

**MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Special Session for the FY25 Recommended Budget Overview in Conference Room at Valerie C. Woodard Conference Center, 3205 Freedom Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair George Dunlap, Vice-Chair Mark Jerrell, and Commissioners Leigh Altman, Patricia “Pat” Cotham, Arthur Griffin, Elaine Powell, Laura J Meier, Rodriguez-McDowell
County Manager Dena R. Diorio
County Attorney Tyrone C. Wade
Clerk to the Board Kristine M. Smith
Deputy Clerk to the Board Arlissa Eason

Absent: Commissioner Vilma D. Leake

BUDGET PUBLIC POLICY

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunlap, followed by introductions and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

24-0325 FY2024 THIRD QUARTER (Q3) BOARD BUDGET PRIORITIES UPDATE

County Manager Dena Diorio said the meeting was to make sure that everyone had a full understanding of what was in the budget.

Background: Staff provided the Board with the third quarter update on the status of the approved FY2024 budget items associated with each of the Board's FY2024 Budget Priorities.

BOCC FY2024 Budget Priorities:

- *Early Childhood Development*
- *Educational Attainment*
- *Environmental Stewardship*
- *Health Access*
- *Housing Insecurity*
- *Workforce Development*
- *Racial Disparities (cross-cutting all priorities)*

Adrian Cox, Mecklenburg County Budget Director gave the presentation.







FY2024 Board Priorities Update

3rd Quarter

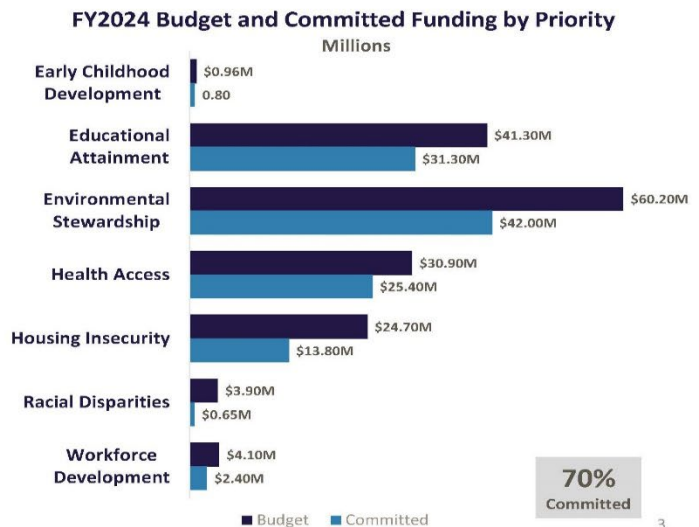
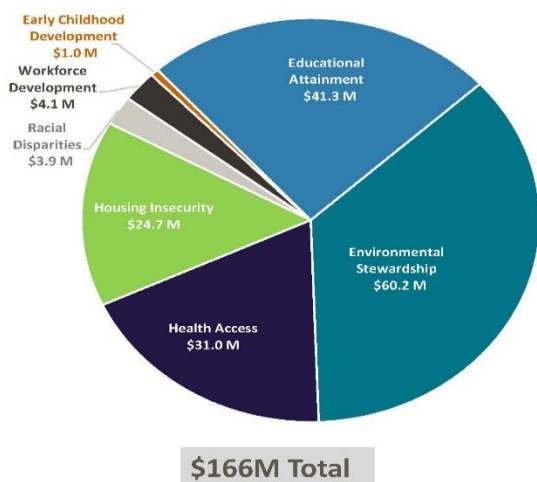
May 22nd, 2024



FY2024 BOARD PRIORITIES

 Early Childhood Development: Expand services that promote healthy early childhood development & education from ages birth to five.	Racial Disparities: Ensure that investments by the County focus on closing racial & ethnic gaps so that race does not predict one's success, while also improving outcomes for all. Race will be interwoven into the Board Priorities through policies, practices, & procedures that seek to analyze & eliminate the root causes of racial disparities with the hope that all people in Mecklenburg County will have an equitable opportunity to thrive in the community.
 Educational Attainment: Align allocations to strategies & targets with proven results to improve college & career readiness outcomes for all students.	
 Environmental Stewardship: Preserve & protect the County's environmental resources.	
 Health Access: Improve access to physical & behavioral healthcare for County residents of all ages & promote healthy behaviors.	
 Housing Insecurity: Reduce the number of residents experiencing homelessness & advance stable affordable housing options for all County residents.	
 Workforce Development: Support initiatives that connect job seekers with employment opportunities.	

FY2024 BUDGET PRIORITIES



70%
Committed



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) positions - Five (5) full-time & one (1) part-time: \$492K

- One (1) WIC Supervisor, one (1) Sr. WIC Interviewer, two (2) full-time Nutritionists & one (1) part-time Lactation Counselor have been hired.
- A full-time Lactation Counselor will be hired pending the status of Federal reimbursement revenue.

Prenatal-to-Three Funding: \$354K

- Prenatal-to-three Project Manager Position was filled in February.
- Procurement is working on a contract with the selected consultant for planning and implementation of the County's prenatal-to-three strategy.

MECK Pre-K

- Total program budget is \$25.3M with \$18.2M (72%) spent at the end of the 3rd quarter.
- Program is serving 1,814 students as of the end of the 3rd quarter.
- 97% of the 1,874 available seats are filled.
- 97% of the 212 teacher positions are currently filled.

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EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Funding for Library Collections: \$1.7M

- Funding has been spent to increase the number of books & digital resources available, with a focus on increasing diversity in the collection.

One (1) Library Business Analyst & One (1) HR Coordinator: \$146K

- The Business Analyst has been filled and will begin work in Q4. The HR Coordinator position was filled in Q2.

General Library Programming: \$109K

- The Community Read event was held in Q3 where two authors visited four schools and two library branches. The Dia event took place in April, and items have been purchased for Summer Break Initiatives.
- Additional spending is expected to allow for an additional 1.8K programs and serve an additional 53.2K resident attendees.

Carolina Youth Coalition - Carolina Torch Fellows Program (CSG): \$100K

- The Torch Fellows Program has served the 250 student target with 56 seniors applying to a 4-year university. Through this program, students from low-income, first-generation families learn how to eliminate academic, financial, and social barriers to college entry.

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Land Acquisition for Environmental Leadership Action Plan: \$50M

- Closed through Q3:
 - 441.29 acres
 - \$32,473,698
- Pending closing through Q3:
 - 140.69 acres
 - \$19,807,378

Stormwater Capital Funding & (4) new staff to create additional Field Operations Team: \$3.6M

- The supervisor position has been hired, and the other positions are in recruitment. All office modifications to accommodate the new team have been completed.

Farmland Preservation Coordinator to manage the Farmland Preservation Plan: \$86K

- The Farmland Preservation Coordinator led the first Farmer Field Day event, and is working to plot all farms with GIS, develop a process to establish a Voluntary Agriculture District, and establish an Agriculture Advisory Council.

Energy Controls Specialist to Support ELAP: \$104K

- Positions was filled in Q2. Primary duties include monitoring building automation systems.

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 **HEALTH ACCESS**

Economic Service Positions: \$10.3M

- 65 of the 75 approved positions for Medicaid Expansion and 101 of the 111 Medicaid & SNAP eligibility positions have been filled as of the Q3.
- 90% of the 186 positions added for Medicaid Expansion and benefit eligibility determination have been hired as of Q3.

Auto-Loading Stretchers in Medic: \$4.6M

- 82 Auto-loading stretchers have been purchased and stretchers have been fully deployed.

Support for the Three Sisters Food Market Capital Campaign: \$3.0M

- The General Manager was hired by the Co-op in Q2 and is currently assisting with the design and launch of the food cooperative.
- An agreement has been made with West Blvd Neighborhood Coalition to support construction costs of the market and the initial invoice was submitted in April.

Contribution to Charlotte Rescue Mission Rebound Capital Campaign: \$2.0M

- The \$2M contribution has been provided to support the construction of a facility which is expected to provide 166 new beds to serve homeless men seeking treatment for addiction. The ribbon cutting will take place in June.
- The total number of men to be served by the organization will increase to 1,666 following the construction of the new facility.

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 **HEALTH ACCESS**

Benefit Eligibility Call Center Staffing: \$1.6M

- A vendor has been selected and is currently providing 36 full-time staff to operate the Call Center. The current average daily calls to the Call Center is 1,200.

Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Center - North Mecklenburg Clinic: \$1.0M

- The new clinic to serve 750 new patients on W. Sugar Creek Rd opened in February 2024 and offers medical, dental, and behavioral services.

