

Department	Project Name	Project Description	Board Goal Key Focus Areas	Describe how the project would enhance/improve your department’s ability to provide service.	How does this project help the County mitigate community, service, or economic impacts that resulted from the pandemic? (Please limit response to 100 words or less)	Describe how the project would support the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Behavioral Health	Coming Home - Supportive housing for justice involved individuals with behavioral health challenges	Serve up to 20 justice involved persons utilizing community based housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual or family stay housed and live a more productive life in the community with no time limitation as long as they follow the requirements of their lease. Services would be administered by Alliance Health's provider network and funded by Wake County for a two year pilot.	Community Health and Vitality;	Provide housing stability and an appropriate array of supportive services to individuals with barriers to housing that may go homeless otherwise and stand a high probability of reoffending.	Increases housing stability for vulnerable populations that often have high utilization of crisis services and criminal justice services.	In Wake County, homelessness disproportionately impacts our minority populations with 67% of homeless individuals in the 2020 Point in Time count identifying as African America. In a 2017 study of the Wake County jail population, 61% of individuals booked in the jail were African American. In 2019 census data, 20% of Wake County's total population is Black of African American. This effort, while not limited by race, is designed to reduce recidivism and support the complex needs of formerly incarcerated, homeless individuals with behavioral health disorders.
Behavioral Health	Supportive Housing for Post-Incarceration Individuals with a Perinatal Substance Use Disorder	UNC Horizons Program at Wake currently receives block grant funding from Alliance to provide comprehensive substance use treatment for pregnant and parenting women in Wake Co. and surrounding counties. The purpose of this proposal is to request a non-licensed stable housing site for pregnant and postpartum women so that safekeepers upon their release from jail can continue to have access to physical and behavioral health services post-incarceration. The focus of the pilot is to fill in the need for post-release housing that will lead to long-term positive health outcomes for the mother-baby. Proposal includes five housing units, furnishings and a case manager for a two-year period.	Community Health and Vitality;Public Safety;	This funding would support a targeted program for vulnerable moms and their babies that struggle to access stable housing to support their ongoing recovery and maternal responsibilities. There is currently not a targeted resource focused on this need.	Addresses housing insecurity and community support for vulnerable residents - formerly incarcerated new moms with substance use disorders	This initiative supports the elimination of barriers to support equitable opportunities for pregnant or post-partum women with a history of incarceration. and a substance use disorder.
Behavioral Health	Education Campaign for Accessing Behavioral Health Services	Conduct a targeted marketing/educational campaign to increase community awareness on how to access available behavioral health services with specific messages aimed toward youth, uninsured individuals, historically marginalized communities and individuals in need of crisis services.	Community Health and Vitality;	Knowing how or when to access behavioral health services is often an impediment to individuals getting the care the need at the level they need. This then often results in situations escalating to a crisis or going untreated with consequences that can include hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness and avoidable poor health outcomes. As the mental health crisis worsens, helping individuals learn how to access services could help our community hospitals, crisis responders, families and community providers.	Our EMS is impacted by high volumes of behavioral health related calls that could potentially be diverted to community providers. Our hospitals do not provider behavioral health care yet are seeing high volumes of behavioral health patients that need to access services differently. Our behavioral health partners indicate they are currently seeing a lot of folks with first time behavioral health conditions - an effective educational campaign could help get them directed to the right level of service for their situation.	Part of the marketing/educational effort would be to target individuals in specified census tracts that have a high utilization of crisis services, are historically marginalized or have limited or no insurance coverage.
Board of Commissioners	Wake County Innovation Corridor	The Digital Workforce Hubs @ Shaw & Dubois Campuses will equitably address the digital divide in Wake County. The project is built on directly training and connecting NC residents with high paying digital careers and employment opportunities. The project will increase awareness and improve digital literacy for all. The Digital Workforce Hub will provide (at no cost to participants) digital workforce training programs to deliver fast-track certification-level training in marketable digital skills. The HUBs are strengthened around the needs of the community, this ensures that each individual has admission to their full level of competence in their Job Development, Training, Telework, Education, Telehealth, and Digital Exposure.	Great Government;Economic Strength;Education;	Each center will deliver:: Digital Workforce Training Programs - Digital training and certifications, and Training individuals in work-ready skills and up-training local businesses to become more efficient and effective in the digital marketplace Digital Workforce Trade Organization - provide ongoing training, upskilling, and community amongst Digital Workers and provides access to health care for individuals and their families Digital BPO - Business Processing and Outsourcing organization - Connecting graduates of Workforce Training Center to remote digital jobs and creates sustainable model Deliver: \$653,768,900 in new wages 55 new businesses in 10 years 11% increase to current workforce (4,615 new workers added)	To address the basic digital literacy skills gap, we will also develop alongside the first physical hub, a Virtual/Online Hub to include a repository of training designed to equip adult learners with skills needed to function in a digital society. The Wake County Digital Workforce Hub (Hub) will provide (at no cost to participants) digital workforce training programs to deliver fast-track certification-level training in skills such as Salesforce.com, data entry & analysis, website, graphic design, data analytics, and other in-demand digital skills that are not tied to a particular location (work from anywhere)	For decades, splintered programs have attempted to stem the Digital Divide, which is a complex 3-part problem: digital skills training, affordability & connectivity. It’s time for a new playbook that combines improving livelihoods while lowering societal costs - this is accomplished by looking at the solution and opportunity as a Sociotechnical System (society + technology). Digital equity requires more than delivering quality service to under-connected communities; we must cement our investments in those communities by curating, delivering and incentivizing digital equity. To accomplish this goal, Digital Workforce Hubs will provide quality programming, a supportive community, and services to maximize opportunities for all.

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CAWD	Small Business Workforce Development	<p>This project funds three areas supporting small business workforce development: On-The-Job (OJT) Training, Work-Based Learning, and Incumbent Worker Training. One result of the pandemic was a decline in the number of small businesses participating in workforce development programs in PY20. While these programs exist today, this project targets support to small businesses who do not meet the rigid criteria of the programs such as the minimum of 3 employees or \$16/hour wages. This project supports all small businesses, including those that are in the early stages of a business.</p> <p>Due to the tight labor market, employee attraction and retention is of paramount concern to small business owners. When businesses implement training programs, it shows employees they are valued which ultimately increases productivity and retention. For OJT agreements approved under this project, businesses will receive reimbursement up to 75% of an employee’s wages during training. This will provide jobseekers who may not possess all the required skills the opportunity to learn while on the job.</p> <p>To address retention and upskilling, business owners leverage Incumbent Worker Training to motivate and retain their workforce through learning and development. Businesses will receive up to \$10,000 to train existing staff.</p>	Economic Strength;	CAWD saw a decline in the number of small businesses served in PY20 resulting from the pandemic. Since worker training is funded on an annual basis, this represents a lost opportunity for Wake County small businesses. With this project’s funding, CAWD will be able to address that lost opportunity and accelerate small business support.	During the pandemic, there was a decline in the number of small businesses participating in the workforce training programs. Since there is limited funding each year for programs, an infusion of limited time funds will assist these businesses as they work to rebound with the economy. This training assistance supports talent attraction, development, productivity and retention- all of which is critical to small businesses during a tight labor market.	This project is designed to support the overall BOC’s Economic Strength goal to provide opportunities for prosperity to every resident. It directly supports the BOC’s Economic Strength goals 3.1 and 3.2. The funds from this project will be utilized to support small businesses with a priority focus on those businesses owned by minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. Connecting these owners with training funds that assist them in developing and retaining their workforce will help them grow their business.
CAWD	Micro Business Development – Entrepreneurship Initiative	<p>This project seeks to build out a more robust Entrepreneurship program through the addition of one staff person, website, and support materials.</p> <p>As CAWD develops and launches a comprehensive model to support entrepreneurs at every stage from idea to expansion, this staff member will become the point person for these initiatives. In addition to its administration, this staff member will also provide support to entrepreneurs who may need extra assistance in taking their next step.</p> <p>Existing resource websites don’t take the business stage or type of business into consideration which prompts an entrepreneur to contact every resource in the directory. Our website will be interactive, prompting the user to select the current stage of their idea or business and the type of support they are seeking, such as funding, training, legal or planning and return information specific to their request. The result is a focused group of resources for the entrepreneur that most closely aligns to their needs. This eliminates frustration and lost time, allowing the user to move forward more efficiently. Outreach materials will be used for targeted efforts and for those with limited internet access.</p>	Economic Strength;	<p>Service would significantly improve through the addition of a knowledgeable, dedicated staff person and digital resource. In addition to being available to career center clients who are seeking entrepreneurship, this individual would also be responsible for outreach efforts to increase the program’s effectiveness and increase supporting agencies. The website will provide an immediate and relevant resource list for those entrepreneurs with a clear idea on their next step. Printed materials will also be distributed as part of an outreach strategy.</p> <p>The dedicated staff person, website and tools will expand the services we currently provide to the residents of Wake County.</p>	Entrepreneurship was and continues to be a career choice for some Wake County residents in response to the pandemic. When COVID-19 forced furloughs, layoffs, and business closures, people responded by starting small businesses in droves. According to a Salesforce survey, some founders started from scratch while others expanded what they were already doing on the side. There are a number of those who would like to explore self-employment as a career and this initiative will provide them resources to assist them in doing so.	<p>This initiative directly supports BOC’s Economic Strength 3.2 goal to support small business creation and successful entrepreneurship. This project provides support and a roadmap to individuals interested in starting a business. Many individuals have the desire to start a business, but do not have the experience or connections to make it happen, particularly those who have recently lost employment or from vulnerable communities.</p> <p>This project also supports Economic Strength 3.1 goal; it will target minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and socially and economically challenged individuals as potential entrepreneurs connecting them to NCWorks for business services support.</p>

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CAWD	CAWD NCWorks/NextGen Career Center (NCWCC/NGCC) System Innovation Project	<p>This project will serve job seekers and youth in the Capital Area NCWorks and NextGen Career Centers. The goals of this project are to:</p> <p>This project will serve job seekers and youth in the Capital Area NCWorks and NextGen Career Centers. The goals of this project is to Invest in updating and purchasing new innovative technology to improve services and resources in the NCWorks and NextGen Centers (iPads, intercom system for safety and workshop announcements, security system, new technology to help facilitate virtual workshops, conference calls, etc., a mobile career center unit and staff to provide services in vulnerable communities, virtual reality for real life occupational experiences, interactive artificial intelligence platform for customer engagement, and chrome books & hot spots to loan to job seekers).</p> <p>This project will help us serve and reach individuals from historically marginalized communities (low-income communities, people of color disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and persons that have been unemployed or underemployed for an extended period or who have exhausted Unemployment Insurance programs). CAWD has recently identified vulnerable communities, where there are high unemployment rates, high poverty rates, and low high school graduation rates, to focus on during this time.</p>	Economic Strength;Great Government;	CAWD is seeking to enhance and incorporate new strategies to better serve the unemployed, underemployed, individuals from historically marginalized areas including youth. This includes updating antiquated equipment and purchasing new equipment for the NCWCC/NGCC and for customers who lack technology at home. During the pandemic, technology enhancements, software, a mobile unit, and additional staffing are critical to their success. The tailored career development, training resources, and scholarships provided at the NCWCC/NGCC help support economic mobility and allow individuals to make a better life for themselves and their families. Ultimately, they can become successful in higher-waged careers.	CAWD has experience in helping jobseekers and youth retrain and start new careers. However, those who lost their jobs during the pandemic face additional barriers. This program uses the strategies that have been successful in the past and adds new strategies to address the challenges specific to this population. CAWD surveyed laid off workers in Wake and Johnston Counties and found that some of their biggest barriers were fear of exposure to COVID in the workplace, childcare demands, transportation, and the need for upskilling. Despite these challenges and uncertainties, nearly 75% said they wanted to return to work.	CAWD aligns with the county’s goals for diversity, equity and inclusion across race, gender, age, religion, identity and experience. It is reflected in the population we serve, as well as among staffing. The project provides career and training activities such as career awareness, scholarships for education and training, as well as support services with equal access to customers. This project will develop and expand virtual tools to provide additional outreach, resources, career skills, and career exploration. A comprehensive outreach campaign will be implemented to reach jobseekers across the service area, with a particular focus on vulnerable communities.
CAWD	Capital Area NCWorks/NextGen Employment and Mental Health Project	The COVID-19 Pandemic created previously unseen disruptions to employment throughout Wake County. The goal of this project is to reach those most adversely impacted by the pandemic and provide the support they need to retrain, reset, and be successful in higher-waged careers. The mental stress of unemployment has been compounded by the stress of the pandemic. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey from December 2020 found that 42 percent of Americans reported experiencing anxiety or depression, a major increase from the 11 percent in 2019. Long-term unemployment coupled with the wide-spread anxiety from the pandemic could have major mental health repercussions on job seekers and hurt their ability to secure and sustain long-term employment. To meet these challenges, in addition to the employment assistance provided through the NCWorks and NextGen Centers, the project will provide two clinical social workers housed in the Centers to help individuals manage the stress of unemployment and prepare for new careers. This support may just be job coaching and goal setting or it could be more intensive mental health support to address the stress from long-term unemployment. We continue to see a rising increase in the need for it since the pandemic.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;	While CAWD has experience in helping dislocated workers and other jobseekers retrain and start new careers; those who lost their jobs during the pandemic face additional barriers. The COVID-19 crisis has created economic upheaval unlike any seen since the Great Depression, and Americans will face continued job uncertainty and stress. Psychological interventions will be essential for helping people cope. With the two clinical social workers added to the services available in the NCWorks and NextGen Centers, we will be able to assist job seekers onsite directly deal with the mental challenges they are facing in their job search.	The pandemic has exasperated mental health challenges individuals are facing. In order for job seekers to seek and obtain employment and be successful, they need to address all of the barriers they are facing, including their mental health. Addressing the mental health issues, they can return to work and once again be productive citizens in the community. While we have tried to connect to mental health organizations to provide staff onsite to help individuals with their mental health issues, these attempts have been unsuccessful. Being onsite is critical for our customers to remove additional barriers to assessing these services.	The design of this project recognizes the challenges of individuals laid off during the pandemic. When you start looking at who is unemployed, it is people in the service industry, which is disproportionately women and people of color who are more likely to live in vulnerable communities. It is the goal of this project to serve anyone who needs mental health support to be successful in their job search. This focus on mental health will also improve the overall health and well-being of our community. By providing mental health services CAWD can meet the needs of a wider range of citizens.

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CAWD	NextGen Youth Career Exploration Project	<p>The Capital Area NextGen Youth Career Exploration project will provide youth in Wake County the tools and resources to explore different careers. The project is comprised of different components as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Creation of a Registered Apprenticeship Program (IT Focused) – Capital Area will develop a pre-apprenticeship program in the IT field where youth between the ages of 16-24 combine academic and technical classroom instruction with work experience and advancement to an apprenticeship program.- NextGen Center Setup - Capital Area just moved the NextGen Center into a larger space for more youth activities and services. Funds will be used to upfit the location with furniture and equipment to better serve the youth, including computer desks and updated tablets.- Career Exploration Assessment Tool – Capital Area will explore various career exploration assessment tools that have proven to be beneficial to youth in researching different career fields and determine which one is best for them.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;	Capital Area just relocated the NextGen Center in Wake County to a larger facility to provide more activities and services to youth on site. Workforce Investment and Innovation Act Youth funding has decreased over several years. Since 2015, Capital Area’s funding has been reduced by \$558,553. With the cost of the move, and funding cuts, we can’t afford the additional furniture, and equipment to upgrade the Center at this time with the resources needed for career exploration. This project will provide the youth with the updated resources needed to conduct their career exploration.	Youth & COVID-19: Impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being article by the International Labor Organization, “Even before the onset of the crisis, the social and economic integration of young people was an ongoing challenge. Unless urgent action is taken, young people are likely to suffer severe and long-lasting impacts from the pandemic. 17% of youth who were employed before the outbreak, stopped working altogether, most notably younger workers aged 18–24, and those in clerical support, services, sales, and related trades.” Implementing these components will assist in not only getting youth back to work but in self-sustaining careers.	The design of this project recognizes the challenges of youth who are doing career exploration during the pandemic environment. It is the goal of this project to serve any youth who needs assistance with their career exploration to help them choose a career pathway where they can be successful. CAWDB has always served our youth with a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The largest percentage of youth currently served in our program come from Wake County vulnerable communities.
CAWD	Capital Area Digital First Outreach	<p>Government agencies tend to operate behind the times when it comes to marketing and outreach as there is typically little funding. When combined with the vast size of the Wake County market and multiple audience segments (vulnerable communities, youth, small business owners, adult job seekers and career builders), effective outreach can be challenging. Workforce services and programs are among the region’s “best-kept secrets” because people can’t take advantage of things they don’t know about. The goal of Digital First is to utilize some of the newest digital marketing tools to pinpoint how and where people look online for information about what our programs and services can fulfill.</p> <p>Digital First might include search-result advertising like PPC. An informational ad will show at the top of search results when a user searches for a particular keyword or phrase. Or unicast promos/videos that play like a TV commercial over steaming apps, today’s alternative to higher-cost cable TV. The most advantageous thing about digital marketing is the ability to quickly determine effectiveness, then do more of what works and make adjustments to what doesn’t.</p>	Economic Strength;Growth and Sustainability;	The nature of 2020 has forced all organizations to think long and hard about how they connect with their customers. Business closures and stay-at-home orders resulted in people spending more time online so we must create more ways of reaching them. Even those without internet own smartphones. Digital marketing, which considers people’s online browsing habits, locations, and other data points, will allow us to share relevant program information to very specific audiences that need it. This could be those in vulnerable communities, those who frequent job sites, anyone searching small business information, or even by age.	The pandemic’s effect on jobs has many households and businesses in distress with many not knowing where to turn or who to turn to for help. CAWD’s jobseeker and business resources can be accessed at no cost so that individuals don’t have to sacrifice their limited funds to get what they need to improve their situation. Individuals can earn valuable industry certifications and access education and training to propel them to the next level. Businesses can save thousands in recruiting, hiring and training expenses. But not if they don’t know our resources exist.	CAWD already aligns with county DEI goals. Not only is it reflected in our customer base, but also within our department. The use of digital marketing techniques will allow us to further DEI goals by making sure that underrepresented groups are targeted for messaging which in turn will provide equal access to programs and services that create economic opportunity.

