



Durham County

200 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
(919) 560-0025

Meeting Agenda Board of County Commissioners

Monday, August 4, 2025

9:00 AM

Commissioners' Chambers

Work Session

"Public Charge"

The Board of Commissioners asks its members and residents to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous manner, both with the Board and fellow residents. At any time, should any member of the Board or any resident fail to observe this public charge, the Chair will ask the offending person to leave the meeting until that individual regains personal control. Should decorum fail to be restored, the Chair will recess the meeting until such time that a genuine commitment to the public charge is observed.

"Land Acknowledgment"

As we convene for the Durham County Commissioners meeting, it's crucial to recognize the painful truth of history. We stand on the stolen ancestral lands of the Catawba, Eno, Occaneechi, Shakori, and Tuscarora peoples, whose deep connection to this land predates our arrival. We acknowledge with humility the unjust displacement and violence that occurred, leading to the dispossession of indigenous peoples from their homelands. Their resilience in the face of such adversity is a testament to their strength and spirit.

May we humbly honor the ancestors and elders of these nations, both past and present, by committing ourselves to fostering understanding, healing, and justice for all who inhabit this land. Let us walk forward together with open hearts, acknowledging the past and embracing a future guided by compassion, respect, and unity.

9:00 am Work Session Agenda

1. Citizen Comments (30 min)

[25-0435](#)

Citizen Comments (30min)

Agenda Text:

The Board of County Commissioners will provide a 30-minute comment period at a meeting once a month. Any citizen of Durham County wishing to speak shall have an opportunity to do so. The Board may direct staff to research and reply to the concerns, if appropriate. Speakers were asked to provide comments prior to the start of the meeting so that staff may reply to comments and/or questions. All speakers are

requested to refrain from addressing issues related to personnel matters.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Citizen engagement aligns with all five of the strategic goals by allowing the Board to receive comments and concerns from the community related to important issues in Durham County.

Resource Persons: Monica W. Wallace, Clerk to the Board

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the board receive citizen comments and direct staff to respond, as deemed appropriate.

2. Consent Agenda (30 min)

[25-0193](#)

Award of Contract for Bliss Products and Services, Inc. in the amount of \$246,815.70, to replace three (3) sections of bleacher seating at Durham County Memorial Stadium (RFP 25-023)

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to execute a service contract with Bliss Products and Services, Inc. in the amount of \$246,815.70 for the removal and replacement of three (3) sections of bleacher seating at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

This project supports ongoing infrastructure improvements at Durham County Memorial Stadium. As part of Risk Management's safety inspection of the facility, it has been determined that the aging wood and vinyl encapsulated seating needs replacement to improve the safety of the patrons at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

The Request for Proposal was opened January 3, 2025, and closed February 11, 2025. Bliss Products and Services, Inc. was selected by a committee to be the contracted vendor.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Safe and Resilient Community Goal, Objective SR 2- Create happy, healthy, and safe places for residents and County employees; as well as the Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment Goal, Objective SI3- Preserve and restore the natural and built environment.

Resource Persons: Evan Kramer, Stadium Manager; Shawn Swiatocha, Assistant Director of General Services; Chrystal Thomas, Deputy Director of General Services; Motiryo Keambiroiro, Director of General Services.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board authorize the County Manager to execute a service contract with Bliss Products and Services, Inc. in the amount of \$246,815.70 for the removal and replacement of three (3) sections of bleacher seating at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

Attachments: [Bleacher Replacement- AAF Supplemental Document - Contract Approval](#)
[Bliss Service Sample Contract and Scope](#)
[RFP 25-023 Addendum 1 - Bleacher Seating Replacement at DCo Memorial St.](#)
[RFP 25-023 - Bid Tabulation](#)
[MWBE Compliance Review Form-AAF for 25-023 RFP 031825](#)
[Bliss Products Proposal](#)

25-0377 **Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC007
Appropriating \$1,500,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to support
the Durham Affordable Housing Loan Fund**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC007, appropriating \$1,500,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to support the Durham Affordable Housing Loan Fund (DAHLF). The County Board of Commissioners in FY 2024-25 approved an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to support the DAHLF, but the funding was not spent or encumbered by the end of the fiscal year. This budget action re-budgets that \$1,000,000 as well as an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$1,500,000 to support the fund.

