

2025 NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT

Q4, 2025 Quarterly Report



December Public Meeting and
Board Listening Session

Letter from the Interim President & CEO

As we conclude 2025, we reflect on the work of this past quarter. The Endowment has focused on strengthening relationships, elevating community voices, and laying the groundwork for sustained, strategic impact in New Hanover County.

In 2025, we deployed 169 new grants totaling more than \$59 million for disbursement in 2025-2027, bringing our total awards since inception to 363 grants and more than \$177 million.

We partnered with Bank of America to host a philanthropy-focused event for nonprofit leaders in New Hanover County. We also co-hosted a funders convening with the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers to explore shared opportunities for collaboration and collective impact.

This quarter, we announced new landscape assessments to better understand and support critical systems in New Hanover County, including in behavioral health (The Mosaic Group), recreation (Weston & Sampson), and early childhood systems (NC Child).

Looking ahead, we look forward to our enhanced Community Grants Program in early 2026 with a \$1 million annual budget and awards of up to \$15,000, and we will build on our 2025 Arts & Culture Grants Program with 2026 grants of \$5,000–\$15,000 administered by the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County.

To ensure readiness in times of crisis, The Endowment has established a \$2 million Emergency Recovery Grant Reserve to provide fast, flexible support disasters for our community should any major disruptions arise in 2026.

At our December annual meeting, Shannon Winslow was re-elected Board Chair and Bill Blair was elected Vice Chair; we are grateful for their leadership and for Chris Boney's dedicated service as outgoing Vice Chair.

I am thankful to our Board of Directors for their leadership and our Community Advisory Council for their support and guidance. Finally, thank you to the many community members who joined our Public Meetings and Board Listening Sessions this year. Your insights continue to guide our work.

As we move into 2026, we are committed to thoughtful investment, collaborative partnerships, and a shared vision of a thriving and resilient New Hanover County.



In service, with gratitude,

Sophie Dagenais
Interim President
and CEO

THE MISSION

The Endowment's mission is to improve the health, education, safety, and economic opportunity of every person in New Hanover County.



**Social and Health
Equity**



Education



**Community
Safety**



**Community
Development**



SOCIAL & HEALTH EQUITY

Grants Awarded Q4 2025

Access Dental Care

\$300,000

Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To fund the purchase of a mobile dental truck, customized dental equipment, and training and support of a second mobile dental team providing oral health services to older adults and special populations in New Hanover County.

“Access Dental Care provides an essential service to some of our most vulnerable community members,” said Leigh Quarles, Network Officer, Social & Health Equity. “We are proud to support their expansion and help ensure that all residents of New Hanover County have access to high-quality oral health care.”

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh

\$248,000

2025 Q3 Drawdown: \$148,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To expand mobile food pantry services and provide targeted support for individual facing transportation and accessibility barriers to food access

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear

\$1,500,000

2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,500,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

For the development of a Social Care Network with local Human Service Organizations building on the success of the Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP).

Elderhaus

\$987,350

2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$641,175
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To strengthen programs and operations for older adults through operating and capital investment that promote social engagement and well-being.

LifeCare Memory Partners, Inc.

\$5,100,000

2025 Q3 Drawdown: \$1,331,988
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To expand dementia care services and strengthen support for families, including resources, education, and programs that enhance quality of life for individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

\$100,000

2025 Q3 Drawdown: \$1,000,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

Support capacity building, implement impact-driven activities that strengthen network partnerships, and provide funding to help the Food Bank remain responsive to community needs

Welcome Home Angel

\$1,143,304

2025 Q3 Drawdown: \$291,725
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

The support of individuals with special health needs and to launch the ABLE program, incorporating the CAPABLE model to help participants safely and independently age in place.



Communities in Schools

EDUCATION

Grants Awarded Q4 2025

Cape Fear Literacy Council



\$370,000
2025 Q4 DRAWDOWN: \$175,000
Pillar: Education

To expand free one-on-one tutoring and small-group instruction in Adult Literacy, English as a Second Language, and Digital Literacy.

Child Development Center



\$200,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Education

In support of students with disabilities and their needs, by bridging gaps between state funding and the true cost of education and therapeutic services.

New Hanover County Schools



\$2,700,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,350,000
Pillar: Education

To pilot a targeted staffing initiative to close achievement gaps, support positive behavior, increase student engagement, improve graduation rates, and create positive learning environments.