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CAWD	Wake Local Reentry Council Expansion Plan	<p>The proposed plan will expand the services of the Council to both serve more clients and to expand the types of services. The current Council has a council coordinator and general reentry case manager. This expansion would include two specialized case managers, one to serve the Detention Center and one to provide more behavioral health support. The expansion will also include a full-time reentry manager to provide leadership and direction, a community resource specialist to develop community resources--especially housing, and Employer Engagement Specialist to develop offender friendly career opportunities with family-sustaining wages.</p> <p>While the staff are vital to the expansion, providing more support to clients will help provide stability. The project will also include funds to assist with housing, transportation, basic needs, and medicine. Clients will be connected to education and training that leads to better employment. For clients that don't qualify for scholarships or other supports, funds will be available for their tuition, books, tools, and supplies. Additional community support will be provided through a mentoring program and a small grant program for community partners that work with returning citizens.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Public Safety;	CAWD has a strategic goal to assist the untapped workforce in gaining the skills, competencies and credentials required for in-demand, family-supporting careers. Returning citizens are a primary untapped population that needs additional support to attain family-supporting careers. This project will provide the support that returning citizens need to become stable, become part of their community, develop additional skills, and obtain a job with a future. Additional staff and support services will reach more returning citizens and provide the targeted support they need to successfully reenter society and employment.	The pandemic created even more barriers for returning citizens than they already faced. Simply accessing services was limited by the pandemic. Housing providers have had to limit the number they can serve to provide for social distancing. Many returning citizens lost jobs in the retail, lodging, and hospitality industries. Some also contracted COVID or faced mental or physical impacts from the stress. While some of these conditions have improved since the height of the pandemic, the effects are still felt. This program will work with those impacted by the pandemic to assist with housing, healthcare, retraining, and employment.	This proposal directly addresses BOC Strategy PS 2.3 to implement reentry strategies for returning citizens. Inclusion in Wake County goes beyond serving individuals from diverse backgrounds, but by valuing their experiences and contributions. Given the appropriate services and community support, returning citizens can make significant contributions to the workplace and their communities. The clients, staff, and the community partners engaged represent the diversity of Wake County. The Council is committed to actively including individuals and organizations from diverse backgrounds and experiences. This goal will ensure that services are determined and delivered appropriately to meet the needs of our diverse clients.
Community Services	Construction of New Rolesville Community Library	<p>Rolesville has grown faster than any town in the State of North Carolina over the last ten years. It is the only municipality in the county without a library in its jurisdiction. The library would house a book collection of approximately 50,000 volumes, a public Wi-Fi network and twelve to sixteen public computers providing internet access, printing, and copying. A public program area will allow space to offer between ten to twenty weekly programs for children focusing on school readiness, teens centering on leadership and preparation for college and adults including professional services such as job search assistance and technology tutoring.</p>	Education;Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	Wake County Public Libraries are committed to removing barriers to service and making library services more accessible to all residents. Part of that commitment is a goal of having a library within a ten-minute drive of every Wake County resident, and building a library in a community as rapidly growing as Rolesville would go a long way towards meeting that goal. Besides being more convenient for the people of Rolesville, reducing their reliance on libraries in Knightdale or Wake Forest it would reduce traffic between these communities and improve the customer experience at nearby libraries.	As Rolesville is the only Wake County municipality without a library in their jurisdiction, this library would help connect the community with library services that can help recover from the effects of the pandemic including Level Up, which helps high school students apply for college, Get That Job which helps with resumes and job searches, other programs and services for children and adults, and public computers, wi-fi and printing.	This meets County goals by improving library access in one of the parts of the county where patrons must travel the furthest to access library programs and services and offering a more inclusive and equitable experience for the Rolesville community. Our studies have shown that people use libraries more frequently if they are within a 10 minute drive time. A community library would support the community and provide books and services to new patrons.
Community Services	Wake County Public Libraries Literacy Vans	<p>Wake County Public Libraries would like to acquire four vans to provide mobile library programs and services throughout the County providing mobile book services to communities with the greatest needs.</p> <p>These vehicles would be more versatile and better suited for urban landscapes than our current bookmobile, as well as reaching a wider audience than the more youth-focused bookmobile. Each van would be staffed and be equipped to promote the love of reading and life-long learning, as well as to provide services such as the innovative Every Family Ready to Achieve initiative.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Education;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	These vans would greatly improve our ability to raise awareness and to provide a sampling of library services to people who are currently unaware of what we offer or are unable to consistently visit libraries. In particular, these vans would help us to reach underserved communities such as Wake County’s rapidly growing Latinx community, communities that are economically disadvantaged, and senior communities who have been cut off from much of the rest of their community by the pandemic, and in particular, have had a harder time accessing library materials and services due to their increased health risks.	These vans would increase the library’s ability to reach out and provide services to some of the communities that were hardest-hit by the pandemic, particularly the Latinx community and seniors, as well as the disadvantaged communities that were the most adversely affected by the closing of the libraries and being unable to access library resources during the pandemic.	These vans would be specifically dedicated to providing programs, services, and library outreach to some of the most economically at risk and socially disadvantaged communities, dramatically improving the library’s ability to reach the people who need our services the most. By increasing awareness of the library of library programs such as EFRA and helping to lessen the education and reading gap created by the pandemic, this will help the entire system be more responsive to the needs of the community and more inclusive to all of the people of Wake County.

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Community Services	Construction of Beech Bluff County Park	<p>Beech Bluff County Park will be located in the southeast corner of Wake County adjacent to the towns of Garner and Fuquay-Varina. Construction could begin on the park in 2021, with an anticipated opening date of 2022.</p> <p>In August 2019, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the master plan for the property and officially named it "Beech Bluff County Park." The 300 acres of undeveloped forests, wetlands, steam channels and rock outcrops that make up the project were previously referred to as Southeast County Park.</p>	Growth and Sustainability;	<p>Wake County’s 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified an unmet need for County Park facilities and services in southeastern Wake County, and in 2004 the County began acquiring land for a County Park. The identified park site is along Middle Creek in an area of unique topography, with significant wetlands and wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Since 2004, the County has acquired over 300 acres for the park. At its January 7, 2019 meeting the Board of Commissioners made the development of this park its number one priority project from the 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation, and Open Space (PGROS) bond.</p> <p>Regarding #6 below- that funding is in addition to the budgeted project costs currently in the capital plan that will mitigate the anticipated shortfall due to a 20%-25% increase in construction costs.</p> <p>Regarding #7 below- For clarification, If request for funds is approved, no additional recurring costs beyond what is already planned will be added.</p>	<p>During the COVID pandemic, Wake County Parks Recreation & Open Space saw its visitation jump 24% to over 1.6 million visitors at its ten locations, and this increase shows no signs of abating. The desire and demand from people to get outside and recreate has put increased pressure on existing park resources and staff. Providing additional venues and opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment are critical for our community’s quality of life.</p>	<p>Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for our diverse community. We value inclusion across race, color, national origin, gender identity, age, religion, sex, disability and experience, and strive to reflect the diversity of our community.</p>
Community Services	Replacement of Athens Drive Community Library	<p>The Athens Drive Community Library is currently located inside of the Athens Drive High School. Neither Wake County nor Wake County Public School System staff like this arrangement. From the School Systems perspective having a public facility open to anyone inside of a school is a significant security issue. From the Library staff perspective, this facility significantly underperforms in comparison to other branches in the system primarily due to many people in the community not feeling comfortable going into a high school to use the library.</p> <p>The new library would offer a book collection of approximately 50,000 volumes, a public Wi-Fi network, and twelve to sixteen public computers providing internet access, printing, and copying. A public program area will allow space to offer between ten to twenty weekly programs for children focusing on school readiness, teens centering on leadership and preparation for college and adults including professional services such as job search assistance and technology tutoring.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Education;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	<p>A new freestanding library would result in a greater percentage of the citizens in the surrounding community using the library due to it being more visible and increasing the comfort level of many in using the facility. The increased use of a library in this community would significantly reduce our cost per unit of service delivered while at the same time increase the number of people who use the library.</p>	<p>Because of the library’s location within a public high school, the pandemic has significantly impacted its operation. To keep the student population as safe as possible the library is only open during limited hours on weekdays and weekends. This has an impact on the accessibility of library service to those in the community and has essentially eliminated most of our children programming since those programs are done weekday mornings.</p>	<p>The Wake County Community Vulnerability Index has identified much of the area served by the Athens Drive library to be a “red” status. Having a library that is more easily accessible to the public would be a significant benefit to the community and would allow the County to provide targeted services to members of our community who would benefit the most from the services we can provide.</p>
Community Services	Wake County GIS Data Acquisition – Complete LiDAR Dataset	<p>Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data is a Countywide data asset that can be used for tree canopy analysis and support projects in Community Services’ Planning, Development and Inspections (PDI) and Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) divisions. This dataset would also support projects in Environmental Services. The county last obtained LiDAR in 2013. Having an updated dataset will support the aforementioned departments and enable organizations in the Public Health arena to better analyze access to greenspace and recreation as a “prescription” for health; measuring and tracking changes to the environment in order to prioritize greenspaces and development that will benefit the public.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;	<p>As Wake County experiences continued growth and development, LiDAR data will aid PDI in establishing a baseline assessment and making data driven decisions surrounding tree canopy. This project will also help to address citizen concerns surrounding this subject matter. LiDAR data supports Environmental Services’ Stormwater and Wastewater management and analysis efforts specifically related to hydrologic evaluations, flood reviews and septic systems; impacting the ability for Wake County to better understand trends, predict and improve services.</p>	<p>As residents have spent more time at home during the pandemic, local needs and their physical environment have become of greater importance and priority. While housing demands remain high in Wake County, LiDAR data and its use in tree canopy analysis can positively impact preservation or expansion of trees to be planted within existing communities as well as development efforts in new neighborhoods.</p> <p>LiDAR data can be used to assist with siting park amenities (buildings, playgrounds, trails, etc.) and evaluating open space acquisitions; aiding in the identification and maintenance of healthy environments for adults, children and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Tree canopy disparity is more prevalent in low-income areas. LiDAR data helps to better understand these disparities in vulnerable communities, impact policy and increase the creation of tree canopies in these areas; thereby, reducing an equity divide.•LiDAR data supports PROS planning and management efforts. As new park or open space projects are evaluated, impacts of human activities are considered (i.e. encroachments on open space, land clearing, social trails, etc.).•Wake County LiDAR data is available for use by all municipalities, for the purpose of site planning and surveying for resource conservation areas.

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Community Services	Wake County GIS Data Acquisition – Orthophotography and Planimetric Data	Every four years, Wake County GIS receives Orthophotography via the State Orthoimagery Program that is funded by the NC 911 Board. Wake County will receive the State’s Ortho data in late 2021. Planimetric Data, which includes building footprints and hydrography data (i.e. bodies of water – lakes, rivers, etc.), is not included. Acquiring building footprints and other data relevant to assessment of the built environment would support projects in Planning, Development and Inspections (PDI), Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS), EMS, Fire Services and Environmental Services. And partnering with municipalities in Wake County to deliver a seamless dataset would allow GIS to provide consistent information to the public via the popular iMAPS application.	Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	Building footprint data as well as updated hydrography data supports operational decisions for Community Services and Environmental Services. It enables data-driven decision making in the arenas of PDI, Water Quality, Tax Administration and PROS. This dataset aids in road realignment, which facilitates improved routing and navigation for Public Safety departments and agencies during emergency response. This Countywide dataset would enhance service to the public by providing seamless data and applications and continue the strong partnership between Wake and its regional municipalities.	The public iMAPS mapping application, which is a partnership between Wake County and the City of Raleigh, receives more than 100k visits each month and is utilized by a variety of stakeholder groups including but not limited to: residents, surveyors and municipal partners. As housing development persists during the pandemic, the addition of Countywide Building footprint data via iMAPS would mitigate confusion from the data that is currently available only within the City of Raleigh Jurisdiction.	This Countywide dataset: <ul style="list-style-type: none">•aids in decision making that impacts county programs and services for all residents of Wake County• provides private sector agencies and municipal partners the ability to leverage updated orthophotography and planimetric data for their operations and services to the public
Community Services	GIS Database & Analysis for Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization	Wake County’s Department of Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization adopted its comprehensive affordable housing plan in October 2017, with the goal of ensuring quality, affordable housing for all residents. Data generated and maintained from the department’s core services are frequently tied to geography (location). Currently, data is stored and maintained in a variety of disparate systems and spreadsheets. This project, in partnership with Wake County GIS, enables the development and design of a (1) Housing database that aggregates the various data sets and (2) GIS tools to help visualize and analyze the housing data to inform data-driven decisions. These data-driven decisions will impact programs and services provided by the Housing department and support efforts to end homelessness. Wake County GIS completed its strategic plan engagement in July 2021 and development of its 5-year strategic plan; this project aligns with recommendations outlined in the strategic plan for the Housing department.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;	Wake County has an affordable housing deficit of 58,270 units for low-income households. The Housing department is engaged in several initiatives to support its comprehensive plan, including mapping the current housing market to prevent the loss of affordable housing. This project will aid staff in predictive analysis efforts related to gentrification and affordable housing loss; assisting in proactive loss prevention as many families struggle to pay rent due to job loss during the pandemic. GIS tools would also enable the department to identify investment, preservation and/or rehabilitation opportunities, increase outreach and education and evaluate sites for new affordable housing development.	Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 4 households eligible for federal housing assistance were receiving it. As the pandemic continues and state eviction moratorium ends, individuals and families become at greater risk for selling their homes, housing loss and homelessness. There are ~215 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on any given night. These persons lack access to basic shelter, transportation and medical services. A database and GIS tools will enable Housing staff to map and analyze data in a way that increases its ability to coordinate services more efficiently with partner organizations such as Triangle Family Services and WakeMed Heart.	Development of a Housing database and GIS suite of tools would support the Housing department’s BOC approved comprehensive plan and goal to help all Wake County residents gain and maintain safe, affordable housing. Housing insecurity and homelessness disproportionately impact communities of color in Wake County. Black Wake County residents represent 21% of the total population but represent 64% of people experiencing homelessness in Wake County. Addressing housing insecurity and homelessness through data informed care coordination and policy making will contribute to a more equitable future for all Wake County residents.
Community Services	Design of the Kellam-Wyatt Farm Preserve	<p>Kellam-Wyatt Farm Preserve is a 59-acre property located in east-central Wake County, near the border between Raleigh and Knightdale. The County is wrapping up the Preserve’s master plan and expects to present the plan to the Commissioners this Fall. This public process developed a vision which will protect the site’s natural and agricultural character while allowing for public access, education and recreation.</p> <p>The future Preserve, a three-generation family farm and woodland sanctuary, will have much to offer the public in the way of natural beauty, wildlife habitat, sustainable, educational agriculture and community gardens, as well as recreational opportunities, including trails and water access.</p> <p>This project would carry the Kellam-Wyatt Farm Preserve through Schematic Design), Design Development, Construction Drawings and permitting, resulting in a biddable project for FY 2023.</p>	Growth and Sustainability;	<p>Since 2000, Wake County has invested over \$100 million dollars in the preservation of open space across the County, and in public access to many of these unique properties; the Kellam-Wyatt Preserve would be a continuation and expansion of this effort.</p> <p>Last year, over 1.6 million visitors enjoyed the County’s parks and preserves by participating in a variety of outdoor recreation and educational pursuits. The Kellam-Wyatt Preserve would be a new area for the public to visit and explore. Several unique opportunities anticipated at Kellam-Wyatt focus on agriculture, including educational, demonstration and participatory programs.</p> <p>Regarding #7 below- If request for funds is approved, no additional recurring costs beyond what is already planned will be added</p>	During the COVID pandemic, Wake County Parks Recreation & Open Space saw its visitation jump 24% to over 1.6 million visitors at its ten locations, and this increase shows no signs of abating. The desire and demand from people to get outside and recreate has put increased pressure on existing park resources and staff. Providing additional venues and opportunities for outdoor recreation and enjoyment are critical for our community’s quality of life.	Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for our diverse community. We value inclusion across race, color, national origin, gender identity, age, religion, sex, disability and experience, and strive to reflect the diversity of our community. The community within a ten-minute drive time around the Kellam-Wyatt Farm property is diverse being 44% African American, 20% Hispanic, and 5% Asian. The public input process to design the park has been deliberately inclusive; providing almost all materials and marketing in Spanish and incorporating text message advertisements to reach different age groups.

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Community Services	Planning and Design of the Swift Creek Greenway	This project would cover the costs for the final design, right of way and construction of an off-road multi-use path or greenway along Swift Creek from Cary to Garner; the project would construct approximately 13 miles of greenway. The County completed preliminary design work for this project in 2006 and updated the work in 2014. The project would connect the City of Raleigh’s Lake Wheeler Park to the Town of Garner’s Lake Benson Park, and would serve as a regional greenway in the greater Wake County greenway network.	Growth and Sustainability;	<p>This project would build a key connection link in the greater Wake County greenway network. The Wake County greenway network provides residents with lower stress options for getting between destinations and provide unique locations for recreation. As the Wake County greenway network grows more and more locations are connected and residents have more options for travel and recreation.</p> <p>Regarding #7 below- It is anticipated that the greenway will cost \$10,000 / year / mile in general maintenance with an additional \$100,000 every 10 years for major asphalt and bridge repairs. Ongoing maintenance costs could be borne by a partnership of the municipalities, Raleigh and Garner, and the County.</p>	The pandemic and social distancing requirements heightened many people’s value of and demand for transportation and recreation options; municipal and County greenway network played an important role in meeting this demand. The Swift Creek Greenway, if constructed would connect key locations in an area that is currently not well connected and add to the usefulness of the overall network	The majority of the HUD Qualified Census Tracts in Wake County are in southern Raleigh and extend into Garner. The proposed Swift Creek Greenway traverses these areas and connects multiple municipalities. If constructed the greenway could provide back bone infrastructure to provide key connections to parks, employment locations and schools
Community Services	Wake County Tree Canopy Assessment and Baseline	A healthy tree canopy is crucial to the sustainability and livability of our communities. Conducting a tree canopy assessment can provide necessary information to help understand, develop and protect green infrastructure. It is proposed that ARP funding be used to cover the costs for the technical and field work resources to develop and assess Wake County’s existing tree canopy and establish a baseline report for future preservation, enhancement and measurement. The assessment would be based on existing and anticipated county GIS layers (Color InfraRed), other data sources as available and field verification. The baseline report would use national best practices to create approachable ways for decision-makers and the public to understand the issues and determine the best policies for Wake County and its partners. The timing of this project would be complementary to some of the initiatives being implemented and tracked from the newly adopted PLANWake. It would also offer value to other Wake County departments such as Environmental Services and Parks, Recreation & Open Space.	Community Health and Vitality;Growth and Sustainability;	Land in Wake County is rapidly being developed. Although many of the developments are within in a municipal jurisdiction, many residents county-wide express concern regarding the impact on the loss of farm and forested land. A concern cited by many is the loss of trees. Both the County and municipalities have policies to preserve trees and encourage new trees to be planted, however, these policies are primarily based on ease of implementation rather than overall result. This project/assessment will provide meaningful data for all jurisdictions to make informed decisions as it relates to tree canopy loss and preservation.	The pandemic and stay at home requirements heightened many people’s value for a “sense of place” and “quality of life” in both urban and rural contexts. Tree canopy plays an important role in defining these areas. Demand for specific housing products blended into the area’s already hot housing market, creates spikes in demand and less affordability. A primary purpose of the tree canopy assessment is to understand how to best support canopy preservation and development in various growth patterns. This understanding can help the County meet future demands for housing and neighborhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Studies have found wealthy areas have as much as 65% more tree canopy than low-income areas. Many current tree policies do a poor job of preserving and creating tree canopies in low-income areas. An overlay and assessment of the tree canopy in vulnerable communities would be a critical part of this project.•A good tree canopy can also influence property values, provide aesthetic benefits, improve social ties among neighbors, and reduce summer peak temperatures and air pollution.•A note about the GIS LIDAR study submitted as a separate project. LIDAR would not be required to perform a baseline analysis of tree canopy. The data needed for the assessment will be available through the newly released ortho imagery, courtesy of the NC 911 Board 2021 Orthoimagery Project. LIDAR data, if purchased through the GIS AFP project, would be a supplement to this project but it would not be necessary. The cost estimate for the Tree Canopy Assessment includes three components: technical expertise in the form of a consultant, field work and post processing.

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Community Services	PLANWake – Inclusive Public Engagement	<p>On April 5, 2021, the Board of Commissioners adopted the County’s new Comprehensive Plan, PLANWake. A key part of implementing the initiatives that cascaded out of PLANWake is public engagement. It is proposed that ARP funding be used to initiate a more robust and targeted public outreach campaign to engage historically underserved communities, who can be difficult to reach, with key messages about planning initiatives in their community. A recent study has shown that people who do show up and participate in local planning meetings tend to be male, older, and homeowners. Without representation from a broad range of diverse perspectives, participation processes run the risk of producing outcomes which are responsive to the needs of only some residents. Although the Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) identified in the ARP program are not within Wake County’s unincorporated area, staff will refer to the County’s Social Equity Atlas and/or the HUD formula used to determine the QCT’s, to identify key census blocks to target in unincorporated Wake County.</p> <p>ARP funding will be used for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Hiring a public engagement consultantoPublic engagement plan (PEP)oStrategies and connections to conduct inclusive, equitable community outreachoFacilitation of public outreach eventsoStaff training	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;	Public outreach and community engagement are a key aspect in preparing all policy and land use plan changes. The process of authentically engaging constituents will consume a lot of already limited staff time and resources, especially when conducted at the level described herein. This project will allow the County to reach and engage communities in an inclusive and equitable manner, beyond what has historically been seen from similar types of community outreach initiatives. Additionally, through this project staff will acquire the experience and knowledge to carry the tools and strategies learned from this effort forward to other initiatives.	Local planning outreach can build community engagement that was lost during the pandemic. It can also generate project momentum and buy-in from residents who then establish a new outlook on their community that was not present during the pandemic, or even pre-pandemic. All of this can lead to more meaningful feedback for Planners who are making critical local land use and policy decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•A more robust public engagement process will better ensure all our residents can thrive in the community they live in.•This project will provide an opportunity to include all sectors of our community, particularly County residents who are experiencing inequities and are historically less engaged in civic conversations.•This project would further address the County’s commitment to an inclusive culture and combating social inequities that persist today.
Cooperative Extension	Local Food Supply Chain Network Support	Cooperative Extension is requesting funds to support the enhancement and evaluation of the of the local food supply chain. We propose a two-fold method to increase access to, and consumption of local produce to improve health outcomes, support local agriculture and farm workers, and improve the reliability of our local food supply chain. We know BIPOC communities are at greater risk of chronic illness and death or hospitalization from Covid19, and this proposal seeks to support these communities with a multi-prong approach. The strategies include: (1) A Food Hub Feasibility & Food Waste study to better understand current limitations and opportunities in food rescue, aggregation and distribution within the county; and (2) support of local farmers markets and mobile markets through farmer’s market mini grants for equipment & unfitting, SNAP double bucks programs, and mini grants for the expansion or establishment of mobile markets/farmer co-ops/CSA’s/and market stands in targeted census tracts with higher vulnerability indexes. We believe utilizing these federal dollars in such a manner will help to retain the funds within our local economy, reduce long term costs associated with the treatment of preventable diseases, and improve the health and resiliency of all Wake County residents.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Growth and Sustainability;	One of the greatest limitations in expanding food access has been the inability to aggregate product from farms and gardens. The establishment of the Black Farmers Market, Black Farmers Hub, and the purchase of county land to support new farmers all lend themselves to the need for an aggregation location. The hub feasibility & food waste study will allow our department to identify the most sustainable aggregation model. The second approach of this request will allow our department to enhance relationships with local farmers markets, better link farmers to markets, and increase access to produce for clients in our programs.	Covid19 has impacted residents with chronic illness at a higher rate. Chronic illness is often linked to diet related causes, and we suggest that improving access to fresh produce will assist in improving the overall health and resiliency of these residents. Additionally, we have seen the inability of our food supply chain in Wake to handle disruptions at the scale experienced during the height of the pandemic. Though we hope to avoid another emergency of this size, it is vitally important we better support local production and aggregation to ensure access to food during disasters such as the Covid19 Pandemic.	Wake County Cooperative Extension and Capital Area Food Network have fostered relationships with several BIPOC led organizations. The Black Farmers Market, Fertile Ground Food Co-op, and the Black Farmers Hub are some examples of BIPOC organizations that would benefit from the support outlined in this proposal. These BIPOC organizations support the resiliency of black farmers and the black communities they reside in. Additionally, the expansion of SNAP double buck markets in prioritized census tracts will support the health of low-income and BIPOC communities battling diet-related chronic illness by bridging the gap in income often required to purchase fresh, local produce.

