

Summary

Budget staff worked with various County staff to leverage their subject-matter expertise (SME) identifying priorities for funding (focused on immediate COVID-response) in the target areas of: **Food Security, Safe and Stable Housing, Child, Youth, and Family Wellness, and Workforce Development**. Key principles SMEs used for nonprofit consideration included equity, systems thinking, capacity building, community engagement, and collaboration.

In past years, the County gave many nonprofits small grants to work on many different issues. The County has changed the grant program to now give larger grants to fewer nonprofits. The County selected 15 nonprofit organizations through a revised nonprofit RFP process (66 total applicants), the City of Durham's Office on Youth, and the City of Durham's Housing Authority for 18-month grants for COVID response and recovery ranging in size from \$25K-\$75K. All Safe and Stable Housing target area funding will be distributed to the City of Durham through an interlocal agreement. The remaining target areas choices have further explanations shown below.

Workforce Development Target Area

The goal is to help residents in low-wage jobs transition into high-demand industries with opportunities for salary growth and upward mobility. By improving awareness and access to career training and employment, this target area seeks to promote the economic well-being of all Durham County residents. Funded workforce development programs will work with Identified Partners to leverage their resources to recruit, enroll and support Target Audience residents until they complete coursework in Durham Technical Community College's Back to Work Initiative and are employed in an industry with salary and promotion growth potential.

Possible Outcomes:

- Attainment of GED®/HiSET® certification or High School equivalency
- Work-based learning opportunities: on-the-job-training, apprenticeship, and internship placement
- Enrollment in a noncredit or credit program leading to an industry-recognized credential
- Enrollment, retention and successful completion of credential attainment
- Provision of support services for program participants

Recommended Agencies:

StepUp Durham (\$75,000) Seeks to address the unemployed population and affect the root causes of poverty by offering job training and a holistic curriculum to help individuals and their families thrive. Funding from Durham County would be used to support StepUp Durham graduates' transition into high demand industries through Durham Tech's Back to Work

Initiative. Most funding is to support enrolled students' tuition, books, technology, childcare, transportation, financial incentives.

Church World Service Durham (\$45,000) Will create a part-time employment specialist to work with local refugees and immigrants who are unemployed or underemployed to enroll them in Durham Tech's Back to Work Initiative, provide them with holistic employment case management, find employment in high-demand industries, and help them achieve financial independence.

El Centro Hispano (\$35,000) Through their Workforce Readiness and Development initiative, the agency strives to increase the number of Hispanics/Latinos prepared to enter the workforce through Basics Skills instruction to meet basic requirements such as ESL, HISET, computer basics; In-person and/or virtual training for specialized jobs in high demand; and Support services either as a referral or direct services.

LIFE Skills Foundation (\$35,000) Works with young people ages 16-24 who are homeless or housing insecure. This funding would support their Education & Employment Program and more specifically their Education & Employment Specialist provide Education and Career Counseling, barrier identification and job prep skills as well as their Licensed Clinical Social Worker that provides mental health therapy.

Durham Literacy Center (\$35,000) Serves adults in Durham who have low literacy skills, low English language proficiency, and/or lack a high school diploma, using education as a tool to achieve social justice and racial equity. Funding to support Program Coordinators and service delivery in the Adult Literacy, ESOL and Youth Achievement programs that recruit, assess, counsel and train students.

Triangle Literacy Council (\$25,000) Will serve residents in the McDougald Terrace Apartment complex by providing a part-time program manager to facilitate educational and workforce readiness curriculums to help participants improve their reading, writing and math skills; obtain a high school equivalency diploma; and learn the basics of the construction trade and/or technology careers.

Child, Youth and Family Wellness Target Area

The subject matter expert(s) planning team decided to take a hybrid approach to funding allocation in this target area. \$88k was allocated to the City of Durham Office on Youth to facilitate a separate RFP process to fund COVID-response and recovery work that aligns with the priorities emerging from their recent Youth Listening Project. With the remaining funding, proposals were collected from organizations and groups serving young people 0-24 years and their families to do the following:

- Create safe places, spaces, and approaches that promote health, wellness, and learning for young people and their families

- Offer targeted supports and encouragement that consider culture, trauma, and other lived experiences
- Provide young people and their families opportunities for decision making and leadership in creating these opportunities
- Re-imagine and re-design the policies, systems, and institutions that influence health, wellness, and learning

38 proposals totaling \$1,910,894 were received. There is huge need for investment in supports for young people and their families during COVID, and there were many proposals that provided compelling rationale for the approaches they are taking or plan to take to respond to and build equitable paths to recover from COVID.

Recommended Agencies:

Village of Wisdom (\$55,000) Funding would support development of digital tools and provision of instructional support to teachers in providing culturally affirming instruction and developing better relationships with Black families. The need for this work emerged from parent-led research on needs of Black young people and their families during virtual learning.

Empowered Parents in Community (EPiC) (\$55,000) Funding would support offering parent and student training and workshops in partnership with Durham TRY, as well as academic and economic supports. Trainings and workshops would focus on trauma, healing, and resilience, using a parent-developed resilience curriculum.

Refugee Community Partnership (\$55,000) Funding would support implementation of COVID-response strategies developed by their members, including financial assistance, supporting non- English speakers with information access, personal accompaniment, and interpretation, and organizing to create more equitable systems and policies.

Helping Adolescents Reach Their Spark (H.E.A.R.T.S.) (\$25,000) Funding would support relational programming with teen parents ages 13-22, including addressing needs identified in an April 2020 needs assessment. Programming would include doula services, group parent education, peer networking, and home visits.

Food Security Target Area

To ensure all Durham County residents have access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food within a local food system, especially during increased food insecurity related to the COVID-19 crisis, through nonprofit organizations that do one or more of the following:

- Work to increase food security for vulnerable populations.
- Create a stronger local food system. This could include work with farms, food production, food delivery, or any other organization that get food on Durham tables.
- Manage and distribute a series of microgrants to smaller food security nonprofits in Durham, such as food pantries.

14 proposals were received totaling \$763,768.

Recommended Agencies:

Believers United for Progress (\$51,000) funding would support staffing, food and supplies for their Community Kitchen Program and meal deliveries for families, no-and-low-income residents, seniors, and people with disabilities primarily residing in Durham's Hayti community.

Communities in Partnership (\$51,000) funding would support salaries, food purchases, and supplies for CIP's co-op grocery in Old East Durham. CIP works on food sovereignty, workforce development, and other efforts for Black and Brown people in Old East Durham.

Durham Congregations in Action (\$60,000) funding would enable DCIA to administer a micro-grant program to Durham nonprofit applicants, such as food pantries, seeking grants of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to feed food-insecure Durham residents.

End Hunger Durham (\$51,000) funding would support a coordinator, food purchases, and operating costs related to providing food to Durham seniors in subsidized housing through weekly meal delivery.

Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel (\$51,000) funding would allow this Durham food pantry, located just north of I-85 on Roxboro Road, to purchase food and expand refrigeration/freezer capacity to serve weekly clients, comprised primarily of Latinx and Black people.