



Memorandum

To: Board of Commissioners HHS Committee
From: Antonia Pedroza and Brooke Blanton, Wake County Social Services
Date: August 25, 2025
Re: Home and Community Care Block Grant

The Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults is a combination of federal and state monies made available to the local community from the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services. The allocation is used to provide services such as home-delivered and congregate meals, in-home aide, transportation, case assistance, overnight respite care, adult day care/adult day health care, Information-Referral-Options Counseling, housing and home improvement, caregiver respite and others.

Federal law requires that the local County jurisdiction approves the plans on how the funds will be allocated. Once approved the funds are processed to Central Pines Regional Council (Area Council on Aging for this region) and then to Resources for Seniors, Inc. (RFS) and Meals on Wheels (MOW) of Wake County. By agreement of the Wake County Board of Commissioners and Wake County Human Services, Resources for Seniors serves as the Lead Agency for the Home and Community Care Block Grant in Wake County.

Resources for Seniors (RFS) was designated as the lead agency for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) in 1996, prior to 1996 the responsibility was shared between Wake County and RFS. If this designation was not made by the County Commissioners, Wake County Social Services would be responsible for creating the HCCBG funding plan, maintaining an intake service and waiting list process to accept referrals and screen potential clients, contracting with approximately 9 In Home Aid agencies, 2 transportation vendors, and 9 Adult Day Care/Day Health providers; 5 local municipalities for Senior Center services, and the Central Pine Regional Council. Staff would need to be hired to enroll clients, authorize services, review monthly billing, reconcile budgets and pay invoices. The lead agency of the block grant takes an enormous amount of programmatic and administrative investment. Since the block grant provides both nutrition and a list of other community services, Meals on Wheels of Wake County is designated by the lead agency to manage the portion of funds allocated to nutrition programs.



The HCCBG funding is a collection of federal and state monies, including Older American's Act funds, and other appropriations targeted towards older adults. NC decided to combine these various funding streams with state appropriations for the aging population, into one block grant. Local governments are required to contribute a 10% match to access the block Grant funds. The HCCBG is the single largest funding stream supporting community-based services for older adults in the State of NC. The allocation totals are driven by a flat amount per county, and then multipliers for the number of residents over age 60, the percentage of those 60+ individuals living in poverty, and the percentage of those individuals living in rural/underserved areas.

The need for home and community-based services continues to grow exponentially and the rate of growth in the 60+ population in our county is outpacing all other groups. Without the county's commitment to matching these funds with local dollars, the funding would not come to residents of Wake County.

While all older adults ages 60 and over are eligible for services, sec. 305(a)(2)(E) of the Older Americans Act requires programs to target services to older individuals with the greatest economic and social need , (with particular attention to low-income older adults, including low-income minority older adults, older adults with limited English proficiency , and older adults residing in rural areas). The community service provider (RFS and MOW) shall specify how these service needs will be met through the services identified on the Provider Services Summary (DAAS-732) narrative.

Outreach Methodologies for Resources for Seniors and Meals on Wheels are provided below.

Resources for Seniors Outreach Methodology:

Last year, 58% of Resources for Seniors service units funded by the HCCBG were provided to low-income individuals or minorities, with considerable overlap between the two. The agency will continue to issue public service announcements regarding the availability of services with emphasis on target populations listed above. In FY25, RFS continued partnerships with local organizations focused on reaching older adults and families who have limited English proficiency, and they will continue to promote their services with those groups. RFS utilizes an in-house speaker's bureau in which presentations are made to diverse groups across the county, both urban and rural. Service information will be made available at Wake County's 8 senior centers and at RFS' Total Life Centers, several of which are in rural Wake County. RFS has established programming agreements and contractual relationships with multiple affordable housing complexes, community organizations, and Wake County Social Services. RFS literature



is widely circulated among agencies and other service providers. Any Wake County resident may receive a free copy of their Resource Directory.

RFS is the care management entity for the Medicaid waiver program, CAP/DA and provides service coordination services to 28 HUD section 202 or similarly funded elderly housing developments in Wake County. The agency will continue to utilize all current means available to make known the services to the eligible population within Wake County and will take advantage of new opportunities as they develop brochures and "open houses/office hours" continue to take place at community centers and at some Social Service Centers. The agency engages in a translation service to help their staff communicate effectively with older adults, caregivers and members of the public interested in learning about their programs or accessing them.

The agency has been focused on hiring dual-language instructors and expanding the virtual component of classes and service offerings to meet the needs of individuals who may not attend a service location. The expansion of the agency's ability to reach targeted populations continues to grow.

MOW Outreach Methodology:

To meet the needs of low income and minority elderly citizens in Wake County for both congregate and home delivered meals, Meals on Wheels will continue to target this population for its services in the following ways:

1. Flyers and bulletin inserts will be made available to faith communities throughout Wake County. Flyers with information on how to apply will be sent to rural and minority faith communities as well as placed in all outreach materials.
2. Locations and times for service for the nutrition centers will be posted in appropriate venues throughout Wake County. Information concerning services will be posted with the Raleigh Housing Authority. Information on nutrition services is available in the Resources for Seniors Directory of Services for Older Adults and on the MOW website. The information is also available through NCCare360.
3. Information on Nutrition Services is on file at area hospitals, doctors' offices and in-home health service providers. Every effort is made to keep such information current.



In summary, Resources for Seniors continues to do an excellent job as the lead agency for the Home and Community Care Block Grant. The services they provide via the HCCBG funding and required local county match is invaluable and impacted the lives of approximately 12,342 Wake County Citizens in FY25. Services provided by MOW in FY25 allowed home delivered meals to 1,857 citizens and provided 687 congregate meals.