Young Scientist Academy



\$289,292
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$139,667
Pillar: Education

To expand in-school and after-school STEM programs

“Partnering with New Hanover County Schools and supporting evidence-based solutions to bolster school performance is an investment in the future of every child in New Hanover County,” said David Stegall, Director of Education and Community Development. “This grant will provide targeted resources to close achievement gaps, boost student engagement, and create positive learning environments that help all students succeed.”

Kids Making It and El Cuerpo working with New Hanover County School students.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Grants Awarded Q4 2025

Blue Ribbon Commission on the Prevention of Youth Violence (DBA Voyage)



\$560,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: **\$560,000**
Pillar: **Community Safety**

To support violence prevention/intervention via intensive case management strategy that addresses social determinants of health.

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina



\$235,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: **\$235,000**
Pillar: **Community Safety**

To support foster care prevention through intensive in-home services.

Communities in Schools of Cape Fear



\$900,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: **\$181,977**
Pillar: **Community Safety**

Fund three-year pilot initiative aimed at supporting New Hanover County educators in ten schools with little to no parental engagement, effectively addressing the gap created by the absence of a PTO presence.

Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, Inc



\$1,400,000
2025 Q Drawdown: **\$415,602**
Pillar: **Community Safety**

To sustain and expand prevention and intervention services for survivors of intimate partner violence.

Family Promise of the Lower Cape Fear



\$50,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: **\$50,000**
Pillar: **Community Safety**

To support emergency sheltering and homelessness and foster care prevention.

Kids Making It



\$900,000
2025 Q3 Drawdown: **\$415,602**
Pillar: **Community Safety**

To help support general operations, expand and diversify funding, and launch the Apprentice Campus.

COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANTS AWARDED | Q4 2025

Leading Into New Communities, Inc



\$1,400,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,400,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To help sustain and continue LINC's reentry programming.

Legal Aid of North Carolina



\$1,086,959
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,086,959
Pillar: Community Safety

To consolidate and strengthen services by co-locating staff at the Harrelson Center and continuing the Second Chance Program to reduce recidivism and improve employment outcomes.

The Carousel Center



\$1,010,810
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,010,810
Pillar: Community Safety

To support operations and promote program sustainability in New Hanover County.

UNCW - Center for Marine Science



\$500,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$500,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To promote community safety by prioritizing flood safety and resilience.

