

Department	Project Name	Project Description	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?	Describe how the project would support the County's goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion.
CAWD	Small Business Workforce Development	The project funds three areas supporting small business workforce development: On-the-job (OTJ) 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 FY20. While these programs exist today, this project targets support to small businesses who do not meet the rigid criteria of the program as the minimum of 5 employees or \$100,000 wages. This project supports all small businesses, including those that are in the early stages of a business. 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 OTJ 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. 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.	CAWD saw a decline in the number of small businesses served in FY20 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 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	This project seeks to build out a more robust Entrepreneurship program through the addition of one staff person, website, and support materials. 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. Existing resource webinars 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.	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 file for those entrepreneurs with a clear idea on their next step. Printed materials will also be distributed as part of an outreach strategy. The dedicated staff person, website and tools will expand the services we currently provide to the residents of Wake County.	Entrepreneurship was and continues to be a career choice for some Wake County residents in response to the pandemic. When COVID-19 forced layoffs, furloughs, and business closures, people responded by starting small businesses in droves. According to a Siftform 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.	This initiative directly supports BOC's Economic Strength 3.2 goal to support small business creation and successful entrepreneurship. This project provides support to a roadmap to individual interest 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. 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 networks for business services support.
CAWD	Wake Local Reentry Council Expansion Plan	The proposed plan will expand the services of the Council to both new 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 services. 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 Employee Engagement Specialist to develop offender-friendly career opportunities with family support services. 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 education 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.	CAWD has a strategic goal to assist the unmet workforce in gaining the skills, competencies and credentials required for in-demand, family supporting careers. Returning citizens are a primary unmet population that needs additional support to attain family-supporting careers. This project will provide the additional 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 that 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 workforce 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.
CAWD	Capital Area Digital First Outreach	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 often under-promoted because people can't advertise 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. Digital First might include search-lead 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, untargeted promotional ads that play like a TV commercial on streaming 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.	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 use 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 prefer 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 recruiting, hiring and training expenses. But 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.
CAWD	NeedGen Youth Career Exploration Project	The Capital Area NeedGen 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: Career & 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. -NeedGen Center Setup - Capital Area just moved the NeedGen 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 tables. -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.	Capital Area just relocated the NeedGen Center to a larger facility to provide more activities and services to youth on site. Youth involvement and innovation Act Youth funding has decreased over several years. Since 2015, Capital Area's funding has been reduced by \$506,553. 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 dental support, services, sales, and related roles." 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 path where they can be successful. CAWD 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 NCWORK/NeedGen 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 support they need to return, re-entr, re-act, and be successful in higher-waged careers. The mental stress of unemployment has been compounded by the stress of the pandemic. A Center 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 13 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 search and sustain long-term employment. To meet these challenges, in addition to the employment assistance provided through the NCWORK and NeedGen 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 stress. 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.	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 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 NCWORK and NeedGen Centers, we will be able to assist job seekers on-site directly deal with the mental challenges they are facing in their job search.	The pandemic has exacerbated 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 contact mental health organizations to provide staff on-site 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 mostly 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.
CAWD	CAWD NCWORK/NeedGen Career Center (NCWCC/NCC) System Innovation Project	This project will serve job seekers and youth in the Capital Area NCWORK and NeedGen Career Centers. The goals of this project is to invest in updating and purchasing new innovative technology to improve services and resources in the NCWORK and NeedGen Centers (ITC, ITM, ITM, ITM) 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 life occupational experiences, interactive artificial intelligence platform for customer engagement, and chrome books & hot spots to loan to job seekers.	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/NCCZ 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/NCCZ help support economic mobility and allow individuals to take 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 return 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 ethnicity. 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.
