

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE
COURTHOUSE, 117 DICK STREET, 5TH FLOOR, ROOM 564
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 – 11:00 AM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, ARP Committee Chairman
Commissioner Glenn Adams (arrived at 11:35 a.m.)
Commissioner Toni Stewart (departed at 11:50 a.m.)
Amy Cannon, County Manager
Tracy Jackson, Assistant County Manager
Sally Shutt, Assistant County Manager
Brian Haney, Assistant County Manager
Rick Moorefield, County Attorney
Vicki Evans, Finance Director
Ivonne Mendez, Deputy Finance Director
Karen Dawson, ARP Accountant
Tye Vaught, Chief of Staff
Chris Carr, Assistant County Attorney
Kevin McGuckin, Assistant County Attorney
Noah Johnson, NCACC Strategic Program Coordinator (attended remotely)
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board
Press

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Keefe called the special meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the agenda.
SECOND: Commissioner Keefe
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of August 5, 2022 ARP Committee Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the August 5, 2022 ARP Committee special meeting minutes.
SECOND: Commissioner Keefe
VOTE: UNANIMOUS (2-0)

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Aid to Non-Profits Proposal Rankings & Information Requests

BACKGROUND

The County was awarded \$65.2 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The Board of County Commissioners approved an allocation of \$3.5 million in funding to nonprofit organizations to conduct programs and projects that help the County recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative impacts.

The County began the solicitation of RFP-22-15-CTY on January 19, 2022, and accepted proposals from the local nonprofit community through 4:30 PM on February 28, 2022. Through this process, the County received 42 responsive proposals from 38 nonprofit organizations. Cape Fear Valley Mobile Integrated Services submitted two proposals, NARCAN and Community Paramedic programs which will be funded as sub-awards through the County's Substance Use Services and Behavioral Health Services ARP projects.

An ARP Nonprofit Review Panel, composed of various County staff and County Legal reviewed and ranked proposals in accordance with the Responsive Proposal Review Guidelines approved by the Board at the May 16, 2022, regular meeting.

County Legal identified 19 proposals ineligible for sub-award. The panel has not reviewed these proposals. The remaining 21 proposals have been ranked from highest to lowest.

At the August 5, 2022, American Rescue Plan Committee meeting, the Committee directed staff to request additional information from the remaining 21 responsive proposals. This information included a more detailed explanation of project, the length of time each entity has operated, each entity's annual budget, and a copy of their most recent IRS Form 990. This information was due to County Finance's Purchasing Division no later than 3:00 PM on August 19, 2022.

Having conducted a deeper dive into each entity's proposal, staff requests the Committee to consider moving proposals forward for staff to conduct risk assessments on proposals by evaluation score and as project funding permits.

RECOMMENDATION / PROPOSED ACTION

Staff requests the Committee approve, approve with modification, or deny with explanation each proposal as project funding permits. Staff also requests approval to contact the selected organizations to conduct risk assessments to determine their level of risk as sub-awardees.

Amy Cannon, County Manager, stated at the August 5, 2022 ARP Committee special meeting, there were a lot of questions and Finance Department staff went back to each agency and asked the questions the committee posed. Ms. Cannon stated Tye Vaught, Chief of Staff, will review the spreadsheets that were compiled to provide more detailed explanations. (Included herein as Attachment A.)

Commissioner Adams arrived.

Mr. Vaught stated information provided in the spreadsheets includes the name of the organization, name of the project, panel review score, amount of funds requested, category from which the funds are being requested, length of time each entity has operated, each entity's annual budget, and each agency's recent IRS Form 990. Mr. Vaught stated the nonprofits are still listed in order in which they scored.

Commissioner Keefe stated some of the nonprofit proposals are requesting more than half of their budgets and some of them are actually exceeding their current annual operating budgets for programs. Commissioner Keefe also stated some of the proposals are to provide rental and utility assistance and asked whether there was any way to determine whether they will provide those services better than the county or other entities already providing them. Commissioner Adams stated at least 6 of the 21 are asking to provide the same services and asked how those can be rated.

Vicki Evans, Finance Director, stated one of the things measured within the risk assessment has to do with the audit that each entity must have; audits are based on a threshold of \$750,000 as required by the federal government. Ms. Evans stated if an entity does not reach the \$750,000 threshold, it will not get to the level of the audit review. Ms. Evans stated there are also other things measured within the risk assessment.

Additional questions were posed about the funding requests and discussion followed. Commissioner Keefe asked how the nonprofits came up with their numbers. Ms. Evans stated within the formal RFP, the nonprofits proposed how much it would cost them to operate the programs they provide. Ms. Evans stated county staff could not question those amounts. Mr. Vaught stated the nonprofits had to provide a budget template and indicate specifically where they wanted to put the dollars.

