

## FY 25 AHSP Application Staff Summary: Thrive Asheville— Strengthening the Buncombe Rental Assistance Collaborative

<b>80</b> Households Served	<b>\$625</b> AHSP Request Per Household	<b>\$1.00 : \$1.70</b> Leverage Ratio AHSP \$ : Other Non-County \$	<b>≤50%</b> AMI Target	<b>100%</b> % Admin Cost
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**Project Description:** Thrive Asheville submitted an **Administrative Support Program Grant** application requesting **\$50,000** to support its Buncombe Rental Assistance Collaborative program.

**AHSP Goal:** Supports activities that encourage the use of all vouchers.

**AHSP Objective:** 1500-1850 rental units for households at or below 80% AMI

**Summary:** Thrive Asheville’s request (\$50,000) is intended to provide continued leadership and administrative support to the Buncombe Rental Assistance Collaborative (BRAC). The request will support an overall project budget of \$251,125. BRAC is a collective impact initiative composed of six (6) agencies that utilize federal rental assistance to place vulnerable households into stable housing. This collaborative works together to secure access to deeply affordable housing for clients served by participating agencies. Partners in this initiative include the Asheville Housing Authority, Helpmate, Homeward Bound, Veteran’s Affairs, and WNC AIDS Project (WNCAP). The BRAC project team is comprised of Thrive’s Deputy Director, a Landlord Navigator, and a Tenant Navigator. Tenants are recruited by and receive case management support from participating agencies, and tenants undergo housing readiness education, unit matching, and receive ongoing support following housing placement. Landlords are recruited by participating agencies and the BRAC Landlord Navigator, and this Landlord Navigator is a shared resource for BRAC partners. All households assisted by BRAC have an income at or below 50% of AMI.

Thrive Asheville serves as the administrator for the BRAC initiative and as such, is responsible for convening partners, developing and managing the collective, administering funds, collecting data, and reporting on results. Since BRAC began their work in December of 2022, they’ve assisted 92 households with securing permanent housing and have also secured 17 new housing units to accept federal rental assistance. AHSP funding will help to increase the sustainability of BRAC by allowing Thrive to strengthen essential administrative functions for the collaborative. Specifically, AHSP funding will support the Program Director salary (\$30,000), bookkeeping (\$7,200), supplies and program promotion (\$7,785), and trainings/convenings (\$5,000). AHSP funds will support assisting 80 households with housing placement and long-term housing stability in FY25.

BRAC received \$356,000 from Buncombe County ARPA funds for initiation of the project. This funding represented 75% of their initial request and as such, cuts were made to expenses related to the administration of the project. Thrive was able to secure additional funding (\$20,690 in City of Asheville ARPA funding, and \$64,161 in private donations) to cover costs for the first 18 months of operations. The request for \$50,000 in AHSP funding will complete BRAC’s funding needs for FY25.

**County Funding Source Options:** Buncombe County General Fund and AHSP Program Income.

**Finance Department Assessment of Audits and Financial Position:** Thrive Asheville, Inc. provided a timely audit. The audit discussed segregation of duties and accounting practices as areas of concern. As of June 30, 2022, Thrive Asheville, Inc.'s financials show a reasonably healthy financial position.

**Recommendation:** Community Development Division staff reviewed the project, confirm it adheres to the requirements of the FY25 AHSP, and confirm it appears eligible for funding. The project appears ready for implementation July 1, 2024. A full or partial award may be considered.

<b>PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET</b>		<b>Y/N</b>
<b>Project Description/Narrative</b>		
Clearly affordable housing focused		Y
Aligns with all components of the application		Y
Aligns with all guidelines of the AHSP program		Y
Aligns with the selected strategic goal		Y
<b>Designed to Serve Households with AMI</b>		
<80%		N
<50%		Y
<30%		Y
<b>Designed to Serve</b>		
Income qualified general populous eligible for the program		N
Individuals who are age 55 or older		Y
Individuals with a disability		Y
Individuals who are hard to house		Y
Individuals who are homeless		Y
Individuals who are BIPOC		Y
Individuals who are justice involved		Y
Individuals who have vouchers		Y
Individuals who have been referred by the Continuum of Care		Y
<b>Budget of Expenses</b>		
Complete		Y
Reasonable		Y
<b>Budget of Revenues</b>		
Complete		Y
Reasonable		Y
Includes leveraging additional investment (non-AHSP funds)		Y
<b>Project Team</b>		
Relevant experience and qualifications to complete the project		Y
<b>Project History</b>		
Indicates success in completing projects in the program category		Y
<b>Applicant</b>		
Has timely audits free of qualifications and findings which would adversely indicate ability to manage an AHSP allocation		Y
Shows a healthy financial position		Y
Is a non-profit applicant		Y