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 used by geography (location). Currently, data is stored and maintained in a variety of systems and spreadsheets. In partnership with the Wake County GIS department, we enabled the development and design of a GIS Housing database that aggregates the various data sets and ITZ 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.	Wake County has an affordable housing deficit of 182,720 units for low-income households. The Housing department is engaged in several initiatives to support its comprehensive plan, including making 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. Investing in practices like 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 was receiving it. As the pandemic continued and state eviction moratorium ends, individuals and families become at greater risk for getting their homes, housing loss and homelessness. There are >215 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in 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 23% of the total population but represent 46% 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	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 Service Planning and Inspection (SPI) data. Recreation and Open Space (R&OS) funding is 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 general public to understand the tree canopy in Wake County and its partners. The timing of this project would be complementary to some of the initiatives being implemented or 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.	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 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.	•Bodies 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 canopy in low-income areas. An inventory and assessment of the tree canopy in vulnerable communities would be a critical part of this effort. •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. •Note about the GIS LIDAR suite submitted as a separate project. LIDAR would not be required to perform a baseline analysis of tree canopy. This data needed for the assessment will be available through the newly released ortho imagery. •Wake County LIDAR data is available for use by all municipalities, for the purpose of site planning and surveying for resource conservation areas.
Community Services	Wake County GIS Data Acquisitions - Completed LIDAR Dataset	Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data is a 3D point cloud data set that can be used for terrain analysis and surface modeling. In Community Services Planning and Inspection (SPI) data. Recreation and Open Space (R&OS) divisions. This dataset would also support projects in Environmental Services. The county last obtained LIDAR in 2013. Having an updated dataset would support the aforementioned departments and enable organizations in the Public Health areas to better analyze access to green space and recreation as a "green prescription" for health, measuring and tracking change to the environment in order to prioritize green spaces and development that will benefit the public.	As Wake County experiences continued growth and development, LIDAR data will aid PI in establishing a baseline of current conditions 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 activities efforts specifically related to hydrologic evaluations, flood reviews and septic systems, improving the ability for Wake County to better understand terrain, predict and improve services.	As residents have spent more time at home during the pandemic, local needs and the physical environment have become of great importance and priority. While housing demands remain high in Wake County, LIDAR data and its use in tree canopy analysis can assist in identifying preservation or expansion of trees to be planted within existing communities as well as investment efforts in new neighborhoods. LIDAR data can be used to assist with siting park amenities (buildings, playgrounds, trails, etc.) and evaluating open space acquisition, aiding in the identification and maintenance of healthy environments for adults, children and families.	•Tree canopy disparity is more prevalent in low-income areas. LIDAR data helps better understand these disparities in vulnerable communities, impact policy and increase the creation of green spaces, thereby, reducing air quality divide. •R&OS data supports R&OS planning and management efforts. As new park or open space projects are evaluated, impacts of human activities are considered (i.e., encroachments on open spaces, land clearing, soil fill, etc.)

Community Services	Replacement of Athens Drive Community Library	The Athens Drive Community Library is currently located inside of the Athens Drive High School. Neither Wake County nor Wake County Public Schools staff like this arrangement. From the School Systems perspective having a public library open in anyplace inside of a school is a liability from the library staff perspective. This facility provides a safe environment for underperformers in comparison to other branches in the system primarily due to many people in the community not feeling comfortable going into a high school building. 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, lessons centered on leadership and preparation for college and adults including professional services such as job search assistance and technology tutoring.	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 increase the comfort level of many in using the facility. The increase 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.	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 weekly opening.	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.	
Cooperative Extension	COVID19 Emergency Food Hub Construction & Capacity Building	Wake County Cooperative Extension has supported 12 to 14 emergency food hub operations since August 2020, serving the equivalent of over 600,000 meals in the form of fresh produce, meat, dairy, and other staples. The emergency food hubs have served a vital touch point 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, and mental health support, and other support. 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 increasing our need for food assistance. 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.	The emergency food hubs have served a gateway to better our client's understanding and improvement of service models to our most vulnerable populations and are being activated through hub 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 food SNAP dollars insufficient to provide a well-rounded, nutritious diet. With the expiration of the eviction moratorium, 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 outreach points. With many unknowns looming with the Delta variant, food support remains vital.	Each emergency food hub is a high vulnerability census tract, or nearby to a vulnerable area. Most clients served are from BIPOC and Latin communities and food is tailored to cultural needs and supports a healthy diet. Hub support BIPOC and Latin 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 allows them to develop necessary systems to overcome generational poverty.	