Commissioner Stewart departed the meeting.

Commissioner Keefe expressed the need for transparency and stated some of the entities have requested more than their operational budget and this does not make sense to him which means they are putting in new programs that have not been tried and tested throughout their organization. Mr. Vaught stated others are using resources to go outward and help the community with Covid issues. Commissioner Keefe noted one of the requests exceeded \$1M with a description of "affordable housing". Ms. Evans stated if one goes by expenditure categories, this one "to provide long-term housing security" is the same expenditure category as the \$10M for Shaw Heights.

Commissioner Keefe asked whether the committee was obligated to give the nonprofits the amounts they requested. Rick Moorefield, County Attorney, stated the committee adopted a policy and staff have compiled this information in accordance with that policy. Mr. Moorefield stated federal regulations come into play when dealing with RFPs and the committee would have to clearly articulate the reason for not funding a program at the requested amount. Ms. Evans stated there is precedence for reducing the amounts. Mr. Moorefield stated under federal regulations, the committee is required to evaluate the requests in terms of the "best bang for the buck" or the

greatest return on investment. Ms. Cannon stated another way to say it would be the measurable output in terms of the budget. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Keefe stated he believed it was the intent of the committee to help nonprofits that suffered through the pandemic to stabilize their organization in order for them to continue the services they had been providing in the community. Commissioner Keefe stated he does not think the metrics the committee is seeing necessarily does that because he is seeing a lot of new programs that may be COVID related but the programs are not their traditional services and may be duplicated by another organization.

Ms. Evans stated during discussion, she went through the list and identified those that duplicate programs for which there are already expenditure categories within the county's budget ordinance. Commissioner Adams stated he thinks consideration of units is important. Ms. Cannon stated also important is knowing whether the nonprofits are adding staff or reimbursing staff they already have on board. Additional questions followed.

Consensus of the committee was for staff to look at the requests again for duplication of services and programs that would benefit the most people.

B. Transfer of Fiscal Year 2022 ARPA Interest Earnings to General Fund

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Cumberland County Financial Policies: Subsection 3, Policy No. 3-1, 5.2.1.c: Funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) are not subject to the requirements of the Federal Cash Management Improvement Act and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 CFR part 205 or 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8)-(9). The County is not required to remit these funds back to the U.S. Treasury, nor are the interest earnings required to be utilized for ARPA eligible expenditures. Therefore, Cumberland County's ARPA funds will be placed in interest-bearing accounts. The June 30 end of fiscal year balance of interest earnings of the ARPA fund will be budgeted and transferred into the county's general fund the following fiscal year. These funds may be utilized for any public purpose and are not restricted.

Interest earnings on ARP funds totaling \$47,573.46 have been recorded through June 30, 2022. Per policy this amount will be transferred to the general fund. This item is being brought forward because at the time the policy was adopted, commissioners stated they would like to provide options as to how these funds could be expended. Upon a determination of how to utilize the funds, a budget ordinance amendment will be completed to transfer the funds from the ARPA fund into the general fund and assign a specific use.

RECOMMENDATION / PROPOSED ACTION

Discuss options on utilization of ARPA interest earnings then direct staff to complete a budget ordinance amendment that identifies a specific use or uses. The budget ordinance amendment will then be considered as a Consent Agenda Item at the September 19, 2022 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Ms. Evans referenced the background information recorded above. Commissioner Keefe confirmed the interest would be transferred into the general fund and assigned a specific use.

MOTION: Commissioner Adams moved that ARPA interest earnings through June 30, 2022 totaling \$47,573.46 will be transferred from the ARPA Fund to the General Fund and will be assigned to a special projects code for tracking purposes, and staff will move forward with a Budget Ordinance Amendment reflecting this action on the September 19, 2022 Board of Commissioners consent agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Keefe

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0) (Commissioner Stewart departed the meeting without having been excused.)

5. UPDATES

A. Small Business Economic Assistance Program

BACKGROUND

At their August 5, 2022, meeting, the ARP Committee directed Staff to reach out to applicants who had been deemed nonresponsive to requests for information. Staff sent correspondence to 57 applicants and provided them five days (due 5:00 PM August 24, 2022) to submit outstanding documentation. During this period, 13 businesses were responsive in submitting information.

As of August 26, 2022, Staff sent 12 Businesses Application Determinations informing them that they were no longer being considered for funding under the program. The reasons for removing these 12 applications are based upon one of the following criteria:

- business established after March 3, 2021
- business has been dissolved by the NC Secretary of State
- entity is organized as a non-profit organization

ARP Staff has been meeting with business owners to obtain signatures on the contracts. Staff is working diligently to move these executed contracts through the County's workflow and purchase order processes.