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Cooperative Extension	AmeriCorps VISTA Housing Stipend	The Food Security AmeriCorps VISTA program has been instrumental in the development of several community-based food strategies as well as the establishment and expansion of services offered at the Crosby Garfield building. Since the establishment of the program, the members have raised over \$40,000 in cash and in-kind donations for the county, built the capacity of countless organizations, and recruited long term volunteers dedicated to the Social and Economic Vitality and Food Security programs. VISTA members receive professional development and build their network during their yearlong service term. Many will finish their service and are employed by area non-profits and partner agencies. We desire for this program to recruit from residents living in our vulnerable communities of Wake, however members are paid at the federal poverty level, and because of this, we often are unable to recruit these residents because the cost of living is too high. We are seeking support for a housing stipend to help us recruit, support, and retain a more diverse cohort. AmeriCorps VISTA allows a housing stipend to be paid directly to landlords, and we are seeking \$300/month support for our 9 members for October 2021 – December 2023 (27 months).	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Great Government;	A housing stipend allows our office to compete with neighboring AmeriCorps programs to recruit top talent and members of the communities we provide services to. Currently the diversity of applicants is limited by the ability of low-income residents to survive on the stipend of \$513.94 paid bi-weekly. By recruiting members from our communities, we can better deploy a community driven service model, which is vital to long term sustainability of programs. Currently the county receives \$35,000 in federal support for the program, in addition we receive 9 members with 2 cost-shares provided by Wake to CNCs.	AmeriCorps VISTA members have built the capacity of programs addressing poverty and food insecurity in Wake County for the last four years. The systems VISTA members have built enabled us to quickly activate the emergency food response during Covid19 and to get vital materials to residents facing unemployment, homelessness, hunger, and increased risk of contracting Covid19. Covid19 has show many areas of weakness in programs and barriers our vulnerable communities face. The VISTA members are a tremendous resource, able to dedicate time and effort to better understanding and developing services and systems to address these barriers.	The goal of this request is to increase the number of BIPOC and first-generation college students participating in the VISTA program. Upon completion of the program, members have the choice of a Segal Education Award of \$6,195 or cash payment of \$1,800, non-competitive eligibility for federal jobs, a local professional network, and valuable professional development and training. We know many in our community struggle with generational poverty because of systemic racism, and it is our hope this housing stipend can bridge gaps in financial ability to participate in our valuable program, and support employment within our vulnerable populations.
Cooperative Extension	Food Security - Admin Support for Contract Management	Since the onset of Covid19 the Wake County Food Security Program has administered over \$4 million dollars to community partners to support food access. We are requesting 27 months of support for a time-limited, benefits eligible position to support contract monitoring and administrative responsibilities associated with the administration of ARP dollars. The position is based on the Covid19 Operations Office Support II position tier at the mid-range pay of \$39,000 and would begin October 2021.	Great Government;Community Health and Vitality;	An administrative position to support contract monitoring and partner payments associated with ARP dollars would increase the speed and efficiency of these processes within our office. Currently a large portion of the Food Security Program Manager’s time is spent managing contracts and partner requests. With the upcoming update of the comprehensive food security plan, and the arrival of a new cohort of AmeriCorps VISTA members, support is vitally needed to assist with contract monitoring and program support.	Covid19 greatly increased the number of residents facing food insecurity and disrupted traditional food distribution networks. With the request to address growing food insecurity, the current Program Manager has been expanded beyond the intended capacity for the role. The addition of an administrative support staff for food security will expediate contracts and allow community partners to access vitally needed funds to meet growing needs of the community in response to the economic impact of Covid19.	Though it may not appear directly that this position will support DEI, we know that administrative support is an important component to successful programs. The food security program and Covid19 Emergency food response, from the onset, have prioritized meeting the needs of BIPOC and Latinx communities in Wake County through a variety of methods. Our program focuses on provision of culturally appropriate foods, support of black farmers & the black farmers hub, and employment of community members to serve their own community. The administrative support will help our programs receive vital funding and support as they move forward.
Cooperative Extension	Cooperative Extension Outdoor Classroom	Outdoor classroom space located in the Wake County Office Park near the Agricultural Services Building to allow for COVID-safe programming from Cooperative Extension and community partners. We have discussed the concept with Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff and they agree that this would complement, but not replicate, the facilities at Historic Oak View Park, and they are aware that we are putting in this request. The structure would be a scaled-down version of a structure at the Beach Bluffs County Park and would include electrical, lighting, a sink, restroom, and storage facilities. Currently, the indoor spaces available for programs at the Agricultural Building are all enclosed and not all can hold a classroom-sized group, especially during COVID. This outdoor space would provide space for groups of 30 youth and/or adults to meet for programs. Cost estimates were prepared from data and conversations with Facilities Design & Construction and they are prepared to complete the project within the timeline if it is funded.	Community Health and Vitality;Education;	Wake County Extension staff provide educational programs to youth and adults focused on food, nutrition, STEM, health and art. Many of these activities could take place outdoors. Currently, we do not have access to outdoor classroom space that has water and electricity. An outdoor classroom with a sink, running water, and electricity would allow for additional educational programs and would provide a safer environment during COVID for programs than traditional indoor classrooms. Historic Oak View Park is also close to the Agricultural Building and park staff would also be able to use the outdoor classroom space when needed for programming.	Outdoor classroom space will allow us to offer more programs to the community with greater safety. During some points of the Pandemic, our program has been restricted from doing in-person programming indoors. If we have access to outdoor space with water and electricity, we would be able to offer programs even when there are restrictions on indoor youth activities. The outdoor learning space will provide space for Extension programs even after COVID, as some of our programs are better-suited to outdoor delivery modes and/or are too messy or difficult to do effectively indoors or in existing outdoor unsheltered space.	The Wake County Office Park is located in the 27610 zip code and the Extension office targets participants from Southeast Raleigh and the Eastern part of Wake County to participate in programs. Community partners serving similar audiences would be able to use the outdoor classroom when not in use by Extension programs, so the space would be a community asset available to historically marginalized populations.

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Cooperative Extension	Community Co-Hub Capital	Wake County Social & Economic Vitality is currently in month 9 of a 12-month planning period funded in part by the John Rex Endowment to support a community-led inquiry to substantiate interest in and components of a cooperatively-owned co-working and collaboration hub for grassroots nonprofits, small businesses and faith-based entities in Southeast Raleigh. The Planning Committee will recommend specific programming, networking, community ownership and funding components of a hub that reflect the genuine interests of Southeast Raleigh to ensure the hub’s long-term success through sustainability. These recommendations will lay the foundation for the community, SEV and partners to secure additional funding to support future hub design and implementation. There are already two potential sites for where the co-hub could be located; however, most of the organizations interested do not have the capital necessary to quickly secure a location. This allocation would provide a much-needed financial resource to support initial space costs, COVID-considerate upfits, memberships, networking events, marketing, etc. to plant the hub based on the recommendations currently under development.	Community Health and Vitality;	Research indicates limited government funding and access to capital for grassroot nonprofit organizations and aspiring entrepreneurs as a top challenge for start-up and sustainability. The benefits of a community-owned co-working and collaboration hub are significant. The Nonprofit Center Network’s State of the Shared Space Sector 2019 Report, details organizations based in multi-tenant nonprofit centers not have access to high-quality workspace and they tend to experience “improvements in staff morale, retention and productivity, increased programming and additional opportunities for collaboration. Having the capital investment set aside to continue this work allows us to move from concept to reality.	Among many other things, the pandemic highlighted the need for coordinated community responses to multiple challenges. The co-hub concept is one that leverages available resources among like-missioned organizations to collaboratively respond to those needs. In addition, cooperative associations have been shown to enable smaller and beginning stakeholders to reduce the liabilities and share the risks associated with growing their organization through shared legal, financial, insurance, and human resources. Most organizations also see financial savings that are reinvested in their programming and communities.	Both the co-hub planning and steering committees are composed primarily of BIPOC representing a diversity of gender identities, religious backgrounds, educational levels, ages, etc. In additional the target area for locating the hub is within one the County’s deemed most vulnerable geographic regions according to the Social Equity Atlas Wake County Government (wakegov.com).
Cooperative Extension	Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seeding Innovation (EEASI) Challenge Expansion	Through Wake County Social & Economic Vitality’s Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seeding Innovation (EEASI) [pronounced “easy”] Challenge, we work with partners to implement an Entrepreneurial Accelerator and Pitch Competition primarily targeting “social innovators”. The program features a kickoff event, accelerator training, individualized coaching and pitch competition to advance business development and sustainability and builds from the successes of the original Southeast Raleigh Innovation Challenge https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6QNoRESEul&t=42s and 2 subsequent EEASI cohorts. This effort engages aspiring and existing small businesses and opportunity youth with on ramps to entrepreneurship. Program participants will gain entrepreneurial skills, strengthen their network, access resources and capital to bring their business ideas into fruition. While the “seeding” aspect of the program is critically important, the core of the program is the 10-week comprehensive skills building accelerator with will feature Developing an Entrepreneurial Mindset, Understanding the Community and Marketplace, Planning the Product/Service, Financial Modeling, 90 Day Execution Planning, The Art of the Pitch and Pitch Practice. In addition, the program offers a community based entrepreneurial development resource fair. This allocation would allow us to replicate and expand programming with COVID-considerate modifications and include agricultural specific aspects informed by pandemic	Economic Strength;	Entrepreneurs/small businesses play a pivotal role in building community and the overall economic development ecosystem, our EEASI Challenge will create a foundation for innovators that will ultimately shift the way other organizations invest in marginalized communities. To effectively increase economic opportunity and create generational wealth in these communities, we must invest in the development minority businesses. Investing in programs like the EEASI Challenge is necessary to reduce disparate opportunities for innovators to skill up, scale up and access capital. Operating amidst a pandemic has afforded opportunity to ingenuity and lessons learned that should be further developed through entrepreneurial explorations.	The intended goal for SEV is to ignite community–engaged, collective impact strategies which result in the reduction of poverty through workforce development, entrepreneurship, human capital development and educational advancement; community wellness inclusive of the reduction of food insecurity and homelessness and community empowerment through leadership development and advocacy. COVID has exacerbad all of these needs. Our community needs a coalition of planners, developers, business owners, who are intentionally dedicated to economic advancement of all people. Expanding funding for the EEASI Challenge demonstrates a commitment to creating locally responsive innovative solutions to addressing upward mobility.	The current EEASI Challenge is supported by NCIDEA Engage Grant which specifically focuses on empowering entrepreneurs and creating equitable access to resources. According to NCIDEA, more growth-oriented Black-owned firms means more innovation, more jobs and significantly more wealth creation for people of color, impacting communities as a whole. However, the number of Black-owned firms is disproportionately low at nearly every stage of development. These funds would be used to assist minority entrepreneurs navigate systems and provide seed funding resulting in greater access, exposure, networking, funding and resource opportunities.

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Cooperative Extension	Growth Mindset Coaching for Child Welfare Aging-Out Teens	This is a collaboration between Cooperative Extension / 4-H and Wake County Child Welfare and would pilot a billable services model to become self-sustaining post-ARP funding. It would bridge the gap in services for teens 15 to 18 who are aging out of foster care by providing individualized coaching as they transition to independent living. The collaboration proposes two temporary positions to implement independent living coaching for youth aging out of foster care. These professionals would be responsible for coaching on topics such as financial literacy, self-advocacy, locating and activating resources as well as the realization of teens' skills and talents.	Education;Community Health and Vitality;	This pilot project will provide teens in foster care with a life coach to develop independent living skills. Two life coaches will implement one-on-one life skills coaching for up to 50 youth ages 15 - 18 who are likely to age out of the foster care system. Currently, Cooperative Extension has the curriculum, training, and evaluation methods for life coaching, but does not have staff capacity to provide individual coaching to every youth who will age out of the foster care system. This project provides two staff dedicated to the child welfare population and allows current 4-H and Cooperative Extension staff to continue implementing group-based strategies. When fully implemented, the coaching services are billable and piloting this program with ARP funds will allow us to develop the program and our ability to bill for services so that the billable hours will allow the positions to be self-sustaining after ARP funding ends. Cooperative Extension staff have spoken with Child Welfare staff and managers and CW staff agree that this project is needed and are excited about the possibility of the partnership to provide additional services to a high-needs population.	Child Welfare reported an increase in hard-to-manage behavior and emotional episodes in teen foster youth during COVID. Foster teens had to navigate a loss of social interaction, recreational outlets and decreased support. This disconnect happened at a critical time for teens who are aging out of care. Individualized coaching and life skills development fosters future independence and gives teens aging out of foster care the tools to be successful as they enter adulthood and begin looking for jobs, advocating for themselves, and building on existing talents and skills. Evaluation will be done tracking youth progress along the Transition Readiness Scale.	Almost 40 percent of youth in foster care are Black and Hispanic. Coaching provides a way to fully understand the needs of each individual teen and provide culturally-relevant individualized approaches to help teens build a more positive future, while increasing self-efficacy and pro-social skills. Skills taught include financial fitness, accessing education, becoming a self-advocate and how to communicate effectively with peers and adults. Youth exiting foster care with these skills will be less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system, more likely to delay parenthood, and more likely to make decisions supporting their physical, emotional, and mental health.
Cooperative Extension	Covid19 Emergency Food Hub Continuation & Capacity Building	Wake County Cooperative Extension has supported 12 to 14 emergency food hub operations since August 2020, serving the equivalent of over 550,000 meals in the form of fresh produce, meat, dairy, and shelf stable items. The emergency food hubs have served as vital touch points in our most vulnerable communities, helping us to build trust with vulnerable populations and link citizens with existing resources and support systems such as: housing support, Covid19 vaccines & testing, SNAP, Medicaid, dental care, toiletries, mental health support, and other supplies. We are seeking continued funding to support ongoing once per month food distributions at each of our 12 hub locations for six months following the expiration of current funding on December 31, 2021. With the eviction moratorium ending soon, we believe we will see an increase in food insecurity, thus continued funding for food is important during this time. Additionally, we are seeking funds to facilitate capacity building for each hub partner as they develop sustainable regional networks to combat food insecurity and generational poverty across the county. Also included in this request is continued funding for data tracking and management related to our emergency food response strategies.	Community Health and Vitality;	The emergency food hubs have served as gateways to better our office's understanding and improvement of service models to our most vulnerable residents and are largely activated through faith partners. Over the last year we have increased the reach of our youth development & public health programs through partnerships with our hubs. These locations are vital community development strategies and continued funding for the food will allow our partners to work on sustainable models and connect vulnerable populations to county resources.	Since Covid19 shutdowns of schools and businesses in March 2020, the need for food has been extensive. Though recent legislation has increased the amount of SNAP benefits a family receives, many families we serve do not qualify for SNAP or find SNAP dollars insufficient to provide a well-rounded, nutritious diet. With the expiration of the eviction moratorium looming, we foresee food insecurity rates rising. Important to note is that our food outreach efforts have increased vaccination rates by combining food and vaccine outreach through community anchor points. With many unknowns looming with the Delta variant, food support remains vital.	Each emergency food hub is in a high vulnerability census tract, or nearby to a vulnerable area. Most clients served are from BIPOC and Latinx communities and food is tailored to cultural needs and supports a healthy diet. Hubs support BIPOC led organizations through purchases of produce from the Black Farmers Market and Black Farmers Hub, and the hiring of BIPOC community members at distribution sites. We are aware that simply offering food does not build long-term resilience, therefore supporting our partners with capacity building funds allows them to develop necessary systems to overcome generational poverty.

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Cooperative Extension	Crosby Community Classroom	The Crosby-Garfield Center is a historically significant educational building in Southeast Raleigh, near Ligon Middle School. Many residents visit the Center to learn about and access services from Wake County, grassroots nonprofits, small businesses, faith-based organizations and the City of Raleigh. It is a hub for Social and Economic Vitality efforts addressing “vulnerability factors” such as high poverty, high unemployment, low educational attainment, as well as “economic health factors” such as housing availability and affordability. The Crosby Garfield Center was in need of upfitting prior to COVID. According to the Wake County Human Services Master Facility Plan, “From the exterior, the building appears to be in fair condition, however finding the building entrance(s) and wayfinding within the building are challenging. The interior is very worn, outdated and some spaces seem to be functioning at capacity. Other spaces, such as the offices, seem to be underutilized and a need for more storage was noticed.” This investment would allow for minimal structural enhancements for community meeting/training space, technology upgrades for hybrid virtual and in person learning experiences, furniture for outdoor learning space, necessary signage, etc. made even more essential under COVID operations.	Community Health and Vitality;	The Wake County Long-Range Planning Department conducted an analysis to determine the extent to which communities across Wake County experience various “vulnerability factors,” like poverty, unemployment, low educational attainment, etc. It became clear that communities in Southeast Raleigh, Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon experience greater vulnerability and economic stress than other areas of the county. In 2016, the Wake County Board of Commissioners determined that a targeted, geographically-focused investment called Social & Economic Vitality (SEV) would be made to improve long-term outcomes in those particular communities. Having a facility conducive to operationalizing this work is essential.	Crosby-Garfield is intended to be the County’s “anchor asset” for community engagement and outreach in SE Raleigh. Upward mobility programming inclusive of workforce development, entrepreneurship, human capital development through life-coaching, educational advancement, wellness initiatives inclusive mental health services and the reduction of food insecurity are based out of this building. COVID has exacerbated all of these needs. Funding for facility upgrades demonstrates a commitment to serving our County’s most vulnerable citizens.	Crosby-Garfield is centrally located, bus line accessible in one the County’s deemed most vulnerable geographic regions according to the Social Equity Atlas Wake County Government (wakegov.com). Also sharing space in the facility are the Telamon Head Start and Learning Together Pre-K programs who largely serve, low-income families of color.
Cooperative Extension	Cooperative Extension Community Outreach and Engagement	Cooperative Extension works with Public Health and COVID Operations to plan and implement community outreach and engagement events that provide multiple benefits to residents from historically marginalized communities. Events include food distribution, COVID testing, COVID vaccinations, mental health resources, and educational resources for families. Approximately 250 families are served through each community-based event and this request is to allow for continued operation of these events so that we can continue to provide access to COVID boosters and testing in communities in which residents are less likely to access services such as standing WCH&HS vaccine and testing sites.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;	Currently, Cooperative Extension implements outreach events with COVID Operations using existing Extension staff, which decreases the amount of time that staff are available for service provisions to clients. We would like to use funds to contract a community partner to implement two outreach events per month for 12 months. Extension staff would maintain quality control and to make sure that community resource partners are included in events. This would allow Extension to leverage existing community partnerships to provide resources, while allowing for the continuation of other direct-service and capacity-building work that is most effectively done by existing Extension staff resources.	Increasing the vaccination rate is a priority for mitigating the effects of COVID. Historically marginalized communities were hit hardest by COVID and individuals from HMPs are less likely to be fully vaccinated. Many are reluctant to come to standing sites for services, but feel comfortable seeking resources and services in their own communities. Community resources events that include food distribution, mental health connections, and educational supplies for children increase the likelihood that families will come to events where vaccines are offered. Once at the event, individuals are more likely to get vaccinated, which protects the individual, as well the community.	This project provides direct assistance in communities where historically marginalized populations live. It provides access to vaccines and testing and makes them attractive by coupling them with resources that are needed by many families. These events have proven to be effective ways to engage the community, with over 250 families being served at each event. Outreach events are comfortable places to engage in conversations about vaccine safety and efficacy, and offer a less-intimidating environment for making a decision to get a vaccination. The potential contracted agency is a minority-owned and operated business in Wake County and employs a diverse workforce.

