Human Services Awards 2026

Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Description	County(ies) Served
All Souls Counseling Center	Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Highly Vulnerable WNC Adults "Where They Are"	$25,000	to provide sliding-scale mental health counseling services to underinsured and uninsured adults.	WNC Region - Buncombe
Appalachian Community Relief	Promoting Food Security in Western North Carolina	$25,000	to purchase food that will support pantries.	Buncombe, McDowell, Henderson
Appalachian Mountain Community Health Center	Reducing Barriers to Prenatal Healthcare in Black Mountain	$25,000	to purchase an ultrasound system enabling comprehensive on-site women's healthcare services at its new Black Mountain clinic.	Buncombe
Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity	Asheville Habitat Traditional Home Repair Program	$25,000	to provide no-cost, critical home repairs for low-income homeowners.	Buncombe, Madison
Asheville Poverty Initiative	12 Baskets Cafe and Community Center	$25,000	to support staff who provide hot meals and food to unhoused and low-income people.	Buncombe
Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM)	ABCCM Transformation Village Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven	$25,000	to support core operations, case management, meals, and essential supplies for its shelters serving women and children.	Buncombe
Asheville-Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement	Weekend CARE- Shop & Learns	$25,000	to address food insecurity, access to resources, chronic disease, and impacts from Hurricane Helene.	Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford
Babies Need Bottoms	Tiny Humans, Big Needs: Essential Hygiene and Feeding Support for WNC's Smallest Residents	$25,000	to provide diapers, wipes, infant formula, and related hygiene supplies to families in financial crisis.	WNC Region - Buncombe
Beacon of Hope Services	Increasing Food Security and Offering Stability Amidst Unprecedented Levels of Uncertainty	$25,000	to support operations that provide food to thousands of people.	Madison, Buncombe, Yancey
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina	BBBSWNC High School Bigs	$25,000	for a program that pairs high school student leaders with elementary students to create one-on-one mentoring relationships that help youth achieve their full potential.	WNC Region - Buncombe
Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic	Expanding Dental Prosthetics Services in Rural WNC	$25,000	to increase adult access to restorative dental treatment plans, including hygiene and prosthetic care such as crowns, partials, and dentures.	Jackson, Macon, Swain

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Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Description	County(ies) Served
Center for Domestic Peace	Emergency Shelter Program Support	$25,000	for a shelter advocate who provides trauma-informed, survivor-centered support, crisis intervention, safety planning, and connections to essential resources for individuals and families fleeing interpersonal violence.	Jackson, Macon, Transylvania, Swain, Haywood
Child Medical Collaborative	Expanding Access to Medical Evaluations for Children Experiencing Abuse in Rural Western NC	$25,000	for comprehensive child abuse medical evaluations performed by specially trained pediatric medical providers, reducing barriers to care for vulnerable children in medically underserved communities.	Jackson
Children's Center of Transylvania County	Nurturing Families Stability & Prevention Initiative	$25,000	for a parenting program that includes crisis-stabilization support.	Transylvania
Community Table	Community Table Cold Storage Expansion	$24,400	to purchase open-air cooler displays that will increase capacity to safely store fresh produce, extend shelf life, reduce food waste, and ensure that more fresh fruits and vegetables remain available.	Jackson, Macon, Swain
Eblen Charities	Gas Vouchers for Economically challenged neighbors for job interviews and medical appointments	$25,000	for gas vouchers that support low-income people.	Buncombe
Eckerd Connects	Caring for Children Respite Program	$25,000	for trauma-informed respite services that provide flexible support, care coordination, and outreach to help families in crisis reduce caregiver stress, strengthen stability, and prevent child abuse, neglect, and unnecessary involvement with the child welfare system.	WNC Region - Buncombe
Equal Plates Project	Feeding our Food Insecure Neighbors	$25,000	to purchase local meat, eggs, and produce grown by small family farms to feed food-insecure people.	Buncombe, Yancey, Avery, Mitchell
Feeding Avery Families	Expanding Food Access Through Mobile Distributions & Home Delivery	$25,000	to sustain mobile food distribution and expand home delivery services.	Avery
First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, NC	Period Pantry	$5,000	to purchase menstrual products that are provided free to low-income girls and women.	Macon
First United Methodist Church of Waynesville	Salary Support for Food Pantry Coordinator	$25,000	for a pantry coordinator to address increased demands.	Haywood