Additional Mobile Health Services at the Salvation Army Center of Hope: \$350K

- The Cabarrus-Rowan Community Health Center began offering services in November in coordination with the Salvation Army Center of Hope.
- The mobile clinic is deployed three days per week, with one day each dedicated to medical, behavioral health, and dental services.

Mobile Market Program Expansion: \$489K

- The 2 vehicles have been purchased and are being fitted with coolers and other equipment.
- Services are expected to begin in May 2024.

Metrolina Association for the Blind (CSG): \$340K

- 585 individuals (of the 692 target) have been served, dedicating 3,588 hours towards occupational therapy and 96% of participants report acquiring new skills and a greater sense of self-worth/purpose.

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 **HOUSING INSECURITY**

HOMES Program Expansion: \$14M

- The Program received 7,662 applications, approved 4,306, and awarded \$2,190,012 in grants.
- County grants totaled \$1,496,553 and City grants totaled \$693,459.
- All 7 positions for the program have been filled.

Affordable Housing Fund: \$10.3M

- Programs are being implemented with additional funding added in FY2024 for NOAH projects, development projects, Critical Home Repair, & Rental Subsidies (See appendix for a table of programs & spending).

A Home For All Administration: \$222K

- United Way has hired a Prospect Manager and Fundraising Consultant to support the Home For All project as well as finalized the contract with the City of Charlotte.
- Targets and strategies for fundraising are being decided and consultants for the implementation plan have been identified.

Legal Aid Services Expansion: \$200K

- The 13 positions funded by this contract have served 293 clients through legal advice and 426 clients through legal representation for a total of 719 individuals served of the 1,000 client FY2024 target.

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

MeckSuccess Initiative: \$1.3M

- This pilot program will increase the number of families served to 50 & will provide support with education, training, & other wraparound support.
- A Social Worker, Social Service Program Coordinator, and an Administrative Support position have been filled.

Business LaunchPad Initiative: \$240K

- The Fall Business Launchpad Cohort V began on August 10, 2023, with 20 participants selected from 96 applicants. 18 participants graduated from the program on December 14, 2023.
- The Spring Business Launchpad Cohort VI began on February 8, 2024 with 16 participants selected from 34 applicants. Graduation is scheduled in May 2024.

Get Up & Grow Program: \$120K

- The FY2024 Get Up & Grow cohort began on January 11, 2024 with 12 participants selected from 15 applicants. Graduation is scheduled in May 2024.

Library Workforce Development Programming Expansion: \$40K

- Funds have been used on for community career events at schools, providing community and career resources at Roof Above and Salvation Army, and facilitating a computer technology course at a senior living center.
- A two-day Workforce Development workshop will be facilitated in May.

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RACIAL DISPARITIES

Generational Wealth Investment Project: \$3M

- The office of Equity & Inclusion has finalized the strategy to provide \$1K to 3,000 students in Mecklenburg County which is pending a response from the NC Attorney General for constitutionality.
- The Generational Wealth Investment workgroup has completed design of strategies that support formerly incarcerated individuals and youth aging out of Foster Care with the pilots potentially launching in Q4.

Increase for Culture Blocks: \$500K

- This investment increases the total culture block funding to \$1.6M. There have been 320 programs & events held through Q3, attended by 6,538 residents. Additional events will occur through Q4.
- Programs included experiences in dance, photography, poetry, theater, music, and culinary arts.

One (1) Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer for Library Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives: \$132K

- The Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer will develop and implement the Library's diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and strategy, including the Racial Equity Task Force report.
- The department has selected a candidate who will begin in Q4.

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FY2024 Board Priorities Update

Appendix Slides




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APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT		
Library Active Reading & Early Literacy Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding has gone towards the Active Reading program which included 76 workshops completed and 16 scheduled, 929 adult and 904 children participants, 1,065 book sets distributed, Active Reading Storytimes with 423 Storytimes held and 15,503 attendees, and lastly Reading Buddies with 2,065 in person attendees, and 706 virtual attendees. 	\$50K	\$29K
Reclassification to create one (1) child development services Audiologist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The positions has been reclassified from PT to FT. The position was filled in Q3. 	\$60K	\$60K
Larry King Clubhouse Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funds for additional payroll expenses have been encumbered and will be fully spent at year-end. 	\$5K	\$5K

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APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Operating Funding Increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new funding includes \$29M for salary increase, including market adjustments for Principals and other non-certified staff & a 5% average increase in the local supplement. The State budget includes an average 7% increase for teachers over the two-year budget. CMS has implemented salary increases and starting pay for first-year teachers with a bachelor’s degree is \$46,302 (\$39,000 State, \$7,302 County), a 6% increase over last year. 	\$39M	\$29M
Rental Increases At Library Branches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pineville, South Boulevard, and Plaza Midwood branch increases are fully spent. 	\$213K	\$213K
MeckEd - Career Pathways (CSG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Pathways Program has served 143 students with one-on-one college and career readiness services. Of these, 108 are students with intensive case management needs and have all established career and education goals. 	\$50K	\$38K



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APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 ENVIRONMENTAL STERWARDSHIP		
Residential Availability Fee for Recycling & Infrastructure Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee increases were implemented July 1 and will be used to offset the cost for recycling and infrastructure management. 	\$5.1M	\$5.1M
Air Quality Operating Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fee (\$50/ton to \$60/ton) adjustment for permitted stationary sources (i.e. mills, plants, gas stations, etc.), the new annual ambient monitoring fee for \$300 for all permitted stationary sources. This funding is maintaining existing air quality monitoring, permitting and enforcement staff and support staff performing activities to maintain existing levels of service in the local air quality program. 	\$454K	\$454K
Maintenance/Operating Funding for County Greenways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding has been encumbered and expensed for the maintenance of county greenways. 	\$314K	\$283K
(2) Construction Plan Review Positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Specialist III position has been filled. The Construction Project Manager position is on hold until land development activity and revenue increases. 	\$275K	\$105K


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APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 ENVIRONMENTAL STERWARDSHIP		
Maintenance of Newly Acquired Property from ELAP		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding has been allocated for maintenance and lawn services for the property near Mint Hill. Remaining funding will be encumbered and expensed as needed throughout the fiscal year. 	\$184K	\$56K
(1) Livable Meck Program Coordinator Position		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position supports the CRC community partner strategy and defining strategies to create connections and alignment across enterprise-wide strategic plans. 	\$92K	\$92K
Storm Water Monitoring Equipment	\$68K	\$68K
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment ordered, but won't arrive until Q4 due to supply chain issues. 		
 HEALTH ACCESS		
Medic Salary & Benefits: \$3.6M		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit adjustments were processed with the November 1 payroll. 	\$3.6M	\$2.5M
Laboratory Operations at the Scarborough CRC		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contract with LabCorp has been amended and finalized. 	\$526K	\$526K
Senior Home Delivered Meals - Cost Increase		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently on track to serve 1,200 seniors weekly. 	\$293K	\$265K


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APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 HEALTH ACCESS		
(3) new staff in Veteran's Services Based on Increased Demand of Services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All positions have been filled 	\$242K	\$242K
RAO Community Health - Doula Impact Program (CSG): \$242K		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Q3, 57 mothers have been served by the Doula Impact Program and all with successful live births. 9 (target 30) doulas enrolled in the training program in Q3. 	\$242K	\$181K
Senior Congregate Meals - Cost Increase		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average participation for Q3 is 98%, or 613 meals per day. 	\$215K	\$194K
(1) Advanced Practice Practitioner for Scarborough Community Resource Center		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position was hired in Q1 and resigned. A new candidate is expected to start at the end of April. 	\$144K	\$144K
Behavioral Health Counseling for Scarborough Community Resource Center		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A contract therapist is providing behavioral health counseling for 102 clients at the CRCs. 	\$140K	\$140K
Bilingual Family Partners at Community Resource Centers		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both Family Partners have been in place since February and have assisted 17 unique individuals. 	\$134K	\$134K


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APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 HEALTH ACCESS		
Teen Health Connection – Community Based Prevention		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of Q3, 27 students served on the Teen Advisory Board where they participated in weekly meetings, facilitated peer education in local schools, and designed awareness campaigns for Teen Health Connection's behavioral health programming. The program provided a total of 33 leadership training hours to the students participating on the Teen Advisory Board. 	\$100K	\$75K
Memory & Movement – Service Expansion to Address Growing Need (CSG)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of Q3, served 340 individuals seeking treatment and support for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other similar conditions. The program also served 719 caregivers who provide support to individuals with these conditions. 	\$100K	\$75K
Additional Temporary Staff for Senior Nutrition Programs		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 4 temp positions are filled. 	\$89K	\$89K
Present Age Ministries – For the One (CSG)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of Q3, the program served 25 survivors of sex trafficking, made 284 home visits, and provided 41 service referrals, 22 transportation assists, and 33 individual counseling sessions. 85% of clients have shown improvement on their DASS assessments. 	\$35K	\$26K