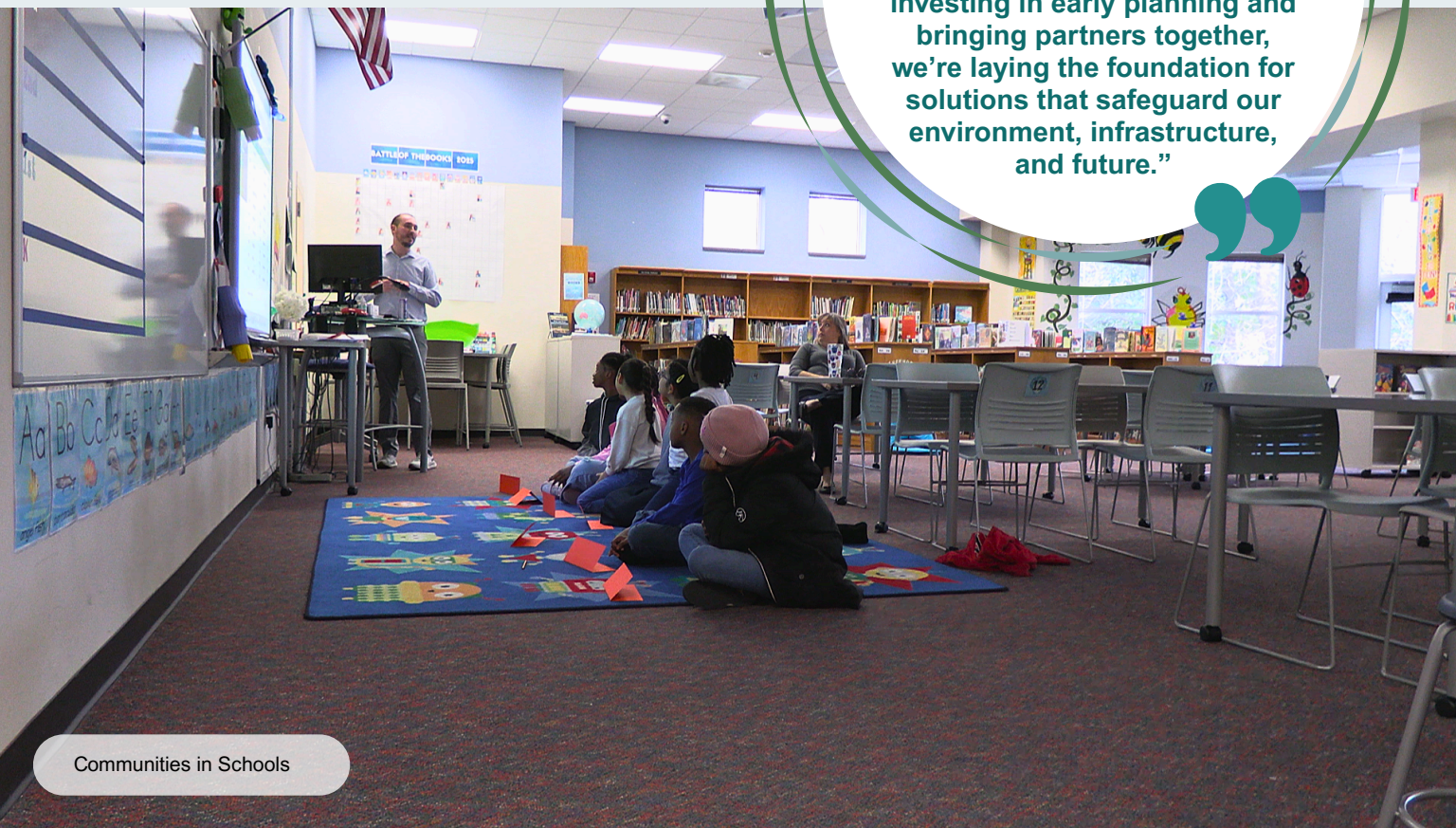
YWCA Lower Cape Fear

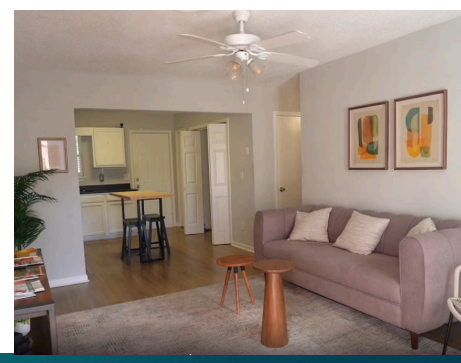


\$564,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$280,100
Pillar: Community Safety

To support kinship care by assisting grandparents serving as foster caregivers, enhance aquatics programs for children and under-resourced groups, and expand childcare capacity through strategic capital improvements.

“This is about building a community that can withstand, adapt, and bounce back,” said Mary Vail Ware, Director of Social and Health Equity and Community Safety. “By investing in early planning and bringing partners together, we’re laying the foundation for solutions that safeguard our environment, infrastructure, and future.”





New H.O.P.E. CDC 12-unit apartment complex.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Grants Awarded Q4 2025

Good Shepherd Center



\$800,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$800,000
Pillar: Community Development

Provides funding support for the Good Shepherd Home for Good campaign as presented at time of application in alignment with the NHCE cross-cutting housing strategy.

Growing Resilience



\$320,940
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$80,235
Pillar: Community Development

To support operations including the efforts to find viable food access and delivery solutions in the Northside community.

New H.O.P.E. CDC



\$2,232,562
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$2,232,562
Pillar: Community Development

Acquisition and repairs for a 12-unit apartment complex located at 605 Nixon Street for the purpose of providing affordable housing. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Production.

North Carolina Center for Nonprofits



\$40,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$20,000
Pillar: Community Development

Build the capacity of New Hanover County nonprofits by providing access to resources through membership and participation in North Carolina Center for Nonprofits.

Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Inc



\$3,000,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,250,000
Pillar: Community Development

To support Thalian Hall's capital campaign to expand usable square footage and programming while preserving a nationally recognized historic landmark (includes \$2,000,000 as a 1:2 matching grant).