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Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Description	County(ies) Served
Food Connection	Prepared Meal Access for WNC Human Service Partners	$25,000	to support a food rescue program that collects surplus prepared food from hotels, hospitals, universities, caterers, and restaurants and distributes it to nonprofits, churches and other organizations providing meals to low-income people.	Buncombe, Henderson, McDowell
Four Seasons the Care You Trust	Hospice and Palliative Care for Underserved in Western NC	$25,000	to provide hospice and palliative care services to uninsured and underinsured patients.	Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania
Grahamtown Team	Community Revitalization & Homeowner Assistance	$25,000	to assist economically disadvantaged households with urgent repairs.	Rutherford
Haywood Street Congregation	Haywood Street Respite	$25,000	to increase the capacity of a recovery respite for unhoused people from 12 to 25 beds, offering case management, nursing, behavioral health support, and housing assistance.	Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood, Madison, McDowell
Heart of Horse Sense	Trauma Recovery Through Equine-Assisted Care	$25,000	to provide trauma-informed equine-assisted therapy and individual counseling.	Madison, Buncombe, Hayward, Henderson, Yancey
Helpmate	Case Management Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence	$20,000	to provide case management to domestic violence survivors to help them find housing and support services.	Buncombe
Henderson County and Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity	A Path Home: Housing Navigation & Support	$25,000	to provide individualized case management, referrals, and support.	Henderson, Polk
Henderson County Foster Parents Association	Foster Family Essentials & Volunteer Capacity Support	$20,000	to address the challenge of sudden foster placements by providing caregivers with necessary supplies and reducing upfront costs.	Henderson, Buncombe Transylvania, Polk, Rutherfordton, Yancey
High Country Community Health	Burke Care Bridge	$25,000	to help economically disadvantaged residents overcome financial barriers to medications, diagnostics, and specialty services.	Burke

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Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Description	County(ies) Served
Homeward Bound of WNC	Homeless Crisis Intervention in Downtown Asheville	$25,000	for crisis intervention staff who help with de-escalating crises, managing acute situations, and creating a safer environment for both clients and staff.	Buncombe
Hunger Coalition of Transylvania County	Reaching the Unreachable	$23,690	to provide weekly deliveries of cooked meals, frozen meals, and fresh groceries, along with nutritional education and wellness checks for homebound seniors and people with disabilities.	Transylvania
IFB Solutions, Asheville division	Advanced Skills Training and Career Readiness for Individuals Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired	$25,000	for a workforce development initiative serving up to 15 blind or visually impaired participants through advanced skills training, individualized coaching, adaptive technology, and career advancement support that promotes higher-wage employment, job retention, and greater economic independence.	Buncombe
Jewish Family Services of WNC	Expanding Case Management Access Across JFS Programs	$25,000	for a full-time case manager who will assess clients' needs, navigate benefits, and coordinate referrals that will help meet their basic needs.	Buncombe, Henderson
KARE (Kids Advocacy Resource Effort)	Tools for Greater Impact - Supporting Haywood County's Children	$25,000	to support child abuse victims.	Haywood
Madison County Health Department	Madison County Health Department Edible Landscaping Garden to Pantry Program	$1,100	for a garden providing fresh produce for food pantry clients.	Madison
McDowell Local Food Advisory Council	Strengthening Healthy Food Access in McDowell County	$25,000	to ensure that local food is affordable and accessible to low-income residents while supporting growth in the local food economy and engaging youth in food production.	McDowell
Meals on Wheels of Asheville and Buncombe County	Emergency Winter Food Supply for Homebound Elders	$25,000	to purchase emergency winter food supplies, including snow-day and holiday meals, for homebound people.	Buncombe
Mimosa Christian Counseling Center	Mimosa Fund: Expanding Access to Affordable Mental Health Counseling	$25,000	to provide mental health services for economically disadvantaged residents.	Burke
Mission Ministries Alliance	Mission Ministries Alliance - Improving access to safe stable futures	$22,000	to purchase a vehicle to help with client transportation and getting children to school.	McDowell, Burke