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Cooperative Extension	Juniper Level Missionary Baptist Community Resource Hub Pilot	Wake County Cooperative Extension has partnered with Juniper Level Missionary Baptist for over three years through the Summer Food Program and most recently the Covid19 Emergency food hub operation. JLMB is a community anchor with a restored Rosenwald school on site and currently supports the homeless, has an active youth group, is developing a community garden, and operates a successful food pantry. We are proposing funds to pilot a community resource hub at the JLMB location in Southern Raleigh. The pilot would address pressing community needs resulting from the Covid19 pandemic. Proposed resources include mental health services for youth and adults 3 days per week on site, an after school and summer tutoring program for youth 4 days per week to bridge learning gaps, financial literacy training for adults and youth, launching of a community gardening program for increased access to fresh produce in their food pantry, meals for homeless and youth in their tutoring program, and continued linkage of their community members to existing county resources and programs such as SNAP, housing, and Medicaid. Our SEV, 4H, and Food Security programs are poised to support this initiative and see it as a replicable model worthy of further exploration.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Education;Growth and Sustainability;	Extension programming is offered in a variety of methods. The establishment of our emergency food hubs has increased the reach of our programs to meet the needs of more diverse populations in areas outside of our traditional settings. Our department is poised to offer a variety or support systems for JLMB including 4H education, garden technical support, entrepreneurship opportunities through SEV, nutrition and household budgeting education, and food security support. We believe this pilot will highlight how an organization can utilize existing resources to provide a holistic community support model, and lead to expansion of such programs into other regions of the county.	JLMB serves a community that has experienced high unemployment, homelessness, mental health issues, and educational gaps because of the Covid19 pandemic. The greatest needs are around assisting their youth bridge educational gaps that arose during virtual schooling and to provide mental health services for individuals facing two years of traumatic stress. JLMB believes that serving the community involves supplying necessary resources while also equipping individuals and families with skills to improve long term outcomes. We believe this pilot can meet significant need.	JLMB has a rich history and desire to break structures of generational poverty and systemic racism. The church is the site of a restored Rosenwald school, where Black children were able to receive education during the time of segregation. JLMB is an advocate for the Black community and has a mission to break cycles of poverty within their community through education, financial literacy, housing and food support, and mental health services.
Cooperative Extension	Student Engagement Teams Pilot - Extension, WCPSS & Alliance	WCPSS Student Services and Extension (SEV, 4-H, Food) staff have been working together to provide backbone support for food security and a broader outreach initiative, and Alliance Behavioral Health joined, aligning their primary outreach to youth and families in Wake. These three partners would like to pilot an intentional and holistic model built on a tiered, family-centered System of Care (SOC) structure that recognizes the role of the school, community, and family in youth engagement and thriving. Four schools will identify students who are disengaged (not coming to school, not completing work, not involved in positive youth development programming in their community). An “Ignite Team” with member representation from governmental and non-governmental organizations that are connected to resources will work with the targeted students and families on a case-by-case basis recognizing that for some students & families, fewer resources will be required, while for others more resources will be required (tiered). A Family MINDSET Coach will meet families where they are and work to supplement basic needs, develop a longer-term plan with the family, engage additional support through Wake’s System of Care. Individual students will be tracked for progress on indicators including student school attendance, classroom participation, schoolwork completion rate, youth development program attendance, self-reports, and family reports. Families will be enrolled in Wake County’s MINDSET program through SEV which tracks progress across the social determinants of	Community Health and Vitality;Education;Great Government;	The data regarding youth disengagement, social and emotional health challenges, and learning loss during COVID-19 shows a myriad of challenges for youth over the coming years and decades into adulthood. A partnership between Extension and WCPSS brings the resources and strengths of both organizations together to serve the most vulnerable students. Students and families will receive school-based and community-based services to support academic success, improved mental health, and increased family stability in a System of Care model that is more effective and less duplicative than individual agencies serving families without coordination.	The data regarding youth disengagement, social and emotional health challenges, and learning loss during COVID-19 shows a myriad of challenges for youth over the coming years and decades into adulthood. A partnership between Extension and WCPSS brings the resources and strengths of both organizations together to serve the most vulnerable students. Students and families will receive school-based and community-based services to support academic success, improved mental health, and increased family stability in a System of Care model that is more effective and less duplicative than individual agencies serving families without coordination.	At its core, this project seeks to engage the disengaged and to empower the disenfranchised. This project seeks to prevent or minimize inequities in outcomes for student groups that have historically had disparate outcomes, and to support the family stability and success. This project will seek to engage or re-engage young people and families that have not been successful in engaging with our County systems, many of whom come from historically marginalized populations and are eligible for, but not currently accessing, all services available to them.

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Cooperative Extension	High Roads Kitchen Pilot	High Road Kitchens (HRK) is a national program that Extension would like to pilot in Wake County. HRK presents the opportunity to build a new, more equitable, sustainable restaurant industry for all in Wake County. Funding would be used to provide small grants to restaurant owners who commit to ensuring livable wages and increased equity for their employees. Participating restaurants commit to: a) serve meals in a model that allows some community members to subsidize others’ meals; b) provide free meals to low-wage workers and others in need; c) employ service workers at higher wages. The national HRK team would provide ongoing support to restaurants involved in the pilot to help sustain equitable workplace practices after the initial grant investment. Over time, the goal is for HRK restaurants to secure contracts to provide meals to senior centers, schools and other institutions so that we can provide ongoing income to small businesses that keep dollars in the community.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;	The HRK pilot would provide an opportunity for Extension to continue supporting critical emergency food relief efforts in the community, while at the same time beginning to address root causes of food insecurity in Wake County. The HRK pilot not only allows restaurants to provide free meals to low-wage workers but also provides technical support to assist those restaurants as they shift toward more equitable wages and employment practices. If we truly envision a County where everyone thrives, it’s essential that we invest not only in relief programs but in efforts that address root causes of poverty and inequity.	HRK would help address both short- and long-term economic impacts of the pandemic. In the short-term, restaurants would 1) provide free meals to community members experiencing food insecurity as a result of the pandemic; 2) offer meals on a sliding scale for individuals who are unable to pay full price; and 3) employ service workers who have faced un/der-employment because of the pandemic. The pandemic has brought to light that service workers in our community are vastly underpaid. Long-term, HRK would allow restaurants to raise wages for their workers, increasing self-sufficiency and potential for upward mobility in this sector.	According to a 2015 report from Restaurant Opportunities Center United, restaurant workers experience poverty at nearly 3x the rate of workers overall, and workers of color experience poverty at nearly 2x the rate of white restaurant workers. The HRK pilot will partner with the national organization One Fair Wage to provide selected employers with its ‘High Road Training and Technical Assistance’ program, complete with financial modelling tools and successful case studies. The program shows employers how to move profitably to livable wages while also increasing race and gender equity and equity between ‘front’ and ‘back-of-house’ workers.
Cooperative Extension	Youth Thrive 2.0	Youth Thrive is a community collaborative for youth development in Wake County. This proposal aims to build capacity and improve access for limited resource audiences and the organizations that serve them. The proposal includes funds for training request by JCPC partners, a pool of funds that allows parents to choose opportunities that best align with their child’s needs, and a Suicide Prevention Coordinator aligned with Alliance to combat the increase rate of suicide attempts and ideation that has occurred in youth during the Pandemic.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Education;	The community collaborative of Youth Thrive exists, but the resources to support the capacity building needed to meet increased needs from the Pandemic does not. This project provides \$53,560 for training requested by partners in the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, a time-limited position focused on Suicide Prevention work that support the work that Alliance and Youth Thrive partners are currently engaged in, and a pool of funds to allow families served by Youth Thrive organizations to access youth development opportunities that align with individual needs and values while supporting youth’s social and emotional well being. These resources are all non-recurring after ARP funding ends, but will build capacity in organizations and families so that they are more effective and impactful after COVID and ARP because of these resources.	Youth mental health and social emotional well-being suffered during the Pandemic, and this has economic implications as well as potential long-term negative impacts on youth’s ability to thrive through adolescence and into adulthood. This proposal provides much needed direct services to youth and also increases the capacity of the community to continue to provide services for high-needs youth and families after the ARP funding ends.	Youth and families served by the organizations collaborating in Youth Thrive come primarily from underserved populations. This proposal provides direct assistance to 1200 families for youth development opportunities, provides community-level prevention work for youth suicide and mental health in underserved audiences, and increased the capacity of community partners to continue or intensify their work in serving these targeted audiences.

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Cooperative Extension	Community Coaching, Canvassing and Capacity Building Pilot Program	Although Wake County Social & Economic Vitality primarily targets the most SE Raleigh and the eastern part of Wake County, the County as a whole needs a “ground game” for civic engagement through community capacity building, coaching and canvassing. COVID has amplified the challenges under-resourced families have accessing basic life needs and support services. This proposal seeks to acquire funding to for a multi-tiered approach to co-create 1) Community Leadership Development Opportunities for Community Based Organizations by way of 14 week cohort learning experience inclusive of executive coaching sessions to advance personal, organizational and community leadership skills 2) Community Based Resource Navigators who will be trained to connect residents to community resources such as social services, mental health services, substance abuse services, homelessness/ housing assistance, medical care and case management, etc. and 3) Community Based Life Coaches who provide support and assistance with creating action plans with residents to assist them with navigating all of the social determinants of health. These three tiers tied together create a coordinated response in our continuum of care for the County’s most vulnerable residents.	Community Health and Vitality;	Community capacity is achieved by intersecting the human capital, organizational resources and social capital existing within a given community and leveraging that intersection to solve collective problems and ultimately improve the overall well-being of a given community. This tri-level response would build relationships among a network of Wake County nonprofits, bridge the gap between vulnerable communities and critically needed services and expand life coaching to equip families with developing achievable action plans for upward mobility. An investment in this type of comprehensive strategy begins the work empowering communities to create solutions to community-identified challenges.	Among many other things, the pandemic highlighted the need for coordinated community responses to multiple challenges. The community capacity building concept is one that emphasizes the value utilizing citizens voices and experiences as the most integral part of community-building – citizens themselves can creating better places to live, work and play. The investment would afford community to inform and implement strategies co-development with Wake County to produce mutually beneficial results.	Wake County’s COVID response alone demonstrates that the majority of families experiencing challenges with acquiring needed supports are largely people of color, women and those who are economically disadvantaged. This effort largely targets those demographics and the citizens who are most disconnected and therefore not included in the prosperity shared among the majority of the county’s residents. The need for DEI efforts is in direct response to the work of dismantling the systemic racism that remains the underpinning for why the vast majority of families who would benefit from this effort need the effort.
County Manager	Social Determinant of Health Network	Develop a replicable model to reduce health disparities and advance social equity for Wake residents in targeted geographical locations (high social vulnerability index census tracts) with an emphasis on homeless, diabetics, domestic violence, seniors and disabled for a two year period. Contract with Duke Office of Family Medicine and Community Health to engage an existing network of community providers to address food security, housing insecurity, transportation access and behavioral health supports.	Community Health and Vitality;	Would assist in coordination of whole-person care approach for vulnerable individuals with Medicaid that have other unmet needs that may complicate their medical or mental health. This effort would align with goals/objectives of multiple County departments - Health and Human Services, Housing, Behavioral Health, Cooperative Extension.	The coordination of whole-person care as articulated in population health measures is often difficult to do when funding sources don't align to allow focus on the individual person. This approach would provide funds designed to wrap-around an individuals needs - particularly those exacerbated by the pandemic including food security, housing security, and inpersonal violence/safety as referred by health and behavioral health providers.	The residents targeted for this program would be Medicaid eligible individuals in targeted census tracts. Work would be conducted through community based organizations, largely non-profits, and would include provision of capacity building funds that could help them with this population and their overall mission and financial sustainability.
County Manager	United Arts - 11 proposed projects	United Arts has proposed using ARP funds to support initiatives throughout Wake County to "restart the arts" support "economic revitalization through arts in Wake towns" and support "Arts Work: Artist in Residence Programs". Plan to leverage National Endowment for the Arts awards if granted. Initiatives include arts marketing campaign, cultural equity grant program, arts organizations grants, diversity in arts leadership program, implementation support for local arts plans, arts housing feasibility and market study, venue study, artist service projects, downtown art activations in municipalities, and free public art performances as vaccine and testing sites.	Economic Strength;	Enhance economic development drivers related to quality of life and equitable community initiatives, as well as support employment/income and housing stability for artists in our community. Also, potential to aid tourism/hospitality industry.	Mitigates economic impacts due to pandemic for artist and cultural-oriented businesses or non-profits.	Targeted programs would lift up to the work of underrepresented artists, which helps create a more welcoming and inclusive culture in Wake County, Other proposed initiatives like mission support grants or diversity in arts leadership use an equity lens to help the sector build back better.

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County Manager	Non-Profit Capacity Building Grants	Establish a grant award process to provide up to \$10,000 to support capacity needs of community non-profits that are addressing key problems in targeted census tracts related to food security, housing insecurity, behavioral health, substance use disorders, healthy behaviors, transportation support, safety from interpersonal violence and workforce development. Funds could support facility/office improvements, equipment, workplace operations (payroll and accounting) training, leadership development, and/or governance development. Select up to 12 agencies each year for 3 years (no duplicates). Eligible non-profits would be limited by selection criteria (target population, size of agency, total budget of agency, etc.) (This idea may be duplicative of work being done in Live Well Wake and/or Social and Economic Vitality but I wanted to be sure to get the idea/concept in the list of potential proposals.)	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Great Government;	Strengthen community partners that are doing mission oriented work consistent with goals of Wake County - particularly in targeted census tracts and aligned with Live Well Wake. Strong community partners support strong resilient community and residents.	Strengthens community non-profits doing targeted work on services for the vulnerable populations in Wake County.	Focusing support on non-profits with a majority of clients in targeted census tracts increases capacity for existing and future work of these organizations.
EMS	EMS Emergency Response Vehicle Procurement	This project would provide the one-time costs for the initial procurement and upfit of additional ambulances and single responder vehicles. The additional vehicles would provide the EMS department with an increased ability to staff additional ambulances and single responder vehicles as soon as the staff is in place. Traditionally, EMS has waited until additional resources are approved from a budgetary standpoint, to them procure the vehicles; however, this causes a significant delay (i.e. 8 to 12 months) in actually implementing the new resource. This has gotten worse with COVID delays due to automobile computer chip shortages. In addition to providing the vehicles stock upfront, it would all ow the EMS Department more flexibility in how we conduct individual shift changes during times when staffing is challenged.	Growth and Sustainability;	It will allow us to provide a greater flexibility with regard to how we handle overlapping shift changes. Currently, if a crew is about to end shift, they have to make it back to their station and then switch out with the oncoming crew. By having additional stocked vehicles, the on-coming crew can place the “extra” response unit in service while the crew about to end their shift is still responding to a call. This should relieve some of the crew stress that comes at shift change and should maintain available unit levels even during shift change.	This project provides the EMS department greater ability to provide service to citizens during this challenging time. It directly counters one of the issues of the pandemic which is the vehicle shortage due to reduced automobile chip manufacturing. It also addresses the increased demand for service and provides the EMS department additional options to address service needs.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
EMS	EMS Logistics Vehicle Procurement	This project would fund the procurement and upfit of an additional EMS department logistics vehicle. The increased demand on EMS service has resulted in a direct increase demand on the EMS logistics function and to a certain degree a shifting of some responsibilities to logistics from operations. To facilitate this increased workload and demand for supplies, the EMS department needs the ability to make deliveries more often requiring an additional vehicle to facilitate accomplishing the deliveries during the regular logistics work schedule.	Growth and Sustainability;	The second EMS department logistics vehicle will allow the EMS department the ability to double the delivery capacity thus covering more EMS stations in an individual logistic shift. The increased call volume has caused an increased usage of supplies that is straining the current delivery schedule and operations staff are too busy to supplement when logistics staff are not able to deliver keep up with demand.	This project provides much needed relief and support to the EMS logistics function so that it is able to support the record-breaking increase in EMS requests for service.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
EMS	EMS Patient Simulator	This project would fund the procurement of a high-fidelity patient simulator for training of EMS staff members.	Growth and Sustainability;	The EMS Department has invested in high fidelity patient simulators to provide initial training and assessment, continuing education, and ensure staff member competency on an annual basis. By adding this additional high-fidelity simulator, it would expand the EMS department’s capacity to conduct these activities thus ensuring high quality clinical care to residences.	This project would provide the EMS department with increased capability to conduct training. This includes COVID specific scenarios.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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EMS	EMS Pediatric Transportation Equipment Procurement	This project would fund the procurement of additional devices used to safely transport pediatric patients in ambulances. The EMS department currently utilizes a device used to safely secure pediatric patients onto the EMS stretcher. Due to the cost, the EMS department has only bought a small number of the devices and used the EMS Field Supervisors (EMS District Chiefs) to deliver the device to the ambulance on the scene of a call when needed. However, this can cause a delay in transport at times. This has especially become the case due to reduced staffing and increased call volume. This project would allow us to purchase enough devices to place one on every EMS response vehicle.	Growth and Sustainability;	The EMS department currently utilizes a device used to safely secure pediatric patients onto the EMS stretcher. Due to the cost, the EMS department has only bought a small number of the devices and used the EMS Field Supervisors (EMS District Chiefs) to deliver the device to the ambulance on the scene of a call when needed. However, this can cause a delay in transport at times. This has especially become the case due to reduced staffing and increased call volume. This project would allow us to purchase enough devices to place one on every EMS response vehicle.	This project would provide the EMS department with increased capability to transport pediatric patients and would reduce transport delays waiting for the device to arrive on the scene.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
EMS	EMS Specialty Response Vehicles	This project would provide the one-time costs for the initial procurement and upfit of two EMS specialty response vehicles. The EMS department currently has three EMS Response and Patient movement karts. Over the years, we have continued to upgrade the type of vehicles as the operational requirements have evolved. This procurement represents the next step in that evolution. Also, during the EMS System transition Eastern Wake and Cary declined to sell Wake County to the two karts that they used for the EMS System. This decision on their part has left a gap in service until we can replace these vehicles.	Growth and Sustainability;	The response vehicles that are planned to be purchased as part of this project will replace the two karts lost during the EMS system realignment and will bring additional capabilities. The current specialty response vehicles that we are using have open sides or soft fabric sides which do not hold-up well over time. They are also a combination of gas and electric hybrid vehicles, which we have found also do not hold up under emergency use. The new vehicles are completely enclosed with hard walls and the chassis is a gas-powered engine. The vehicle can also be registered to be street legal.	This project replaces some capacity in the EMS system for specialty response such at downtown mass gatherings and special events. It also increases the EMS department’s capabilities by providing a fully enclosed specialty response vehicle with air conditioning. The hard sides provide an additional level of safety and provide an enclosed space to conduct patient assessments. Though, this project does not directly address the pandemic per se, it does address the environment in which the EMS department operates post pandemic.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
EMS	EMS Vehicle and Building Access Control Device Procurement	This project would fund the procurement of networked key safes on EMS department emergency vehicles. These devices would provide the ability to secure the EMS narcotics key and the Knox box key in a networked key safe that would provide us a record of who accessed the keys and then they were accessed.	Growth and Sustainability;	The EMS department currently utilizes a locked cabinet on the ambulance to secure the narcotics and the Knox Box key on the emergency response vehicles. This system does not provide a record of who is accessing these items or when they are being accessed. It also does not provide individual access, thus providing a vulnerability to the system based on either a current or previous inside the agency bad actor. By having this device, we will provide a more secure process and it will decrease our agency liability while increasing our ability to use the Knox Box system, which enhances our ability to access facilities with secure access such as assisted living facilities, multi-unit apartment complexes, etc.	This project would provide the EMS department with increased capability to utilize the Knox box system while also increasing accountability and the security and of building access and narcotics storage.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
EMS	EMS Video Laryngoscopy Equipment Procurement	This project would fund the procurement of additional devices used to perform laryngoscopy so that this patient care intervention can be available on all ambulances. The EMS department currently utilizes a video laryngoscopy system for patients who have difficult airways in life threatening situations. However, these devices are currently only deployed on EMS single responder units and not the actual ambulances. Prior to the recent growth in call volume, deployment of video laryngoscopy on single responder units in lieu of ambulances was a reasonable balance between clinical need and economic constraints. However, the recent growth in call volume has made this a less practical deployment model. This project would fund the cost to deployment these devices on all ambulances in the EMS System thus making this intervention available to all patients.	Growth and Sustainability;	This project would provide the equipment necessary to make video laryngoscopy available to all patients without delay due to decreased availability of single responder units. This would have a positive clinical impact providing a more rapid move to a definitive airway for patients who are not able to maintain their own airway.	This project would provide the EMS department address a change in care practice due to the increased call volume related to the pandemic.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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EMS	EMS Nurse Navigation Line Services	This project would provide the implementation and one year’s worth of service costs associated with a turnkey nurse navigation line and alternative patient transportation service. The pandemic’s impact on the healthcare system and the EMS system has been well documented. This service will provide a way for Wake County EMS to safely reroute low acuity 911 calls after an initial assessment to a nurse navigation line to provide more in-depth telephonic assessment, triage, self-care, telehealth referral, and transportation, if necessary, to primary care offices as well as urgent care facilities. This would reduce the load on EMS as well as the hospital emergency departments while providing improved care to the residents of Wake County.	Growth and Sustainability;	During the pandemic we have seen a 30% increase in low acuity calls which is a disproportionate from the overall increase in 911 medical requests for service. These calls represent an increased burden on the system that is a direct result of the pandemic lock downs and the decreased availability of primary care services during the pandemic. By shifting these requests away from the 911 ambulances and the emergency room back to primary care via telehealth and urgent cares, we can positively impact the service level provided to patients in need.	This project is directly related to the impacts from the pandemic. The project itself will help us not only mitigate the pandemic’s increased low acuity call volume increase for EMS, but also will assist the overall healthcare system by using the telehealth, urgent care, and primary care services to their fullest, while reserving EMS and the emergency departments for high acuity and acutely ill/injured patients.	This project is not directly related to the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Environmental Services	Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) Plan Review Stimulus Program	The restaurant industry has faced unprecedented economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Facilities that could not successfully pivot operations to changing demands have closed, many in difficult development areas (DDA) within census tracts with economically vulnerable populations. Environmental Health & Safety Division is observing a 146% increase in inventory of regulated facilities that have closed. During a typical period, we observe approximately 3% of facility inventory transitioning to new owners. In July 2020, we identified 134 (3.3%) facilities in that situation. However, in July 2021, we have 330 (8%) in closed status, which represents a 146% increase in a typical period. After a year of closure, state regulations require full facility plan review before a facility can reopen. The increasing inventory of closed facilities is an indicator that EH&S can anticipate higher than average numbers of plan reviews which will stress our current staffing resources. Without additional resources, we will experience reduced customer service, increased turnaround, and delays in turnaround time to get business concepts to market. The EH&S Plan Review Stimulus Program anticipates this surge and will support local business development and jobs as the market recovers.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Great Government;	The proposal adds additional plan review staff to support the anticipated surge of facility plan reviews due to ownership changes and pandemic-related closures by providing direct plan review resources and customer service support that expedite getting business concepts to the market. Resources include one Environmental Health Manager, a Plans and Permits Technician (PPT), and two Environmental Consultants (EC). These resources would support plan review, customer service, and process improvement.	Our most recent data indicate there are 330 (8%) facilities in closure status compared to 134 (3.3%) in July 2020, an increase of 146%. In a normal period of time, Plan Review’s current staff maintained our turn around goal with overtime. The anticipated increase in plan reviews post-pandemic will result in a bottleneck resulting in reduced customer service, increased turnaround, and a delay in time to get business concepts to market. This has a disproportionate impact in economically depressed areas that rely on community businesses for jobs and services.	Facility closures negatively impact the economy at multiple levels through lost jobs and revenues. Establishments in qualifying census tracts are often small businesses that serve economically fragile populations. Their closure impacts jobs as well as access to retail food service in those areas. Business losses throughout the county reduce the county’s overall economic vitality (18% of those closures exist in qualifying census tracts). Funding the EH&S Plan Review Stimulus Program establishes resources that will quickly respond to the expected surge of plan reviews countywide, improve customer service for operators, support community access to services, and support tax revenues county-wide.
Environmental Services	South Wake Landfill Interim Covers	The waste disposal industry has faced some unusual challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ultimately when work shifted from an office environment to a home environment for many people, the waste collection (and disposal) shifted away from commercial sources. Due to this we saw a significant drop in commercial tonnage being direct hauled to the South Wake Landfill for the end of FY20 and most all FY21. During a similar period and for various reasons, odor complaints from the surrounding neighborhoods of the landfill (in Holly Springs primarily) have significantly increased. In the last year, Solid Waste with assistance from consultants and our landfill operator (GFL Environmental) have been working to minimize odors. One remaining option, that currently lacks funding, is the concept of interim covers. Interim covers are a process of using a durable plastic material to cover areas of the landfill that will not receive additional waste for a year up to 5 years. It allows for improved odor mitigation but requires both stormwater and landfill gas collection improvements.	Growth and Sustainability;	This proposal will allow the County to provide enhanced odor protection and minimize financial impact to the County’s solid waste partnership as the work effectively improves quality of life in Holly Springs and parts of Apex. Ultimately interim covers are temporary as they cover areas where additional waste will be placed several years later. Interim covers are a significant cost item with limited benefit to the landfill operation but potentially significant positive impact to the surrounding community.	Ultimately the use of interim covers will help mitigate potential quality of life issues in the Holly Springs area due to the experience of landfill odors for properties within a mile and a half of the landfill.	Use of these funds to support the installation of interim covers will reduce the impact of odors on a community that is considered inequitably impacted by this issue due to proximity to the landfill.