The Arts Council of Wilmington/NHC



\$550,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$550,000
Pillar: Community Development

This funding will support the Council's continued role as The Endowment's first nonprofit intermediary grant maker, addressing the county's growing cultural needs.

Wilmington Housing Authority



\$5,700,000
2025 Q3 Drawdown: \$500,000
Pillar: Community Development

To fund Phase I of the Hillcrest Redevelopment, including the construction of 84 senior rental units.

“The Endowment’s grant to the Wilmington Housing Authority is a vital investment in safe, stable housing and resilient neighborhoods,” said Terri Burhans, Network Officer for Community Development. “The Hillcrest redevelopment, with affordable homes for seniors, will strengthen the foundation for lasting neighborhood stability and opportunity.”

MULTI YEAR PAYMENTS | Q4 2025

Feast Down East, Inc



Awarded 2024: \$1,128,720
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$376,240
Pillar: Social & Health Equity

Funds will nurture the food ecosystem by increasing access to nutritious foods. Sustaining & growing Feast Down East & the Mobile Market over 3 years. Covering payroll/health benefit costs for staffing positions as well as operating expenses for the Mobile Market.

NourishNC



Awarded 2024: \$1,165,574
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$384,344
Pillar: Social & Health Equity

To support the expansion of the Market on Market and the Mobile Market on Market for high-quality food access to children and families.

YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina



Awarded 2024: \$1,973,867
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$383,953
Pillar: Social & Health Equity

To expand Schools in Pools, a program offering life-saving swim lessons to New Hanover County second graders, regardless of financial, social, or environmental barriers, with the goal of scaling the program to serve more than 2,000 2nd graders.

Backyard Housing Group



Awarded 2024: \$180,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$60,000
Pillar: Community Development

Funding for core operating expenses in support of a pilot development management services and the delivery of Accessory Dwelling Units.

Cape Fear Collective



Awarded 2024: \$900,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$300,000
Pillar: Community Development

For a new case management program aimed at stabilizing tenants by evaluating their needs and connecting them to essential resources.

Cape Fear Community College Foundation



Awarded 2023: \$10,153,633
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$1,700,215
Pillar: Community Development

Cape Fear Community College, New Hanover County Schools, the University of North Carolina Wilmington's College of Health and Human Services and the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce are partnering to revolutionize the health care talent landscape by prioritizing the recruitment, training, and retention of skilled professionals in New Hanover County. [New Hanover Healthcare Career Partnership](#)

Cape Fear Community Land Trust



Awarded 2024: \$200,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$75,000
Pillar: Community Development

For capacity building and general operations, to enable the hiring of new staff and contract professionals, increase operational efficiency, and support administrative work to build new homes.

Coastal Horizons Center



Awarded 2024: \$600,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Community Development

This funding will support the operations of the Open House Youth Services of Coastal Horizons Center. Funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

Coastal Horizons Center

Awarded 2024: \$200,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$100,000
Pillar: Community Development

Funding will provide the required match for Horizons Housing Program's HUD Permanent Supportive Housing grant, allowing Coastal Horizons to seamlessly continue rental subsidies and case management for current residents while enrolling new participants and fully utilizing HUD funds.

Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, Inc

Awarded 2024: \$594,619
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Community Development

This funding will support the core operations and services of Domestic Violence Shelter and Services. Funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

MULTI YEAR PAYMENTS | Q4 2025

Eden Village



Awarded 2024: \$300,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$100,000
Pillar: Community Development

This funding will support the operations of Eden Village in New Hanover County. Funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

Financial Protection Law Center



Awarded 2024: \$1,165,574
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$100,000
Pillar: Community Development

This grant will support the core operations of the organization, which provides legal services and support to protect low-income people and families from unfair and predatory financial practices, to preserve home ownership. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

First Fruit Ministries



Awarded 2024: \$600,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Community Development

Funding to sustain current administrative and development capacity to operate supportive housing units for people experiencing homelessness or human trafficking. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

Good Shepherd Center



Awarded 2024: \$1,665,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$555,000
Pillar: Community Development

This grant provides core operating support for Good Shepherd Center and Rapid Rehousing and Housing Retention programs, up to 75 households. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

Housing Foundation of Southeastern NC



Awarded 2024: \$270,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$90,000
Pillar: Community Development