Cooperative Extension	Student Engagement Teams Pilot - Extension, WCPSS & Alliance	WCPSS Student Services and Extension SEV, A.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 plan 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 "elite 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 will be required. 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 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 health.	The data regarding youth disengagement, social and emotional health challenges, and learning loss during COVID19 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 COVID19 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 inequalities in outcomes for student groups who have historically had disparate outcomes, and to support the family and student success. This project seeks 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.	
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 WCHHS vaccine and testing sites.	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 as 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.	
Cooperative Extension	Jumper Level Missionary Social Community Resource Hub Pilot	Wake County Cooperative Extension has partnered with Jumper Level Missionary Baptist for over three years through the Jumper Level Missionary Social Community Resource Hub. The hub is a community based organization that has been established and restored residential school on site and currently supports the homeless, has an active youth center, is developing a community garden, and operates a successful food pantry. We are proposing funds to pilot a community resource hub at the JMBM 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 the food pantry, meals for homeless and youth in their tutoring program, and continued linkage of our community members to existing county resources and programs such as SNAP, WCHHS, and food security programs. Our staff, and food security programs are prepared to support this initiative and see it as a replicable model worthy of further exploration.	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 of support systems for JMBM including 4H, 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.	JMBM 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. JMBM believes that serving the community involves supporting necessary resources while also equipping individuals and families with skills to improve long term outcomes. We believe this pilot can meet significant need.	JMBM has a rich history and desire to break structures of generational poverty and systemic racism. The church is the site of a restored residential school, where Black children were able to receive education during the time of segregation. JMBM 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	Community Coaching & Engagement	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 coaching, coaching and canvassing. COVID has amplified the challenges under-resourced families face accessing basic needs and support services. This proposal seeks to acquire funding for a multi-tiered coaching program to provide support, meals for 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. 3) 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 as well as 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 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 organizations, 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 create better places to live, work and play. The investment would afford community to learn and implement strategies to develop 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 targets those demographics and the citizens who are most disenfranchised and therefore not included in the prosperity shared among the majority of the county's residents. The need for SE 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.	
Cooperative Extension	Local Food Supply Chain Network Support	Cooperative Extension is requesting funds to support the enhancement and evaluation of the local food supply chain. We propose a two-fold method to increase access, and the 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 a greater risk of chronic illness and death of 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 for food rescue, aggregation and distribution within the county, and 2) Support of farmers markets and mobile markets through Farmer's market grants for equipment, staffing, SNAP double bucks programs, and mini grants for the expansion or establishment of mobile markets/Farmer co-op/CSA (land 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.	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 program.	COVID19 has impacted residents with chronic illnesses 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 of Extension 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 bucks markets in prioritized census tracts will support the health of low-income and BIPOC communities battling diet-related chronic illness by bringing the price of an income often required to purchase fresh, local produce.	
Cooperative Extension	Growth Mindset Coaching for Child Welfare - Aging Out Services	This is a collaboration between Cooperative Extension / 4-H and Wake County Child Welfare and would pilot a bilable service model to improve self-sustaining post-APB funding. It would bridge the gap in services from 15 to 18 who are aging out of foster care by providing individualized coaching as they transition to independent living. The collaboration proposal two temporary positions to implement individualized 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.	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 30 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 allowed 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 APB funds will allow us to develop the program and our ability to bill for services so that the bilable hours will allow the positions to be self-sustaining after APB 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 and become 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 seeking 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	Food Security - Admin Support for Contract Management	Since the onset of COVID19 the Wake County Food Security program has administered over 14 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 APB dollars. The position is based on the COVID19 Operations Support / Position tier at the mid-range pay of \$39,000 and would begin October 2021.	As an administrative position to support contract monitoring and partner payments associated with APB dollars we need 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 updates of the contract management system, we need a position to support the contract management process. This position is vitally needed to assist with contract monitoring and partner requests.	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 expedite contracts and allow community partners to access vitally needed funds to meet growing needs for the community in response to the economic impact of COVID19.	Though it may not appear directly that this position will support ED, 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 Latin communities in Wake County through a variety of methods. Our program focus on provision of culturally appropriate food, support of Black farmers & Black farmers hubs, 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	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 and Learning, "vulnerability factors" such as high poverty, high unemployment, low educational attainment, as well as "economic health factors" such as housing instability and affordability. The Crosby Garfield Center was in need of updating repairs to a building that 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 entrants and windblowing 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 kitchen, appear 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.	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., became clear that there is a need in SE Raleigh, Krogfield, Westgate and other regions, the need to address the vulnerability and economic stress that other areas of the county. In 2016, the Wake County Board of Commissioners authorized the construction of a targeted community center 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 includes workforce development, entrepreneurship, human capital development through life coaching, and self-advocacy. The program will address barriers to 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.		