The Durham Affordable Housing Loan Fund (Fund) is a revolving loan fund created in 2019 through a community roundtable process involving the Duke University's Office of Community Affairs, Self-Help, Durham County, the City of Durham, and members of the local housing development community. The initial contributions to the Fund have been loaned to affordable housing developers with zero defaults to date.

The Fund Managers and partner organizations recognize the need to expand the Fund and have set a goal to raise an additional \$20 million to create a \$30 million Fund. The City and County have been asked to loan \$1.5 million to the Fund, and Duke University intends to convert its initial \$2 million senior loan to top loss funds. Together, this \$5 million contribution will leverage \$15 million in new senior loans to provide \$30 million for the Fund. Please see the AAF Supplemental for descriptions of top loss funds and senior debt.

In November 2024, the Board authorized loaning \$1 million to the Durham Affordable Housing Loan Fund. This County commitment was instrumental in facilitating new conversations with community partners but was not sufficient for the Fund manager to seek senior debt funding from other partners. Now that the Fund partners have achieved the \$5 million in top loss funds, Self-Help Fund managers will begin securing the additional \$15 million from their other partners, and expect to have these additional funds available to developers by the end of this calendar year.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Durham County Strategic Plan goals involving financial stewardship, community development, and housing, including DCo Forward 2029 Strategic Plan Objective RL 4, Initiative RL 4a and Objective

FS 1 and FS 1a.

Resource Persons: Christy Raulli, Sr. Real Estate Officer, Peri Manns, ASLA, Deputy Director of Engineering, Jay Gibson, P.E., Director of Engineering; Claudia Hager, County Manager; J.J. Froehlich, Housing Sector Director, Self-Help

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No.26BCC007, appropriating \$1,500,000 of General Fund Fund Balance to support the Durham Affordable Housing Loan Fund (DAHLF). The County Board of Commissioners in FY 2024-25 approved an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to support the DAHLF, but the funding was not spent or encumbered by the end of the fiscal year. This budget action re-budgets that \$1,000,000, as well as an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$1,500,000 to support the fund.

Attachments:

[AAF Supplemental - Durham Affordable Housing Loan Fund](#)

[Affordable Housing Steering Committee Draft Recommendations](#)

[AAF-07 Legal Form](#)

25-0390

Approval of Purchase of Goods Contract with Batteries of NC & S.W.S. LLC in the Amount of \$656,331.78 for the Sheriff's Office FY26 Vehicle Equipment

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve and authorize the County Manager to execute a contract with Batteries of NC & S.W.S. LLC in the amount of \$656,331.78 for the Sheriff's Office FY26 vehicle equipment. Funding was previously budgeted and exists to cover the costs of this contract. G.S. 143-129(e) allows local governments to be exempted from the competitive bidding requirements and purchase furnishings/equipment through group purchasing programs.

This request will allow the Sheriff's Office to purchase emergency equipment and upfits for the FY26 fleet. The equipment to be purchased includes, but not limited to emergency lights, sirens, computer stands and associated mounting systems. Vehicles will be assigned and deployed after the equipment is installed.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This request aligns with the County's Strategic Plan Goal 3; Safe Community

Resource Persons: Preston Edwards, Logistics Manager, Durham County Sheriff's Office; David LaBarre, Director of Planning & Development, Durham County Sheriff's Office.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve and authorize the County Manager to execute a contract with Batteries of NC & S.W.S. LLC in the amount of \$656,331.78 for the Sheriff's Office FY26 vehicle equipment. Funding was previously budgeted and exists to cover the costs of this contract.

