

# ARPA FUNDED INITIATIVES



## BULLS Initiative- Made In Durham

Durham County has invested funding to strengthen the Building Up Local Labor (BULLS) initiative, a workforce development program targeting high-demand industries such as biotechnology. Made in Durham will lead coordination efforts, collaborating with Durham Technical Community College (DTCC) and Durham Public Schools (DPS) to build key partnerships.

The funding will support the creation of a second industry-specific certification program based on the successful BULLS model, which includes financial assistance, academic support, and access to essential resources. This initiative will also continue, and scale BULLS Biotech stipends and comprehensive support services administered in partnership with DTCC.

Additionally, the funding will enhance community engagement through teacher externships with DPS and after-school programs to increase awareness of the BULLS initiative. Resources will also be allocated to evaluate and improve the program, with the goal of securing philanthropic and private funding to ensure long-term sustainability beyond this one-time allocation. While Made in Durham will serve as the backbone agency, the funding will also support DTCC and DPS in these efforts.

**Investment:**

**\$3,000,000.00**

**Community Partner:**

**Made In Durham**

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## Food Insecurity



The contractor established and operated a brick-and-mortar market in or near Northeast Central Durham. Funding was used to start a new market or to support or expand a recently opened one. The market stocked quality, nutritious foods, including fresh produce, along with other household essentials. To ensure food safety, the market followed all required food safety practices, developed a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plan, and conducted training sessions for new hires, with annual refresher trainings for all employees.

**Investment:**

**\$500,000**



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## Emergency Community Food Assistance



The funding provided emergency community food assistance in Durham County, addressing the projected increase in food needs following the end of the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) emergency allotments in March 2023. Durham County staff and community partners anticipated a substantial rise in demand among SNAP participants. The funding supported food pantries and other emergency food providers, enabling food bank partners to purchase food at wholesale or bulk rates. By supporting these partners, the program greatly multiplied the amount of food resources available to families in need.

**Investment:**

**\$1,643,284**

**Community Partner:**

**Inter-Faith Food Shuttle**

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## Double Bucks Program



The Double Bucks Program matched Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits, as well as Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers and cash for WIC recipients. Incentives could be used for any SNAP-eligible market purchases, not limited to fruits and vegetables.

**Investment:**

**\$480,396**

**Community Partner:**

**Farmer's Food Share**



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## DCo Thrives: Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

The goal of the DCo Thrives pilot program is to assess the effectiveness of guaranteed income in enhancing the well-being of children and families in Durham. By not imposing restrictions on how participants can use the guaranteed income, we demonstrate our confidence that Durham families are the experts on their own lives and, therefore, best equipped to determine how to use the funds to support their households. Our goal is for every child and family in Durham County to thrive.

The DCo Thrives program utilizes a Randomized Control Trial design, which includes a control group of 125-140 additional randomly selected individuals. Both the treatment and control groups will have the opportunity to complete monthly surveys, for which they will receive a \$100 compensation for each completed survey. The survey metrics have been informed by input from our advisory board, internal departments, and research teams, which include in-kind contributions from Appalachian State University and Duke University. These research partnerships, valued at over \$300K, are being provided at no cost to the county, further strengthening relationships with these universities.

Durham Children's Initiative (DCI), a local non-profit with a strong history of working with families in Durham and a key participant in the ECAP's development, has been selected as the pilot program administrator.

### **Program Highlights:**

Due to additional considerations related to research design, program design, and data sharing to ensure participant data is fully protected, meet county standards, and preserve equity in both the application and research process, the DCo Thrives application will not launch until early January 2025, with payments to begin distribution in March 2025. The 12-month guaranteed income payment distribution is expected to conclude by February 2026.

**Investment:**

**\$1,690,000**

**Community Partner:**

**Durham Children's Initiative**

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## DSS Infrastructure Improvements

The Durham County Board of Commissioners has invested \$1,074,404.09 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support a three-year contract with Carahsoft Northwoods, a cutting-edge case management tool for the Department of Social Services (DSS). Developed by Northwoods Consulting Partners, Northwoods leverages artificial intelligence, descriptive analytics, and cognitive search to assist social workers in making informed, confident decisions. The platform offers functionality for content collection, case discovery, data management, and local county forms management, tailored to Durham DSS' specific needs. It also provides a client portal, mobile platform, and forms management, making it easier for social workers to collect and sync case data while in the field.