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 the existing facilities at Historic 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 Hills 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 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.	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 with 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 Law Park is close to the Agricultural Building and park staff would 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 even 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 too messy or difficult to do effectively indoors or in existing outdoor unsheltered space.	The Wake County Office Park is located in the 27630 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.	

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 to renovate their food and in-kind donations for the county, build the capacity of counties/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 term by opening a business or partner agencies. We are hiring for the 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 as 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 (17 months).	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 also 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 prices, and 3) employ service workers who have faced under-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 modeling tools and success case studies. The program shows employers how to move profitably to viable wages while also increasing race and gender equity and equity between "front" and "back-of-house" workers.
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 \$48,000 in cash and in-kind donations for the county, built the capacity of counties/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 term by opening a business or partner agencies. We are hiring for the 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 as 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 (17 months).	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 \$13.58 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 CWS.	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 COVID-19 to get vital materials to residents facing unemployment, homelessness, hunger, and increased risk of employment because of the pandemic. COVID-19 has shown 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 BPOC and first-generation college students participating in the VISTA program. Upon completion of the program, members have the choice of a Sexual Education Award of \$6,195 or cash payment of \$1,800. Non-competitive eligibility for federal financial aid, and valuable professional and leadership development and training. We know many in our community struggle with general 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	Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seedling Innovation (EEAS) Challenge Expansion	Through Wake County Social & Economic Vitality Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seedling Innovation (EEAS) (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=IG80tE8E8k4&list=PL2a2b2c2d2e2f2g2h2i2j2k2l2m2n2o2p2q2r2s2t2u2v2w2x2y2z2aa2ab2ac2ad2ae2af2ag2ah2ai2aj2ak2al2am2an2ao2ap2aq2ar2as2at2au2av2aw2ax2ay2az2ba2bb2bc2bd2be2bf2bg2bh2bi2bj2bk2bl2bm2bn2bo2bp2bq2br2bs2bt2bu2bv2bw2bx2by2bz2ca2cb2cc2cd2ce2cf2cg2ch2ci2cj2ck2cl2cm2cn2co2cp2cq2cr2cs2ct2cu2cv2cw2cx2cy2cz2da2db2dc2dd2de2df2dg2dh2di2dj2dk2dl2dm2dn2do2dp2dq2dr2ds2dt2du2dv2dw2dx2dy2dz2ea2eb2ec2ed2ee2ef2eg2eh2ei2ej2ek2el2em2en2eo2ep2eq2er2es2et2eu2ev2ew2ex2ey2ez2fa2fb2fc2fd2fe2ff2fg2fh2fi2fj2fk2fl2fm2fn2fo2fp2fq2fr2fs2ft2fu2fv2fw2fx2fy2fz2ga2gb2gc2gd2ge2gf2gg2gh2gi2gj2gk2gl2gm2gn2go2gp2gq2gr2gs2gt2gu2gv2gw2gx2gy2gz2ha2hb2hc2hd2he2hf2hg2hh2hi2hj2hk2hl2hm2hn2ho2hp2hq2hr2hs2ht2hu2hv2hw2hx2hy2hz2ia2ib2ic2id2ie2if2ig2ih2ii2ij2ik2il2im2in2io2ip2iq2ir2is2it2iu2iv2iw2ix2iy2iz2ja2jb2jc2jd2je2jf2jg2jh2ji2jj2jk2jl2jm2jn2jo2jp2jq2jr2js2jt2ju2jv2jw2jx2jy2jz2ka2kb2kc2kd2ke2kf2kg2kh2ki2kj2kk2kl2km2kn2ko2kp2kq2kr2ks2kt2ku2kv2kw2kx2ky2kz2la2lb2lc2ld2le2lf2lg2lh2li2lj2lk2ll2lm2ln2lo2lp2lq2lr2ls2lt2lu2lv2lw2lx2ly2lz2ma2mb2mc2md2me2mf2mg2mh2mi2mj2mk2ml2mm2mn2mo2mp2mq2mr2ms2mt2mu2mv2mw2mx2my2mz2na2nb2nc2nd2ne2nf2ng2nh2ni2nj2nk2nl2nm2nn2no2np2nq2nr2ns2nt2nu2nv2nw2nx2ny2nz2oa2ob2oc2od2oe2of2og2oh2oi2oj2ok2ol2om2on2oo2op2oq2or2os2ot2ou2ov2ow2ox2oy2oz2pa2pb2pc2pd2pe2pf2pg2ph2pi2pj2pk2pl2pm2pn2po2pp2pq2pr2ps2pt2pu2pv2pw2px2py2pz2qa2qb2qc2qd2qe2qf2qg2qh2qi2qj2qk2ql2qm2qn2qo2qp2qq2qr2qs2qt2qu2qv2qw2qx2qy2qz2ra2rb2rc2rd2re2rf2rg2rh2ri2rj2rk2rl2rm2rn2ro2rp2rq2rr2rs2rt2ru2rv2rw2rx2ry2rz2sa2sb2sc2sd2se2sf2sg2sh2si2sj2sk2sl2sm2sn2so2sp2sq2sr2ss2st2su2sv2sw2sx2sy2sz2ta2tb2tc2td2te2tf2tg2th2ti2tj2tk2tl2tm2tn2to2tp2tq2tr2ts2tt2tu2tv2tw2tx2ty2tz2ua2ub2uc2ud2ue2uf2ug2uh2ui2uj2uk2ul2um2un2uo2up2uq2ur2us2ut2uu2uv2uw2ux2uy2uz2va2vb2vc2vd2ve2vf2vg2vh2vi2vj2vk2vl2vm2vn2vo2vp2vq2vr2vs2vt2vu2vv2vw2vx2vy2vz2wa2wb2wc2wd2we2wf2wg2wh2wi2wj2wk2wl2wm2wn2wo2wp2wq2wr2ws2wt2wu2wv2ww2wx2wy2wz2xa2xb2xc2xd2xe2xf2xg2xh2xi2xj2xk2xl2xm2xn2xo2xp2xq2xr2xs2xt2xu2xv2xw2xx2xy2xz2ya2yb2yc2yd2ye2yf2yg2yh2yi2yj2yk2yl2ym2yn2yo2yp2yq2yr2ys2yt2yu2yv2yw2yx2yy2yz2za2zb2zc2zd2ze2zf2zg2zh2zi2zj2zk2zl2zm2zn2zo2zp2zq2zr2zs2zt2zu2zv2zw2zx2zy2zz	Entrepreneur/small businesses play a pivotal role in building community and the overall economic development ecosystem. Our EEAS Challenge will create a foundation for innovation 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 business. Investing in programs like the EEAS Challenge is necessary to reduce disparate opportunities for innovation, foster to skill up, scale up and access capital. Operating amidst a pandemic has afforded opportunity for ingenuity and lessons learned that should be further developed through entrepreneurial explorations.	The intended goal for SEV is to engage 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 exacerbated 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 EEAS Challenge demonstrates a commitment to creating locally responsive innovative solutions to addressing social mobility.	The current EEAS Challenge is supported by NCORA Engage Grant which specifically focuses on empowering entrepreneurs and creating equitable access to resources. According to NCSEA, 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 to nearly every stage of development. These funds would be used to assist minority entrepreneurs in ways that their overall mission and financial sustainability, exposure, networking, funding and resource opportunities.