The ARP Staff Committee is performing final reviews on applications not recommended for funding by the Small Business Review Panel and sending out determination letters to those applicants.

RECOMMENDATION / PROPOSED ACTION

No action is required for informational purposes only.

Mr. Vaught presented the background information recorded above. Mr. Vaught stated the first ten small business applications were approved on June 30, were sent out for contract and applicants

were asked to sign the contracts in person because this provided an opportunity for them to ask questions about the contracts. Questions followed.

6. ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Adams moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Commissioner Keefe

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (3-0) (Commissioner Stewart departed the meeting without having been excused.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

Candice H. White
Clerk to the Board

AID TO NON-PROFITS: RESULTS OF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SUBMITTED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Name of Organization	Name of Project	Panel Evaluation Score	Amount of Funds Requested	New Recovery Funding Eligibility Category	Request for Additional Info Signed	Additional Project Description	Years Non-Profit Established	Agency Budget	Form 990
Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Inc.	Fayetteville Urban Ministry's Coronavirus Recovery Project	90	\$ 750,000	2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	✓	✓	48	\$1,302,145.00	7/1/19 - 6/30/20 \$2,073,189.00
Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County	Arts In Schools - Arts For All Allocation (Title 1 Schools)	75	\$ 150,000	2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts	✓	✓	48	\$2,151,945.70	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$2,108,807.00
Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Inc. DBA Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C)	Murchison Choice Food: Healthy Food, Healthier Living	75	\$ 508,195	2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs	✓	✓	18	\$2,776,470.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$3,486,642.00
Healing Hands of Love Kingdom Connections International	The Healing Hands of Love Kingdom Connections International's Youth Empowerment Center	74	\$ 80,750	2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety	✓	N/A	13	\$153,130.00	N/A
Cumberland HealthNET	Safe Haven	73	\$ 500,000	1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	✓	✓	10	\$1,276,000.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$563,989.00
Cumberland County Council on Older Adults	Meals on Wheels	72	\$ 476,615	2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs	✓	✓	54	\$2,095,186.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$1,646,722.00
Employment Source Inc. DBA ServiceSource	Building Independence	63	\$ 159,826	2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)	✓	✓	21	\$17,457,992.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$15,598,757.00
Connections of Cumberland County, Inc.	Day Resource Center	63	\$ 438,510	2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	✓	✓	8	\$390,070.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$841,647.00
Better Health of Cumberland County	Medical Emergency Direct Aid Program	59	\$ 258,210	1.6 Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	✓	✓	64	\$390,388.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$312,635.00
Community Health Interventions, Inc.	CHI COVID-19 Mitigation Initiative	59	\$ 331,941	1.2 COVID-19 Testing	✓	✓	4	\$730,985.09	1/1/21 - 12/31/21 \$264,485.00
Communities In Schools of Cumberland County	Reengaging and Supporting Middle and High School Students Affected by COVID-19	57	\$ 507,185	2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services	✓	✓	30	\$9,912,742.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$4,708,908.00

Name of Organization	Name of Project	Panel Evaluation Score	Amount of Funds Requested	New Recovery Funding Eligibility Category	Request for Additional Info Signed	Additional Project Description	Years Non-Profit Established	Agency Budget	Form 990
Cape Fear Botanical Garden	Cape Fear Botanical Garden COVID-19 Recovery and Revitalization Initiative	57	\$ 248,344	2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services	✓	✓	33	\$2,093,854.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$1,803,771.00
Kingdom Community Development Corporation	Windows to the World	55	\$ 1,278,757	2.15 Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	✓	✓	27	\$1,130,264.00	1/1/21 - 12/31/21 \$612,491.00
Noonday Kitchen	Sunshine Market	53	\$ 348,744	2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs	✓	✓	3	\$93,000.00	1/1/20 - 12/31/20 \$111,135.00
The Joel Fund™	Operation Furnish, Operation Wellness, and Resource Connection	53	\$ 182,696	2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	✓	✓	7	\$349,317.50	1/1/21 - 12/31/21 \$207,428.00
The School of Hope, Inc.	Keep Hope Alive	53	\$ 313,308	2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services	✓	✓	6	\$468,715.00	2020 \$338,907.00
Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Inc. DBA Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C)	Child Development Enhancing Futures (CDEF)	52	\$ 291,912	2.14 Healthy Childhood Environments: Early Learning	✓	✓	18	\$2,776,470.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$3,486,642.00
FTCC Foundation, Inc.	Barriers to Education for At Risk Students	50	\$ 369,500	2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	✓	✓	37	\$93,100.00	7/1/21 - 6/30/22 \$646,077.00
Cumberland Residential and Employment Services and Training (CREST)	Adult Day Vocational Program	50	\$ 123,130	1.9 COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits	✓	✓	43	\$1,063,949.34	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$1,089,615.00
Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County (RCVCC)	Victim Services	50	\$ 111,171	1.11 Community Violence Interventions	✓	✓	48	\$384,514.00	7/1/20 - 6/30/21 \$408,889.00
Communities United for Youth Development (CUYD)	Building a Better Community: "Grays Creek Strong"	45	\$ 400,000	2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services	✓	N/A	26	\$5,342.00	Not Required \$50,000 or less