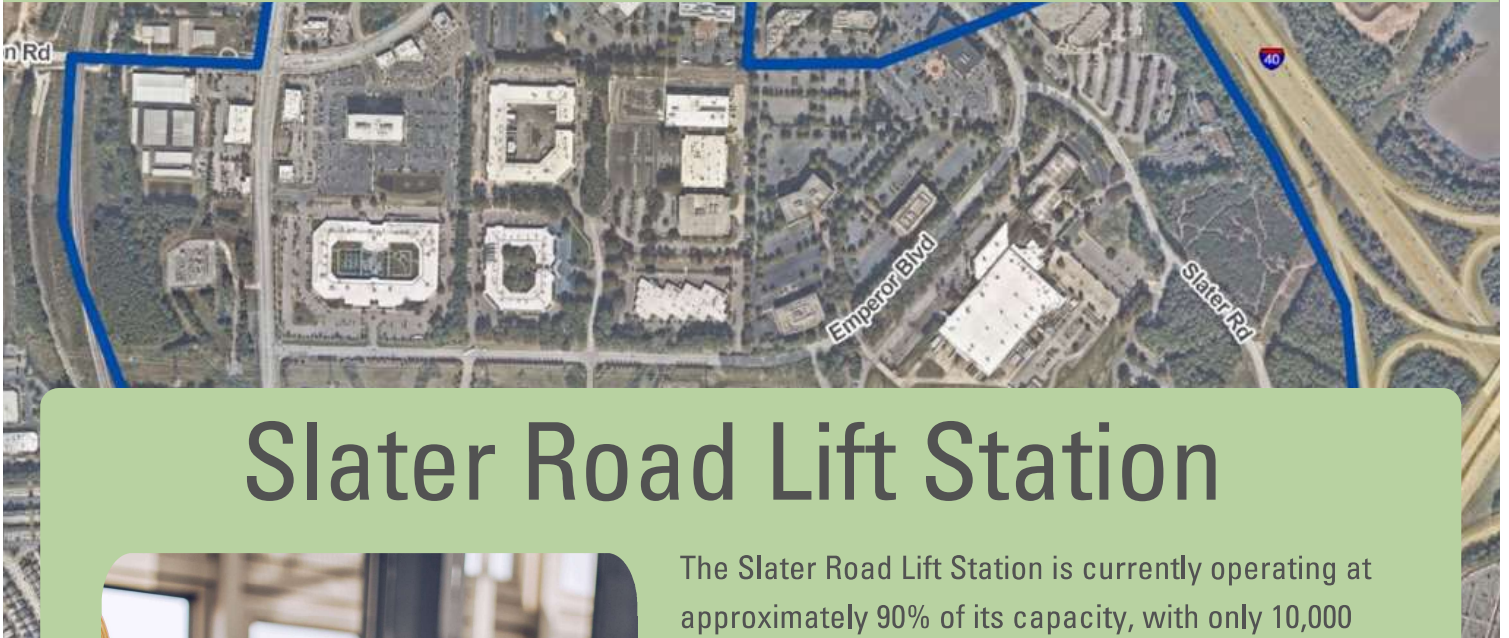
Northwoods' user-centered design enables child welfare and adult services workers to spend more time with families, children in care, and at court hearings while having access to critical case information. The system automatically syncs collected data back to the office, increasing efficiency and allowing social workers to focus on direct family interaction. The platform is exclusively available through Northwoods and is deployed nationwide to improve social services delivery, leading to stronger families and healthier communities. This funding also supports the necessary technology infrastructure for Medicaid expansion. Northwoods has received an approved COTS (Commercial Off-the-Shelf) waiver from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

**Investment:**

**\$1,600,000.00**



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## Slater Road Lift Station



The Slater Road Lift Station is currently operating at approximately 90% of its capacity, with only 10,000 gallons per million (GPM) remaining. As a result, there is a temporary hold on projects within the Slater Road Lift Station Basin. Although the service basin covers a relatively small area of 463 acres and is mostly built-out, the limited capacity is hindering potential economic development opportunities, particularly the redevelopment of sites within this service basin.

### **Program Highlights:**

Durham County Engineering has solicited a design-build contract with a qualified D-B firm to manage the execution of the project. The project is still in the design phase, with construction activities anticipated to being during the 2025 calendar year and for the ARPA funded portion of the work to be completed before the December 31, 2026 expenditure deadline for ARPA funds (the project budget is split between ARPA funding and local funds).