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APPENDIX

		Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
	HEALTH ACCESS		
	Mind Body Baby - Doula Grants Program (CSG): \$34K		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 10 target mothers have been served, of which, 8 had live births. All 10 have been enrolled in WIC assistance and initiated breast feeding. 	\$34K	\$26K
	Behavioral Health Contracts		
	The increase in following contracts have been fully executed with partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> InReach community works program to support personnel costs \$113K Lifespan Inc to fund part-time employee \$13K Behavioral health urgent care administrative fee of 2% \$15K 		
	Behavior Health Strategic Plan Consultant Implementation & Gap Analysis:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAP analysis was presented to the Board on May 7th. The vendor for consulting will be selected after the strategic plan has been presented. 	\$350K	



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APPENDIX

		Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		
	Additional Operating Funding for CPCC		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is for ongoing operating expenses and will be fully spent by year-end. 	\$2.0M	\$1.6M
	Increase in Funding for the Community Culinary School		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FY24 enrollment target is 48. Current enrollment is 65 and is projected to increase to 75 by the end of the fiscal year. 	\$60K	\$30K
	Drug Test Sweat Patches for Employed Probation & Parolees		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CJS recovery Court team is referring clients as needed based on their updated referral protocol, which was rolled out on September 1st, 2023. A total of 38 sweat patches have been distributed in FY2024. 	\$40K	\$40K
	Internship Program Funding Increase		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FY24 MeckPathways program is complete, and planning for how to enhance next year's program has begun. 3 GardHouse interns completed the program at the end of Q2. GardHouse's HR and Finance Interns will be asked to return this Summer as MeckPathways college interns. 	\$35K	\$31K

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APPENDIX

		Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		
	(1) Economic Development Specialist for Small Business Concierge & Lending Programs		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position is filled as of February 2024. This employee is primarily responsible for launching the Township Connections initiative, which is meeting community members in their respective towns. 	\$83K	\$83K
	Charlotte Works Career Advisor at Scarborough CRC		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charlotte works has provided the Career Advisor at Scarborough Community Resource Center. The Advisor has assisted 162 clients and have assisted with 28 job placements with an average hourly pay of \$16.70. 	\$65K	\$65K
	HOUSING INSECURITY		
	(1) Administration Management Analyst for Affordable Housing & Homelessness		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff has assisted with department FY2025 budget request, completed site visits with vendors, processed monthly invoices, and is supporting development of FY2026-FY2028 Strategic Business Plan. 	\$88K	\$88K
	(1) Contract Compliance Specialist for Critical Home Repair Program		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position was filled in Q2 and employee is currently working with compliance specialist on Critical Homes. 	\$74K	\$74K

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 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND**

Program	FY2020-2023 Spending	FY2024 Allocation	FY2024 YTD Obligations
Critical Home Repair*	\$1,757,047	\$2,575,000	\$1,272,880
Development Projects**	5,514,175	12,403,653	4,186,762
Home for All Initiatives (new in FY2024)	-	3,075,000	19,904
NOAH Projects***	27,017	442,045	6,226
Supportive Services & Subsidy Programs	10,525,515	5,639,436	3,154,680
Total	\$17,823,754	\$24,135,134	\$8,640,452

* Includes \$1M for A Home for All critical home repair
 ** FY2024 Allocation includes remaining funds dedicated for Billingsley, Charlotte Woods, Brookhill, & Potts Town.
 ***Includes Archdale, Bellhaven, Grier Heights, Gwynne Hill, Hoke, McAlway, Peppertree, Shamrock, & Wendover.

APPENDIX

	Budgeted Amount	Committed To-Date
 REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITIES		
(1) New Position to Support the Reopening of Latta Place		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position was reclassified to match job description and the department is working with HR to post and interview for the position. Operating funding has been utilized to assist with developing programs for Latta 	\$128K	\$58K
(1) Program Coordinator for Adult Sports Fitness		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Position has been filled 	\$67K	\$67K
County Office of Equity & Inclusion Event Sponsorships		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Q3, sponsorship support was provided for two events: Cine Casual, a film series presenting recent, internationally acclaimed and award-winning Latin American films, and A Vibe Called Fresh, a local festival showcasing the West End corridor's art, history, and culture. 	\$23K	\$3K
DEI Certifications for Office Staff		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By Q3, all OEI staff have completed and earned the prestigious DEI Certification from Cornell University. 	\$15K	\$10K
Translation Services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds are utilized to cover the cost for an increase in translation services at CRCs. 	\$10K	\$10K

Comments

Commissioner Powell said the results of the Metrolina Association for the Blind were powerful, and it was money well spent.

24-0326 BUDGET OVERVIEW: COUNTY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FY2024-2025

The Board Receive a detailed overview of the County Manager's Recommended Budget for FY 2024-2025

Background: The Board received a detailed overview of the County Manager's Recommended FY2024-2025 Budget in preparation for the straw voting session scheduled for May 30, 2024.

Adrian Cox gave the presentation.



Overview

1. Summary

2. Education

3. Board Priorities

4. Other Funding By Agency

5. Law Enforcement & Fire Protection Districts



General Fund Revenue Growth

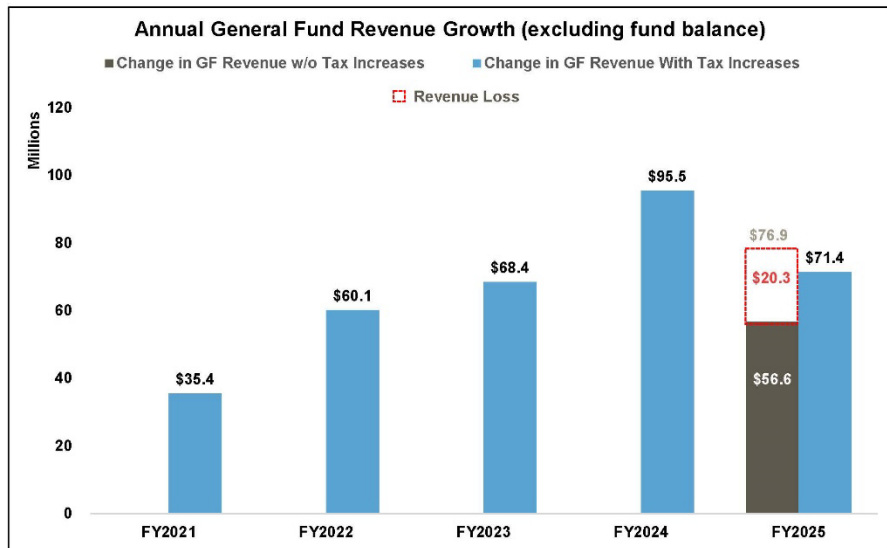
(excluding fund balance)

General Fund revenue loss **(\$20.3M)**

- Sheriff **(\$12.3M)**
- Deed Activity **(\$5.7M)**
- Medicaid Admin. **(\$2.3M)**

Without this loss, revenue growth would be **\$76.9M**, but instead is **\$56.6M**

Increasing property tax by **0.50¢** for General Fund will provide **\$14.7M** bringing the total growth to **\$71.4M** (4.5%)