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Environmental Services	Wake County One Water Plan	Environmental Services (ES) proposes to develop a One Water Plan to support Board of Commissioner (BOC) goals for a clean and safe water supply. The One Water Plan will build on existing stakeholder strengths and initiatives to develop a plan that is equitable, supports growth and preserves natural resources. ES will continue a phased project approach, initiated by the Phase 1 Groundwater Resource Assessment Study approved by the BOC in 2019. Phase 2 will begin with a visioning process that will be used to establish a roadmap for future plan development. Data gaps associated with stormwater, wastewater and surface water will be identified and addressed as part of an integrated water analysis . The planning effort will incorporate a stakeholder engagement process to better understand community needs, challenges and opportunities and support development of priorities and recommendations for a safe and resilient water supply.	Community Health and Vitality;Growth and Sustainability;	Development of a One Water Plan will help guide the long-term sustainability of Wake County’s water resources. As Wake County continues to grow, it is important to advance an integrated approach to water management to ensure that Wake County has both water capacity and quality to support future growth and maintain a high quality of life. Integrating a strong community engagement process as part of the One Water Plan will increase public awareness on the value of water and help strengthen initiatives for water conservation and stormwater management.	During the pandemic demand for specific housing products blended into the area’s already hot housing market to create spikes in demand and less affordability. A primary purpose of the One Water Study is to develop a better understanding of water resources in order to support the county’s increasing population, while maintaining a high quality of life and protecting ecological functions. Information gained from the stormwater, wastewater and surface water assessments will provide strong foundations for One Water Plan development and enable the County to mitigate growth related impacts and support a safe and sustainable water supply.	Through data development and a robust stakeholder engagement process, the Plan will identify communities most vulnerable to flooding or public health risks associated with drinking water and wastewater and identify strategies to reduce water insecurity. Increased understanding of the locations and types of issues will improve the County’s ability to prioritize and develop mitigation strategies that address community needs. Building on outreach and partnerships developed through existing county initiatives such as the Wake County Water Partnership and LiveWell Wake enables the County to link water and community services, advancing PlanWake’s vision for an inclusive, equitable, sustainable and vibrant community.
Facilities Design & Construction	Cary Main EMS Station	<p>The Cary Main EMS Station is planned to be the second iteration of the newly developed Regional EMS station prototype. This new prototype will serve both as a base of operations for the units and personnel housed there, as well as a distribution point to maintain expanded medical storage, oxygen inventory, and deployable spare ambulances. It will also provide dedicated space for on-duty and off-duty training and serve as an employee shelter during inclement weather for those crew that are “engaged to wait.” EMS units throughout the region will use it as a hub for many services and activities, rather than them having to return to Raleigh for that inventory or other activities.</p> <p>This station is planned to be approximately 13,000 SF. It will feature six (6) half-bays, arranged to be three bays wide and two vehicles deep with a maximum staffing per shift of 11 people. The facility will include larger men’s and women’s full bathrooms, 2 offices, a small conference room, and a multipurpose room with lockers for 48 people.</p>	Public Safety;Education;	The “Cary Main” location has been a planned replacement of an existing station for many years. The EMS department is currently operating out of an older, unused Town of Cary fire station. The location of the replacement is properly located to provide service based on existing and projected call volume. The existing station is not a viable long-term facility due to its age and design as a fire station. The new station will provide greater operational flexibility due to it being a regional prototype station, and is an essential facility to serve the Cary area.	This station helps Wake County EMS maintain an operational footprint in a location that is needed to properly respond to all EMS requests for service, which includes, but is not limited to COVID responses. Being a regional prototype station, it includes additional storage for PPE and equipment decontamination. Having additional supplies and storage on hand keeps the ambulance in its geographic region, allowing it to stay available for emergency use. This project is a high priority for EMS and will serve the 2nd largest municipality in Wake County and 7th largest in North Carolina.	Part of the regional station concept is to provide community hubs at which Wake County EMS can conduct its cadet and workforce development programs throughout the county. Part of the focus of these programs is expanding the diversity of the EMS workforce. Cary Main will be the second of these regional station builds providing an expansion and greater community base for these programs.
FD&C Representing Marbles Kids Museum	Marbles Kids Museum Capacity Building Project	We have identified several high-impact, low-cost facility improvement projects at Marbles Kids Museum to increase program capacity and better meet the needs of Wake County early learners and their families. These projects are brought forward collectively as one request and will provide high-impact improvements at a relatively low cost, resolving Marbles’ immediate capacity and operational constraints and buying time for future major expansion or relocation.	Education;Community Health and Vitality;	Capacity improvement projects at Marbles will enable Wake County to provide critical facilities support to help resolve space and functionality constraints Marbles faces, in providing early learning and family enrichment to Wake County residents.	Families with children are among county residents most impacted by the pandemic, with vulnerable children especially at risk of lasting adverse effects. Marbles plays a vital role in child/family learning and enrichment in Wake Co, but current capacity constraints limit opportunities for program impact. Capacity improvements will enable Marbles to expand school readiness programs for vulnerable PreK students, bolster parent/child relationships in families experiencing homelessness, supplement classroom learning with hands-on play and help more local kids dream about future careers. Also, as a top Wake County attraction, more capacity at Marbles will boost the recovery of the local tourism industry.	Marbles supports diversity, equity and inclusion on all fronts by prioritizing access and affordability and actively building bridges to traditionally underserved and marginalized communities through direct program outreach and partner agencies. Every day, the museum is filled with families who reflect the diverse racial, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic demographic composition of Wake County residents. In addition to everyday play, Marbles Full Circle Access programs ensure all children have access to and are included in the Marbles experience regardless of physical, financial or other barriers, through free admission programs, subsidized memberships, free field trips for partner agencies and camp/program scholarships.

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Finance	Grants Management System	Finance would like to implement a Grant Management System that would allow us to enter, track, establish workflow approvals, and store all contracts/agreements/compliance documentation for the ARPA funding. Each disbursement to a department and or project can be setup as an individual grant within the system. The "Grant" can then be tracked, approved, and all data stored with the system. This can also be used to track all "subrecipient" awards that the County makes with the funding. We have done a demo and received a quote from Salesforce whose system is used throughout the State and Country to manage grants both for "Grantors" and "Grantees". As an example the State of NC uses the system to manage the Covid-19 vaccine administration. We would like to begin using this system for the ARPA funding and then eventually roll it out to track and manage all County grants in the future if the temporary program is successful. We are currently hiring a Senior Accountant position with funding from ARPA to oversee the funding, and the Salesforce or like system would be a powerful tool to help ensure monitoring, federal compliance of all spending, and reporting requirements.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;Great Government;	Currently Finance does not have a system to track, monitor compliance, or store documents/information related to the new ARPA and Cares Act. Finance would be able to setup each department disbursement or project for full tracking, approvals, federal compliance, and data storage. System would facilitate Finance's ability to provide federal compliance and reporting over the next three plus years. This is critical as we will be required to file interim reports, quarterly expenditure reports, and Recovery Plan Performance Reports. Otherwise this data will have to be tracked through an Excel spreadsheet and create some form of storage in Onbase which will be costly and time consuming.	Project will helps us ensure federal compliance with all funding and facilitate the extensive reporting requirements mandated by the US Treasury. As these funds will span multiple fiscal years, having all data stored in one location with proper approval documentation, will help ensure that all funds are spent on their appropriate uses in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any misuse of funds or incorrect reporting would result in Audit findings that could be damaging to the County.	System would help us ensure any federal compliance that relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. An example is the funding to support small business loans and food security that were appropriated in the first portion of ARPA funding. The funding, disbursement, and any federal requirements could be tracked through the grants management system.
Fire Services & Emergency Management	Fire Tax District-Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusion	The Fire Tax District Contract agencies have long been underachievers in the areas of recruiting. Our current practice of not paying our recruits while in an Academy does not put us in a preferable position when competing in our market. The agencies are also overall lower than the national average in minority employees. There are several key factors that we have an opportunity to change that could assist in recruiting minority candidates as well as bolstering our overall recruiting pool. Hiring recruits and providing them certification/education while including a salary and benefits would make us competitive with our local larger municipalities. This would be very similar to the Wake County EMS Paramedic program that has been hugely successful.	Great Government;Public Safety;	Providing a “ready trained pipeline of recruits” for the Fire Tax District would enhance our ability to continue the level of services that Wake citizens have come to enjoy. Fire Services new recruitment plan would utilize demographics in targeting new hires for job placements, thus allowing the workforce to closely mirror the communities in which they serve. Data driven analytics would also be utilized for additional hires that are consistent with the Long-Range Plan Standards & Guiding Principles in areas of Effective Response Force required on scene to perform job functions.	New recruiting plans would target minorities and communities that have not been afforded opportunities to work in Fire Services due to personal financial considerations of our Academy not being a funded work solution.	Minorities for the Fire Tax District are anything other than white males. The Fire Tax District is currently a 6% minority workforce. That is 76 out of 1185 persons. Wake County Fire Services is developing a stronger, more diverse & inclusive recruiting plan that includes working with partners to reach the minorities and attract them to our workforce. This would include job placement and hiring of candidates for the annual Academy. Currently, we do not pay for recruits to go through the 7-month Fire Academy. They must financially be able to pay their own way, which includes nearly \$500 in uniforms, \$300 in books, as well as be able to live for 7-months without any income. The agencies we locally compete with (Cary & Raleigh) hire recruits and fund them throughout the Academy.

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Fire Services & Emergency Management	Continuity of Operations Plan	<p>Organizations have a need to prepare for work disruptions. Disruptions may come in the form of facility loss, personnel loss, technology loss or other failures. A Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP) facilitates the continuation of Mission Essential Functions during all hazard emergencies or other situations that may disrupt normal operations.</p> <p>In 2018, the County Manager directed all departments to create departmental COOPs. Many of the departments completed the request and have developed COOPs addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Line of Succession•Delegation of Authority•Devolution•Communications•Space relocation•Mission Essential Functions (MEFs)•Vital records•Mission critical equipment•Essential Supporting Activities <p>Not all departments completed the assignment and some plans are incomplete. This Project would include the retention of services by a reputable company capable of gathering appropriate information from departments, updating departmental plans, facilitating corporate level decision making work sessions and crafting an “Executive” level plan described in the Project Scope. All departmental plans shall be updated for organizational wide consistency.</p>	Public Safety;	<p>This project scope would facilitate the completion of departmental COOPs that have not been completed, updating existing departmental plans and designing a centralized, core “Executive COOP” that would consolidate the multiple departmental COOPs into a single Plan that could be activated and executed from a corporate perspective. Generally, the intent of this “Executive COOP” is to prioritize the many departmental MEFs allowing organizational resources to be combined and focused on organizational wide priorities. The organizational COOP (aka Executive), shall be supplemented by departmental COOPS which should be attached as Annexes to the organizational or corporate COOP.</p> <p>This Project is not intended to address Continuity of Government planning nor non-MEF activities excluding Essential Supporting Activities.</p>	<p>The project would provide individual departmental plans (updated or new) and provide a "corporate level" plan to be utilized by the CMO. The outcome and mitigation both is development of a plan that will allow the continuation of essential County services in the event of disruption, such as a pandemic or other occurrences.</p>	<p>This goal does not directly support this goal. It is more mechanical and management in nature.</p>
Fire Services & Emergency Management	Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment Purchase	<p>Cancer is the most dangerous threat to firefighter’s health and safety today. These risks are increasing with modern building materials and furnishings use of petroleum products. (i.e., foam and synthetics). Cancer caused 66% of career firefighter deaths from 2002-2019 according to the International Association of Firefighters. Firefighters have almost double the chance of contracting Testicular Cancer, Mesothelioma, Myeloma, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Skin Cancer, Brain Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Leukemia, Lung Cancer and Colon Cancer than the average person. It is our responsibility to reduce the risk to our firefighter’s health by providing the most up to date Personal Protective Gear (PPE) per National Fire Protection Standards (NFPA). The new NFPA 1971 Standard strongly recommends PPE be designed with particulate blocking material, as well as new elastic cuffing around the waist, wrist, and legs. This will not only block cancer causing contaminants from penetrating the actual materials, but also seals all areas where the gear may pull away from the body. We currently follow the NFPA guidelines of PPE replacement every 10 years. With that replacement cycle, we could have firefighters wearing PPE that does not fully protect the according to NFPA Standards for up to 9 years as we cycle through.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Public Safety;	<p>Our Fire Department organizations and individuals have become increasingly aware of the health and safety hazards posed by contaminant exposure, and work within their organization and partners to educate the fire service on ways to reduce this hazard. Purchase of this new technology PPE would promote the Health and Well-being of our public safety providers by decreasing exposures to these cancer-causing materials. This would boost morale among the workforce by showing that we care and are taking steps to ensure their well-being.</p>	<p>By keeping firefighters healthy, both mentally and physically, the community will continue to see public safety service at the highest level.</p>	<p>Not sure this project supports diversity, equity and inclusion; as it offer better physical protection for all our fire responders.</p>

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General Services Administration (GSA)	Multi-Site Air Handling Unit (AHU) Germicidal Ultra-Violet System Installation (UVGI)	The County has already met the CDC indoor air quality recommendations of increasing filtration systems to MERV-13 and increasing ventilation where possible. CDC also recommends where it is not feasible to increase the ventilation rate, the air should be treated by Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation or UVGI. This project is proposing to install UVGI systems at key facilities to further reduce bacterial and virus growth within AHUs. These facilities include the Public Safety Center, Detention Center, South Wilmington Street Center, Courthouse, Justice Center, Office Building, Human Services Swinburne, Human Services Sunnybrook and the three Regional Centers. Characteristics of these facilities may include one of the following: contains clinical spaces, operates 24/7, or serves a high-volume population. Together, these facilities represent over 2.5 million square feet. The UV systems have secondary energy efficiency benefits by keeping coils clean, thereby reducing back pressure on fan system.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	This project is intended to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in specific facilities by reducing airborne contaminants and excess moisture in the air.	The facilities identified in this project are critical facilities that need to remain operational, especially during a pandemic. Following (or exceeding) as many of the CDC’s recommendations for reducing airborne contaminants provides another layer of prevention.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Commons Audio Visual (AV) System Upgrade	<p>The Commons Building is used as a corporate conference space and is available for use by all County Departments and by outside agencies. The space is also used by the Board of Commissioners as an in-person meeting space for public hearings during the annual budget process.</p> <p>This project will replace the remaining obsolete analog audio and video equipment with new digital equipment to allow staff and patrons better and more reliable integrated systems for their audio/visual needs.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Education;Great Government;Public Safety;	The remaining analog technology that is currently installed does not allow personal computers or other equipment to connect and operate through the Commons’ existing display and audio equipment.	The space is used by Wake County Departments, including Emergency Management for countywide emergency preparedness training and BOC public budget hearings. During the pandemic, the Commons Building was also used extensively for COVID operations including vaccinations and testing.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Wake County Multi-Site Solar Installation	This project advances the installation of solar panels (net-metered solar systems) in coordination with new roof installations on multiple Wake County owned facilities in order to reduce the County’s energy consumption.	Community Health and Vitality;Education;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;	This project will implement renewable energy strategies that improve progress towards meeting the Board of Commissioner's Clean Energy by 2050 resolution. GSA, along with the Energy Advisory Commission, identified 3 strategies for achieving the Resolution; 1) reducing energy consumption in the County’s portfolio by increasing system efficiency, 2) offsetting energy consumption with on-site renewable energy production, which is demonstrated by this project, and 3) buying renewable energy from alternate sources.	While this does not have a direct impact from the pandemic, this project demonstrates Wake County's dedication toward meeting goals set forth by the Board of Commissioners in the Clean Energy By 2050 Resolution. This project can be promoted as an educational example in different communities throughout Wake County regarding the benefits of installing alternative energy solutions.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.
General Services Administration (GSA)	EMS Stations- HVAC and Air Quality Upgrades	Wake County has 20 EMS stations totaling over 466,000 sq. ft. Several EMS stations currently have residential style HVAC systems that need to be upgraded with UV filtration and dehumidifiers to improve indoor air quality and reduce airborne contaminants. Where necessary, this project will also make improvements to the building envelope to reduce air leakage and improve HVAC system performance. Ten EMS Stations would receive complete HVAC systems replacements with dedicated de-humidification systems and UV sterilization systems. While the other remaining ten stations will be upfit with dehumidification and UV systems as needed.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	Emergency responders are front line, essential workers and continued working throughout the pandemic. This project is intended to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in these facilities by reducing airborne contaminants and excess moisture in the air. The project will assist GSA by allowing Physical Plant to remotely monitor EMS stations and their indoor air quality.	The project will help improve the work environment for our first responders and increase the system’s performance in these facilities.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.

