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August 24, 2022

Employ2 Empower

Creative uses of ARPA
Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds for Homelessness
and Housing



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The Opportunity

Many of our **unhoused individuals** are willing to **work** – but not yet ready for traditional workforce programs

Employ 2 Empower offers a **unique combination of employment & support**, providing income, connections to housing and wraparound services, and pre-employment training





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The model



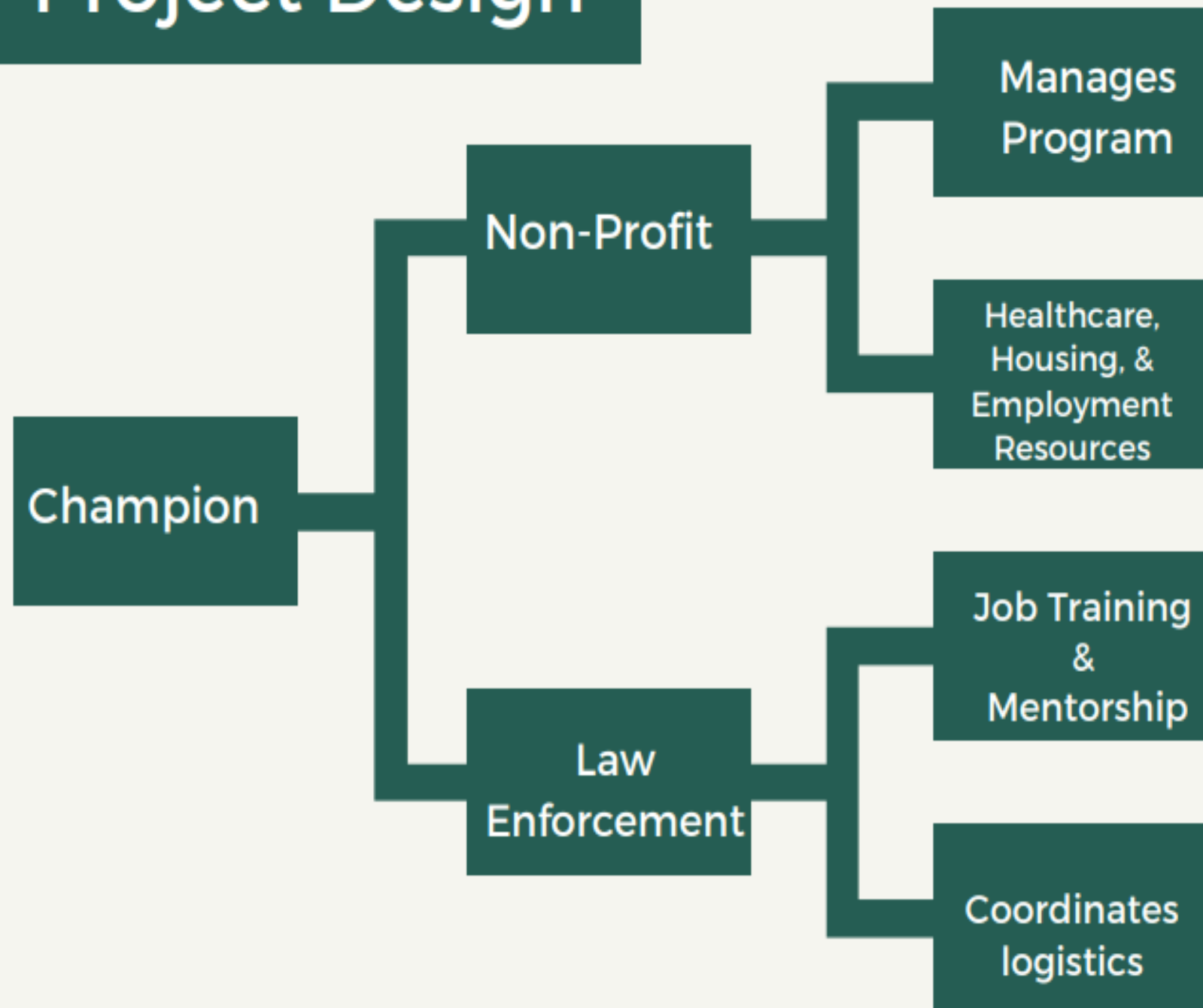
- The Employ2 Empower program hires crews of 10 unhoused individuals living in encampments
- Participants are trained to perform graffiti removal, illegal dumping abatement, and maintenance of public properties
- Crews spend three days at work and one day receiving services such as housing placement, ID recovery, workforce training, and personal development coaching; all four days per week are paid



