

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate Grant Funding from the John Rex Endowment

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts grant funding totaling \$50,000 from the John Rex Foundation and appropriates the revenues and expenditures into the Grants and Donations Fund.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates all grant funds.

Background: The County's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) aims to support community organizations implementing the Raleigh Chamber's *Blueprint to Dismantle Systemic Racism*. The County will use grant funds from the John Rex Foundation to contract consultants. The consultants will "train the trainers," building staff capacity to train private and public sector organizations in building race equity action plans. Participating organizations may include the County's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), financial institutions, and nonprofits that participated in developing the Chamber's *Blueprint*. The consultants will also provide technical assistance on implementation and community engagement efforts.

Strategic Plan: This action directly supports Foundations for Service Goal 3: By 2029, 10% more residents will agree that Wake County provides high-quality, fair, and equitable services.

Fiscal Impact: This action will accept and appropriate \$50,000 into the Grants and Donations. No County match is required.

Additional Information:

The John Rex Foundation is providing the County with \$50,000 to pilot new community engagement models. The project is scheduled to begin in Fall 2024.

Specifically, funds will be used to build County staff capacity to effectively engage the community and organizations to accelerate race equity in practices, policies, and programs. This strategy is critical to address recommendations from the Raleigh Chamber's *Blueprint to Dismantle Systemic Racism* report. To do so, staff will use funding to:

- Hire consultant (Emerging Equity) to support County staff capacity, which includes:
 - Developing readiness assessment tool for organizations interested in advancing race equity;
 - Co-leading community listening sessions to gather input on perceptions of race inequities;

- Developing a Race Equity Action Plan template and implementation tool;
- Designing and facilitating wellness workshops and other resources for equity practitioners across the County; and
- Designing and hosting organizational training workshops focused on utilizing new racial equity-focused strategies and templates.
- Develop marketing materials (brochures, banners) to increase awareness of countywide race equity efforts and opportunities to engage.

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo – FY2025 Grants and Donations Fund