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General Services Administration (GSA)	GSA Fleet Mechanics (2 FTEs) and Equipment for EMS Vehicle Expansion	<p>EMS is currently proposing to deploy eight additional frontline ambulances with five corresponding spares, as well as additional vehicles for an EMS Field Supervisor, four Advanced Practice Paramedics, three additional spares for EMS Field Supervisors and Advanced Practice Paramedics, one Logistics vehicle and two specialty off-road response vehicles; for a total of 24 additional vehicles</p> <p>In order to maintain minimum vehicle downtime, two full-time mechanics (2 FTE’s) and one vehicle alignment machine are required. One mechanic position is requested to maintain our current vehicle to mechanic ratio and the second position is requested to provide mobile equipment repairs and logistics to ensure paramedics are readily available to respond to calls in lieu of transporting vehicles to GSA/Fleet Operations. Vehicle alignments are currently outsourced. With our ambulance fleet growth, it is more efficient and productive to provide vehicle alignments in house. This project is requesting the purchase of the necessary alignment equipment and training key personnel with the goal of improving service and response, while reducing vehicle downtime.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	GSA Fleet Operations is responsible for providing safe and efficient vehicles to our departments to ensure they can provide services to Wake County citizens. These two positions and alignment machine will allow us to maintain current service levels and to also to provide new efficiencies to assist with EMS objectives to increase paramedics availability to respond to the community.	EMS is an essential service provider and is the first responder for the public to handle emergency medical needs. Keeping EMS vehicles operational and in service is imperative. The uptime and availability of their vehicles helps to support their goal of maintaining an acceptable response time to 911 calls.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Human Services Swinburne & Wake County Office Building Security Screening Upfits	<p>As part of an ongoing effort by Wake County to provide a safe and secure environment, GSA contracted with their security consultant to conduct a facility security level assessment update for Wake County facilities. This initiative was conducted as part of a multi-faceted and proactive security process predicated upon Wake County’s mission to reduce and mitigate risk for its citizens, staff, and assets. Human Services Swinburne and the Wake County Office Building were identified as a level IV facility, which recommends metal detection screening at entrances during business hours.</p> <p>The project would install security screening stations at the entrances of Human Services @ Swinburne and the Wake County Office Building. The security station is deigned to screen for metal objects and may serve as a checkpoint for COVID symptom screening, if needed.</p> <p>Both facilities are identified in separate Master Planning initiatives and construction projects are at various stages.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Public Safety;	The security screening stations will require all persons entering to go through metal detection and subsequent wandering, if weapons and other prohibited items are detected. Security screening should mitigate risk for its citizens, staff, and assets.	Upfitting these facilities with screening (metal detection) equipment at entrances will improve security at these two public buildings by identifying weapons and other prohibited items. The security station may serve as a checkpoint for COVID symptom screening, if needed.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Improvements to the Negative Pressure Room Controls at Human Services Sunnybrook	This project would upgrade the equipment supporting the negative pressure rooms used for highly infectious airborne diseases at Human Services Sunnybrook. Improvements of the controllers, fans, and ductwork will be completed as necessary to maintain the requirements of the current NC DHHS Guidelines. Completing these improvements to maintain NC DHHS guidelines will allow for lower turnover time and more people to be seen per day.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;	These systems will ensure that Health & Human Services staff have the equipment they need to perform their services in these negative pressure rooms and that GSA has the ability to adequately maintain them.	The negative pressure rooms are designed to be used for the treatment of contagious diseases. Increasing the system capacity allows for faster turnover of clients and more people being treated.	GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.

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General Services Administration (GSA)	Ponderosa Wastewater Treatment System Repair and Upgrade Project	<p>The Ponderosa wastewater treatment facility located in Wendell NC provides service for a neighborhood consisting of 67 homes. This facility has been operating without major modifications since it was originally permitted in March 1989. The modifications proposed would correct drainage issues, reconfigure the piping, and replace equipment at lifecycle and setup the facility for long-term maintainability.</p> <p>The treatment facility collects wastewater from the residences and then pumps and collects this wastewater into a treatment lagoon where a biological process is completed before the water is treated with chlorine and sprayed onto a 7.8-acre field directly adjacent to the neighborhood. While this system functions as intended, the original design, topography, and location of the facility could be improved for better service delivery. The challenges with the current system include the odors and stormwater paths which affect the adjacent properties.</p> <p>The modifications under consideration are the result of a study performed by the County’s contracted wastewater operator for the facility. Two options under consideration include: 1) On-site repairs and slight reconfiguration to the existing facility which will mitigate some of the long-term challenges, and 2) Off-site reconfiguration which (if possible) would alleviate the long-term challenges with this facility. This project would focus on the repairs and alterations proposed in</p>	Community Health and Vitality;Growth and Sustainability;Public Safety;Great Government;	This project will improve GSA’s ability to maintain this wastewater treatment facility, meet current health and operational guidelines, while also reducing some of the long-term challenges of operating this type of facility. These proposed improvements may also reduce facility operating costs. Completing these improvements may improve the marketability of transferring the operational responsibilities to an outside organization in this industry.	The Department of Treasury Interim final rule for the ARPA funding outlines the investment in infrastructure and specifically waste and sewer infrastructure due to the critical role that wastewater infrastructure plays in protecting public health. Wake County GSA proposes to repair and improve this aging wastewater treatment plant. The facility was constructed prior to GSA management and applying lessons learned from operating the facility would improve the long-term functionality and maintainability of this asset.	The community served by this wastewater treatment plant is socially and economically diverse. Increasing the plant’s capacity and improving the system’s performance will assist this underserved community. Without the County’s early intervention with direct funding, this community’s wastewater system would be the financial responsibility of this neighborhood to improve on their own or through a Special Assessment process. These options would place a prohibitive financial burden on many of the residents of this community that would prevent these improvements from being accomplished.
General Services Administration (GSA)	Five County Stadium MiLB Standards Project	The goal of this project is to make improvements to Five County Stadium to bring the player and spectator experience up to a level consistent with Major League Baseball Guidelines for minor league stadiums. This would include the construction and renovation of between 5,000 and 15,000 sq. ft. of new facilities. The list of assets requiring modification are: 1) The home and away team clubhouse structures (including the potential for new construction of home team clubhouse), 2) Modifications to the main concourse to include upgrading the dugouts, outfield wall, and field lighting, and 3) Construction of a security command post and batting cage “tunnel” façade.	Community Health and Vitality;Economic Strength;	GSA is responsible for the repair and upkeep of this asset. Bringing the stadium up to these new standards will require the renovation or replacement of many existing structures on the Five County Stadium site. This project is intended to meet the Minor League Baseball Standards and prevent the Carolina Mudcats from being fined for non-compliance. Additionally, combining all of the requested facility modifications into one large project would reduce the disruption to the operation of the facility. Combining the facility modifications also will reduce the overhead on the project and impact to county maintenance staff.	Five County Stadium is home to the Carolina Mudcats, a Minor League Baseball team and affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers. The 2020 baseball season was canceled due to the pandemic causing an adverse effect on all teams in the league as well as players and other support staff. The County owns Five County Stadium and leases this asset to the Mudcats organization. The Town of Zebulon has 15% ownership of this asset. Improved facilities may improve the player and spectator experience, thereby benefiting the community it serves.	<p>GSA partners and supports County departments, so they can provide services to their customers, in a clean, safe and professional work environment. We seek to understand their business needs and program requirements based on the diversity of the populations they serve.</p> <p>While updating the stadium to meet the new Minor League Standards, additional modifications to the stadium will be made to improve ADA Accessibility.</p>

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Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization	Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing	If \$10 million in existing committed County capital is replaced by ARPA funds for the projects in the chart below, we will be able to use County funding to accomplish one or more of the following programs.	Community Health and Vitality;	Preserving and producing affordable housing directly supports and is the foundation for the success of our most vulnerable residents. It also provides economic opportunity, especially for those who have been historically marginalized.	COVID-19 caused economic and emotional harm that disproportionately impacted those with the lowest incomes including many working in the service or hospitality industry. Lower-income residents struggled not only with rent, food and healthcare, but also anxiety, depression and loneliness from the pandemic.	Often times, Wake County leads by example. Just as the County supports DEI in the workforce, ensuring housing is equitable, accessible and provides economic opportunity furthers the County’s core mission.																																
		<table><tr><td>Property Advantage</td><td>County Award</td><td>Year Est.</td><td>Closing</td><td>Funded in</td></tr><tr><td>Toulon Place \$28,056,213</td><td>Yes</td><td>\$3,592,296</td><td>2019Fall 2021</td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td>Rock Quarry \$32,069,301</td><td>Yes</td><td>\$1,750,000</td><td>2020Fall 2021</td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td>The Sussex \$38,670,440</td><td>No</td><td>\$2,800,000</td><td>2020Fall 2021</td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td>Broadstone Walk \$32,018,803</td><td>No</td><td>\$3,000,000</td><td>2020Spring 2022</td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td></td><td>\$11,142,296</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>\$130,814,757</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>1) Increase launch amount for the Preservation Fund</p> <p> i. Current budget = \$10.5M, Estimated Fund Size: \$40-\$60 million</p> <p> ii. New budget = \$20.5M, Estimated Fund Size: \$80-\$100 million</p> <p>2) Add the Acquisition Fund back to the Preservation Fund design to create funding to acquire properties in “areas of opportunity”</p>		Property Advantage	County Award	Year Est.	Closing	Funded in	Toulon Place \$28,056,213	Yes	\$3,592,296	2019Fall 2021	NO	Rock Quarry \$32,069,301	Yes	\$1,750,000	2020Fall 2021	NO	The Sussex \$38,670,440	No	\$2,800,000	2020Fall 2021	NO	Broadstone Walk \$32,018,803	No	\$3,000,000	2020Spring 2022	NO	TOTAL		\$11,142,296			\$130,814,757				
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Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization	Increasing Homeless Service Provider Capacity and Outcomes in Wake County	Wake County’s Housing Department initiated the Hotels to Housing (H2H) program in 2020, a non-congregate emergency shelter designed to compensate for emergency shelter bed capacity loss due to social distancing measures. The H2H model provided an array comprehensive and co-located services for clients including medical triage, prescription payment assistance, transportation, behavioral health support, housing navigation, short term financial assistance, and case management. In 6 months, H2H permanently housed over 300 people. The Housing Department would like to offer funding for H2H-style services to all Wake County homeless service providers. In exchange, service providers will agree to operate a low barrier, best practice models. We expect that this will lead to a significant improvement in service outcomes.	Community Health and Vitality;Great Government;	The Housing Department is dedicated to leveraging community expertise and partnerships to ensure best and emerging practices are the standard across all service provision within Wake County. H2H demonstrated the efficacy of a well-funded, well-resourced, low barrier homeless program. We intend to bring this model to all Wake homeless service providers so they too can secure the same success for their clients. Supporting additional wrap-around services ensure providers can meet the dynamic needs of people experiencing homelessness and secure long-term progress toward the goal of ending homelessness.	Wake County has an estimated 58,270-unit deficit of affordable housing. The economic fallout of COVID-19 means that many more low-moderate income households in Wake County will experience cost burden and the inability to cover basic household expenses like rent and utilities, pushing many into an already over extended homeless system. Right now, households experience on average 74 days in homelessness, 44 days longer than the HUD standard of 30 days. An improvement in resource provided at the service provider and shelter level may significantly contribute to expedited exit from homelessness into more sustainable permanent housing.	Data from the HouseWake Eviction Prevention program clearly demonstrates “who” is impacted primarily by this crisis. Of the 2,812 completed applications, 73% are women, 65% are Black, and 56% are very low income (less than 30% AMI). Also, Black Wake County residents represent 21% of the total population but represent 64% of people experiencing homelessness in Wake County. Improving service delivery at the shelter and service provider level through data-informed care coordination and service provision will increase exits from homelessness to permanent housing, ultimately contributing to a more equitable future for all Wake County residents.																																

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Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization	Cornerstone Service Center and Transitional Housing Program	<p>The Cornerstone Service Center will integrate the Permanent Supportive Housing Voucher program with intensive case management and support services provided by the Cornerstone Community Service team.</p> <p>The Community Services staff will provide service and training programs that will be open to clients of the new Transitional Housing program and tenants of Permanent Supportive Housing programs. The new campus may also be open to the community and other service providers. These programs and services may include therapeutic group activities, vocational counseling, and skills training. A goal of the program would be to establish hands-on job experience through volunteer opportunities and a supported work program.</p> <p>The Transitional Housing program will provide 20 units of temporary housing to those experiencing chronic homelessness and have been identified as “familiar faces” or those who are high users of emergency interventions. A high-quality permanent supportive housing (PSH) project focused on high-need, high-cost clients that can serve as a model for future development and inform a cost-benefits case for providing PSH in Wake County. The program team will assess needs and provide or facilitate appropriate services to stabilize and prepare the individual for permanent supportive housing and independent living within the community.</p>	Community Health and Vitality;	ARPA Funding will leverage the Cornerstone renovation project. GSA Facilities Design & Construction has confirmed that quotes have costs considerably higher for the Cornerstone project than expected. The development of the pilot project can help Wake County test and improve current systems for housing and service delivery and achieve multiple goals, including: engage experienced housing and service providers committed to creating quality PSH; Strengthen relationships with current PSH funders and establish relationships with new community partners to increase PSH production; Collect data to build the cost-benefits case for PSH provision. Leveraging data analysis undertaken to date, the pilot project can be targeted to “familiar faces,” or frequent users of crisis services in Wake County.	The COVID pandemic has exacerbated the affordable housing crisis and magnified the importance of decent, safe, affordable housing as a critical social determinant of health. Housing is Healthcare. This project will expand and enhance services for Supportive Housing clients so they may become and remain stably housed. The project will add 20 units of transitional housing for “Familiar Faces,” the most vulnerable citizens experiencing homelessness and have multiple health and behavioral health issues and fill an unmet need in the county.	The project would expand/enhance access to permanent supportive housing and quality wrap-around services for marginalized populations through direct service as well as partnerships with community health and mental healthcare. In Wake County, the population that needs permanent supportive housing are residents who require ongoing, voluntary supportive services to remain stably housing and live independently. This population includes multiple subgroups, including, but not limited, to: People experiencing chronic homelessness; mental illness; intellectual and development disabilities; substance use disorders; HIV/AIDs or other chronic physical conditions. Residents may fall into more than one subgroup, likely compounding their challenges in remaining stably housed.
Human Services	Mobile Unit	This mobile unit would be used to provide outreach in vulnerable communities and to serve people where they live. These services would include Medicaid, FNS, other benefit programs; CW prevention services; PH services including COVID-19, HIV/STD testing and treatment, health promotion efforts, immunization outreach, CD outbreaks, and Emergency Preparedness. This multi-purpose mobile unit design will be geared towards flexible use to address varied needs in the county.	Community Health and Vitality;	The use of a mobile unit gives us the ability to reach rural and underserved areas of the county with services such as COVID-19, HIV/STD testing and treatment, health promotion efforts, immunization outreach, CD outbreaks, Emergency Preparedness, Medicaid and FNS.	Will address issue of geographical access to services in areas where there are no existing facilities and where transportation is an issue to accessibility of services to -hard-to reach and vulnerable populations.	Accessibility of services to -hard-to reach and vulnerable populations.
Human Services	HHS Training Center	This would be a state-of the art multi-purpose Human Services Training and Conference Center. Used to address the training needs in CW, ESS, PH, and also to ensure that divisions have space for Child Welfare simulation training and all-staff meetings.	Great Government;	Used to address the training needs in Child Welfare, Economic Social Services and the Public Health divisions of Health and Human Services. The Conference Center will ensure that divisions have space for Child Welfare simulation training and all-staff meetings.	Capacity to robustly address the training needs in CW, ESS, and PH.	Ensuring adequate training opportunities for all staff
Human Services	Child Welfare - contract mental health provider	Provide clinical support to staff for secondary trauma and burnout to support retention, \$60/hour for 1 year, 10 hours/week	Community Health and Vitality;	Provide clinical support to staff for secondary trauma and burnout to support retention	Provision of clinical support to staff improving retention and the mental well being	Accessibility of services to all staff
Human Services	Regional Center Enhancements	Building and design upgrades for HHS sites geared towards enhancing service delivery in Public Health, Child Welfare, and Economic Services	Community Health and Vitality;	Enhancing service delivery in Public Health, Child Welfare, and Economic Services	Will address issue of geographical access to services	Accessibility of services
Human Services	Child Welfare Transitional Funds	Support for youth aging out of foster care at age 21	Community Health and Vitality;	Leverage financial, emotional, educational support to youth exiting care	Assist youth experiencing economic hardships and insufficient resources	Insufficient resources and barriers to receiving services
Human Services	Child Welfare Graduation Funds	Support youth graduating from high school	Community Health and Vitality;	Leverage financial, emotional, educational support to youth graduating from high school	Assist youth experiencing economic hardships and insufficient resources	Insufficient resources and barriers to receiving services
Human Services	Contract Mental Health Provider [Foster & Adoption]	Provide clinical support to foster and adoptive parents for grief and loss and preparation for adoption; supporting services to children/families where permanency has been difficult to attain.	Community Health and Vitality;	A resource referral ensure clinical support to foster and adoptive parents to retain and recruit out of home placement	Provision of clinical support to Foster and Adoptive parents	Accessibility of services
Human Services	Child Welfare - DocVault	Electronically send documents to Black Mountain to expedite licensing applications for WC Foster Parents	Community Health and Vitality;	A resource to expedite licensing for Wake County Foster Parents	Expediting process with electronic submission of applications	Eliminating barriers to receiving services