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Partnerships make it possible ...

Project Design



Champion

An elected official/government entity with political will to champion the program and set the vision. The champion identifies funding, brings together the partners, and provides program support.

Non-Profit

Partner manages day to day operations, understands the population being served and is able to provide referrals to supporting services including permanent employment, housing and healthcare.

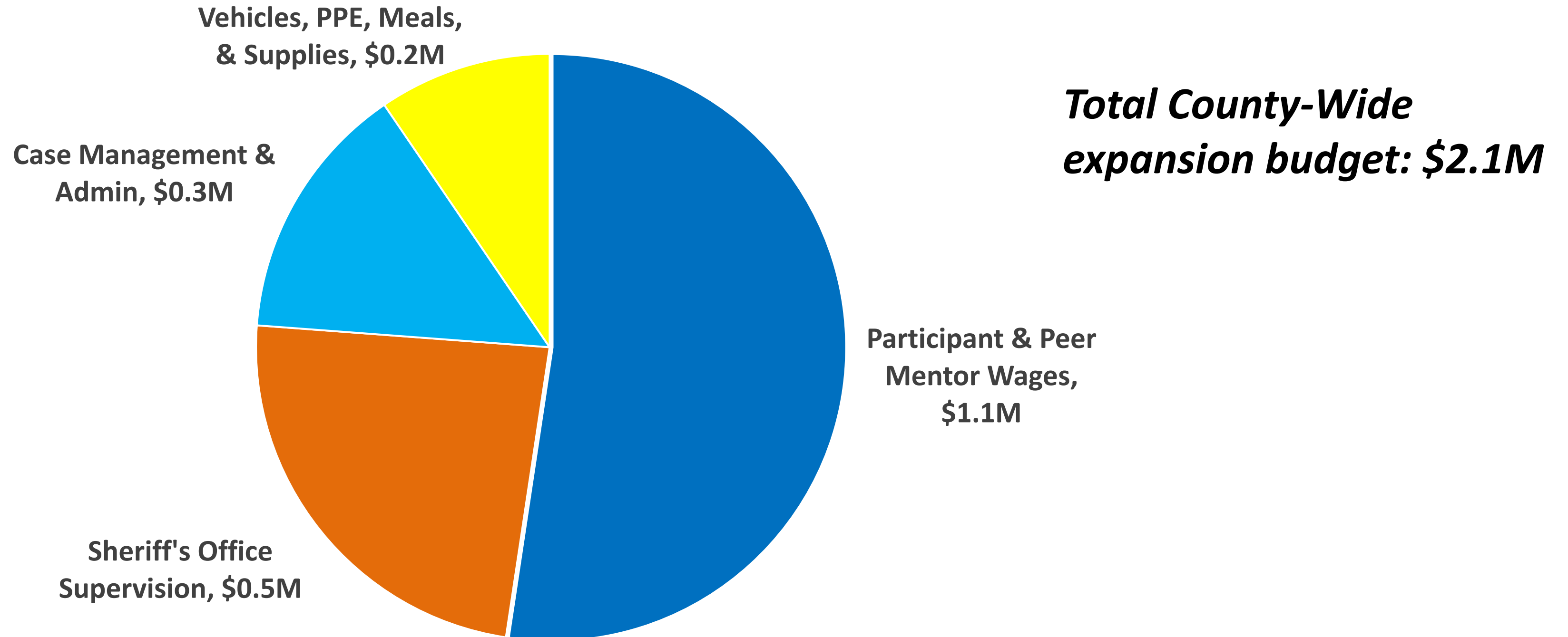
Law Enforcement

Partner assists with background checks, provides mentorship, job training and ensures abatement/traffic laws are being followed.