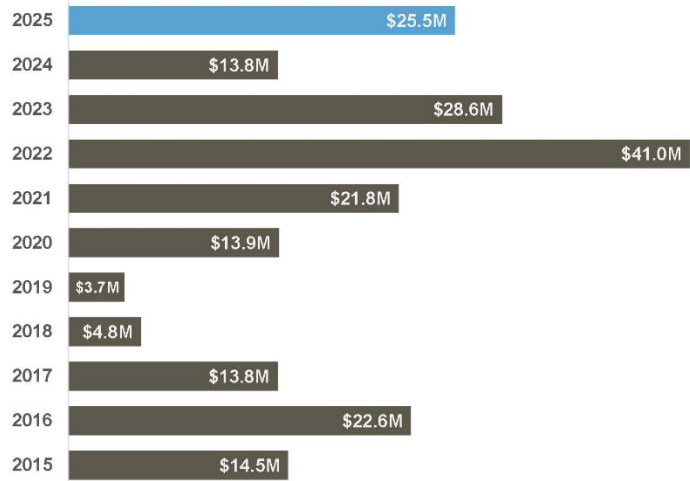
Realigned Funds

Identified savings or realignments redirected to partially close the budget gap

\$25.5M in Repurposed Funds for FY2025

\$204M Since FY2015

Saving **6.9¢** on Tax Rate

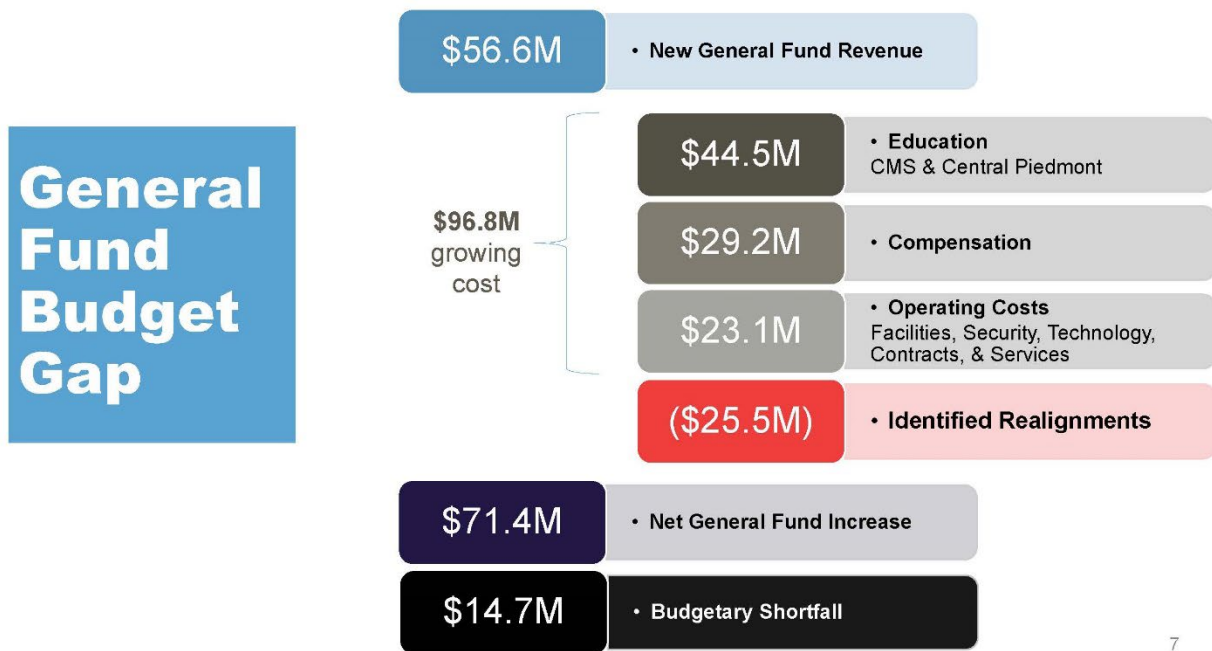


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General Fund Realignments

Dept	Description	Reduction from FY2024
Tax Office	Reduction to property management contract based on underutilization.	(\$15,514)
County Assessor	OMB & CAO review of budget post-2023 revaluation identified \$179K in operating reductions.	(179,202)
Public Health	Funding \$302K for translating contract to Medicaid Escrow.	(302,226)
Sheriff's Office	\$331K Ameresco energy savings contract ending in FY2025 and \$100K reduction for uniforms based on reduced headcount.	(430,527)
Health Department	Remaining balance of health department transformation funding that began in FY2019.	(517,660)
Information Technology	ITS realized savings in its operating budget based on renegotiating contracts, discontinuing obsolete software, and terminating service for unused telecom lines.	(523,873)
Non-Departmental	The County will no longer be charged for credit card fees by the State for tax & tag.	(1,500,000)
Economic Development	Based on funding that has already been set aside for grants, the annual allocation can be reduced for economic & business development grants.	(2,000,000)
CMS Capital Maintenance	Shifted CMS Capital Maintenance from the General Fund to PayGo to be consistent with other capital expenditures. Although not an overall reduction, this realignment frees up funding in the General Fund by shifting the costs to PayGo.	(4,960,000)
Non-Departmental	Budget reduction in the County share of medical & pharmacy insurance based on a recent RFP for administration and the estimated costs in the upcoming year.	(5,600,000)
Non-Departmental	As ELAP has matured beyond the planning stage, more funding is needed for construction projects than planning and design. Although not an overall reduction, this realignment frees up funding in the General Fund by shifting the costs to PayGo.	(9,464,600)
		(\$25,493,602)

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General Fund Revenues

Revenue	Description	FY2024	FY2025	Change	% Change
Property Tax	Property tax (includes 0.50¢ increase)	\$1,034,846,842	\$1,104,917,433	\$70,070,591	6.8%
Sales Tax	Unrestricted sales tax	299,654,465	307,309,338	7,654,873	2.6%
Other County Revenue	ABC, Interest, & other discretionary revenue	41,498,878	50,499,997	9,001,119	21.7%
Federal Revenue	Federal funding reimbursement primarily for health & human services	95,082,968	97,648,920	2,565,952	2.7%
State Revenue	State funding for various services	16,477,414	17,934,418	1,457,004	8.8%
Fees and Other Charges	Charges & fees to cover the cost of service or rentals	47,894,727	48,765,853	871,126	1.8%
Register of Deeds	Revenue from deed recording & marriage license	25,334,142	19,681,151	(5,652,991)	-22.3%
Inmate Housing	Funds received from housing federal inmates in the county jail	12,293,400	\$0	(12,293,400)	-100.0%
Medicaid Admin. – Indirect Cost Reim.	Federal rate for indirect portion cost changing from 75% to 50%	6,950,929	4,633,950	(2,316,979)	-33.3%
Total Revenue¹		\$1,580,033,765	\$1,651,391,060	\$71,357,295	4.5%

¹ Excludes fund balance which is budgeted as a revenue

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Debt Service Fund Revenues

Revenue	Description	FY2024	FY2025	Change	% Change
Property Tax	Property tax (includes 1¢ increase)	\$ 295,354,420	340,661,422	\$45,307,002	15.3%
Sales Tax	Restricted sales tax	87,673,415	91,137,204	3,463,789	4.0%
Intergovernmental	Federal funds & State lottery proceeds	12,467,870	13,574,890	1,107,020	8.9%
Investment Income¹	Investment earnings which fluctuate greatly each year	12,300,000	17,200,000	4,900,000	39.8%
Other	Minor reimbursement	938,516	782,559	(155,957)	-16.6%
Total Revenue²		\$ 408,734,221	\$ 463,356,075	\$54,621,854	13.4%

¹ Interest on investments fluctuates based on portfolio management and interest rates

² Excludes Fund Balance which is budgeted as a revenue

Total Revenues & Expenses

Revenue	Description	Amount	%
County	Property tax, sales tax & other discretionary revenues	\$1,825,052,666	73%
Fund Balance	Unassigned funds available for one-time expenses	109,873,441	4%
Federal	Federal funding	104,374,435	4%
State	State funding & restricted sales tax	206,354,686	8%
Other	Service charges, permits, fees, etc.	248,003,305	10%
Total Revenue		\$2,493,658,533	100%

Expenses	Description	Amount	%
General Fund	Primary annual operating expense fund for County departments & funding to CMS & other partners	1,681,515,799	67%
Debt Service Fund	Debt & pay-as-you-go capital funding for county facilities, libraries, parks & schools	538,590,205	22%
Enterprise & Special Revenue Funds	Services with dedicated revenue sources, including Solid Waste, Code Enforcement, Storm Water, Transit Pass-through, Law Enforcement & Fire Protection	273,552,529	11%
Total Expenses		\$2,493,658,533	100%



Recommended Funding for CMS

	FY2024 Budget	FY2025 Requested	FY2025 Recommended	FY2024 to FY2025 Change	Percent Change
CMS Operating	\$596,915,849	\$643,315,849	\$643,315,849	\$46,400,000	7.8%
Capital Maintenance	22,960,000	32,960,000	32,960,000	\$10,000,000	43.6%
Total	\$ 619,875,849	\$676,275,849	\$676,275,849	\$56,400,000	9.1%

Note: Recommended funding includes \$4M in one-time funding for bonuses & \$10M in one-time funding for capital maintenance