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Human Services	Virtual Interview Stations	Create virtual interview stations on 2nd Floor in Swinburne in the empty Transportation space which is adjacent to the reception area.	Community Health and Vitality;	This would allow Work First, Child Care and Adult Medicaid to utilize remote interviews and provide adequate space for clients to access. Evaluate potential for converting space at regional centers to accommodate virtual interview stations.	Provide remote interviews and adequate space for clients to access.	Accessibility of services
Information Services	Contracted Enterprise IT Training Support	A contract position for six months minimum. At that time, we can reevaluate to see if there is a longer-term requirement for virtual training support. We anticipate bringing in a contractor who has experience working with Wake County employees in the past. The contractor will help deliver training and help develop new training, as well as create and maintain the training sites and documentation that employees rely on to learn the technology they are expected to use. This person will report to Kimberly Gibney in IS Solutions Development.	Great Government;	An additional, dedicated resource providing backup and support for all Microsoft 365 training needs (including applications we currently do not have the capacity to train) will enable our dedicated trainer to perform other assigned duties and assist with the vast number of initiatives supported by the IS Solutions Development team and the IS Department.	The global pandemic was the catalyst for the county's Work from Home order. With the majority of employees working from home and many continuing to work from home going forward as part of the Wake 2.0 initiative, it is imperative that our workforce be trained and proficient in Microsoft 365 applications and services. This additional, dedicated resource will help us fulfill that need.	Currently, we have one staff person providing IT training support to 5,000+ employees. This model severely limits the breadth and number of classes we can offer to employees, and as a result, the majority of employees do not have the opportunity to develop their skills, improve their productivity and increase opportunity for advancement. Since March 2020, more than 1500 employees were waitlisted for training classes because the trainer simply does not have the bandwidth to meet the current demand for training. An additional trainer would help IS meet the growing demand for IT training classes.
Information Services	Self-Serve Kiosks at new HHS buildings	To add two new kiosks to the new HHS buildings to allow citizens to scan recertification documents without having to have appointments and to safely stay socially distanced. There are currently kiosks at Swinburne and Sunnybrook.	Great Government;	These kiosks would allow HHS staff at these locations to focus on other customer services work. Recertification's are straightforward and are used heavily in Swinburne and Sunnybrook by citizens.	Kiosks allow citizens to avoid direct in person contact for the repetitive standard monthly recertification process. This lowers the number of interactions for staff and citizens for this routine task.	Providing kiosks at additional regional HHS locations allows citizens more neighborhood options to securely and with limited contact submit recertification's. This directly supports the County's goal by making sure those with lack of transportation or technology have options close to where they live.
Information Services	Online Energy Application	To eliminate a completely manual process of receiving and approving HHS Energy Assistance Applications (UCAP, TANF-EA). The new process would allow residents to submit via an online OnBase Unity Form. The application would feed directly into the current OnBase workflows for Energy.	Great Government;	Creating an automated process would both increase staff productivity and lessen the wait time for residents and regarding Energy assistance decisions.	This project provides another avenue for residents to submit their application for Energy assistance. In addition, it should speed up the review and decisions related to Energy applications allowing residents to remain safe at home instead of heading to a crowded shelter.	By having multiple avenues to submit an application it promotes inclusion and brings down barriers to submission. An automated process will also cut down on human mistakes that can occur in a manual process.
Information Services	Online HHS appointments	Extending the current Queuing system in Swinburne to allow citizen's to use their mobile phones to make appointments and also to allow full online appointment capabilities to include using remote technology to conduct the appointment.	Great Government;Public Safety;	This project augments and expands the current ability to serve residents in Wake County with their Economic Services needs.	It allows for maximum social distancing. Residents can make an appointment online and wait in their car. A notification will be provided when the case worker is available and they should enter the building. It will also allow for completely online appointments using video conferencing technology.	The ability to utilize video conferencing technology allows anyone to be able to make appointments for certain programs and eliminates transportation as a potential barrier to services.
Information Services	Public Health Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)	Public Health needs a technology system to help manage and engage with Community Partners. This includes capturing partners information and the population and areas they serve. A CRM will also provide network analysis and help determine the partners that PH works closely with and across which programs to streamline relationships and ensure efforts are not duplicated	Great Government;Community Health and Vitality;	A technology solution would allow Public Health to track and manage how they interact with Community partners. It can provide more detail reporting related to specific events and their relationship with various partners. It will also eliminate the current manual process of entering into a spreadsheet which is error prone and lacks the ability to provide meaningful data to stakeholders.	Community Engagement is an avenue Public Health has expanded to get vaccines into the community. Understanding the relationship with various partners will allow Public Health to focus on partners that can bring results and have the ability to engage the public whether for Vaccines or other future needs.	Having great partners allows for the County to bring knowledge, experience and needed care into historically marginalized communities. There is no better example than the current vaccination efforts. A technology solution will allow Public Health to continue this good work and have an appropriate database of interactions to report and learn lessons from.
Information Services	WIC Secure Document Transfer	Public Health and WIC needs a way to securely transmit documents with sensitive data between clients and staff. Livegenic is a tool that has been piloted with Child Welfare during COVID to provide review and signatures of documents in the field. This tool would also meet all of WIC needs.	Great Government;Community Health and Vitality;	As the pandemic continues and even after it ends the need to change how we do business will remain. This option will allow WIC recipients to submit documentation quickly and digitally.	less in person face to face interaction	During COVID this provides a safe and secure method for all recipients to submit documentation.
Information Services	1.0 Audio Visual Engineer FTE	1.0 FTE to support equipment and software associated with an increased use of video conferencing equipment in conference and collaboration spaces throughout County facilities.	Great Government;	The need for video conferencing has increased as more staff are working remotely. The position will improve the ability of IS to provide and support consistent video conferencing experiences for staff across the organization.	The position would mitigate service impacts by providing a means for staff to meet and collaborate more efficiently and effectively regardless of work location.	Supporting a robust video conferencing environment will allow all staff to be included in meetings and collaboration regardless of their primary work location. Staff working from home will have the same advantages in meetings as their peers working in the office.

Department	Project Name	Project Description	Board Goal Key Focus Areas	Describe how the project would enhance/improve your department’s ability to provide service.	How does this project help the County mitigate community, service, or economic impacts that resulted from the pandemic? (Please limit response to 100 words or less)	Describe how the project would support the County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Information Services	aWake Data Academy	This project aims to start a cohort academy where participants increase their data literacy and proficiency with data analysis approaches and technical tools. We want to pilot this program session 1 with the members of the data governance workgroup and, using their feedback, develop the formal program that would be available to all Wake employees through eWake. This would be an effort lead by the CDO in the Data & Analytics team with consultancy from Strategic Performance\Innovation, GIS, and outside vendors as needed. The cost in year one includes developing materials for the program, and the future year's cost is to bring in guest speakers or additional materials like books or subscriptions.	Great Government;	Currently, the aWake training programs are focused solely on using Power BI as the enterprise data analytics tool. This narrow technical focus only opens training to a limited number of employees. Using data to make better decisions is a role for all employees, and their skillset needs to be increased to make this possible. This program will help employees make better data-driven decisions by adding more tools to their analysis toolbox in the form of data literacy, process and procedures, and tools associated with data analysis.	This project helps the County mitigate impacts from the pandemic by increasing the skillset of employees in the use of data to make better decisions in support of County operations and the community.	This project supports DEI in two ways. Firstly, it is an inclusive project for any employee to increase their skillset. Secondly, it supports data-driven decision making which benefits DEI projects such as Wake Invests in Women by using data and evidence to make DEI decisions across the County.
Information Services	Data Governance Tool	The project aims to implement a data governance platform Collibra that will allow an analyst to confidentially select the correct data source and trust in data reliability to make better decisions. The platform would house the metadata, including a searchable data catalog, data dictionary, data lineage, and data quality ratings simplifying the process of finding, trusting, and uses data.	Great Government;	Collibra, a data governance software tool, provides the central repository for our data governance practice. To become a more data-driven organization, analysts must know where to find data, confirm trust, and trace data back to its source. A data governance platform allows the data and analytics team, in partnership with data stewards, the capabilities to provide detailed data documentation of definitions and lineage, ensuring reliability, trust, and accuracy of data.	One of the issues we have faced during pandemic operations is the quality and trust of data. COVID operations highlighted the importance of understanding if you are using the correct data, data quality and frequency, and the data source when making decisions. If we had a data governance tool that allowed for the understanding of data and its source, we could increase the quality and reliability of data which leads to better data-driven decisions. A data governance tool would also allow us to spend more time deriving insights from the data versus the amount of time we currently spend wrangling the data before analysis.	The data governance tool supports the County's goals for DEI by providing better understanding and documentation of data which results in better data-driven decision making for all County projects, including DEI initiatives. For example, through the data governance tool's documentation and metadata about HR data, we would be able to select the appropriate data to identify STEM-related positions and their associated salaries and demographics information for the Wake Invests in Women data analysis. Choosing the correct data allows for better decision-making and a more accurate assessment of the current state and future predictions of race and equality in STEM at the County.
Information Services	Data Warehousing and ETL Tools for Enterprise Data Management	This project aims to acquire and implement cloud data warehousing and ETL (extract, load & transform) tools to give the County a modern platform for enterprise data management. The request to build upon our existing investment in Office 365 tools with the use of Azure SQL and Azure Data Factory for this purpose. As part of the government cloud, these tools provide the security and flexibility needed to effectively and timely manage data.	Great Government;	The Azure data management tools would improve our ability to provide data warehousing and management services to the County more quickly and securely. We do not have a centralized platform for data storage which makes access to and security of data a challenge for the organization. Data is stored in various locations across the enterprise, often duplicated and manipulated without documentation. Azure data management tools will assist us in providing a secure and repeatable process for data storage and transformation.	One of the challenges brought to light in the COVID response is the need to have data storage facilities that can be turned up as needed in response to an event. With cloud-based pay-as-you-go services, Azure provides us with the flexibility of expanding our footprint as needed to respond to new data management requests.	Data warehousing and ETL support the DEI initiatives in the County by providing secure, reliable, and quality data for use in data-driven decision making.
Information Services	Managed Endpoint Detection & Response	CrowdStrike’s Falcon Complete offering is Endpoint Protection delivered as a service. Falcon Complete combines the effectiveness of the CrowdStrike Falcon Platform with the efficiency of a dedicated and experienced team of CrowdStrike Security Professionals. The Falcon Complete team would manage and actively monitor Falcon Prevent (NGAV), Falcon Insight (EDR), Falcon Discover (IT Hygiene), and Falcon OverWatch (Managed Threat Hunting) services, investigate Detections and CrowdScore Incidents, and remotely remediate malicious activity as needed, guided by the defined security posture playbooks.	Great Government;	Currently all endpoint detection and response activities are handled by in house staff and follows a rotating on call schedule. Utilization of managed services could augment existing staff capabilities on a 24x7x365 basis while allowing existing staff to focus on other key projects and security program enhancements. Falcon Complete also includes a breach prevention warranty up to \$500,000 in breach response expenses if there is a security incident within the environment protected by the service.	Remote staff are utilizing non-County supported networks to access resources which do not provide the same layers of protection as the County network. This increases the likelihood of a security event where standard security controls provided by the County network are not present.	This project would support the protection of all citizen data that has been entrusted to Wake County.
Information Services	Managed Phishing Detection & Response	The utilization of managed phishing detection & response services would provide access to a global network of more than 40 security analysts, leveraging vetted threat intelligence to quickly identify and eradicate phishing threats in our environment on a 24x7 basis.	Great Government;	Currently all phishing detection and response activities are handled by in house staff on a 8x5 basis. Utilization of managed services could augment existing staff capabilities on a 24x7x365 basis while allowing existing staff to focus on other key projects and security program enhancements.	Phishing continues to be the most common attack vector for organizations. Organizations involved in COVID-19 response activities are heavily targeted due to the extensive amounts of confidential or sensitive data they may be entrusted with. Continuous detection and response services can reduce the amount of time phishing emails are accessible in inboxes, therefore reducing the likelihood of users interacting with those.	This project would support the protection of all citizen data that has been entrusted to Wake County.

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Information Services	Extension of SQL Database Management Contractor	We are requesting the extension of the SQL DBA Contract for 11 additional months. Due to the continued COVID/Public Health data support initiatives it was necessary to augment our two person team. Since we are still supporting a large number of data/reporting requirements this augmentation is required for the additional period. This contract coverage will carry us to the new FY23 Budget where we are requesting a 1.0 SQL FTE.	Great Government;Community Health and Vitality;	This position will allow us to continue to support existing Public Health related data requests and meet the urgent needs of future requests as the Delta Variant Virus rises in the County.	SQL data has and continues to play a critical role in providing COVID-related health information such as areas of outbreaks, testing statistics, and vaccination information.	The Wake County COVID response has focused heavily on ensuring the inclusion of all Wake county residents and the SQL Data support is a critical component of providing the required information.
Information Services	ERP Platform Replacement Consulting Assistance	<p>This project will facilitate the hiring of an industry expert to develop a requirements specifications document and a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. The scope of the project includes assisting the County in developing an estimated price range (needed budget) for an ERP software and system implementation. Scope also includes reviewing existing systems to determine gaps in functionality and inefficiencies, interviewing department staff to document requirements for a new ERP system, reviewing current workflows, developing an RFP document suitable for posting, obtaining appropriate vendor product proposals, assisting in evaluating submitted proposals to help make an ERP selection, and contract negotiations with a selected vendor.</p> <p>The outcome of this RFP will be the selection of a modern ERP platform that is more reliable, secure, flexible, and dynamic. It is also expected the County will reduce the long-term cost of software licensing and maintenance, underscoring the ARPA investment goal of reducing long-term operating costs.</p>	Great Government;	Although this project is submitted by Information Services, it is important to note the project will enhance the ability to provide improved services for the majority of all County departments. Again, the outcome of this project will be the selection of a modern ERP platform. An ERP platform integrates the administrative process (financial, budget, purchasing and human capital management (HCM)) needed to run an organization. Modern ERP platforms provide enhanced functionality such as embedded artificial intelligence, automation, an immersive user experience, and significantly enhanced data analysis, reporting and dashboard capabilities. All which enable continuous innovation across the organization.	One fundamental change organizations face as a result of the pandemic is retaining staff due to skills gaps, retirement waves, and evolving employee work location preferences. An organization’s ability to adapt and be flexible is a critical component of workforce resilience. There is a vital need for internal collaboration and self-service tools to maintain communications and productivity in the new normal. Fostering a culture of continuous learning, and empowerment helps to close talent gaps and upskill employees to build a pipeline of future leaders. Modern HCM components of ERP platforms are designed to facilitate employee development and growth.	As detailed in the previous responses, modern ERP platforms provide enhanced data analysis, reporting and dashboard capabilities which results in better data-driven decision making for all County projects, including DEI initiatives. Modern platforms also enhance employee development, growth, collaboration and empowerment which supports diversity, equity, and inclusion for all County employees.
Register of Deeds	Enslaved Persons Project – education and promotion budget	The project will educate and promote the ROD’s Enslaved Persons Project to the public online through social media using promoted/paid posts, videos, infographics, and slide decks. The budget dollars will be used to create the education and promotion material and for the advertising placements. This promotion will also help build a volunteer base to help get the work done of locating, indexing, and transcribing these deeds.	Education;Great Government;	Educating the public on the Enslaved Persons Project will increase the education and awareness of the project to the public. Once complete, the Enslaved Persons Project will make public the records from more than 30 deed books containing bills of sale and property exchanges to allow the public to research the origins and history of these enslaved people. This project will give greater access (and in some cases first access) of documentation of origin in Wake County.	This project shows a commitment from the county to a very specific part of history that has been glazed over for 300 years. We believe it shows the commitment to a community that is often overlooked and who was impacted by the pandemic on a greater scale. By providing access to these deeds, we unearth the lineage and the history of people of color in Wake County. It is incredibly important for factual accounts of enslaved persons ties to Wake County and works toward bringing sunshine on the untold stories of the history of Wake County and its people.	By its nature, the Enslaved Persons Project increases diversity, equity, and inclusion by making information on historical enslaved people in Wake County accessible for the public. Educating and promoting the Enslaved Persons Project will deepen the impact the project will have on the County and its people
Register of Deeds	Paid Internship/Volunteer Coordinator for Enslaved Persons Project	The Wake ROD needs a Paid Intern/Volunteer Coordinator to manage volunteers who will create a centralized, searchable database of information about formerly enslaved people contained in bills of sale from Wake County. Once complete, the community will have access to search these historic documents and high-resolution images. The first step in the process is identifying records in the county deed books that include information about enslaved people. The next step is indexing which involves locating and labeling deeds plus recording the detailed information in the deed in a spreadsheet. The final step is transcription, or typing out the content of the deeds, which makes the index fully searchable. This entire process will be completed with volunteer labor. The ROD needs a coordinator to manage this process.	Education;Great Government;	The Paid Intern/Volunteer Coordinator will oversee and manage the Enslaved Persons Project. Once complete, the Project will make public the records from more than 30 deed books containing bills of sale and property exchanges to allow the public to research the origins and history of these enslaved people. This project will give greater access (and in some cases first access) of documentation of origin in Wake County.	This project shows a commitment from the county to a very specific part of history that has been glazed over for 300 years. We believe it shows the commitment to a community that is often overlooked and who was impacted by the pandemic on a greater scale. By providing access to these deeds, we unearth the lineage and the history of people of color in Wake County. It is incredibly important for factual accounts of enslaved persons ties to Wake County and works toward bringing sunshine on the untold stories of the history of Wake County and its people.	By its nature, the Enslaved Persons Project increases diversity, equity, and inclusion by making information on historical enslaved people in Wake County accessible for the public.

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Sheriff’s Office	Wake County Safe Jails Initiative	The Wake County Sheriff’s Office is requesting to purchase and install three (3) Intercept Full Body Scanners from Tek84. Two (2) for Wake County Detention Center (WCDC) and One (1) for the Public Safety Center (PSC). The scanners come preassembled in crates. Set up takes less than two hours and there is no need for dedicated power or overhead conduit, it simply plugs into a 100/120/230 VAC, 50-60 Hz, 800-watt receptacle. A data line will be required to link all three units. This need can be worked out with GSA. The scanner dimensions are (34” X 72”) width, 90 inches in height, and weighs 720 lbs. The safety zone is contained inside the dimensions of the scanner. There is no need to drill into the concrete to anchor the unit into place. These scanners are mobile and can roll through a 34.5” security door to different locations in the jail with the heavy caster. Then you simply lock the caster in place to secure them.	Public Safety;	Sheriff Gerald Baker and Detention Senior Management are taking all precautions to prevent exposure and the spreading of COVID-19 and other illnesses in the detention facilities. There are currently eleven (11) North Carolina Counties using twelve (12) Intercept full body scanners. The Intercept body scanner detects concealed threats such as weapons and narcotics while reducing COVID-19 and other transmissions. One staff member can screen many individuals while maintaining the requested CDC required safe distance. The scanners also include an FDA approved thermal camera that calculates the body temperature of each subject to provide an indication of COVID-19 and other infections. The use of the body scanner is necessary to protect the health of our detention staff and to prevent lengthy officer quarantines that greatly impact the workforce at the facilities.	Since the start of this pandemic residents’ family members and/or friends have expressed concerns about the additional levels of protection provided for the inmates while in custody. Therefore, Sheriff Baker has made it his priority to protect the residents while in the custody of WCSO. So with these body scanners in place it will assist in minimizing the spread of the virus upon resident’s entering the jail and help to protect the community when they are released.	Sheriff Baker and County Officials have put in preparation procedures during this coronavirus pandemic by educating employees on how important it is to wear mask, wash hands, clean and sanitize workstations properly while practicing social distancing. In order, to continue this and follow it is important for the County to explore new products that can assist in keeping the county employees and inmates safe. Therefore, with these body scanners being a tool that promotes safety in the detention facilities it will be in line with the County goals.
Soil & Water Conservation District	Updated Cost of Community Services Study and Farmland Protection Plan	The project will reveal the financial impact of agriculture, horticulture, forestry in the county and plan for their future in the county. The Cost of Community Services Study (CCSS) will evaluate agriculture to see if it is a net producer or user for the county economy. This will be an update to the 2001 CCSS. The study design is laid out by American Farmland Trust. We will hire a contractor to write the plan; but work with other departments to make a steering committee. The county has grown tremendously since 2001 and the economy has experienced several changes, thus justifying an update. This will set up the background for the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) update which was first written in 2013. Using the data from the CCSS and additional data that the consultant and steering committee deem necessary, they will update the Farmland Preservation Plan from 2013. This update is in alignment with the recent PlanWake and will help assess the needs and uses of agricultural, forestry, and horticultural land in Wake County. This plan will also identify ways that the County can protect and preserve open lands that are currently in either agriculture, horticulture, or forestry production.	Growth and Sustainability;	The CCSS and FPP will help our department better understand the needs and benefits of the agricultural community in Wake. Every NC CCSS has shown that working lands are net producers for county’s economies. We expect this to be true in Wake but collecting and analyzing the data to prove this will be beneficial. It provides increased justification for our cost-share programs along with the public benefit of water quality improvement. The FPP will help our department know how to plan and serve our customers now and in the future.	Our Wake County farmers were impacted in various ways by the COVID-19 pandemic: pivoting to contactless pickup, limited workforce, increased sanitation measures, increased demand for local foods. This study will use the data from 2020 which will look at how tax revenues were divided during COVID-19. Based on the consultant’s recommendation we would compare 2018 and 2020 data to see how COVID -19 impacted the data. The CCSS looks at the resiliency of the agricultural community as part of the county revenue while the FPP looks at how to support farmers ensuring that that farm community remains an important part of Wake County.	Many of our farm communities are in areas identified as low economic health and vulnerable based on the maps associated with the Social Equity Atlas. While one might consider farmers a monolith, Wake is proud to serve its diverse group of farmers. The project would help our Department identify and address the unique circumstances and concerns of those historically underserve such as socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource, and veteran farmers. The majority of farmers don’t use many of the county’s public services, so this would be a great way to engage them and also meet the County's goal of diversity, equity and inclusion.
Wake Technical Community College	IT Equipment for WakeWorks Beltline Education Center (BEC) Expansion	<p>IT equipment is needed to support the expansion of the BEC to accommodate the WakeWorks apprenticeship initiative, including programs such as Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Mechatronics.</p> <p>Description Definition Cost Estimate ITS infrastructure - Telecomm rack; UPS: \$2,663 ITS data network equipment - Switches; WAPs, misc cables:\$46,625 ITS Voice network equipment- PBX, remote shelves, key systems, phones:\$2,186 ITS cabling - Internal building cables, wireless antenna systems, external building cabling:\$6,143 Security Equipment - Cameras, Building access readers, Salient Server, Cisco Switch: \$5,800</p>	Economic Strength;Community Health and Vitality;Education;	WakeWorks Apprenticeship offers an extraordinary opportunity for students to get paid while gaining nationally-recognized skills and professional credentials in one of several high-demand industries. These high-demand industries require cutting-edge technology (supported by sound IT infrastructure) to prepare students for current and future work.	With generosity from a private funder, WakeWorks is able to offer emergency assistance to our WakeWorks Apprenticeship students. If our WakeWorks students are experiencing difficulties that may prevent them from continuing in the program there is assistance available. There are also scholarships available for initial enrollment that cover tuition, fees, and books. See #10.	WakeWorks is aggressively seeking students who are not currently well-represented in apprenticeships. Wake County has provided funding to support these students. WakeWorks allows students to (1) save money with funds to help pay tuition, fees, and other expenses, (2) earn a paycheck while earning a nationally-recognized credential, (3) gain relevant cutting-edge skills through classroom and on-the-job instruction, and (4) develop lasting connections with employers, co-workers, and mentors for a long-term career. It's all about UPWARD ECONOMIC MOBILITY for Wake County citizens.

