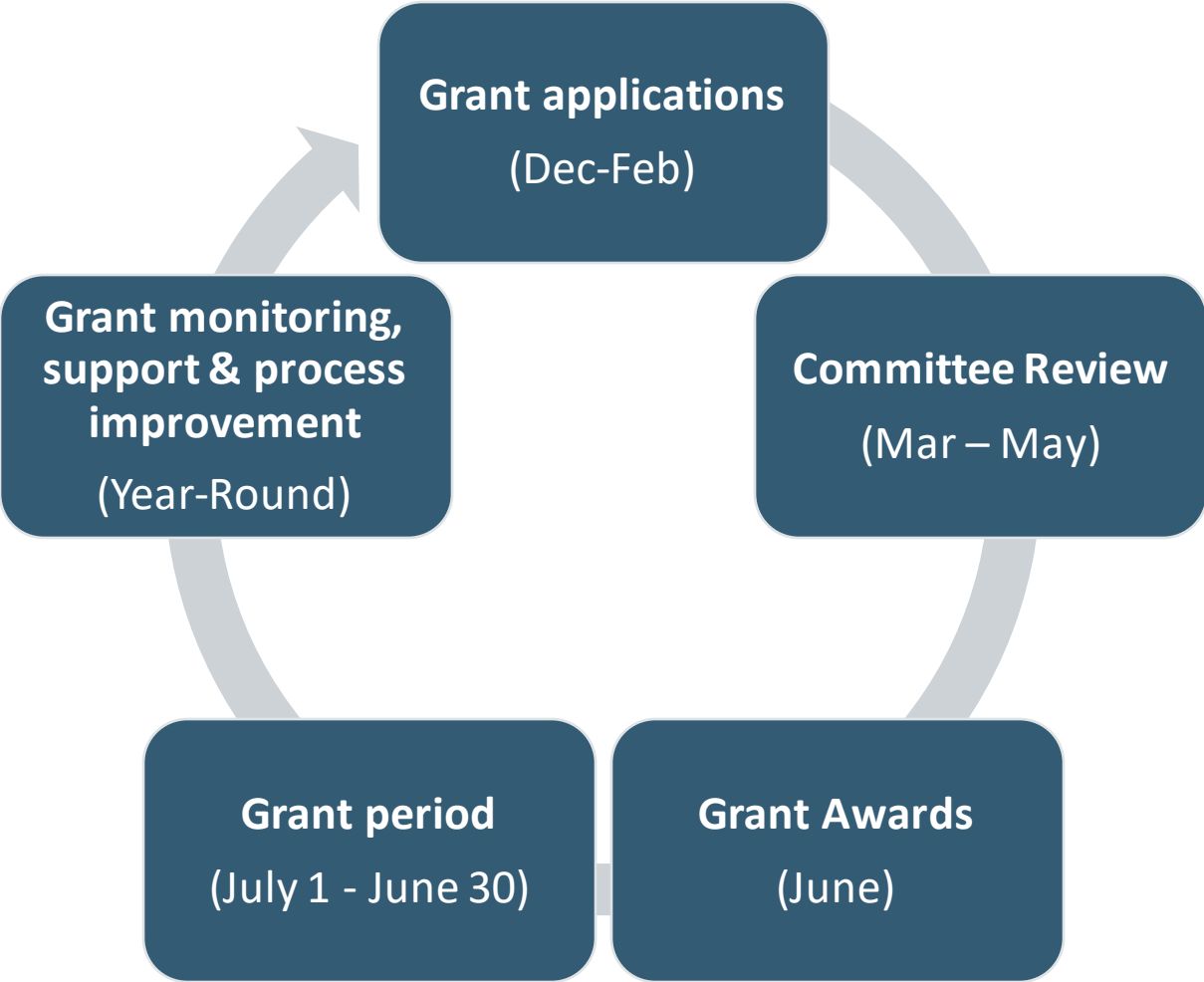
Chuck Rosenblum

Amy Russell

Elizabeth Ward, Secretary



# Grant Cycle



# Activities in the Past Year

<b>July 2022</b>	Grantee Cohort call: orientation
<b>Sept-Dec 2022</b>	Conducted site visits with all grantees
<b>Jan 2023</b>	Grant Writing Workshop
<b>Feb – Mar 2023</b>	Reviewed/Scored FY2024 applications
<b>Apr 2023</b>	Finalized FY2024 funding recommendations
<b>June 2023</b>	Process improvement discussion