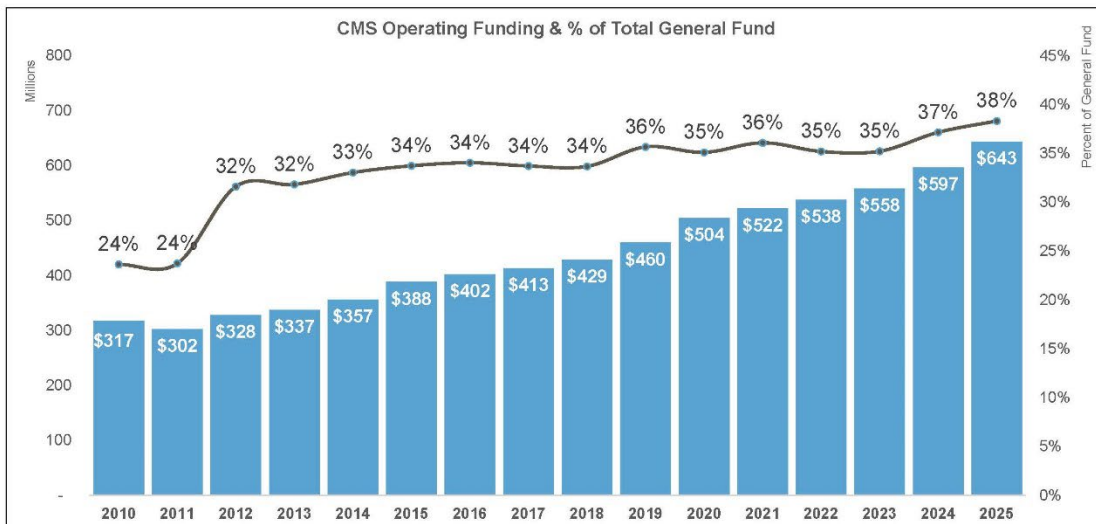
CMS Budget

Description	FY2025 Increases
Salaries & Benefits Increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase to match state salaries & health insurance rate for locally funded positions (4.5% for certified staff, administrators, and non-certified staff) Increase in supplement budget by an average of 5% Year 1 increase to bring staff to \$20/hr. minimum (includes \$4M in one-time bonuses) 	\$31,400,000
Maintenance and Utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New positions for Ballantyne Ridge Highschool & Elon Park Elementary 15 Positions (13 Custodians 1 Head Custodian I 1 Head Custodian III) Contracted Services and Utilities for new schools Increase in utilities system-wide 	4,500,000
Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced cyber security \$4M for student devices 	6,500,000
Charter Enrollment	4,000,000
Total Operating	\$46,400,000
Capital Maintenance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended Budget includes \$10M in one-time funding for FY2025 to address maintenance needs 	\$10,000,000

13

CMS Operating Allocation Trends

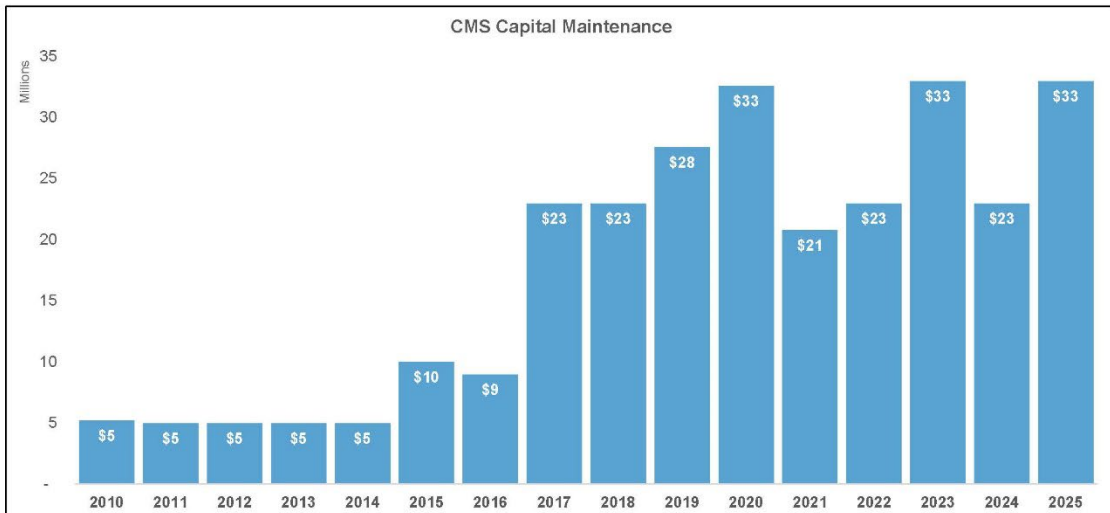
County operating funding to CMS has grown in total & as a percent of General Fund.



14

CMS Capital Maintenance Trends

Capital maintenance funding grew significantly beginning in FY2015.



15

Recommended Funding for Central Piedmont

	FY2024 Budget	FY2025 Requested	FY2025 Recommended	FY2024 to FY2025 Change	Percent Change
CP Operating	\$45,245,941	\$47,320,867	\$47,320,867	\$2,074,926	4.6%
Capital Maintenance	3,752,000	9,225,000	6,825,000	\$3,073,000	81.9%
Total	\$48,997,941	\$56,545,867	\$54,145,867	\$5,147,926	10.5%

Note: Recommended funding includes \$3.1M in one-time funding for capital maintenance

16

Central Piedmont Budget

Description	FY2025 Increases
Capital Purchases (Vehicles and Equipment)	
○ Cost reduction because no vehicles are due for replacement this year	(\$70,000)
Facility Maintenance, Utilities, & Security	
○ Increase due to contractual services for security and facility management, State budget driven salaries and benefits for maintenance staff, utilities, software & other maintenance related expenses	1,864,667
Facility Support Services	
○ Net reduction for insurance, workers' compensation & legal fees	(12,141)
Wage & Benefit Allocation	
○ County supplemental funding based on anticipated State salary increases	292,400
Total Operating	\$2,074,926
Capital Maintenance	
○ Total request of \$9.2M is an increase of \$5.5M. The Recommended Budget is \$6.25M & includes \$3.1M in one-time funding for FY2025 to address a total of 13 of the 16 projects requested for funding	\$3,073,000

17



18

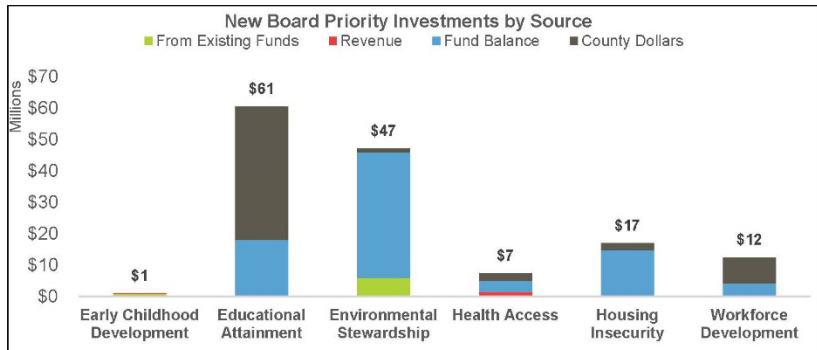
Funding For Board Priorities

Board Priority	Total Budget	New Investments	Fund Balance	Revenue	Existing Funds	County Dollars
Early Childhood Development	\$78,291,704	\$986,080	\$0	\$97,000	\$889,080	\$0
Educational Attainment	895,324,661	60,654,392	18,000,000	0	0	42,654,392
Environmental Stewardship	156,917,709	47,192,624	40,029,804	0	5,986,401	1,176,419
Health Access	216,671,051	7,497,641	3,536,000	1,117,500	348,000	2,496,141
Housing Insecurity	35,412,978	16,951,207	14,725,000	0	0	2,226,207
Workforce Development	96,148,206	12,443,299	3,917,315	0	218,000	8,307,984
	\$1,478,766,309	\$145,725,243	\$80,208,119	\$1,214,500	\$7,441,481	\$56,861,143

\$146M in new Board Priority Investments. Mostly funded with fund balance, new revenue, or existing funds.

FY2025 Budget includes a total of **\$1.5B** (59%) for services and initiatives to support the Board's Budget Priorities

Racial Disparities is a cross-cutting goal factored throughout the priorities



19

Health Access

Improve access to physical & behavioral healthcare for County residents of all ages & promote healthy behaviors.

\$7.5M new

- \$2.5M New County Funding
- \$3.5M One-time Fund Balance
- \$1.1M Other Revenue
- \$348K Realignment of Existing Funds

Notable Investments:

- \$2.8M Medic fleet and technology capital
- \$1M contracted staff, immunizations, testing, and supplies for Public Health
- \$820K Youth & Family Services emergency shelter operating
- \$704K increasing enrollment for in-home aid
- \$366K Mobile Dental & Save A Smile programs initiated with ARPA
- \$415K for five (5) new Community Service Grants that improve health access
- \$292K Federal match and contracted staffing for senior transportation health trips

\$217M Total

20

Health Access – Other Notable Investments

- **\$250K** one-time capital campaign funding for Charlotte is Home Center to provide legal and healthcare services to refugee & immigrant populations
- **\$250K** contracted interpreting to support growing service needs
- **\$220K** will provide fresh food at the Community Resource Centers pantries, increasing cost for food at congregate meal & mobile markets sites & a position to support the mobile market
- **\$150K** contract increase for Pat's Place
- **\$84K** one (1) Health Program Supervisor for the Interpreter Team
- **\$30K** Nursing Home & Adult Care Home Advisory Board stipend increase from \$75/month to \$150/month

21

Housing Insecurity

Reduce the number of residents experiencing homelessness and advance stable affordable housing options for all County residents.