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Wake Technical Community College	IT Equipment for Seated Testing Center Expansion at Scott Northern Wake Campus	With the increase in demand for online/hybrid classes during the pandemic, the College has also experienced an increase in demand for seated testing for disciplines for which online testing is not a good option. During the last year, cheating associated with online testing has caused great concern among Wake Tech faculty (and among faculty nationally). The College is subscribing to new online testing software, but this technology is new and not appropriate for all subjects. Space has been located on the Northern Campus, where demand for seated testing is greatest, but funding is needed for upgraded IT equipment. See list below.	Education;	IT Equipment required to expand and improve the seated testing center at Scott Northern Wake Campus: Description Definition Cost Estimate ITS End User Devices - Workstations, printer, peripheral devices: \$48,108 ITS data network equipment - Switches; WAPs, misc cables: \$8,000 ITS Voice network equipment - PBX, remote shelves, key systems, phones: \$800 Security EquipmentCameras - Building access readers, Salient Server, Cisco Switch: \$1,686 ITS cabling - Internal building cables, wireless antenna systems, external building cabling:\$12,200	Offering online/hybrid classes while maintaining academic integrity allows students to continue pursuing training and degrees leading to upward economic mobility in spite of the pandemic.	Wake Tech has some student populations who do not have the necessary access and equipment to take online/hybrid sections, much less to test online. Also, many students do not have quiet space at home to allow them to test successfully. Thank you for your consideration.
Wake Technical Community College	Wake Tech Connect Laptops for Students	During the pandemic, the college learned that access to a reliable laptop computer is critical to student success. CARES Act funding allowed Wake Tech to provide many students in need with laptops in 2020, allowing them to continue their education when on-campus resources shut down. Wake Tech is requesting funding for 750 laptops per year for the next three years to allow it to continue providing laptops to students in need in both degree and non-degree programs. Overall, 9.8% of households in Wake County are below the poverty level (U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2019). Through this project, Wake Tech aims to serve underserved and students most in need to increase equitable access to our programs and resources.	Education;	Demand for online courses continues to be higher than anticipated, and the College expects this trend to remain in the coming years. Wake Tech seeks to avoid an economic divide in which some students are at a technological disadvantage in Wake County.	By providing essential technology for accessing online courses and college services during the pandemic and recovery period, this project helps the County keep economically vulnerable students on a pathway to a degree or credential that supports upward economic mobility. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our students are seeking re-skilling opportunities as a result of economic changes and in many cases, prefer the flexibility of online classes and services while other areas of their lives are impacted (caregiving demands, need to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus, etc.).	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. This project supports equitable access to education by removing the barrier of technology costs, particularly important now when courses and other resources, such as tutoring and success coaching, are available online. To access fundamental resources, students need a reliable personal computer. This project would be a game changer for students from families living in low economic health index zones in Wake County.
Wake Technical Community College	College Access Navigators	<p>To reduce access barriers, Wake Tech proposes hiring four College Access Navigators to contact student applicants and assist them with the on-boarding and financial aid processes. Many students who wish to attend college do not understand the “language” of higher education and are at risk of not taking the necessary actions to make it to the first day of class. Using various communication channels, the College Access Navigators will ensure students are efficiently moving through the enrollment process and know how to access student support services such as financial aid and advising. Each Navigator will serve approximately 2,000 students per year. We request funds to support these positions through June 2024 allowing us to reach a total of 24,000 students throughout the project.</p> <p>Navigator duties include assisting students by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Facilitating college onboarding including connection to orientation and other critical services.•Providing information on Financial Aid, available financial resources, and support programs and services•Identifying initial educational goals•Responding to inquiries regarding advising, registration, and general information•Assisting with FAFSA applications and guiding them through the FAFSA process•Providing Financial Aid workshops to community partners	Education;	Many Wake Tech applicants are first-generation college students from low-income families and lack guidance to complete the complex college enrollment and financial aid processes. College Access Navigators will work to remove barriers that can prevent students from succeeding before they even begin their college education. Current staffing constraints prevent the undertaking of these duties. Wake Tech is requesting funds for up to four navigators for three years at which time we will have data to determine the Navigators’ effectiveness and can determine a recurring source of funding to support the positions.	Black and Latinx populations have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 crisis due to existing racial and economic inequalities. Black and Latinx workers are over-represented in front-line occupations and in jobs within the hardest hit industries resulting in high rates of unemployment. The College Access Navigators will primarily focus on students at-risk because of these barriers, reaching out to students who have expressed an interest in attending college but do not have the expertise to complete the many steps to successfully get to the first day of class.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. This project supports equitable access to education by helping students navigate the complicated financial aid and enrollment processes. This step is often overlooked when moving toward upward economic mobility.

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Wake Technical Community College	WakeWorks Apprenticeship Employer Engagement	WakeWorks proposes hiring two Full-time Employment Engagement Specialists to recruit and support Wake County business partners to create new apprenticeship programs and increase the number of apprentices hired in targeted industries such as information technology, biotechnology, automotive technology, and skilled trades. The specialists will have outward-facing roles including researching labor market needs and connecting with business and economic development partners using recruitment and promotional strategies. In addition to the outward-facing work, the Employment Engagement Specialists will have an inward-facing role of coordinating with internal college instructional programs and support services that would serve Wake County businesses, apprenticeship programs, and apprentices.	Education;	WakeWorks is currently supported by staff focused on creating and registering apprenticeships. Through the outreach and support of the Employment Engagement Specialists, we expect the number of apprenticeship opportunities (and hired apprentices) to increase in the targeted industries. Wake Tech has strong instructional programs in all of these targeted areas. We also expect that partners will report that gaps in skills and employment were narrowing through the success of the apprentices.	Apprenticeships, especially those where tuition is paid for by county, state, and federal funds, open upskilling and reskilling opportunities to those who found themselves un- or underemployed, or employed in jobs that were affected by the pandemic. Recruitment and hiring practices have also been negatively affected by the pandemic. Through apprenticeships, businesses will be able to tap into new talent pools and/or reskill current employees into higher paying roles. These new, stable, well-paid, middle-skill jobs are key to building a strong county economy.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. Wake Tech serves a diverse population of students. Through WakeWorks apprenticeships, we are able to prepare a diverse and well-skilled talent pool and help them to succeed in jobs that are often hard to fill through traditional recruiting. Additionally, the barrier removal strategies inherent to apprenticeships (including tuition and other financial benefits) mitigate issues that would normally prevent some students from participating in a training program.
Wake Technical Community College	Perry Health Sciences Campus Nurse Aide Lab Renovation	Wake Tech proposes renovating available space at the Perry Health Sciences Campus creating two Nurse Aide (NA) lab areas increasing our capacity to serve students. The current NA lab area is limited on space hindering effective student learning and limiting the number of students served. Each NA course is comprised of 20 students. Instructors have had to split their classes into groups of 10 across existing lab rooms and divide their instructional time between the two isolated student groups. With a larger lab, up to 40 students, double our current capacity, would be able to simultaneously utilize lab space increasing the number of students completing NA training. The renovation will also provide essential storage space for training supplies and equipment.	Education;	Renovating available space to sufficiently accommodate the current demand of NA students and their instructional needs will enhance our Nurse Aid training and create a more cohesive instructional atmosphere with an improved learning environment for students preparing for their clinical rotation. The updated lab will also increase student access as more courses are offered.	The demand for Nurse Aides has continued to increase in Wake County. Additionally, the NA class is a prerequisite for students entering Associates Degree in Nursing, Radiography, and Medical Sonography programs at Wake Tech. The ability to offer more classes and serve more students would increase qualified NA applicants to fill vacant positions in the community as well as supply students to other high demand healthcare programs. New non-degree Health Science courses, such as Physical Therapy Technician Aide, Occupation Technician Aide, Anesthesia Technician Aide, Mental Health Aide can be developed and offered as current NA training space is modified to fit those programs. This lab renovation will also create necessary space to safely continue instruction, even with COVID-19 social distancing requirements, so that students can complete their program on time and enter the workforce.	The Nurse Aid program attracts and serves a diverse group of students. The demographics of Wake Tech’s 2021 NA courses are: 87.7% female; 12.3% male; 10% Asian; 14.7% Hispanic; 23.3% African American; 40.2% White; and 11.8% Other. An improved, larger lab space would help us meet the needs of additional students and the healthcare entities we serve. Graduates of our NA program are employable throughout Wake County.
Wake Technical Community College	Pharmacy Technology Lab Renovation	During a re-accreditation site visit in March 2021, we received “partial compliance” for Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Technician standard 10.2b; “The simulated component includes sufficient equipment and supplies for each student to realistically simulate an actual work environment and achieve the program’s education competencies.” The survey team noted that we need to rearrange our lab to better simulate a working pharmacy and update our automation equipment and instruction. We request funds to purchase training equipment and renovate our lab to create realistic simulation of a community and hospital pharmacy. The equipment needed will teach students how to package various forms of medication into unit doses through automation. Further, acquisition of this equipment will also allow students to learn how to safely pull medications from the pharmacy’s inventory and supply nurses with the necessary medications to treat patients.	Education;	The completion of this project will allow us to provide enhanced education and a more realistic simulation experience to our students, which will better prepare them for their clinical rotations and careers as pharmacy technicians. An enhanced lab will allow our students to strengthen their skills pertaining to using various types of automation necessary to work in a pharmacy setting and improve their chances of success.	Pharmacy Technicians are instrumental in allowing community pharmacies to remain open and ensuring doctors and nurses have the medications patients need. Because of the pandemic, technicians are allowed to vaccinate patients. Our program gives students the training needed to become certified vaccinators in addition to advanced pharmacy tech training. Of our 2021 graduates, 100% are employed in pharmacies throughout Wake County with many serving as the pharmacy’s main vaccinator. This new role created even more jobs for pharmacy technicians who were in high demand pre-pandemic. The equipment and renovation will allow more educated and vaccine-certified technicians to enter the workforce.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. Our Pharmacy Technology program has a diverse student body, including 36% Hispanic, 27% African American, 18% White, 9% Asian, and 9% Other. Our proposed lab renovation would allow us to better educate our diverse group of students to meet the needs of the community. Our program has a 100% employability rate throughout Wake County, which supports upward economic mobility of our students.

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Wake Technical Community College	Eagle Retention and Eagle Jump Start grants	To address student financial barriers, we propose providing Eagle Retention grants to continuing students and Eagle Jump Start grants to first time in college students who have not been able to pay their tuition bill and risk being removed from their courses. Students would receive grants up to \$1,500 (average amount \$750) to help them remain enrolled and on a path to completing their education and career goals. An estimated 500 students would receive grants in Fall and Spring semesters and 250 students would benefit during the summer terms. We request funds to support students through Summer of 2023, allowing us to serve up to 2,000 students.	Education;	The proposed grants would allow students with financial need to stay enrolled in their courses and continue accessing Wake Tech support services. Wake Tech student support staff can rally around these students to provide other forms of aid such educational supports, access to the food pantry, a laptop, wellness counseling, and referrals to community agencies for other unmet needs.	Many students have suffered additional financial strain due to the pandemic including job loss and additional caregiving duties impacting their earning potential. This project would allow Wake Tech to reach and rally around these students with necessary supports to put them on the path to a degree or credential and upward economic mobility. It also supports the development of a well-trained workforce that helps meet local employer needs for skilled labor.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. This project supports equitable access to education by removing the barriers of the cost of attending college including students who are unable to access federal financial aid.
Wake Technical Community College	Summer Bridge Program	We propose to implement a Summer Bridge Program that helps high school students gain early momentum at Wake Tech through early engagement and the completion of transition courses needed to enter college-level English and math. Target students for this 8-week program are those who don’t typically view themselves as able to go to college and include those living in low economic health areas of Wake County with a GPA below 2.2. Participating students will complete courses such as Transition English and Transition Math to prepare them for college-level courses by the Fall semester. The Summer Bridge Program will also help students make early connections to college and foster a sense of belonging. Wake Tech will deploy co-curricular activities that include mentoring, coaching, life skills training, academic planning, and career development to support student success. We anticipate serving 100 students in Summer 2022 and scaling up to 200 students in Summer 2023 and 2024 for a total of 500 students served throughout the project.	Education;	The Summer Bridge Program will provide the infrastructure to directly support students who need an early opportunity for connection and success. Wake Tech will prioritize students in low economic health areas for this opportunity as an equity strategy and a tool in helping to break cycles of poverty through access to higher education. Funding for this program will provide a pathway for participants to receive early college credit, improve key skills, and make early connections and relationships.	Wake Tech is positioned to play a key role in Wake County’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by providing educational pathways to family-wage supporting jobs to students living in low economic health areas. This project provides the additional supports needed to serve some of our most vulnerable students.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. This project supports equitable access to higher education by helping economically at-risk students become college ready so they can pursue programs that lead to living wage jobs in Wake County.
Wake Technical Community College	Mechatronics Training Lab	Creating the proposed Mechatronics Training Lab will enable Wake Tech to train students in Mechanical Engineering Technologies, Electrical Engineering Technologies, Facilities Maintenance Technologies, and Biopharmaceutical Technologies programs, as well as current industry employees seeking additional certification on industry-grade Siemens Mechatronics and Industry 4.0 equipment. Upon completion of the training, students would be eligible to obtain the Siemens Mechatronic Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) credential. The SMSCP credential is recognized throughout North America and internationally, increasing completers’ employability across multiple industries. The certification program is designed to be integrated within the existing degree, diploma, certificate, and other credentialing programs already taught at Wake Tech. We estimate serving over 290 students per semester with the Mechatronics Training Lab. Local employer partners including Siemens, GSK, Novo-Nordisk, Schneider Electric, Schmalz Inc., CaptiveAire, and Revlon typically employ our graduates. Additionally, we serve high school students through a special apprenticeship program serving the Triangle called NCTAP.	Education;	Equipping the Mechatronics/Mechanical Engineering program with the Siemens Mechatronics and Industry 4.0 equipment will enable us to provide education and training on industry-grade equipment utilized across many manufacturing sites in and around Wake County. This program will also allow Wake Tech to become a recognized Siemens Mechatronics certification center benefitting current students and other Wake residents interested in obtaining this industry recognized certificate. Offering the SMSCP certification will significantly enhance student opportunities to earn multiple industry-relevant certifications. Upon completion, students will become highly employable and help to meet local workforce needs for skilled labor.	This project will improve economic mobility for students earning the SMSCP certification, including students who are re-skilling because of the pandemic. The Siemens certification can be earned in less than six months, providing employers with skilled labor in a short timeframe, and reducing on-the-job training requirements. This certification is extremely relevant to our existing area industries, as well as new international industries migrating to Wake County. Students completing the SMSCP certification are employed in jobs critical to the pandemic response, such as working in biopharmaceutical industries including vaccine manufacturers and those serving hospitals.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. This project supports equitable access to education by removing the barriers of the cost of attending college including students who are unable to access federal financial aid.

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Wake Technical Community College	Paramedic Fast-Track with Stackable Credentialing	<p>This project will help meet the urgent workforce demand for trained paramedics by creating a new stackable continuing education pathway to take a student from the credentials of EMT to Advanced EMT to Paramedic. The fast-track program would run concurrently to existing programs, providing students with coursework pacing options and increasing Wake Tech’s capacity to train students. We estimate awarding an additional 180 credentials (90 EMT, 45 Advanced EMT, and 45 paramedic) each year. Under this accelerated pathway, a student could complete the paramedic credential in 18-24 months (versus 24-36 months in the non-accelerated pathway).</p> <p>With a fast-track model, the EMT credential can be achieved in approximately four months and students can subsequently begin practicing in the Wake County EMS system, including working in a pre-hospital setting and driving ambulances. Students seeking further training can complete the Advanced EMT credential in an additional six months allowing them to work in a more expanded scope within the Wake County EMS system. Students who pursue the paramedic credential will be able to complete in an additional 12 months. We request three years of funding to get this program off the ground.</p>	Education;	Funding for training equipment, instructors, and staffing assistance would allow us to launch an accelerated program to serve more students and provide them with two pacing options. Because our students balance varying work and family responsibilities, providing two options (regular and accelerated) we can meet their needs and availability while increasing the number of trained EMS professionals entering the workforce. Additionally, barrier removal funding would allow us to serve students with financial needs, as students pursuing the fast-track model are not eligible for federal financial aid.	The COVID-19 pandemic has strained the healthcare system, including Wake County EMS. This project will increase the number of trained EMS professionals entering the workforce and provide re-skilling opportunities to students whose job may have been displaced by the pandemic. As each credential is achieved, students can enter the healthcare profession and provide care within the Wake County EMS system while simultaneously continuing their studies. Paramedics can give vaccinations, work in both a pre-hospital and hospital setting, and serve as Advanced Practice Paramedics, providing significant assistance and reinforcements to the Wake County EMS system during the pandemic.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. This project supports accessible and affordable educational options for students that lead to family-supporting wages. Having a fast-track paramedic program with barrier removal funds available will make these credentials more cost effective for those who may not be eligible for federal financial aid.
Wake Technical Community College	Fire Service Mobile Training Solutions	<p>This project is designed to address the challenges faced by fire departments to provide required training to current and new firefighters. Training equipment is expensive, and for many departments cost prohibitive, particularly for small and volunteer fire departments. When a department’s own equipment is in use for training it must be taken out of commission and cannot be used for emergencies. Currently, many firefighters must travel outside of the county for training. As a regional training provider, we propose purchasing trailers, specialized training props, and equipment to expand and improve the training of basic, intermediate, and advanced firefighting techniques through mobile training. With this added capacity, we can serve every fire department in Wake County providing necessary refresher and first-time Fire Fighter Certification training in classes such as Fire Ground Ops (multiple levels); Technical Rescue Confined Space, and Safety and Survival. This is especially beneficial to smaller departments and citizens who live outside of the larger municipalities or close to firefighting training grounds. With additional instructors and mobile equipment, we anticipate training 500 additional firefighters per year with approximately two classes per month.</p>	Education;	Mobile training will allow Wake Tech’s Fire Service program to improve the training provided to fire departments enhancing opportunities to gain knowledge, practical skills, and certification in modern firefighting and rescue. Wake County fire departments will benefit from specialized training equipment and all citizens will benefit from fire services trained in advanced practices. Currently, fire training equipment is stationary and availability varies by department. This project will allow us to take training equipment to each location, allowing for entire shifts to complete training together within their service area and with the colleagues with whom they work on a regular basis.	This project facilitates more extensive training for fire personnel which translates to community risk reduction. Further, this allows for training to occur in smaller groups outdoors, with full PPE, and does not require large groups to congregate in a confined space.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. Mobile firefighting training solutions make high-quality training available to fire departments and firefighters across Wake County, including to those who are not near a training center.

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Wake Technical Community College	Expanding BioWork Process Technician Training	Wake Tech’s BioWork is a short-term training program leading to entry-level employment in biotechnology, pharmaceutical, or manufacturing processing jobs and is part of the WakeWorks Propel program. Wake Tech proposes creating a new biotechnology lab in which to conduct additional BioWork Process Technician training courses using available space at our RTP Campus to help meet the exponential demand for employees in these growing fields. In addition to purchasing essential equipment and supplies to develop a state-of-the-art BioWork training laboratory, funds would be used to hire an additional instructor, a part-time lab technician, and to sponsor students’ book and lab supply costs. With greater lab capacity and an additional instructor, we can increase the number of students receiving training by 60 per year over three years for a total of 180 additional students.	Education;	Large pharmaceutical companies in Wake County have either expanded local facilities or committed to building new facilities. Our ability to meet the increase in workforce demand for these jobs will be hindered by a limitation of available lab space to train students. Instances of these industry investments often represent new hiring in the range of 500 to 750+ new employees per project and approximately half of these positions are estimated to be process technicians. Having additional, properly equipped lab space will help us meet this growing demand for skilled labor.	Jobs in the biotech and pharmaceutical manufacturing industries are essential positions and are in high demand. Employment in these industries leads to greater job stability and increased opportunities for career advancement than jobs with similar training requirements. These family-wage supporting jobs can increase economic mobility of Wake County residents, including those who seek reskilling opportunities as result of the pandemic.	Wake Tech shares Wake County’s goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion and is a committed organizational member of A Better Wake. Our core values include equitable access to education, equitable outcomes, and economic mobility for our students. BioWork provides short-term technical training that can provide access for individuals of all backgrounds into mid- to high-paying job opportunities. The biotech, pharma, and manufacturing industries have a strong record of hiring and promoting diverse individuals of all races, ethnicities, sexes, genders, socio-economic backgrounds, and age groups.