NON-PROFITS RECOMMENDED BY THE ARP STAFF COMMITTEE

1. Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Inc.

- **Score:** 90
- **Project:** Fayetteville Urban Ministry's Coronavirus Recovery Project
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$1,302,145
- **Total Project Budget:** \$750,000
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$750,000
- **Years in Operation:** 48

The Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Emergency Assistance Program, will provide rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to Cumberland County residents who have experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Service is available on a first-come, first-served basis until funding runs out.

2. Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County

- **Score:** 75
- **Project:** Artists in Schools – Arts for All Allocation (Title 1 Schools)
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High Poverty Districts
- **FY23 County Funding:** \$35,000
- **Agency Budget:** \$2,151,945.70
- **Total Project Budget:** \$271,375
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$150,000
- **Years in Operation:** 48

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County will hire Teaching Artists through its Artists in Schools (AIS) initiative for every Title 1 school in Cumberland County in FY 23 and FY 24. Each Title 1 school - grades K to 12 - will have \$1,000 via the Arts for All Allocation strategy to employ Teaching Artists to provide workshops, residencies, assemblies, and/or virtual engagements at the school. The Arts Council will manage and broker the hiring, contracting, and implementation of these Teaching Artist engagements for every Title 1 school in FY 23 and FY 24. Capitalizing on 45+ years of experience, AIS provides paid Teaching Artist engagements to Cumberland County's most needy students in Title 1 Schools. These students might not otherwise participate in substantive arts education experiences during their education. Most of the requested Cumberland County ARP funds will be used to hire Teaching Artists directly for each Title 1 school. A small portion of the funds will provide salary support for the Arts Education Manager and the Director of Grants and Allocations at the Arts Council to oversee the AIS and Arts for All Allocation strategy.

3. Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Inc.

- **Score:** 75
- **Project:** Murchison Choice Food: Healthy Food, Healthier Living
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$2,776,470
- **Total Project Budget:** \$508,195.24
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$508,195.24
- **Years in Operation:** 18

Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Inc. (4C) is an NCQA-accredited organization that offers care management and disease management and community support connection services to participants in Cumberland and surrounding counties through collaboration with Prepaid Health Plans, medical providers, pharmacies, and other community-based organizations. We work to assist patients with both medical and non-medical social determinants of health to improve their health and well-being. Over the last two years, we have seen the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on individuals and the community. Most notably, access to healthy food has become increasingly difficult. This is especially true for residents in census tracts along the Murchison corridor. 4C plans to partner with Leaf of Life, The Veteran's Farm of NC, Pate's Farm Market, Sandhills AgInnovation Center (SAIC), Crew Family Orchards, and other non-funded partners to address food insecurity in a three-program approach: "Fresh Food Now!", "Cook Healthy Food!" and "Grow Your Food!" These programs will provide residents in this community with fresh food, teach them how to cook fresh food healthily, and grow a community garden to ensure sustainable access to healthy food for years to come.

4. Healing Hands of Love Kingdom Connections International

- **Score:** 74
- **Project:** The Healing Hands of Love Kingdom Connections International's Youth Empowerment Center
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$153,130
- **Total Project Budget:** \$161,500
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$80,750
- **Years in Operation:** 13

HHOL's youth programs primarily target youth, often residing in under-resourced communities, who have developed unhealthy behaviors and/or lack the motivation to achieve optimal levels of successful outcomes due to peer pressure, social issues, and the absence of constant support. To restore hope and confidence, young people must be in a caring, nurturing environment that promotes their best effort and reinforces personal respect and accountability to facilitate their transition to adulthood. Our approach to creating such an environment is through faith, encouragement, empowerment, and mentorship. Our programs blend positive adult relationships with academic, social, emotional, and occupational training and support to provide our youth with the holistic programming necessary to address their needs whole being.