Attachments: [Batteries NC SUP 25](#)
[Batteries of NC Service Contract Template FY2026](#)
[Attachment 1A Batteries of NC quotes](#)
[Attachment 1B FY26 DCSO approved vehicles](#)
[Attachment 1C FY26 DCSO vehicle request](#)
[Attachment 1D Sourcewell contract # 090122-WHL](#)
[Attachment 1 Batteries of NC \(FY26 DCSO vehicle equipment & upfits\) Scope](#)

25-0391 **Approval of FY 2025-26 Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Grant Funding Resolution**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to approve a one-year extension of the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Grant for the Sheriff's Office and have the Chairwoman sign the Resolution. In FY22, the Governor's Highway Safety Program awarded the Durham County Sheriff's Office a four-year step-down reimbursement grant that requires a local match at varying percentages each year to fund three sworn deputy positions to work traffic enforcement. This renewal, and all subsequent renewals, will require a local match of seventy-five percent (75%) and a federal allocation of twenty-five percent (25%). For FY26, the local match will be in the amount of \$215,260 (75%) and a federal allocation in the amount of \$71,754 (25%); for a total amount of \$287,014. The BOCC initially approved these funds on September 13, 2021 (21-0550).

The Governor's Highway Safety Program helps fund law enforcement agencies to reduce traffic crashes in North Carolina. The Sheriff's Office will work to reduce traffic accidents across Durham County in the following categories:

- Overall Fatalities
- Alcohol Fatalities
- Unrestrained Fatalities
- Speed Related Fatalities
- Motorcycle Fatalities
- Teen Fatalities
- Pedestrian Fatalities

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with the County's Strategic Goal 3: Safe Community.

Resource Persons: Micheal Hogan, SCOPE Unit Lieutenant; Keith Webster, Captain of Patrol Division, Durham County Sheriff's Office; Clarence Birkhead, Durham County Sheriff.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve a one-year extension of the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Grant for the Sheriff's Office and have the Chairwoman sign the Resolution.

In FY22, the Governor's Highway Safety Program awarded the Durham County Sheriff's Office a four-year step-down reimbursement grant that requires a local match at varying percentages each year to fund three sworn deputy positions to work traffic enforcement. This renewal, and all subsequent renewals, will require a local match of seventy-five percent (75%) and a federal allocation of twenty-five percent (25%). For FY26, the local match will be in the amount of \$215,260 (75%) and a federal allocation in the amount of \$71,754 (25%); for a total amount of \$287,014. The BOCC initially approved these funds on September 13, 2021 (21-0550).

Attachments:[24-25 GHSP SUP](#)[GHSP Application\(1000020849\) 2025](#)[GHSP Resolution](#)[GHSP 2026 T&C](#)[APPROVAL OF APPLICATION 1000024370](#)[GHSP Application 1000024370 Accepted le](#)**25-0402**

Approve Contract Award to Froehling and Robertson, Inc., for Professional Engineering Services for Materials Testing for Chin Page, Page Park, Slater Lift Stations and Pipeline Construction for the Utilities Division in the Amount of \$124,913.00 with a Not to Exceed Amount of \$138,000.00

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve a contract award and authorize the County Manager to enter into a professional engineering services contract with Froehling and Robertson, Inc., in the amount of \$124,913.00 with a not to exceed \$138,000.00. Funding will be from the Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This action is in accordance with Durham County's DCo Forward 2029 Strategic Plan:

- Strategic Plan Goal "Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment" by maintaining, protecting, and improving natural and built systems to support a sustainable community.
- Strategic Plan Goal "Financial Stewardship" by improving access for routine and preventive maintenance, prolonging infrastructure life span, and reducing response times for emergency repairs.

Resource Persons: Jay Gibson PE, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services; Stephanie Brixey, Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services; Jerry Morrone, PE, Project Manager; Vincent Chirichella, PE, Sr. Project Manager.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends the Board approve a contract award and authorize the County Manager to enter into a professional engineering service contract with Froehling and Robertson, Inc., in the amount of \$124,913.00 with a not to exceed amount of \$138,000.00 to provide construction materials testing during the Chin Page, Page Park, Slater lift stations and

pipeline construction.

Attachments:

[AAF Supplemental Document - Contract Approval - Constr Materials Testing RFQ 25-015 Materials Testing Svcs Chin Page, Page Pk, Slater Lift Station MWBE Compliance Review Form RFQ # 25-015 2566-00047 \(Durham - Page Park, Slater, Chin Page Lift Stations\) Proposal Re](#)

25-0408

Approval of the FY26 Durham Annual Transit Work Program Global Operating and Capital Agreements

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve the FY26 Durham Annual Transit Work Program Global Operating and Capital Agreements.