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... together with flexible ARPA funding





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The Results

KPIs tracked include:

- Participants served
- Participants assessed for housing
- Participants placed into permanent housing
- Participants connected to ID restoration
- Participants receiving food stamps
- Participants connected to cell phone resources
- Participants connected to healthcare
- Participants securing permanent employment
- Participants connected to recovery services

Based on a successful pilot in Precinct 2, Harris County is **expanding Employ 2 Empower County-wide**, with target participation of 160 individuals



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Thank you!



For more info:
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Buncombe County, NC

ARPA Investments in Affordable Housing

Sara Joss, Strategic Partnerships Grant Manager

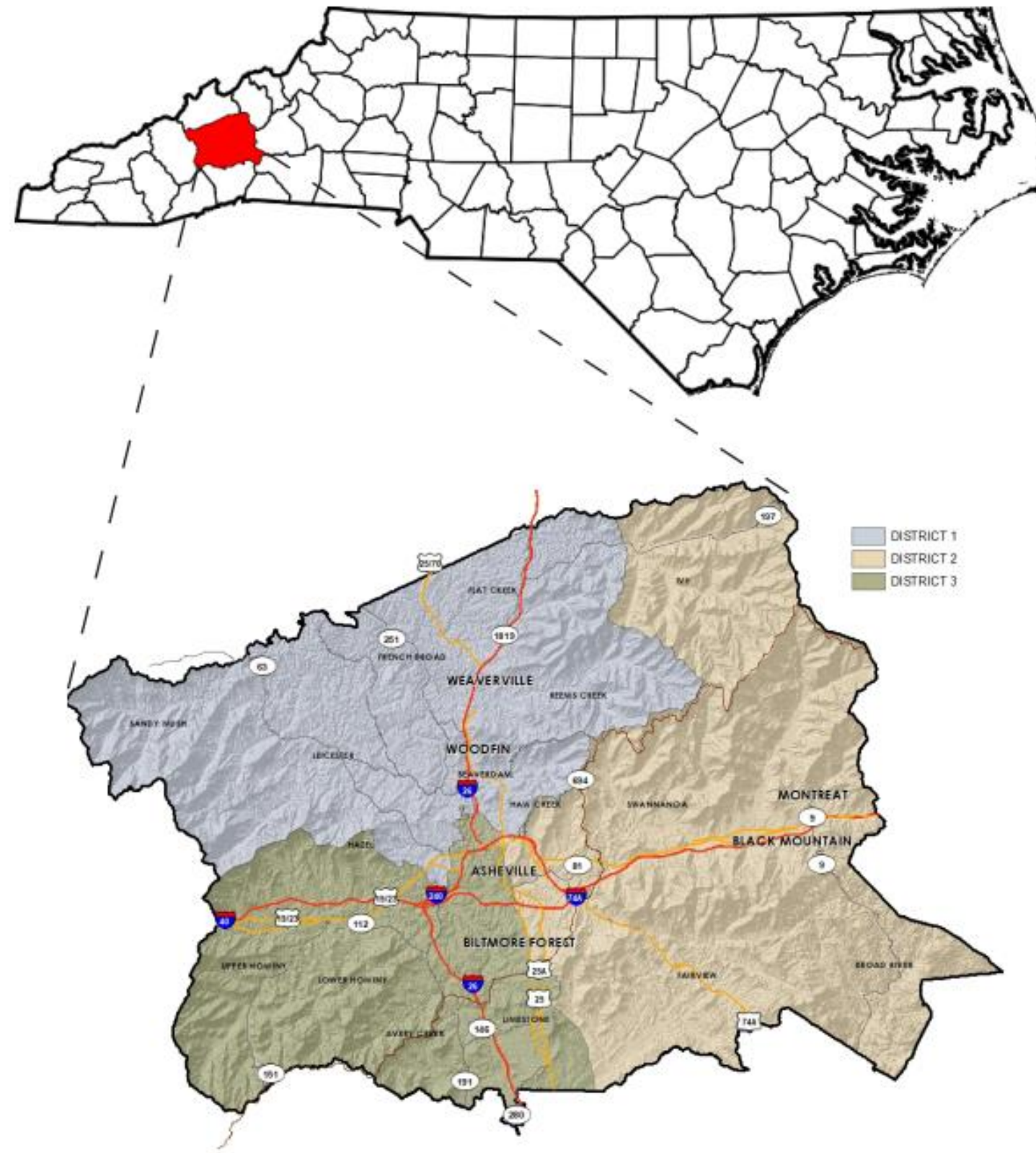
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BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Buncombe County, NC