5. Cumberland HealthNet

- **Score:** 73
- **Project:** Safe Haven
- **ARP Eligibility:** 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
- **FY23 County Funding:** \$30,000
- **Agency Budget:** \$1,276,000
- **Total Project Budget:** \$500,000
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$500,000
- **Years in Operation:** 10

Cumberland HealthNET proposes Safe Haven, a project to provide a comprehensive program of safe temporary emergency housing for homeless and low-income individuals and families who are COVID-19 positive or had direct contact with a positive person but are unable to isolate or quarantine and those at high risk of contracting COVID-19 due to a chronic health condition. Safe Haven will provide this critical service within a responsive person-centered model that will address all the social determinants of health through intensive case management, relying on the array of wrap-around services at its disposal. The project will provide the area with ten safe living units available seven days a week, year-round, for these underserved individuals. Safe Haven will coordinate three meals for participants each day they are housed. In addition, a qualified full-time case manager will have an office at the facility and conduct a comprehensive intake process to determine what services and support are appropriate for each participant based on their unique social background. The case manager will work closely with the Cumberland Health NET Outreach Nurse to monitor the overall health status of the program participants. The unfortunate circumstances presented to these underserved participants will be reframed by Safe Haven as a unique opportunity to assess their individual needs. Based on this assessment, the entity will initiate specific long-term services. They will be enrolled in ongoing services beyond what would otherwise have been provided as a temporary set of clear COVID-19-related quarantine, testing, and monitoring services offered in a safe setting.

6. Cumberland County Council on Older Adults

- **Score:** 72
- **Project:** Meals on Wheels
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs
- **FY23 County Funding:** \$100,215
- **Agency Budget:** \$2,095,186
- **Total Project Budget:** \$476,615
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$476,615
- **Years in Operation:** 54

Our Meals on Wheels program provide daily nutritious meals to calm down overdose and have no more pain. This program aims to address the issues of food insecurity and malnutrition among Cumberland county's most vulnerable older adult population. Maintain and or improve the health and well-being of homebound older adults through the provision of a hot, nutritionally balanced meal delivered to the home; reduce the isolation and loneliness of homebound older adults through social interaction; and provide regular safety checks to monitor the security and well-being of homebound older adults. Funding is requested for: the purchase of a hot/cold delivery truck to deliver meals to program participants who live where no volunteers are available and/or

enough volunteers cannot be recruited to provide daily meals; the hiring of a part-time delivery driver; and the purchase of weekend meals and supplemental food boxes.

7. Employment Source Inc. dba ServiceSource

- **Score:** 63
- **Project:** Building Independence
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$17,457,992
- **Total Project Budget:** \$159,826.34
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$159,826.34
- **Years in Operation:** 21

Employment Source Inc., dba ServiceSource, respectfully requests \$159,826.24 annually to expand evidenced-based Supported Employment and Peer Support Services - PSS (telehealth and face to face), coordinated through a single point of entry, 1-800 Helpline. The Building Independence Program will support low-income families, veterans, and individuals with disabilities in Cumberland County. Employment Source Inc. we'll leverage its national call center expertise (VA Hospital KY, VA Fayetteville, United States Army – Ft Eustis Army Training Help Desk, 411 Tallahassee, and opportunity calls) to provide a single point of entry 1-800 helpline (e.g., 1-800-COV-WORK), In Cumberland County for low-income families, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. The COVID pandemic has disproportionately impacted individuals targeted for services. They have the following risk factors: Homelessness/near homelessness, disability, typically primary mental health and/or dually diagnosed with substance use disorders, and high unemployment rates. Essential services will include service coordination for resource Navigation with a primary intake focus to access certified supported employment job coaching staff and peer support specialists. The entity will coordinate the single entry point with the Cumberland County government and human service providers' infrastructure. Outreach staff will target low-income families, veterans, and individuals with disabilities who have been disproportionately impacted due to the COVID pandemic: increased rates of social isolation, exasperation or health symptoms of a substance use disorder, the risk for suicide, lower engagement in treatment, and decreased rates of employment.

8. Connections of Cumberland County, Inc.

- **Score:** 63
- **Project:** Day Resource Center
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$390,070
- **Total Project Budget:** \$525,545
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$438,510
- **Years in Operation:** 8

Connections recognize the unique opportunity this one-time infusion of resources brings. CCC seeks to increase its capacity while ensuring ongoing efforts will continue when funding is expended. Of the above roles, the development coordinator is seen as the most pressing, a position dedicated to elevating the financial growth and sustainability of the agency. A development coordinator will allow the agency to invest in fundraising and donor stewardship,

thereby increasing the financial capacity of the agency to meet client and staffing needs. While CCC identifies the above request as a crucial need so the agency may continue to grow with the community's needs, it is equally important to ensure current positions and operations of the DRC are funded. Funding will assist in ensuring that the crucial functions required to meet the increasing needs of the single women and women with children facing homelessness and DRC operations remain intact as the agency focuses on increasing its development efforts so that those most impacted by COVID 19 can continue to seek services at the DRC.