# Current Grant Eligibility

- Nonprofits in active operation for a minimum of 2 years
- Projects that meet a public purpose and align with County Strategic Plan (Education, Environment, Well-Being, Economy)
- Funding limited to no more than 3 years for a single project
- Funding limited to less than 30% of organization's annual operating budget



# FY2024 Grant Requests

## REQUESTED

Total Amount	\$3,254,912
# Projects	71
# Organizations	67

## FUNDED

Total Amount	\$900,000
# Projects	23
# Organizations	22

- 16 projects were renewal applications; 55 were new project proposals
- Scored based on:
  - Need for the Project
  - Project Plan
  - Proposed Results
  - Equity
  - Organizational Capacity



# FY2024 Grant Awards

Education	Environment	Well-Being	Economy
<u>Requested:</u> 13 projects \$708,906	<u>Requested:</u> 6 projects \$284,896	<u>Requested:</u> 42 projects \$1,866,510	<u>Requested:</u> 10 projects \$394,600
<u>Awarded:</u> 8 projects \$358,800 <i>62% of applications funded</i>	<u>Awarded:</u> 2 projects \$35,211 <i>33% of applications funded</i>	<u>Awarded:</u> 10 projects \$375,389 <i>24% applications funded</i>	<u>Award:</u> 3 projects \$130,600 <i>30% applications funded</i>

**\$900,000 Total Awarded**





# FY2024 Grants Awarded By Category

## Educated & Capable Community **\$358,800**

Adult Education	\$88,000
K-12 Education	\$270,800

## Environmental Stewardship **\$35,211**

Soil & Water Quality	\$35,211
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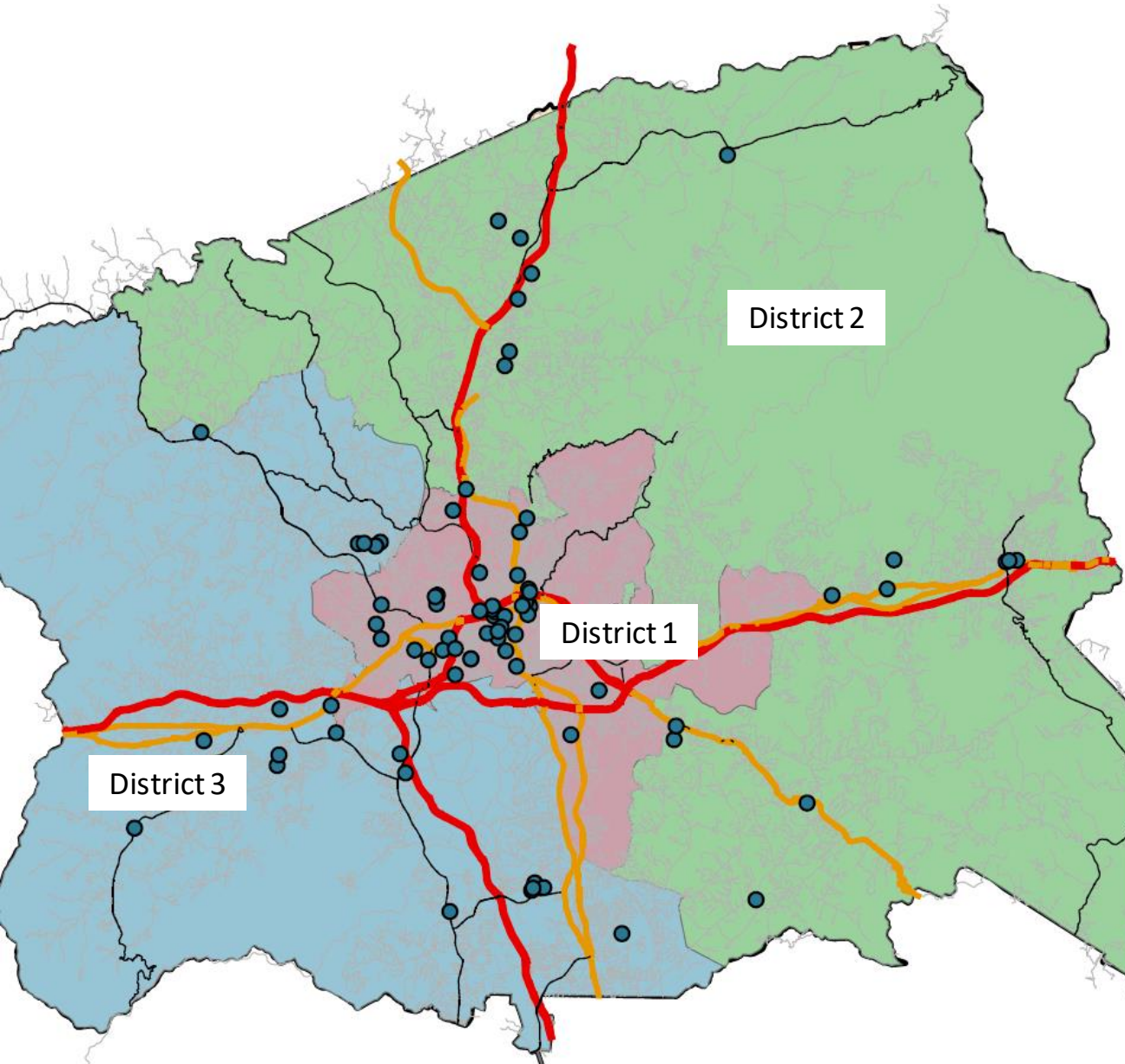
## Vibrant Economy **\$130,600**