Population: 271,534

7th most populous county in NC

Area: 656 square miles

County Seat: Asheville, NC

Established: 1792

Employees: 1,500+

Departments: 28

Budget: \$398 M annual general fund

Operating Structure: Council-Manager

Local Authority: Dillon's Rule

Affordable Housing Goals

- Increase the supply of Affordable Housing for rent
- Increase the supply of Affordable Housing for homeownership, especially for BIPOC households
- Preserve the supply of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH)
- Support activities that achieve functional zero Homelessness
- Support activities that encourage the use of all vouchers



ARPA Community Input: Affordable Housing Highest Ranked Priority



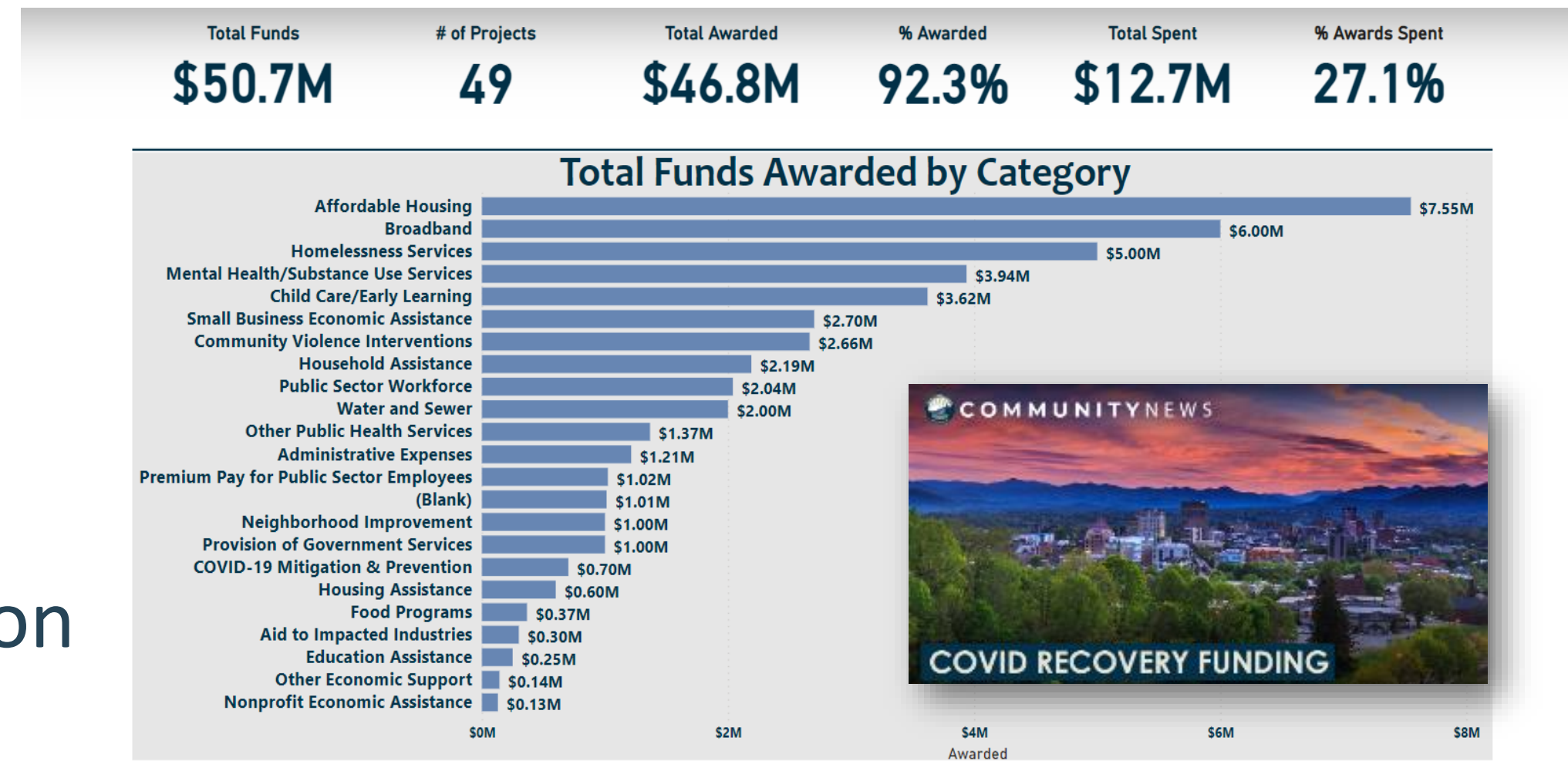
ARPA “COVID Recovery Funding”