The FY2026 Durham Annual Transit Work Program (“Work Program”) is the annual budget for the Durham Transit Plan and includes projected revenues, expenditures, as well as a Multi-Year Operating and Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program. The Work Program was approved by the Durham Board of County Commissioners on May 12, 2025, and the GoTriangle Board of Trustees on June 25, 2025.

To be eligible to receive reimbursement for project expenditures identified in the Work Program, Durham County must enter into Global Operating and Capital Agreements (“Global Agreements”) with GoTriangle, the Administrator of the Triangle Tax District, and the Triangle West Transportation Planning Organization (“Triangle West TPO”) for projects that have been awarded federal funding. A global agreement is an operating or capital funding agreement that encompasses a discrete logical grouping of capital projects, transit operations or studies.

The global agreements will allow the County to request reimbursement in FY26 of up to \$817,608 for the County-sponsored operating and capital projects. Durham County may also request reimbursement for any carryover capital projects identified in the Work Program.

To be eligible to receive reimbursement for project expenditures identified in the Work Program, GoTriangle must enter into Global Agreements with Durham County and the Triangle West TPO for projects that have been awarded federal funding.

The global agreements will allow GoTriangle to request reimbursement in FY26 of up to \$13,933,789 for the GoTriangle-sponsored operating and capital projects. GoTriangle may also request reimbursement for any carryover capital projects identified in the Work Program.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Durham County Strategic Goal: Regional Leadership

Resource Persons: Ellen Beckmann, AICP, Transportation Director; Brandi Minor, CLGFO, Senior Administrative Officer

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve the following FY26 Durham Annual Transit Work Program Global Operating and Capital Agreements:

1. Global Operating Funding Agreement for Operations and Maintenance between Durham County and GoTriangle;
2. Global Capital Funding Agreement for Capital Infrastructure between Durham County and GoTriangle;
3. Global Special Capital Agreement for Capital Infrastructure with Federal Funding between Durham County, GoTriangle, and Triangle West TPO;
4. Global Operating Funding Agreement for Operations and Maintenance between GoTriangle and Durham County;
5. Global Capital Funding Agreement for Capital Infrastructure between GoTriangle and Durham County;
6. Global Special Capital Agreement for Capital Infrastructure with Federal Funding between GoTriangle, Durham County, and Triangle West TPO.

Attachments:

[Global Agreement Memo to BOCC](#)

[25-061 FY2025-26 Global Capital Agreement Package - Durham County](#)

[25-062 FY2025-26 Global Operating Agreement Package - Durham County](#)

[25-063 FY2025-26 Global Special Capital Agreement Package - Durham Count](#)

[25-064 FY2025-26 Global Capital Agreement Package - GoTriangle](#)

[25-065 FY2025-26 Global Operating Agreement Package](#)

[25-066 FY2025-26 Global Special Capital Agreement Package - GoTriangle](#)

25-0426

Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC008 Cooperative Extension to Recognize \$66,364 from Welcome Baby Smart Start Grant Program

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC008 Cooperative Extension to Recognize \$66,364 from Welcome Baby Smart Start Grant Program

This funding will support continued delivery of evidence-based parental support for Durham families with children ages 0-5.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: The additional funds to implement evidence-based parental workshops align with the strategic focus areas of Healthy & Inclusive Community, Empowered Community, and Financial Stewardship.

Resource Persons: Donna Rewalt, County Extension Director; Patience Mukelabai, Welcome Baby Program Manager.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approves Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 26BCC008 Cooperative Extension to Recognize \$66,364 from Welcome Baby Smart Start Grant Program.

Attachments: [Welcome Baby Smart Start Funding Letter](#)
[AAF-08 Legal Form](#)

25-0428 **Adopt the Emergency Services Resolution for the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to adopt the resolution for the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is reviewed annually and updated every five years to assure compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments are developed and presented to the BOCC for approval. The plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan covering Alamance, Durham, Orange, and Person Counties.