9. Better Health of Cumberland County

- **Score:** 59
- **Project:** Medical Emergency Direct Aid Program
- **ARP Eligibility:** 1.6 Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$390,388
- **Total Project Budget:** \$417,626
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$258,210
- **Years in Operation:** 64

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected populations that historically have barriers to accessing health services. Better Health was founded to address the unmet healthcare needs in Cumberland County through education, referral, and assistance. The Emergency Direct Aid Program will aid low-income Cumberland County residents with no medical insurance or underinsured to obtain their prescribed medication, dental extractions, medical supplies, transportation assistance to out-of-town medical appointments, and vision assistance to obtain prescribed glasses. The program anticipates serving about one 1000 clients in the next fiscal year.

PROPOSED BUDGET TOTAL: \$3,322,108

REMAINING NON-PROFIT PROPOSAL REQUEST

10. Community Health Interventions Inc.

- **Score:** 59
- **Project:** CHI COVID-19 Mitigation Initiative
- **ARP Eligibility:** 1.2 COVID-19 Testing
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$730,985.09
- **Total Project Budget:** \$331,940.52
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$331,940.52
- **Years in Operation:** 4

Community Health Interventions, Inc. is seeking funding through RFP-22-15-CTY to Help the Community Recover from and Respond to COVID-19 and its Negative Economic Impacts. Our proposed program, CHI COVID-19 Mitigation Initiative, addresses preventing and mitigating COVID-19 via outreach, education, and testing, enhancing behavioral and mental health services, and providing care coordination and referral services as needed in disproportionately impacted communities. The program consists of offsite and onsite outreach, education, and testing for COVID-19, where individuals are provided with instruction regarding how to limit the spread of Covid-19 and options for vaccinations and boosters for applicable participants. During the outreach, education, and testing phase, participants will complete surveys regarding compliance

with COVID-19 reducing measures, including wearing a mask, hand sanitation, vaccines, and boosters, to name a few. Participants will provide information regarding vaccination and booster status. Staff will provide education, and The entity will address barriers to vaccinating and boosting participants fully as needed. For participants testing positive for COVID-19, care management and follow-up will be instituted between 2 weeks and 60 days, depending on need and compliance. During care management, the patient's behavioral or mental health needs, daily task assistance, quarantine and prevention compliance, employment, housing, and utility assistance will be assessed, addressed, referred to, monitored, and recorded. All findings will be compiled, used as needs assessments for enhanced services, and presented in quarterly reports.

11. Communities in Schools of Cumberland County

- **Score:** 57
- **Project:** Reengaging and Supporting Middle and High School Students Affected by COVID-19
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$9,912,742
- **Total Project Budget:** \$507,185
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$507,185
- **Years in Operation:** 30

This project will address the needs of students and families enrolled in South View Middle School and South View High School. We know that the likeliness of school and future success is disrupted by poverty, systemic racism, a lack of access to resources, and emotional trauma, all exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. CIS will achieve several goals throughout this project. Through the implementation of the CIS Model of integrated student supports, CIS will: (1) locate students who disengaged from school and learning due to the school closures, quarantine, and isolation caused by COVID-19; (2) assess the needs of two Cumberland County public schools to identify gaps in services and develop a plan to address gaps and school-wide needs; (3) accept referrals of students with high numbers of risk factors and demonstrated disengagement behaviors such as poor grades, inconsistent attendance, inappropriate behavior, and a lack of social/emotional skills, and develop a student support plan for each case-managed student; and (4) provide the CISNC Jobs for North Carolina's Graduates (JNCG) program for selected, high-risk 11th and 12th-grade students. JNCG serves students for one-year post-high school graduation to ensure a smooth and successful transition to college and careers. With fewer students choosing post-secondary education and training and getting lost in this COVID environment, the extended support provided by our program is essential to ensuring that students graduate with workforce-ready skills. CIS will accomplish these goals in an ongoing partnership with Cumberland County School District, school administrators, and community partners.

12. Cape Fear Botanical Garden

- **Score:** 57
- **Project:** Cape Fear Botanical Garden COVID-19 Recovery and Revitalization Initiative
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$2,093,854
- **Total Project Budget:** \$243,344
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$248,344
- **Years in Operation:** 33

Cape Fear Botanical Garden (CFBG) provides educational programming, public events, and exhibits to the residents of Cumberland County. It is an important cultural asset for all who visit the cultivated gardens and natural areas comprising its 80 acres. Cumberland County's Aid to Non-profit Organizations (RFP-22-15-CTY) will provide the economic support for the staff, supplies, and equipment necessary to maintain and sustain ongoing operations and the educational programs, exhibits, and events that make it possible for Cape Fear Botanical Garden to fulfill its mission of connecting individuals with the natural world. Particular emphasis will be placed on providing an event free of charge available to all residents of Cumberland County and educational programming with an emphasis on Title I schools and focused on curricula that conform to the CORE values of the Cumberland County Schools.