County Manager	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 the individual remains engaged in treatment. Services would be administered by Alliance Health's provider network and funded by Wake County for a two-year pilot.	Provides 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 a 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 American. In a 2017 study of the Wake County jail population, 63% of individuals booked in the jail were African American. In 2020 census data, 20% of Wake County's total population is Black or 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.
County Manager	Social Determinant of Health	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, diabetic, domestic violence, mental health and substance use. The model will include a community health worker role, a peer educator role to engage an existing network of community providers to address food security, housing/insecurity, transportation access and behavioral health supports.	Would assist in coordination of whole-person care approach for vulnerable individuals with Medicaid that have other 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 individual's needs - particularly those exacerbated by the pandemic including food security, housing security, and interpersonal violence/safety as impacted 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	Supportive Housing for Post-Incarcerated Individuals with a Perinatal Substance Use Disorder	UNC Hospitals 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 access a non licensed stable housing site for pregnant and postpartum women so that stakeholders 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 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.	This funding would support a targeted program for vulnerable moms and their babies that struggle to access stable housing supporting their ongoing recovery and maternal responsibilities. There is currently not a targeted resource focused on this need.	Address 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.
County Manager	Education Campaign for Addressing 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.	Knowing how to access behavioral health services is often an impediment to individuals getting the care they need at the level they need. This 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 provide 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 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.
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 triage, and emergency response to 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.	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 services. These calls represent an increased burden on the system that is a direct result of the economic lock downs and the decreased availability of primary care services during the pandemic. By utilizing these requests away from the 911 ambulances and the emergency room back to primary care via telehealth and urgent care, 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 relieving EMS and the emergency department's high acuity and acutely ill/injured patients.	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.	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 residents.	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.
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 the transporting 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.	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 mode to a definitive away 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.
EMS	EMS Vehicle and Building Access Control Device Procurement	This project would fund the procurement of networked key fobs on EMS department emergency vehicles. These devices would provide the ability to secure the EMS narcotics key to the Knox box key in a networked key unit that would provide us a record of who accessed the keys and when they were accessed.	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 building access and narcotics storage.	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 pilot operations to changing demands have closed, many in difficult development areas (DDA) within census tracts with economically vulnerable populations. Environmental Health & Safety Division's inventory of 1488 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 (9.3%) facilities in that situation. However, in July 2021, we have 330 (22%) in closed status, which represents a 148% increase in a typical period. After a year of closure, state regulators 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 total business development and jobs as the market recovers.	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 (PP1), 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 (9.3%) in July 2020, an increase of 148%. In a normal period of time, Plan Reviews' current staff maintained our turn around goal with overtime. The anticipated increase in plan review 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 on economically depressed areas and is relevant to our community business 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 underway, improve customer service for operators, support community access to services, and support tax revenues county-wide.
Fire Services & Emergency Management	Fire Tax District Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusion	The Fire Tax District Contract agencies have not been underservers 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 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 Perinatal program that has been highly successful.	This project scope would facilitate the completion of department COOPs that have not been completed, updating existing department plans and designing a centralized, one "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 main departmental MEF activities allowing organizational resources to be centered and focused on organizational wide priorities. The organizational COOP (aka Executive), shall be supplemented by departmental COOPs which address specific needs of the organization or corporate COOP. This Project is NOT intended to address Continuity of Operations planning nor non-MEF activities excluding Essential Supporting Activities.	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 61% minority workforce. That is 76 out of 1458 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, \$500 in books, as well as be able to live for 7 months without any income. The agencies we recruit compete with (Cary & Raleigh) hire recruits and fund them throughout the Academy.
Fire Services & Emergency Management	Continuity of Operations Plan Management	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. In 2018, the County Manager directed all departments to create departmental COOPs. Many of the departments completed the request and have developed COOPs addressing: •Delegation of Authority •Evolution •Communications •Space relocation •Mission Essential Functions (MEFs) •Critical records •Mission critical equipment •Essential Supporting Activities 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.	This project scope would facilitate the completion of department COOPs that have not been completed, updating existing department plans and designing a centralized, one "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 main departmental MEF activities allowing organizational resources to be centered and focused on organizational wide priorities. The organizational COOP (aka Executive), shall be supplemented by departmental COOPs which address specific needs of the organization or corporate COOP. This Project is NOT intended to address Continuity of Operations planning nor non-MEF activities excluding Essential Supporting Activities.	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.	This goal does not directly support this goal. It is more mechanical and management in nature.