The citizens and property within Durham County are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property. The plan incorporates knowledge and experience that certain areas of the region are particularly vulnerable to drought, excessive heat, hurricanes and coastal hazards, thunderstorm, tornado, winter weather, flooding, wildfire, hazardous substances, cyber threat, terrorism, and infrastructure failure. Planning is one of the best ways to develop a customized program that will mitigate the impacts of hazards while accounting for the unique character of a community.

A well-prepared hazard mitigation plan will ensure that all possible activities are reviewed and implemented so that the problem is addressed by the most appropriate and efficient solutions. It can also ensure that activities are coordinated with each other and with other goals and activities, preventing conflicts and reducing the costs of implementing each individual activity. This plan provides a framework for all interested parties to work together toward mitigation. It establishes the vision and guiding principles for reducing hazard risk and proposes specific mitigation actions to eliminate or reduce identified vulnerabilities.

In an effort to reduce the nation's mounting natural disaster losses, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) to invoke new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322 of DMA 2000 emphasizes the need for state and local government entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning activities and makes the development of a hazard mitigation plan a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant

funds.

The City and County has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated the said plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. The primary revisions for Durham identify some new hazard mitigation strategies related to stormwater management, facilities hardening measures, and land use, as outlined in Table 7.11 on Page 396.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Durham County's Strategic Goal: Safe and Resilient Community.

Resource Persons: Elizabeth Schroeder, Office of Emergency Services - Emergency Management, Chief Emergency Manager; Jinizha Johnson, Emergency Management Planner

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board adopt the resolution for the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Attachments:

[Eno-Haw Regional HMP - City County Adoption - Legal Approval Resolution - Adoption of Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

25-0430

Request Approval of \$127,050.00 Contract with Student U to Administer the Durham Community Schools Program

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to approve a \$127,050.00 contract with Student U for the Durham Community Schools Program. Student U, launched in 2007, works with Durham Public Schools students from 6th grade through college graduation, providing holistic support, primarily through outside-of-school programing, at each step. In 2024, Student U joined the NC Community Schools Coalition as the Regional Implementation Partner for Central NC, to support public schools through the implementation of the Community Schools model. Student U works directly with 2 schools in Orange County and 2 schools in Vance County in the 2024-2025 school year. The Durham Public Schools Foundation transitioned the duties of lead agency to Student U for the 2025-2026 school year. Student U will support Durham Community Schools to implement the dynamic four-pillar FSCS model.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Goal: Empowered Community.

Resource Persons: Shannon Trapp, Director of Community Partnerships & Engagement

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board approve a \$127,050.00 contract with Student U for the Durham Community Schools Partnerships.

Attachments: [Student U Scope of Work FY2026](#)
 [Student U FY2026 Contract](#)

3. Discussion Items (140 min)

[25-0422](#) **Alliance Health Update on FY 2025-26 Budget (60min)**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to receive an FY 2025-26 budget update from Alliance Health.

Alliance Health will provide a comprehensive update on the administration and programming on with particular focus on recent federal policy shifts that may impact program funding and service delivery. Discussions will also share context on historical funding patterns.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item aligns with the Strategic Plan Goal: Health and Inclusive Community

Resource Persons: Rob Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Alliance Health; Kelly Goodfellow, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer; Sean Schreiber, Chief Operating Officer; and Sara Wilson, Chief of Staff.

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive a FY 2025-26 budget update from Alliance Health.

.Signature

County Manager: _____

Attachments: [Durham BOCC Presentation 08042025](#)

[25-0421](#) **County Grant Landscape - The Department of Social Services and Public Health Department Update on Federal and State Policy Changes and Funding Implications (60min)**

Agenda Text: The Board is requested to receive the presentation on the County Grant Landscape.

The Department of Social Services and the Public Health Department will provide a comprehensive update on the administration and performance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid programs in Durham County, with particular focus on recent federal policy shifts that may impact program funding and service delivery.