General operating support to support the day to day operations of the Wilmington Realtor's Foundation to further work in the production of affordable housing. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

Leading Into New Communities, Inc



Awarded 2023: \$600,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Community Development

LINC, Inc. seeks three years of funding for a housing stabilization initiative to preserve its affordable housing stock. This project will focus on mitigating repair costs, covering utility expenses, and subsidizing rent for LINC's clients. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

New H.O.P.E. CDC



Awarded 2024: \$600,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Community Development

Capacity support for FY24-27 to enhance the ability to provide affordable housing. This funding will address anticipated expenses, including staffing, programmatic costs, and operating expenses. This investment is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

One Christian Network



Awarded 2024: \$225,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$75,000
Pillar: Community Development

This funding will support the convening of faith-based housing partners to catalyze and expand partnerships around affordable housing initiatives. This funding is part of the 2024 NHCE Affordable Housing Strategic Initiative - Stabilization.

UNCW - College of Health & Human Services



Awarded 2023: \$10,253,500
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$606,785
Pillar: Community Development

Cape Fear Community College, New Hanover County Schools, the University of North Carolina Wilmington's College of Health and Human Services and the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce are partnering to revolutionize the health care talent landscape by prioritizing the recruitment, training, and retention of skilled professionals in New Hanover County.

WARM NC



Awarded 2024: \$600,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$200,000
Pillar: Community Development

To help stabilize WARM NC's operations in NHC, support organizational growth, and promote financial sustainability.



The CAC participating in an end of year update.



The CAC participating in a Behavioral Health Landscape Assessment Engagement Session.



The CAC participating in Community Grants training.

Community ADVISORY COUNCIL

During the fourth quarter of 2025, the Community Advisory Council (CAC) continued to play a vital role in engagement, strengthening community partnerships, and helping shape planning for the year ahead.

Grantmaking Leadership & 2026 Planning

Throughout October, the Council participated in pillar-specific meetings to help inform priorities and guide the development of the 2026 grantmaking strategy. CAC members provided important leadership in preparation for the 2026 Community Grants Program. The call for grant reviewers received a strong response, allowing for reviewer assignments across both the Spring and Fall grant cycles. In December, CAC members supported preparations for reviewer training and the upcoming February review period.

Driving Key Community Initiatives

Council members remained engaged in several important community initiatives. On November 18, the CAC met with Mosaic Group to inform our Behavioral Health Landscape Analysis, providing input to help inform this critical assessment. Members also participated in the Non-Profit Youth Organization Work Session on October 31, with a follow-up session in December with government partners, to continue advancing collaboration and shared solutions. In addition, CAC members provided guidance and connection to community organizations working to support families affected by the temporary interruption of SNAP benefits.

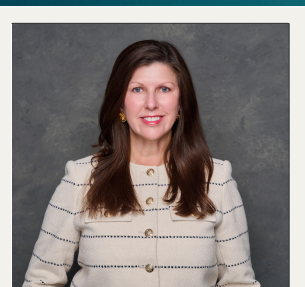
Community Events & Visibility

CAC members helped maintain a strong presence across the community by participating in or attending several events throughout the quarter, including the 2025 Pink Ribbon Luncheon, the Women to Watch Awards—where CAC finalists Carolyn Beatty and September Krueger were recognized—the Elderhaus Celebration Luncheon, the East Coast Health Care Summit, and the Spark ILM Lunch. Members also attended the December 3 Power Breakfast featuring Sophie Dagenais and Shannon Winslow, as well as The Endowment's event highlighting the 2025 Bank of America Study of Philanthropy.

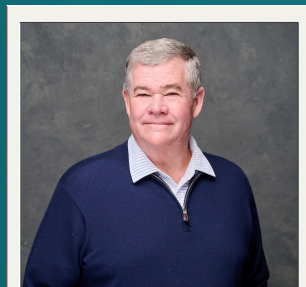
Internal Engagement

The Council remained actively engaged in The Endowment's internal work, participating in the December 8 quarterly CAC meeting and Public Meeting Preview. Members also prepared for the December 10 Semiannual Public Meeting and Board Listening Session and concluded the quarter with the December 18 Board/CAC Social, providing an opportunity to strengthen relationships and reflect on the year's work together.