General Services Administration (GSA)	Penderosa Wastewater Treatment System Repair and Upgrade Project	The Penderosa 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 needed for this facility include: 1) replace the existing piping, and replace equipment at 1989 and extend the facility for long term maintainability. 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 7.9-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. The modifications under consideration are the result of a study performed by the County's contracted wastewater operator for this facility. Two options were considered including: 1) On-site repairs and slight reconfiguring to tie into 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 the first option. More research and analysis are needed to fully understand the feasibility of the second option.	This project will improve GSA's ability to maintain this wastewater treatment facility, meet current health and operational goals, and also reducing some of the long term challenges of operating this type of facility. These proposed improvements may allow for more efficient operation 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 ways and sewer infrastructure due to the critical role that wastewater infrastructure plays in protecting public health. Wake County 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 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)	Improvements to the Negative Pressure Room Controls at Human Services Sunnysbrook	This project would upgrade the equipment supporting the negative pressure rooms used for highly infectious airborne diseases at Human Services Sunnysbrook. Improvements of the controllers, fans, and ductwork will be completed as necessary to maintain the requirements of the current NC DHS Guidelines. Completing these improvements to maintain NC DHS guidelines will allow for turnover time and more people to be seen per day.	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 Department, 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 26 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. When 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 dehumidification systems and UV sterilization systems. While the other remaining ten stations will be upfit with dehumidification and UV systems as needed.	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 Department, 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)	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 to MERV-13 and increasing ventilation where it is not feasible to increase the ventilation rate, the air should be treated by ultraviolet (UV) or UVC. This project is proposed 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 Swirburne, Human Services Sunnysbrook 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.	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 Department, 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.
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 early comprehensive and co-located services for clients including medical triage, prescription payment assistance, food bank referrals, housing navigation, short term financial assistance, and case management. In 6 months, H2H permanently housed over 300 people. The Housing Department will like offer funding for H2H-style services to all homeless service providers. These services will change, as service providers will change, but practice models, best practice models. We expect that this will lead to a significant improvement in service outcomes.	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 as 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 \$8,270-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 already over extended homelessness. Right now, in Wake County, improving service delivery at the shelter and service provider level may significantly contribute to expedited exit from homelessness into more sustainable permanent housing.	Data from the HouseWak Eviction Prevention program clearly demonstrates "who" is impacted primarily by this crisis. Of the 2,812 completed applications, 73% are women, 63% 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 84% of people experiencing homelessness in Wake County. Improving service delivery at the shelter and service provider level may significantly contribute to expedited exit from homelessness into more sustainable permanent housing, ultimately contributing to a more equitable future for all Wake County residents.
Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization	Conerstone Service Center and Transitional Housing Program	The Conerstone Service Center will integrate the Permanent Supportive Housing Voucher program with intensive case management and support services provided by the Conerstone Community Service team. 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 will also be open to the community and other service providers. These programs will include: case management, 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. The Transitional Housing program will provide 20 units of temporary housing to those experiencing chronic homelessness and have been identified as "transient 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-benefit case for providing PSH in Wake County. The program team will assess and provide or facilitate appropriate services to stabilize and prepare the individual for permanent supportive housing and independent living within the community.	ARPA Funding will leverage the Conerstone renovation project. GSA Facilities Design & Construction has confirmed that quotes have costs considerably higher for the Conerstone 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-benefit case for PSH provision. Leveraging data analysis undertaken to date, the pilot project can be targeted to "transient 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 to those who may become and remain stably housed. The project will add 20 units of transitional housing for "transient 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 housed and live independently. This population includes multiple subgroups, including, but not limited to: People experiencing chronic homelessness; mental illness; intellectual and developmental 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, COVID prevention services, PSH services, mental health, vocational 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.	The use of a mobile unit gives 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	Regional Center Enhancements	Building and design upgrades for HHS sites geared towards enhancing service delivery in Public Health, Child Welfare, and Economic Services.	Enhancing service delivery in Public Health, Child Welfare, and Economic Services	Will address issue of geographical access to services	Accessibility of services
Information Services	Extension of SQL Database Management of SQL Data	We are requesting the extension of the SQL DBA Contract for two additional months. Due to the continued COVID/19 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 FY21 budget where we are requesting 1.5 FTE.	This position will allow us to continue to support existing Public Health related data requests and meet the urgent needs of future requests such as the Delta Variant Virus rises in the US.	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.