Staff will present current program statistics, recent federal policy changes, operational challenges, and community impact data for both SNAP and Medicaid services. The presentation will emphasize potential funding reductions resulting from federal policy modifications and their anticipated effects on Durham County residents and county operations.

Alignment With Strategic Plan: This item aligns with Strategic Plan Goal:

Resource Persons: John Keefer, Grant's Administrator; Dr. Rodney Jenkins, Public Health Director; Margaret Faircloth, Assistant DSS Director; Raina Goldstein Bunnag, Food Security Coordinator

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive the presentation on the County Grant Landscape.

Attachments:

[Item - 25-0421 - Impacts of Fed. Changes for DSS](#)

[Public Health - DINE Board of County Commissioners Presentation 8.4](#)

[County Federal Grants.Final.pdf](#)

[DSS Durham County BOCC FY 2025-26 Budget Retreat. Revised.pdf](#)

[BOCC Retreat - Public Health.pdf](#)

[February 2025 - Federal Grants Overview, Durham County Government](#)

25-0423

**Golden LEAF Foundation Community-Based Grants Initiative -
County Manager Endorsement Process (20 Minutes)**

Agenda Text:

The Board is requested to receive an informational briefing on the process for the County Manager to endorse projects for the Golden LEAF Foundation's Community-Based Grants Initiative. Founded by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1999 to receive and manage a portion of the State of North Carolina's disbursement under the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement of 1998, the Golden LEAF Foundation was created to provide economic impact assistance to economically affected or tobacco-dependent regions of North Carolina in the form of grantmaking, collaboration, innovation, and other activities.

Of its grantmaking efforts, one of Golden LEAF's most important grant programs is its Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI), through which the organization annually makes \$11 million available for grants to public sector organizations (501(c) (3) nonprofits, local governmental entities, and institutes of higher education) within one of the North Carolina Department of Commerce Prosperity Zones. For Fiscal Year 2026, local governments and other eligible organizations located within Prosperity Zone 11 - which includes Durham County - will be eligible to apply for funding. Under the program, Golden LEAF will award up to three projects in any one County, with total funding allocated per County not exceeding \$1.5 million. Generally, grants are awarded for projects that address one or more of the three Golden LEAF priority areas - Job Creation and Economic Investment, Workforce Preparedness, and Agriculture.

As part of the Golden LEAF CBGI application process, a project must be endorsed by the County Manager of the County within which an organization is located. In order to facilitate this endorsement process for organizations within Durham County,

the County has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to collect and evaluate proposed projects for the County Manager's endorsement. Under the RFP, the County will evaluate the proposals against an evaluation rubric that includes alignment with Golden LEAF's priority work areas and competitive criteria, potential impact on Golden LEAF's targeted communities, previous organizational success with similar projects, use of evidence-based practices, project readiness, and proposed budget.

Once the County Manager endorses a project, the County will have no further role or responsibility in the grant process; selected organizations will apply directly to Golden LEAF and grants will be issued directly by Golden LEAF to the applicant organization. As clearly stated in the RFP, CBGI endorsement by the Manager will not create a commitment from Durham County to issue a grant or contract to the selected organizations nor create an obligation for future funding consideration.

Alignment With Strategic Plan: This item aligns with the following components of the Durham County Strategic Plan: Empowered Community, EC1 (Offer and encourage access to tools, services, support groups, and educational opportunities), EC1b (Increase opportunities for life skills, technical training, and education); Regional Leadership, RL1 (Connect residents to good jobs and economic opportunities), RL1c (Support small business ecosystem), and RL 4 (Support efforts which ensure that Durham residents of all economic backgrounds have access to housing); Financial Stewardship, FS3 (Maintain a strong financial status with a variety of revenue sources), FS3b (Seek opportunities to diversify funding sources including grants and non-restrictive funding);

Resource Persons: John Keefer, Grants Administration; Claudia Hager, County Manager

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board receive an informational briefing on the process for the County Manager to endorse projects for the Golden LEAF Foundation's Community-Based Grants Initiative.

Attachments:

[Golden LEAF CBIG Endorsement RFP.v2](#)

[Golden LEAF CBIG Endorsement Process.BOCC Presentation.8.4.25](#)

4. Adjournment