\$16.9M new

- **\$2.2M** Ongoing County
- **\$14.7M** One-time Funding

\$35M Total

Notable Investments:

- **\$14.7M** one-time Affordable Housing Fund allocations for Home-for-All & \$2.6M for Critical Home Repair
- **\$1M** six-months operating for Forest Pointe Place permanent supportive housing
- **\$537K** NOAH project payments and administration
- **\$280K** re-entry housing agreements that were initiated with ARPA funding
- **\$200K** increase for Legal Aid of NC to serve and additional 200 clients
- **\$98K** contract increases for Roof Above

22

A Home For All – Total Investment

Home for All initiatives are budgeted in the Affordable Housing Fund, General Operating Budget & remaining ARPA funds.

A Home For All Funding	Source	FY 2025
Hotel Conversion	Affordable Housing Fund	\$7,000,000
Landlord Recruitment	Affordable Housing Fund	500,000
Critical Home Repair - Home for All	Affordable Housing Fund	1,500,000
System Navigation	Affordable Housing Fund	1,500,000
NOAH Strike Fund Planning	Affordable Housing Fund	150,000
Emergency Rental Assistance Pilot	Affordable Housing Fund	2,000,000
United Way - Home For All Administration	General Operating	995,840
Legal Aid Eviction Prevention (\$200K increase)	General Operating	1,209,163
Street Outreach Team	ARPA funding	660,000
Total		\$15,515,003

23

Educational Attainment

Align allocations to strategies and targets with proven results to improve college and career readiness outcomes for all students.

\$60.7M new

- \$42.7M New County Funding
- \$18M One-time Fund Balance

Notable Investments:

- \$46M to support Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools operating, including \$4M in one-time bonuses
- \$10M additional one-time funding to address capital maintenance needs at CMS (\$33M total)
- \$3M one-time funding to support Arts+ Studio 345 capital campaign
- \$1M one-time funding for library collections
- \$163K Library operating cost
- \$91K Heart Math Tutoring CSG

\$895M Total

24

Workforce Development

Support initiatives that connect job seekers with employment opportunities.

\$12.4M new

- \$8.3M New County Funding
- \$3.9M One-time Fund Balance
- \$218K Realignment of Existing Funds

\$96M Total

Notable Investments:

- \$5.35M funding for the Arts
- \$3M additional one-time funding to address capital maintenance needs at Central Piedmont (\$6.8M total)
- \$2M Central Piedmont operating
- \$844K continue MeckSuccess pilot program
- \$683K continue education & employment trips that were initiated with ARPA funds
- \$185K annualize PIVOT High School Internship Program

25

Funding For The Arts

Annual Funding for the Arts	FY2024	FY2025
Funding For Arts & Science Council		
ASC % for Art operating	\$112,500	\$112,500
ASC Operating Support Grant	750,000	750,000
Culture Blocks	1,592,500	1,592,500
Cultural Vision Grants	280,000	280,000
Individual Fellowships & SEED Grants	192,250	192,250
Artist Support Grants	87,750	87,750
School Funding Opportunities	455,000	455,000
Cultural Organization Support Grants	32,500	32,500
Workshops & Training	32,500	32,500
Operating Grant to Non-City Organizations		1,000,000
Education Grants - Large Organizations		3,000,000
Venue Assistance		1,500,000
Sub Total	\$3,535,000	\$9,035,000
Other Funding		
Charlotte Shout	500,000	500,000
Studio 345 (Arts Plus)	430,000	430,000
CRVA Film Commission	150,000	0
Sub Total	\$1,080,000	\$930,000
Total Investment in Arts	\$4,615,000	\$9,965,000

\$5.35M new
\$9.97M Total Annual Funding
+
\$3M one-time for Arts+ Studio 345
+
\$1.7M one-time building upgrades for the VAPA Center
=
\$14.67M Total

26

Environmental Stewardship

Preserve & protect the County's environmental resources.

\$47.2M new

- \$1.2M New County Funding
- \$38.4M One-time Fund Balance
- \$1.6M Code Enforcement Fund Balance
- \$5.9M Realignment of Existing Funds

Notable Investments:

- \$35M one-time for land acquisition & \$250K tree preservation
- \$4.6M deep-energy facility retrofits & onsite solar
- \$2.8M vehicle replacement with electric vehicles
- \$2M one-time for farmland preservation
- \$1.1M charging stations for electric vehicles
- \$877K parks, greenways, and open-space maintenance
- \$485K increase for Cooperative Extension
- \$150K Solarize subsidies for lower income residents
- \$120K cyanobacteria pond study & treatment

27

\$157M Total

Early Childhood Development

Expand services that promote healthy early childhood development and education from ages birth to five.

\$986K new

- \$889K Realignment of Existing Funds
- \$97K Revenue

Notable Investments:

- \$592K increase the reimbursement rate for Meck Pre-k and NC Pre-k from \$900 per-month per-child to \$925
- \$269K increase funding for Unified Workforce Development client childcare subsidy
- \$125K increase childcare subsidy for foster families

28

\$78M Total



Other Funding By Agency

Major funding in the FY2025 Recommended Budget not previously noted as a Board Priority investment.

Item	Amount	Description
Asset & Facility Management		
Facility Security Operations & technology ^{1,2}	\$1,366,714	investment to bring Security Operations Center in-house, as well as additional contracted guard services at HHS & PRK facilities
Maintenance & utility increases	1,294,526	funding for facility maintenance contract increases & increased utility costs for new & existing County facilities
Electric vehicle charging software maintenance ²	42,000	funding to support annual software maintenance fee
Board of Elections		
Funding for presidential election ¹	500,000	one-time funding for the 2024 Presidential Election bringing the total to \$2.7M for the 2024 Election
Facility & contract expenses ²	298,163	funding for rental & facility maintenance for department's office building, elections system software maintenance expenses
Child, Family, & Adult Services		
Youth Family Services overtime	1,000,000	additional cost to fully fund projected overtime
Foster care rate Increase ²	56,956	funding to cover an increase in Foster Care rates
Community Support Services		
Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Center security ²	33,000	funding for off-duty police officers for the exchange or visitation of children between family members

¹ Includes one-time fund balance allocation ² Partially funded with realignments or other revenues

Other Funding By Agency

Major funding in the FY2025 Recommended Budget not previously noted as a Board Priority investment.

Item	Amount	Description
County Assessor's Office		
Revaluation Reserve ¹	\$1,000,000	funding to prepare for next revaluation in FY2027
One (1) Personal Property Exemptions Manager	125,628	one (1) position to support the personal property exemptions process and data upload requirements
Manager's Office		
One (1) Sr. Admin Support Assistant	85,000	one (1) additional position to support transcription work in the Clerk's Office
Criminal Justice Services		
Support for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) ¹	809,753	funding for support staffing and salary supplements for Court Officials, the Larry King Clubhouse & one-time document scanning
Three (3) Criminal Justice Managers and One (1) Licensed Clinicians	345,522	funding to support four (4) positions formerly funded by MacArthur grants providing pre-trial support and supervision
One (1) Clinical Psychologist ²	109,920	funding for one (1) Clinical Psychologist to bring in-house clinical forensic evaluations conducted on behalf of the courts
Community Resources		
Economic Services Call Center ²	1,835,004	ongoing funding the Economic Services Division (ESD) Call Center
Benefit Eligibility Services Overtime	900,000	additional funding to support projected overtime

¹ Includes one-time fund balance allocation ² Partially funded with realignments or other revenues

31

Other Funding By Agency

Major funding in the FY2025 Recommended Budget not previously noted as a Board Priority investment.

