

Item Title: Home and Community Care Block Grant County Funding Plan

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners approves the County Funding Plan submitted by Wake County Health and Human Services, Meals on Wheels of Wake County and Resources for Seniors, Inc. and affix required signatures.

Item Summary:

Purpose: Federal law requires that the local County jurisdiction, Wake County Board of Commissioners, approve the plans on how the Home and Community Care Block Grant funds will be allocated.

Background: The Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) for Older Adults combines state and federal monies made available to the local community from the Division on Aging and Adult Services and through the Central Pines Regional Council Area Agency on Aging. The funds purchase services such as home delivered and congregate meals, transportation, information and case assistance, overnight respite care, adult day care, in-home aide, home accessibility/safety, and senior center operations. Upon approval, the funds will be sent directly from Central Pines Regional Council to Resources for Seniors, Inc., and Meals on Wheels of Wake County.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 4: By 2029, three out of four residents asked will indicate low barriers to accessing benefits and assistance programs and resources, such as food and utilities, childcare, employment services, housing, etc.

Fiscal Impact: The \$4,579,952 apportionment will be sent directly from Central Pines Regional Council to Resources for Seniors, Inc., and Meals on Wheels of Wake County. The FY 2025 County Funding Plan for the HCCBG requires a local match of \$508,884. The total match requirement is appropriated in the Wake County Health and Human Services General Fund FY 2025 budget for project participation.

Additional Information:

The allocations per county have been carried forward from FY 2024 funding from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Aging and Adult Services. It is important to note that final allocations may not be received until after this agenda item is submitted, and Wake County may be responsible for a small adjustment upward in local matching dollars once final allocations are released. A total of \$4,579,952 has been apportioned for Wake County for fiscal year 2025. Wake County does not operate as a pass-through agent for these funds. Agencies receive their designated allocations directly from Central Pines Regional Council. However, the County does match each of these allocations with local dollars. The County's total current share

of the match is \$508,884. The funds have been identified in the Human Services' fiscal year 2025 proposed budget. The breakdown per agency currently is as follows:

Agency	HCCBG Funds	County Match Requirement	Total Funding	Projected HCCBG Clients
Meals on Wheels of Wake County	\$1,850,883	\$205,654	\$2,056,537	2,667
Resources for Seniors, Inc.	\$2,729,069	\$303,230	\$3,032,299	13,424
Total	\$4,579,952	\$508,884	\$5,088,836	16,091

The HCCBG grant and the County's matching contribution have enabled Resources for Seniors, Inc. and Meals on Wheels of Wake County to serve 15,700 people in fiscal year 2024 throughout Wake County. Additionally, Resources for Seniors, Inc. and Meals on Wheels of Wake County has leveraged other grant funding and fundraising sources to increase the number of people served and clear existing waitlists. A distribution of the services provided in fiscal year 2024 through March 31, 2024, is shown in the charts below:

Resources for Seniors, Inc.:

Service	Clients Served July 1, 2022 – April 31, 2023	Clients Served July 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024
Overnight Respite	10	8
Senior Center Operations	6,104	6,717
In-Home Aide (all types)	159	163
Adult Day Care and Day Health	69	66
Information and Referral	5,487	6047
Transportation (Grocery Shopping and Meal Site only)	82	71
Housing and Home Improvement (Ramps / Hot H2O Heaters)	42	39
Total	11,953	13,111

Meals on Wheels of Wake County:

Block Grant Service	Clients Served July 1, 2022 – April 31, 2023	Clients Served July 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024
Home Delivered Meals	954	1,794
Congregate Meals	2,250	795
Total	3,204	2,589

The table below displays the HCCBG funds allocated to Wake County for the past five years and the estimated amount for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 funding period:

Fiscal Year	2024 - 2025	2023 - 2024	2022 - 2023	2021 - 2022	2020 - 2021	2019 - 2020
HCCBG Allocation	\$4,579,952	\$4,446,247	\$4,314,358	\$4,291,066	\$3,919,260	\$3,847,595

The rate of growth in the 60+ population in Wake County is outpacing all other groups. Without the County's commitment to match these funds with local dollars, the funding would not come to residents of Wake County. Due to Wake County's population growth outpacing most other regions of the state, and the percentage of that growth that includes persons ages 60 and older, Wake County previously received a small increase in allocation year over year, even when no additional dollars are allocated to the funding stream statewide. However, due to the population growth in other municipalities in North Carolina, the fiscal year 2025 proposed allocation is anticipated to include either a nominal increase or remain flat as the full allocations have not yet been determined and released from the NC DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services.

The need for home (In-Home Aide) and community-based (classes, workshops, support groups and resource fairs offered at Adult Day Care) services by older adults continues to grow exponentially and is influential in allowing older adults to delay long term care placement. However, the increased cost of and demand for these services are putting downward pressure on service levels in some of the most important categories. These fundings are supporting more unduplicated older adults annually.

Attachments:

1. 2024-2025 Home and Community Care Block Grant Materials