Register of Deeds	Paid Internship/Volunteer Coordinator for Enslaved Persons Project	The Wake ROD needs a Paid Internship/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 historical images. The first step in this 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 project.	The Paid Internship/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 glossed 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.
Sheriff's Office	Wake County Safe Ialls 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 pre-installed in crates. Set up takes less than two hours and there is no need for dedicated power or overhead conduit. Simply plug into a 100/20/230VAC, 50-60 Hz, 800-watt receptacle. A data line will be required to link all three units. This need can be worked out with USA. The scanner dimensions are 64" 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" security door at different locations in the jail with the heavy caster. Then you simply lock the caster in place to secure them.	Sheriff Gerald Baker and Detention Services 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 scan many individuals while maintaining the required 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 WCDC. So with these body scanners in place to 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 practicing protocols on how important it is to wear masks, wash hands, clean and sanitize workstations properly while educating the community. 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 County Services Study and Farmland Preservation Plan	The project will review the financial impact of agriculture, horticulture, forestry in the county and plan for their future in the county. Review of Community Services Study (CSS) will evaluate agriculture to see if it is a net producer or drain for the county economy. This will be an update to the 2001 CSS. 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. This county has gone through study since 2002 and the economy has experienced several changes. This justifies an update. This will let us take the background for the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) update which was first written in 2011. Using the data from the CSS and additional data that the consultant and steering committee deem necessary, they will update the Farmland Preservation Plan from 2011. This update is in alignment with the recent Plan Wake 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.	The CSSS and FPP will help our department better understand the needs and benefits of the agricultural community in Wake. Every NC CSS 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 current 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 2019 and 2020 data to see how COVID-19 impacted the data. The CSS 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 home to serve its diverse group of farmers. The project would help our Department identify and address the unique circumstances and concerns of those historically under-served 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	Paramedic Fast Track with Stackable Credentialing	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 at EMT to Advanced EMT to Paramedic. The fast track program currently involves training with coursework and clinicals. This project will allow students to take a lot of compression and Tech3 capacity to train students. We estimate awarding a student could complete the paramedic credential in 18-24 months (versus 24-36 months in the non-accelerated pathway).	Funding for training equipment, instructor, 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 pacing options will allow us to meet their needs and availability while ensuring the same 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 a skill-building opportunity for students who job market has been disrupted 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 pre-hospital care 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. 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.
Wake Technical Community College	Fire Service Mobile Training Solutions	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 not used for training, it must be taken out of commission and cannot be used for emergencies. Currently, many firefighters must travel outside of their county for training. As a regional training provider, we propose purchasing trailers, specialized training props, and equipment to improve 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 to classes such as Fire Ground Ops (multiple levels), Technical Rescue Confined Space, and Safety 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.	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 extra shifts to complete training together within the 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 larger 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.

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 Semester 2022 and scaling up to 200 students in Summer 2023 and 2024 for a total of 500 students served throughout the project.	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 support services 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	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.	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	To reduce access barriers, Wake Tech proposes hiring four College Access Navigators to contact student applicants and assist them with the onboarding 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.	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.
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.	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 as 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	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.	Renovating available space to sufficiently accommodate the current demand of NA students and their instructional needs will enhance our Nurse Aide 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, Occupational Technician Aide, Anesthesia Technician Aide, Mental Health Aide can be developed and offered as current NA training space is modified to fit these 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; 24.3% 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	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 Mechatronics Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) credential. The SMSCP credential is recognized throughout North America and internationally, increasing employers' 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 200 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 ICTAP.	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 benefiting 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.