Item	Amount	Description
Finance		
Software increases	\$60,592	3% contract increase for CGI Advantage and Prism BDI software
Human Resources		
Three (3) new positions to improve operations and supports	377,239	Funding for one (1) HR Assistant Director, (1) Sr. Benefits Analyst, and (1) Compensation Analyst
Employee background screening ¹	100,000	Funding for increased need background screening
Learning & Organizational Effectiveness (LOE) curriculum ¹	85,000	Funding to cover the transition to a new organizational learning and development curriculum
Contractual increases ²	66,606	Funding for various contractual increases for HR software, including PeopleSoft
Information Technology		
Annualization of software maintenance agreements	1,228,406	Annual increases for enterprise software, including Microsoft and Cisco Voice
Two (2) new positions & contractor funding ²	707,487	Two (2) positions to mitigate identified IT security vulnerabilities, as well as contracted staffing for enterprise application support
Cyber-liability compliance & security vulnerability increases ²	417,313	Increases for current contracts that support HIPAA, PHI, PCI-DSS, audit, cyber-liability compliance, and security vulnerability
Data storage, network connectivity, & other renewals	407,362	Maintenance, renewals, and/or increased data storage costs associated with current contacts

¹ Includes one-time fund balance allocation ² Partially funded with realignments or other revenues

32

Other Funding By Agency

Major funding in the FY2025 Recommended Budget not previously noted as a Board Priority investment.

Item	Amount	Description
Land Use & Environmental Services		
Stormwater fee increase ²	\$3,200,000	revenue from the impervious surface fee consistent with the Storm Water fee model to support capital
Solid Waste fee increases ²	1,557,684	funding to support operations and capital plans for solid waste. Funded with Residential Availability fee increase from \$44.50 to \$49.50, along with various commodity fee adjustments
Clean Air Act fee increase ²	77,537	fee adjustment based on CPI model in the Clean Air Act
Medical Examiner		
Department Director transition ¹	200,000	funding to begin succession planning for a new Department Director/Chief Forensic Pathologist
Funding for DNA/genetics testing ²	30,000	funding to facilitate genetic testing in cases of unexplained deaths and genealogy mapping for unidentified persons
County Attorney's Office		
Outside counsel fees & software	168,711	increase to budget for outside counsel and ATY software
Park & Recreation		
Additional staff based on demand at regional recreation centers & fields ²	491,502	funding for nine (9) new positions in response to demand at Regional Recreation Centers, Athletic Fields, and the Aquatic Center

¹ Includes one-time fund balance allocation ² Partially funded with realignments or other revenues

Other Funding By Agency

Major funding in the FY2025 Recommended Budget not previously noted as a Board Priority investment.

Item	Amount	Description
Public Health		
(1) Environmental Health Supervisor	\$150,728	one (1) position to support the completion and validation of food and lodging inspections
Public Information Department		
Enterprise Marketing Strategy ²	687,784	funding for an enterprise marketing strategy to support marketing needs across the organization, including one (1) Social Media Specialist, one (1) Community Relations Specialist, one (1) Graphics Specialist, and one (1) Marketing Specialist. More than half of this expense was supported with realignments
Website & subscription increases ²	132,642	funding for increased costs associated with hosting and maintaining web and other digital services
Training investment	62,000	increase in training budget for Public Information staff

¹ Includes one-time fund balance allocation ² Partially funded with realignments or other revenues

Other Funding By Agency

Major funding in the FY2025 Recommended Budget not previously noted as a Board Priority investment.

Item	Amount	Description
Sheriff's Office		
Off-Site medical ¹	\$1,400,000	increased funding for medical off-site claims based on the selected medical provider's contract bringing the total budget to \$3.4M. The total cost of offsite claims is expected to be reduced in future years
Onsite medical ²	630,179	increased funding to fully fund the proposal from the selected medical provider of \$11.8M
Maintenance & utility increases ²	593,497	increased funding based on increases in water and sewer, gas and electricity, and a pay increase for TKC employees
Body worn camera tracking	197,961	funding for body worn camera GPS tracking
Tax Collector		
One (1) LPT Assistant Tax Collector ²	26,670	one (1) LPT to assist with office administration

¹Includes one-time fund balance allocation ²Partially funded with realignments or other revenues

New Positions

58 Full-time

Major Additions Include

- 15 positions for operations and maintenance of new & existing park facilities
- 11 school health positions to provide support for existing schools and for two new schools opening in FY2025
- 8 security positions to bring management of the County's Security Operations Center in-house
- 4 new County-funded positions in Criminal Justice Services to continue previously grant funded pre-trial services

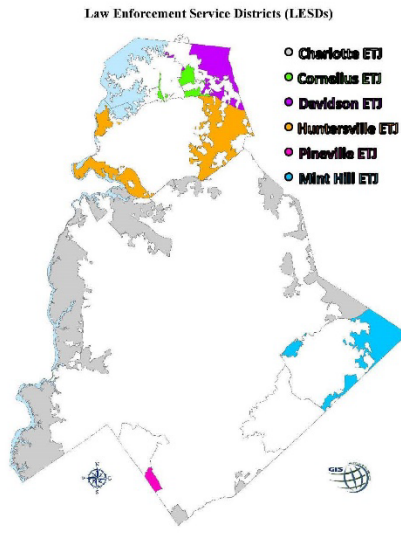
New Positions	
Agency	Full-time
Asset and Facility Management	8
Child, Family, and Adult Services	1
County Assessor's Office	1
County Manager's Office	1
Criminal Justice Services	6
Human Resources	3
Information Services & Technology	2
Park & Recreation	15
Public Health	17
Public Information	4
Total	58

NOTE: 4 Part-time positions were repurposed to create some of the new positions noted above



Law Enforcement Service Districts

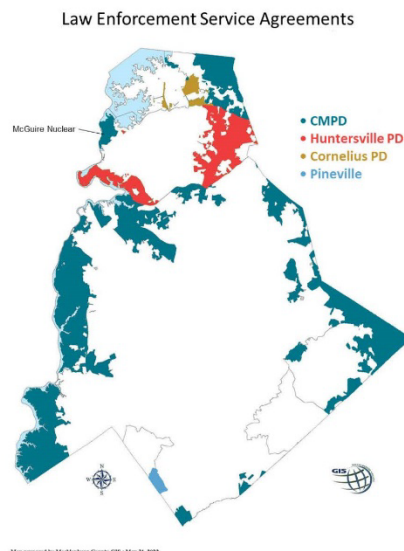
LESD	FY2024 Tax Rate	FY2024 Revenue	FY2025 Tax Rate	FY2025 Revenue	Change
Charlotte	11.70	\$15,201,670	11.70	\$16,512,917	\$1,311,247
Davidson	11.70	532,522	11.70	557,487	24,965
Mint Hill	11.70	1,016,763	11.70	1,058,565	41,802
Huntersville ¹	11.70	2,874,132	11.70	2,876,361	2,229
Pineville	11.85	804,408	11.85	822,927	18,519
Cornelius ²	27.23	197,355	27.23	210,034	12,679



1- Huntersville ETJ includes McGuire Nuclear Plant which is served by CMPD
 2- Cornelius LESD tax for the ETJ does not include lake patrol, which is funding through a General Fund allocation

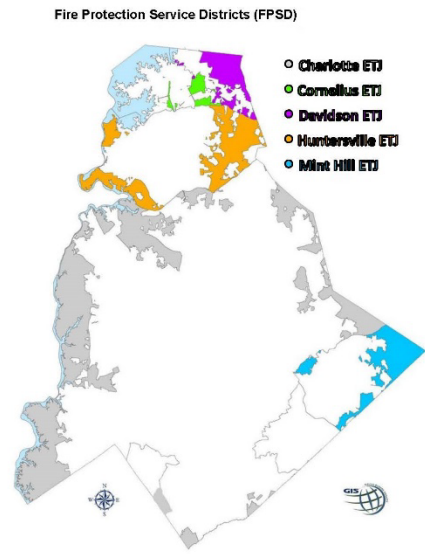
Law Enforcement Service Agreements

ETJ Service Agreement	Recommended
Charlotte (Charlotte, Mint Hill, Davidson, McGuire Nuclear)	\$19,605,330
Cornelius (including lake patrol)	670,034
Huntersville (excluding McGuire Nuclear)	1,400,000
Pineville	619,869
Total	\$22,295,233



Fire Protection Service Districts

FPSD	FY2024 Tax Rate	FY2024 Revenue	FY2025 Tax Rate	FY2025 Revenue	Change
Charlotte ¹	8.76	\$11,932,229	8.76	\$12,971,861	\$1,039,632
Davidson	7.08	324,972	7.08	337,348	12,376
Mint Hill	6.00	521,418	6.00	542,856	21,438
Huntersville	6.53	1,602,908	8.95	2,200,295	597,387
Cornelius	4.53	32,832	4.53	34,940	2,108