- **\$50.7 M** allocation to Buncombe County
- Requests for Proposals (RFPs) seeking projects aligned to county & community priorities to build a strong, equitable recovery from COVID-19 & its negative economic impacts
- Visit www.BuncombeCounty.org/RecoveryFunding to view:
 - Community survey results
 - RFP documents
 - Submitted proposals
 - Rolling awards
 - Project reporting



ARPA Investments in Affordable Housing

- **\$7.5 M** out of \$46.8 awarded so far: **16% of total ARPA funds**
- Structured as pass-through grant awards to federal subrecipients
- Part of a holistic portfolio of other investments including: home repairs; household assistance; small business support; child care; K-12 education; mental health; community violence intervention & broadband infrastructure



Project Highlight 1: Deeply, Permanently Affordable Housing

- Development of 45 apartments which will be affordable in perpetuity, serving formerly homeless individuals and families
- \$749,000 award is supporting construction costs for West Haywood Street Apartments
- Construction completion expected by August 2023
- Subrecipient: Haywood Street Community Development



Project Highlight 2: Infrastructure to Support Homeownership

- Creation of 43 construction-ready home sites in the Glenn Bridge and New Heights developments
- \$1,600,000 award is supporting site development including sewer/water/stormwater installation as well as roads & sidewalks
- Infrastructure closeout expected by September 2025
- Subrecipient: Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity



Project Highlight 3: Reimagining Deaverview

- Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) redevelopment initiative of Deaverview Apartments. Will result in 3 new buildings including 80 apartments for families with income at or below 60% AMI
- \$935,286 award is supporting construction costs
- Construction completion estimated by August 2024
- Subrecipient: Asheville Housing Authority of the City of Asheville



Project Highlight 4: Recovery Starts at Home

- Development of 120 units of new affordable rental housing at Lakeshore Villas for individuals and families from below 30% AMI to a maximum of 80% AMI
- \$3,263,847 award is supporting construction costs
- Construction completion expected by fall 2024
- Subrecipient: Mountain Housing Opportunities



Project Highlight 5: Buncombe Rental Assistance Collaborative

- Effective deployment of Federal Rental Assistance (FRA) to move over 200 individuals/families in Buncombe County into long term affordable housing
- \$356,571 award is supporting case management and landlord incentives to increase FRA acceptance rates
- Two-year project
- Subrecipient: Thrive Asheville

THRIVE
AVL



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Thank you

Sara Joss

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BUNCOMBE COUNTY