**Investment:**

**\$10,000,000**

**Community Partner:**

**Made In Durham**

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## Small Business Support Grants



Durham County has invested \$1,500,000 in the ARPA Nonprofit Grant Phase 2 – Small Business Support Grant to Forward Cities, Inc., aimed at strengthening the local entrepreneurial ecosystem. This funding will build on the success of the E3 Durham initiative, which helps small businesses impacted by the pandemic, by offering a community-informed model that includes a strategic plan for ecosystem growth, a “learn to earn” program for entrepreneurs, cohort accelerators, and increased access to capital and professional services. The program will also create a downtown hub for business activity and pass through nearly 50% of the funds to local entrepreneurs and service providers, ensuring long-term sustainability. The E3 Durham Venture Studio will operate over a 24-month period, focusing on developing and connecting small businesses with the resources they need to thrive and grow.

**Investment:**

**\$1,500,000**

**Community Partner:**

**Forward Cities**



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## Small Business Support Grants



Knox St. Studios will assist in the implementation of a comprehensive and holistic entrepreneurial support system for qualifying small businesses in Durham County, with an emphasis on providing supports focused on capacity building, access to networks, and access to capital.

### **Program Highlights:**

The grant agreement contract between Durham County and Knox St. Studios was approved and ratified in May 2024. As such, as of June 30, 2026, Knox St. Studios was just beginning the earliest phases of program implementation, including developing RFP for important contractual partners to support their project.

**Investment:**

**\$750,000**

**Community Partner:**

**Knox St. Studios**

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## School Health Nurses



School nurses facilitate children's and youth's well-being through services directed toward keeping students healthy, in class, and ready to learn. The funds support an ongoing commitment to reduce the nurse-to-student ratio through increased funding.

**Investment:**

\$1,426,731

**Community Partner:**

Durham County Public Health  
Department (Internal Project)



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## Durham County Grants Administration Department



Durham County has reserved a portion of the ARPA allocation to support several positions that will ensure compliance and effective management of the County's ARPA funding.

**Investment:**

**\$850,000**

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## Food Security Grants Program

Durham County has invested \$532,000 in a contract with Communities in Partnership (CIP) to administer the Durham County Food Security Grants Program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This program aims to enhance food security for the county's most vulnerable residents, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the economic fallout of COVID-19, while also bolstering Durham County's social safety net in light of rising costs for food, housing, and other essentials.

CIP, a majority Black, women-led nonprofit with extensive experience in managing local grant programs, will oversee the distribution of \$400,000 in community grants to support food assistance organizations. These funds will help address food, infrastructure, and operational needs. Additionally, \$132,000 will cover program management operating costs.

Grants will range from \$2,500 to \$45,000, with a focus on collaborative projects that engage the communities they serve. Grantees will participate in three cohort meetings for training and resource sharing. The program will prioritize marginalized communities and promote sustainable, community-driven food security solutions. The contract will run through March 31, 2025.

**Investment:**

\$538,000

**Community Partner:**

Communities in Partnership



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## Homeless Services Grant Program

As part of ongoing efforts to address the homeless crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Durham County has selected Housing for New Hope, Inc. as the recipient of a \$2 million grant from the County's ARPA Nonprofit Grant Program – Phase 3: Homeless Services Grant. The funding, which will be available until September 30, 2026, is aimed at expanding daytime services for individuals experiencing homelessness in the County. Through this grant, Housing for New Hope will conduct a comprehensive street outreach program focused on providing barrier free physical and mental health services to individuals experiencing homelessness, connecting individuals with providers and other necessary resources and public benefits, and other important services to improve overall health and well-being.

### Program Highlights:

The Durham County Board of Commissioners approved the grant agreement between the County and Housing for New Hope at the November 25, 2026 meeting. Housing for New Hope will begin program implementation in December following ratification of the grant agreement.

**Investment:**

\$2,000,000

**Community Partner:**

Housing for New Hope

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## Community Land Trust Investment Program

The County is investing in a comprehensive program to expand land trusts within Durham County. This program includes identifying potential land trust opportunities, assessing the feasibility and structuring of affordable housing land trust projects, disbursing funds to integrate new properties into the existing Durham community land trust, ensuring accurate filing and maintenance of all documentation and records, and carrying out additional tasks necessary for program success. The County's selected contractor, Durham Community Land Trustees, Inc., will assume full administrative responsibility, managing the program on behalf of the County.

### **Program Highlights:**

Using contract funds, DCLT has already completed the acquisition of Anderson Street Apartments, a multifamily property with 48 units, for integration into the Durham community land trust, as well as adjacent vacant land next to the property that will be further developed to add an additional 48 units beyond that to the land trust.

**Investment:**

\$1,500,000

**Community Partner:** Durham Community Land Trustees, Inc.