1- The district includes the ETJ of Pineville

Volunteer Fire Departments

Volunteer Station	FY2024 Contract	FY2025 Contract	Change
Carolina VFD	\$1,150,840	\$1,250,840	\$100,000
CLT Rural (HFD & CFD)	1,100,000	1,175,000	75,000
Cook's VFD	1,150,840	1,250,840	100,000
Long Creek VFD	1,150,840	1,250,840	100,000
Robinson VFD	1,150,840	1,250,840	100,000
Steele Creek 1 & 2 VFD	4,448,532	4,748,532	300,000
West Mecklenburg VFD	1,700,000	1,800,000	100,000
Total	\$11,851,892	\$12,726,892	\$875,000

Comments

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked how the register of deeds related to sales tax and if it slowed as well. *Mr. Cox said the sales tax slowed but the Register of Deeds revenue did decline.* County Manager Diorio said the register of deeds was tied closely to the real estate market.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked why the Medicaid administration indirect cost reimbursement were decreasing. *Mr. Cox said it was only a portion of what was being received, and it went down based on the state and the federal government reviewing the interpretation of the guidance.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked referencing Slide 10 if in FY25 if the 38% for CMS Operating Allocation included the fund balance portion. *Mr. Cox said there was \$4M in the operating for one-time bonuses but not the \$10M for the capital.*

Commissioner Meier asked if the \$5M loss in the Register of deeds was a projected amount or what was already seen. *Mr. Cox said it was projected, but declines were already seen.*

Commissioner Meier asked if the \$4 million for student devices in the CMS budget was from the fund balance. *Mr. Cox said it was not, it was a one-time bonus, and it did not come from the fund balance.*

Commissioner Meier asked clarifying questions for sides regarding on the early childhood education budget, funding for the arts, and Smart Start which was answered by County Manager Diorio and Mr. Cox.

Commissioner Griffin asked if the 50-cent tax increase would cover the sheriff's revenue, deed activity, and Medicaid administration costs. *Mr. Cox said the increase was to cover the three revenues of which \$12.3M was the Sheriff's Office.*

Commissioner Griffin asked if the \$995,000 for the United Way program was in addition to the \$1 million provided the prior year and be about \$2M going forward. *Mr. Cox said it was not in addition, and it was already in the budget.*

Commissioner Griffin asked about the funding for workforce development and the funding for the Unified Workforce Development childcare subsidy.

Commissioner Griffin said regarding Educational Attainment in the CMS budget that if they were 100% successful, Black children would still be behind and going backwards in college and career readiness.

County Manager Diorio said the individuals in the Unified Workforce Development program did not qualify for state subsidies.

Commissioner Griffin asked if that amount could be raised. *County Manager Diorio said if the Board could find the money, the amount could be raised.*

Commissioner Griffin asked about advocating responsibility for the arts.

County Manager Diorio said the Arts and Science Council was given over \$4 million per year with zero appointments on the Board. She said there would be seven appointments to the Board.

Commissioner Powell asked what the former rate for onsite medical was and what the current rate was. *Mr. Cox said the total in the current budget was \$3.6M which was not necessarily a rate; it was paying the bills.* County Manager Diorio said the new provider would cost more, and it had to be fully funded.

Commissioner Powell asked for more information on how the \$10M for land acquisition increased to \$11.7M. *David Boyd, Chief Financial Officer, it was slightly more based on the value of \$10M in the future.*

Commissioner Altman asked Mr. Boyd to speak about the sales tax revenues and trends in the nation. *Mr. Boyd said forecasting the sales tax revenue had been very challenging, and they had been relatively conservative in the budget. He said it appeared there were more historical trends in sales tax growth.*

Commissioner Cotham asked how much money they received from the State for the lottery and said it seemed to decrease over the years. *Mr. Cox said they received \$9.9 million regularly.*

Commissioner Cotham asked how much money was left in the lapsed salaries. *Mr. Cox said there were no longer lapsed salaries in the budget.*

Commissioner Jerrell asked about the unassigned funds in the general fund. *Mr. Boyd said \$149.5 million was projected above the policy minimum, and \$104 million of it was appropriated.*

Commissioner Jerrell asked what the recommended fund balance amount was. *Mr. Boyd said it was \$109 million.*

Commissioner Jerrell asked what was left in the fund balance above the threshold. *Mr. Boyd said it was approximately \$45 million.*

Commissioner Jerrell asked what their threshold number was. *Mr. Boyd said 28% was prescribed in the policy, 35% is what the peer counties in the state had and was roughly the amount that most AAA large entities in the country had.*

Chair Dunlap said it appeared that all their focus was on four-year-olds, and he asked what the plan was to address the 0–5-year age range. *County Manager Diorio said a staff person was hired to implement the prenatal to three-year-old strategic plan, there was money to hire a contractor, and a dashboard would be built to address how to track progress. She said there was nothing new to fund in FY25 because they were still working on the activities funded in FY24.*

Chair Dunlap asked how much was available to spend for equity investments. *County Manager Diorio said she would follow up with the information.*

County Manager Diorio said they were waiting for an opinion from the Attorney General about whether for not the child development account are permissible under North Carolina law.

Chair Dunlap discussed the passing of the budget and the half cent tax increase.

Commissioner Griffin asked for a listing of African American creatives that were included in their present process for the arts to be listed so that he could have a baseline when moving forward. *County Manager Diorio said she would ask the ASC to provide the information.*

Commissioner Griffin asked about having an initiative with the Bank of America, private developers, and the County where home ownership was a potential outcome. *County Manager Diorio said she would make a note of it.*

Commissioner Meier said she supported the educational investment.

Commissioner Altman asked if the homeless program was reflected on one of their slides. *Mr. Cox said it was part of the 2024 update but was not part of the recommended budget.*

Commissioner Altman asked how much they would carry forward. *Mr. Cox said all but about \$2 million.*

Commissioner Altman said she felt the homeless program was important and was hoping it would grow. *Deputy County Manager Anthony Trotman said they initially allocated \$10 million, and the past year was \$2 million, and the year prior was \$1.56 million so they still had plenty of funds for the homeless program. He said the City reduced its allocation and planned to only go for another year in partnership with the County.*

County manager Diorio said they had to make sure they tied it to something in statute to allow them to continue the program.

County Attorney Tyrone Wade agreed and said it had to be tied in with some statutory authority.

Chair Dunlap asked if the floor could be raised so more people could get into the homelessness program. *Attorney Wade said the allocation could be raised and long as they met the criteria, and it didn't violate some other statutory provision under the circuit breaker.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked what was left of the general fund balance. *Mr. Boyd said it was at about 31%.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked where the fund balance would accrue in the future. *County Manager Diorio said it would come from underspending in respective departments.*

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell asked if they could take the half cent increase from fund balance this year and move it into next year and be able to delay the \$14M. *County Manager Diorio said they would take a look at that and have a conversation at straw votes.*

Commissioner Powell asked if there was a breakdown of the burden that was added by the state not funding the courts and teacher supplements. *Mr. Boyd said it was \$451 million.*

Commissioner Powell asked for a report of the investment for the towns. *County Manager Diorio said the ASC was working on pulling that together for her.*

Commissioner Powell asked why the stormwater fees were included in the budget. *Mr. Cox said the funds had to be allocated to be spent.*

Commissioner Jerrell stated he thought it was appropriate to look at other alternatives for the tax increases.

Commissioner Jerrell discussed the homelessness program and said one opportunity would be to change the allocation amount. County Manager Diorio said they could look at that as they had more flexibility to change the allocation amount versus the income thresholds.

Commissioner Griffin said he thought transportation for seniors was something that interested him and said he hoped funds could be found for it. *County Manager Diorio said money was one issue, but the larger issue was capacity.*

Commissioner Powell asked to look at additional funding needed for crisis intervention training

and trauma-informed care for law enforcement and first responders. She mentioned that Commissioner Leake felt some teachers would benefit from that also. She suggested partnering with Pineville as a first step.

Chair Dunlap said everyone needed to consider what would happen to the fund balance if the half-cent was eliminated.

Commissioner Jerrell asked questions about the Three Sisters Market that were answered by County Manager Diorio. He asked if there were any other partners. County Manager Diorio said there were a significant number of ARPA grants to organizations in the community and was waiting to see when those funds expired. She said they were doing a gap analysis with the Food Policy Council to make them more effective and understand how they could help advance food insecurity initiatives across the County.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said it was outstanding that \$25.5 million was repurposed and realigned to avoid having to increase taxes even more. She said since 2015, by adding it all up they were saving 6.9 cents on the tax rate.

Commissioner Powell said nobody wanted to increase taxes, but they needed to consider the population served. She said even with the increase, it would not meet all their needs.

24-0328 COMMISSIONER REPORTS

There were no Commissioner Reports given.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Dunlap declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Kristine M. Smith, Clerk to the Board

George Dunlap, Chair