Financial Wellbeing	\$60,600
Small Business	\$70,000

## Resident Well-Being **\$375,389**

Basic Needs	\$152,000
Food	\$16,000
Legal	\$128,000
Safety	\$59,389
Wellness	\$20,000





# FY2024 Grants

## Service Locations by County Commissioner Districts



# Highlights

Nonprofits	Committee	Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Richness of project proposals</li><li>• Diversity and depth of projects supported</li><li>• Site visits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee's inclusive, collaborative teamwork</li><li>• Deliberate/intentional decision-making process</li><li>• Ability to provide 80-100% of requests for funded projects</li><li>• Engagement with funded organizations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support from staff</li><li>• Online application/review software</li><li>• Transparent open meetings via hybrid in-person/online option</li></ul>



# Next Steps

- Staff is working with grantees on funding agreements
- Performance reports published online quarterly
- Potential committee site visits to funded projects
- Planning for next grant cycle (process improvement)



# Process Improvement Discussions

- Request additional funding from Board of Commissioners to increase the Strategic Partnerships Grant fund to \$1,000,000
- Implement hard cap of \$80,000 on request amounts
- Explore how to better assess geographic and demographic impact within the county
- Consider “bonus” scoring for things like smallness, newness, innovation, and lean budgets
- Improve categorization of project applications and grants



Thank You!



# Appendix

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project	Preserving Farmland through Farm to School Connections	\$ 24,000
Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry	Educational Support Services for Women Living at Transformation Village	\$ 40,000
Asheville Creative Arts - Hood Huggers	Hood Huggers Under Instruction (HHI/UI)	\$ 24,000
Babies Need Bottoms	Beyond Diapers - Meeting Babies' Hygiene Needs with Wipes, Rash Cream and Baby Wash	\$ 20,000
Black Wall Street AVL	Black Wall Street AVL - Strengthening BIPOC Businesses in WNC	\$ 70,000
Bountiful Cities	Community Garden Network and Edible Park Support	\$ 16,000
Buncombe County Schools Foundation	The Face of Hope	\$ 24,000
Caring for Children Eckerd Connects	Respite Scholarship Program	\$ 25,000
Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County	Student Success Support for Buncombe County Children	\$ 60,000
Eliada Homes, Inc	Foster Youth Independence Program	\$ 48,000
H3 Collective (formerly Under One Sky Village Foundation)	Scholarships and Outcomes Evaluation for One-On-One and Group Programming for Youth in Foster Care	\$ 20,000
Haywood Street Congregation	Downtown Welcome Table	\$ 35,000



# Appendix

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount
Helpmate, Inc.	Domestic Violence Prevention and Outreach	\$ 59,389
Literacy Together	Igniting Superhero Readers	\$ 50,000
Mountain Child Advocacy Center	Adult Education for Parenting and Child Abuse Prevention	\$ 48,000
OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling	Financial Capabilities Counseling & Education	\$ 16,000
Pisgah Legal Services	Justice For All Program	\$ 64,000
Pisgah Legal Services	Homelessness Prevention Program	\$ 64,000
Read to Succeed	Positive Experiences Around Reading (PEAR)	\$ 26,800
RiverLink	Clean Water for Buncombe: Stormwater Mitigation in Black Mountain	\$ 11,211
W4H Asheville dba Working Wheels	Affordable Vehicle Repairs	\$ 44,600
YTL Training Program	YTL Summer and Advocacy Support	\$ 80,000
YWCA of Asheville and Western North Carolina	MotherLove	\$ 30,000