13. Kingdom Community Development Corporation

- **Score:** 55
- **Project:** Windows to the World
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$1,130,264
- **Total Project Budget:** \$1,278,756.74
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$1,278,756.74
- **Years in Operation:** 27

Kingdom Community Development Corporation (Kingdom CDC) is a HUD-certified counseling agency and a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). Our overarching objective is to equip families with the tools needed to respond to and recover from covid-related trauma and to prepare for futures that hold more stability and promise. Kingdom CDC, a trusted community resource, has developed a project through which healing and recovery can begin through a trauma-informed and equity-focused approach to service delivery that aims to educate and empower our community to rebuild beyond recovery. Windows to the World will work with participants and community partners to build a new vision for creating financial stability through access to the knowledge, skills, and resources needed for healthy, resilient futures. As with our existing programs, Kingdom CDC designed Windows for the world to offer a customized response and recovery assistance that empowers participants beyond their project involvement. Kingdom CDC believes that helping to stabilize families experiencing disproportionately severe impacts from the covid pandemic will help stabilize and improve their communities.

14. Noonday Kitchen

- **Score:** 53
- **Project:** Sunshine Market
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$93,000
- **Total Project Budget:** \$348,744
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$348,744
- **Years in Operation:** 27

The Sunshine Market is a family-focused mobile produce market that aims to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products to communities devastated by the economic and health-related downturn of the Covid 19 Pandemic. At Sunshine Market, individuals can arrive and select their products at no cost. Cooking tutorials and recipes are available onsite, and resource booths provide additional information pertinent to their needs. We will also offer nutritional education, critical to building a more robust immune system and lowering the risk of non-communicable diseases and longevity.

15. The Joel Fund

- **Score:** 53
- **Project:** Operation Furnish, Operation Wellness, and Resource Connection
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$349,317.50
- **Total Project Budget:** \$182,696
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$182,696
- **Years in Operation:** 7

The Joel Fund, a 501c3 organization located in Wake Forest, NC, was established in 2016 to connect veterans to non-traditional services directly. The Joel Fund (TJF) is committed to engaging, educating, and encouraging veterans and their families. Our supportive programs provide resiliency and stability, allowing veterans to focus on their physical and mental well-being. The Joel Fund proposes expanding our proven programs, Operation Furnish, Operation Wellness, and our Resource Connection, to serve more veterans in Cumberland County. These programs include providing new beds, gently used household items, two months of delivered groceries, financial assistance to avoid homelessness, and opportunities for social connectedness. This funding would help the Cumberland County veteran community recover from some of the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

16. The School of Hope, Inc

- **Score:** 53
- **Project:** Keep Hope Alive
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$468,715
- **Total Project Budget:** \$313,308.04
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$313,308.04
- **Years in Operation:** 6

The project, "Keep Hope Alive," is based on the need to acquire additional classroom space (4205 sq ft in a modular unit that would provide four to six classrooms) so that, not only may we follow the social distancing CDC recommendations, guidelines and requirements to enable our students to be socially distanced within the classroom environment, but so that we may also be able to serve additional autistic students (and families) who are not able to receive the necessary help within their public school, private school and/or homeschool.

17. Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Inc.

- **Score:** 52
- **Project:** Child Development Enhancing Futures (CDEF)
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.14 Healthy Childhood Environments: Early Learning
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$2,776,470
- **Total Project Budget:** \$291,912.29
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$291,912.29
- **Years in Operation:** 18

Our proposed CDEF project will work to enhance the number of developmental/behavioral/health risk screenings being performed at practices for children ages 6-18 years of age. Areas of concern that these screenings could assist in identifying include safety/exposure to violence, substance use, promiscuity/unprotected sexual activities, depression, and truancy. These issues are crucial to detect in our school-age children and adolescents, especially considering increased stressors faced during the pandemic for families and our school systems who would detect needs. On February 15, 2022, the most recent Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) NC DHHS meeting was held. It was reported that since COVID, there had been a 24% increase in pediatric ED visits for BH issues in children 5-11 years of age and a 31% increase for those 12-17 years of age. In addition, it was also reported during the JLOC meeting that retail alcohol sales have increased by 39% since the pandemic. These most recent numbers further magnify the need to ensure child safety in school-age children. Our quality improvement efforts will not only strive to improve the overall screening rates for these children but also to ensure any screening results that are at-risk for a need will be referred to the appropriate agency/resource, and those follow-up efforts will be instituted to make sure any barriers are minimized, and referred services were provided.