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Mitchell County SafePlace	Survivor Resource Access Project	$7,650	to address technology barriers faced by domestic violence and sexual abuse survivors at the rural shelter.	Mitchell
Mitchell Giving Gardens	Community Food Access and Education for low income families	$25,000	to support its community garden, food delivery, community meals, and afterschool snacks.	Mitchell
Mountain Aging Partners	Building Capacity for Aging Services and Stability for Caregivers	$25,000	for services that help older adults with cognitive, physical, and/or social needs remain connected to their families and communities while providing caregivers with reliable respite and support.	Buncombe, Henderson
NAMI Western Carolina	Community Mental Health Support	$25,000	to expand peer-led and community-based mental health support for low-income individuals through support groups, individualized advocacy, and evidence-based education programs.	Buncombe, Henderson, Madison
NC MedAssist	Medication Access for under-resourced Western NC residents	$25,000	to provide medication access to low-income, uninsured residents across the region.	WNC Region - out-of-region
New HOPE of McDowell	H.O.M.E.S (Helping other maintain economic stability) Project	$25,000	to support domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their families.	McDowell
New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College	New Opportunity School for Women	$17,500	to provide a summer residential program for low-income women that improves self-confidence, facilitates college enrollment, advances employment opportunities, and helps break cycles of poverty.	WNC Region - Avery
Open Hearts Art Center	Sustaining Studio Access and Economic Opportunity for Adults with I/DD	$25,000	to provide art programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	Buncombe, Henderson
Our VOICE	Healing is Possible	$25,000	for an advocate who coordinates support for victims of sexual violence and human trafficking through education, counseling, and advocacy.	Buncombe, McDowell, Transylvania
Rolling Start NC	Rolling Start NC Capacity Building - 2027	$25,000	to support technology upgrades and staff to provide cars to low-income people.	Jackson, Qualla Boundary
Root Cause Farm	Continuing Dignified Food Access at Root Cause Farm	$25,000	for weekly fresh produce distribution.	Buncombe, Rutherford, Henderson

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Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Description	County(ies) Served
Rutherford County	EFNEP Rutherford Cooperative Extension	$4,000	to teach residents about nutrition, physical activity, food preparation, and food safety.	Rutherford
Safelight	Job Training Program	$25,000	to support survivors through paid job traineeships, soft skills training, and case management.	Henderson
Saluda Pop-up Pantry	Essential Ingredients for Food Security	$15,000	to purchase food for its pantry.	Polk, Henderson
Salvation Army-Asheville Corps	Dining and Wellness expansion	$25,000	for an additional dining and wellness site that serves seniors.	Buncombe, Haywood
Southwestern Child Development Commission, Inc.	SWCDC Community Basic Needs Distribution	$25,000	for distribution events across the region that will provide families with food, diapers, hygiene products, and other essentials.	WNC Region - Jackson
Steps to H.O.P.E.	Increasing need for Trauma-Informed Counseling for Survivors and Their Children	$18,000	for trauma-informed counseling services for domestic violence and sexual abuse survivors and their children.	Polk, Henderson, Rutherford
Swain County Family Resource Center	Family Crisis Funds	$18,000	to provide crisis assistance to families living in poverty.	Swain, Graham
The Community Kitchen	Feeding Those in Need	$25,000	to purchase groceries and supplies and add a second restroom to its facility.	Haywood
The Family Place of Transylvania County	Ready Together: A Whole-Family Approach to Kindergarten Readiness	$25,000	for a parenting and kindergarten readiness program that serves children and their caregivers.	Transylvania, Henderson, Jackson
The Free Clinics	Sustaining Access to Healthcare for Uninsured and Underserved WNC Residents	$25,000	to support the clinic's services, which help low-income, uninsured, and underinsured residents by offering medical care, behavioral health, pharmacy assistance, care coordination, and peer support.	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania, Rutherfordon
The Housing Assistance Corporation	HAC: Home Repair Expansion	$25,000	to provide safe, affordable housing for low-income residents.	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania
The International Friendship Center of Highlands	Highlands Food Pantry Cold Storage and Bilingual Staffing Expansion	$25,000	to upgrade the walk-in freezer and hire dedicated bilingual staff for inventory management and client services.	Jackson, Macon

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Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Description	County(ies) Served
Thrive	Prevention of Homelessness	$20,000	to provide emergency rent and utility assistance to vulnerable households helping to prevent homelessness, maintain housing stability, and ensure continued access to essential utilities.	Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania
Valley Hope Foundation	Nourish WNC	$25,000	to distribute food.	WNC Region - Buncombe
Veterans Healing Farm	New Agricultural Water Well	$11,000	to complete a new agricultural water well that will support the farm's annual production of fresh produce for distribution to local nonprofits.	WNC Region - Henderson
Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee, Inc.	Expanding Community Inclusion and Employment Services Through Reliable Transportation	$25,000	to purchase an eight-passenger minivan to transport individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to employment opportunities.	Qualla Boundary, Jackson, Swain, Graham
West Marion, Inc	Bringing Resources Home: Community Resource Fairs for Rural Families	$25,000	to connect rural residents with essential services, including healthcare, insurance enrollment, food and housing assistance, behavioral health, employment, and legal services.	McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey
Western Carolina Medical Society Foundation	More Than Medicine: Removing Language and Transportation Barriers to Care	$25,000	for medical interpretation appointments for patients with limited English proficiency or patients who are deaf or hard of hearing, and to provide transportation for uninsured individuals.	Buncombe, Madison
Working Wheels	Dependable transportation for working families in WNC	$25,000	to support mechanics who provide car repairs and prepare donated cars for low-income people.	Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania

Total: $1,602,340