18. FTCC Foundation Inc.

- **Score:** 50
- **Project:** Barriers to Education for At Risk Students
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$93,100
- **Total Project Budget:** \$369,500
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$369,500
- **Years in Operation:** 37

FTCC Foundation manages scholarships and other funds that provide financial assistance to FTCC students. Barriers to education is a fund that helps students who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 and other emergencies by providing money for food, rent, utilities, transportation, childcare, and other necessary expenses. Many students lost their jobs during the pandemic and face food and housing insecurity. These funds will help keep students in their homes and food on the table. The Foundation is requesting scholarships and money for books, supplies, and certification fees to fulfill the unmet need for curriculum and continuing education for students affected by COVID. Students struggle with stress, anxiety, and depression because of the pressures of managing home, work, and school commitments. This project would address the mental health needs of FTCC students by enhancing and expanding existing services. This project would also include mini-grants for instructors to develop innovative ways to help students reengage and recover after two years of virtual and hybrid learning. This program aims to help students stay in school, care for their families, and stay on track to graduate.

19. Cumberland Residential and Employment Services and Training

- **Score:** 50
- **Project:** Adult Day Vocational Program
- **ARP Eligibility:** 1.9 COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$1,063,949.34
- **Total Project Budget:** \$1,063,949.34
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$123,130
- **Years in Operation:** 43

Cumberland Residential and Employment Services and Training (CREST) is a not-for-profit agency whose mission is to provide effective services and supports to persons with disabilities and their families. CREST is honored to have provided services exclusively in Cumberland County for almost 50 years. CREST seeks to provide stable housing and expand competitive employment opportunities for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). The project will afford opportunities to 25 eligible citizens. This project is expected to promote inclusion and value of our special needs population while providing a stable living arrangement as CREST enables these adults to become routine contributors to our local economy. CREST Residential Program operates five (5) supervised residential programs which offer 24- hour support staff. The residential program provides structure and training for independent living. The Residential programs serve as lifelines to persons with I/DD in preventing institutionalization and homelessness. CREST ADVP program assists adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities to secure integrated competitive employment in the community. This is a day program where participants learn employment skills and eventually are assisted with job exploration, job matching, pre-employment activities, and job coaching or shadowing. We have experienced

regular success helping participants become gainfully employed through this program and community partners. We are requesting funding that will enable us to provide housing assistance and create employment opportunities for more persons with disabilities.

20. Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County (RCVCC)

- **Score:** 50
- **Project:** Victim Services
- **ARP Eligibility:** 1.11 Community Violence Interventions
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$384,514
- **Total Project Budget:** \$111,171
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$111,171
- **Years in Operation:** 48

RCVCC will provide advocacy to those in our community who are at the most significant risk, victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. RCVCC has a 24/7 crisis line, responds 24/7 to the hospital and law enforcement interviews, provides one-on-one counseling, includes safety planning, and provides a safe environment to file for a domestic violence protective order. RCVCC will provide training to all local law enforcement agencies and outreach programs for our underserved population.

21. Communities United for Youth Development (CUYD)

- **Score:** 45
- **Project:** Building a Better Community: "Grays Creek Strong"
- **ARP Eligibility:** 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social and Emotional Services
- **FY23 County Funding:** N/A
- **Agency Budget:** \$5,342
- **Total Project Budget:** \$400,000
 - **Amount of Funds Requested:** \$400,000
- **Years in Operation:** 26

Covid 19 has heightened human suffering, undermined the economy, turned the lives of billions of people around the globe upside down, and significantly affected the health, economics, environmental, and social domains. Lending to the pandemic's global impact, The community can also feel the trauma in southeastern Cumberland County in the Gray's Creek Community. The proposed project, "Building a Better Community: Gray's Creek Strong," over the next three (3) years, will focus on three specific areas: Family Engagement, Mental Health and Wellness, and Technology Disparity. Family Engagement: The project will focus on helping families cope with changes within the family structure, strengthen parenting skills, and help parents support their children's overall success. Mental Health and Wellness: The project will address health and wellness issues resulting from Covid 19. The program will address mental health and wellness issues: isolation, anxiety, fear, depression, loss due to the death of family and friends, lack of physical activity, and proper nutrition. Technology Disparity: The project will help students learn how to use technology to improve their school performance effectively. Covid 19 has shifted the educational arena to a more technological platform. With this transition, parents and students must comprehensively understand the Canvas and NCEDCLOUD platforms. Lack of understanding of these platforms has also increased anxiety, depression, low school performance, and lack of motivation and concern among students and parents.