Shannon Winslow and Bill Blair to Lead The Endowment Board in 2026



Shannon Winslow
Board Chair



William "Bill" Blair
Vice Chair

The Endowment is pleased to announce the reappointment of Shannon Winslow as Chair of the Board of Directors and the appointment of William "Bill" Blair as Vice Chair, effective January 1, 2026. Both leaders are current board members with strong ties and records of service to New Hanover County.



LANDSCAPE Assessments



This quarter marked the launch of several key landscape assessments designed to deepen our understanding of critical systems of care and opportunity in New Hanover County.

The Endowment selected The Mosaic Group to lead a comprehensive **Behavioral Health Landscape Analysis** examining mental health and substance use services in New Hanover County, with the goal of identifying opportunities to strengthen access, coordination, and long-term outcomes for residents.

The Endowment is also pleased to announce it has selected Weston & Sampson to lead a county-wide **Comprehensive Assessment of Recreational Opportunities** in New Hanover County. This assessment will evaluate the full recreational landscape, map existing assets, identify service and facility gaps, and intentionally engage community voices to inform strategic investment areas and guide future decisions related to facilities, greenspace preservation, and community-informed amenities.

In addition, NC Child, will lead **The Early Childhood Systems Landscape Analysis**, identifying and mapping early childhood providers, enrollment, unmet needs, and geographic gaps, using publicly available data on children's outcomes and access to services across health, family economic security, and early education. This work will also examine the scale of existing investments and highlight effective strategies and practices both within and beyond New Hanover County.

As with all of The Endowment's strategy-development efforts, community voices will be central to these assessments. Each project will engage partners across the New Hanover County, including service providers, organizations and community voices, including youth voices, to help shape actionable recommendations and an implementation plan that advances The Endowment's vision to ensure New Hanover County is a place where all residents can thrive.





LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

We're proud to highlight the work of our team members driving impact across New Hanover County and beyond.

On December 3, 2025 the Greater Wilmington Business Journal hosted the final Power Breakfast of the year at the Wilmington Convention Center, shining a light on the people and partners driving positive change in our community.

Sophie Dagenais, Interim President & CEO, and Shannon Winslow, Board Chair, proudly shared updates from The Endowment alongside local arts, health care, and business leaders.



October 8, Sophie Dagenais shared insights on The Endowment's mission and vision on the Fractional with Chris Capone & Associates podcast





Decoding How and Why Affluent Americans Give:

2025 Bank of America Study of Philanthropy

The Endowment partnered with Bank of America on October 22, to host a well-attended event featuring Dianne Bailey, who presented The 2025 Bank of America Study of Philanthropy: Continued Generosity of Affluent Americans in a Changing World. Nonprofit leaders and partners explored insights intended to assist as they refine their supplemental fundraising strategies and deepen engagement with emerging donor segments.

FUNDERS

Convening

The Endowment co-hosted a funders convening with the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers on October 21, bringing together philanthropic partners for an energizing discussion on shared opportunities and collaborative approaches to advancing impact in New Hanover County. Participants explored key issues, shared insights, and began outlining next steps for continued collaboration.





Semiannual **PUBLIC MEETING & LISTENING SESSION**

DECEMBER 10, 2025 | 5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

The Endowment held its second Public Meeting of 2025 and Board Listening Session on December 10, at Cape Fear Community College's Union Station.

The Wilmington Symphony Players opened the event. During the meeting, The Endowment shared a brief update on the progress we made in 2025, followed by a Board Listening Session and Q&A with attendees. We appreciated the thoughtful questions, strong engagement, and the opportunity to connect with community members in person.

LOOKING *ahead*

2026 Community GRANTS PROGRAM

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our enhanced Community Grants Program in early 2026. With a \$1 million annual budget and increased award amounts of up to \$15,000, this expanded program will allow us to reach more organizations while deepening the impact of individual grants across our four focus pillars. Spring Cycle applications open January 5 and close February 6 at 11:59 p.m.



Arts & 2026 Culture GRANTS PROGRAM

Building on its successful 2025 pilot, The Endowment is launching the 2026 Arts & Culture Grants Program to support arts and cultural initiatives that strengthen the local economy and create opportunities for residents of all ages. Grants of \$5,000–\$15,000 will be awarded to nonprofit arts and culture organizations and public agencies. The Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County will serve as intermediary and administer \$430,000 in available funding, with applications accepted February 1–28, 2026.

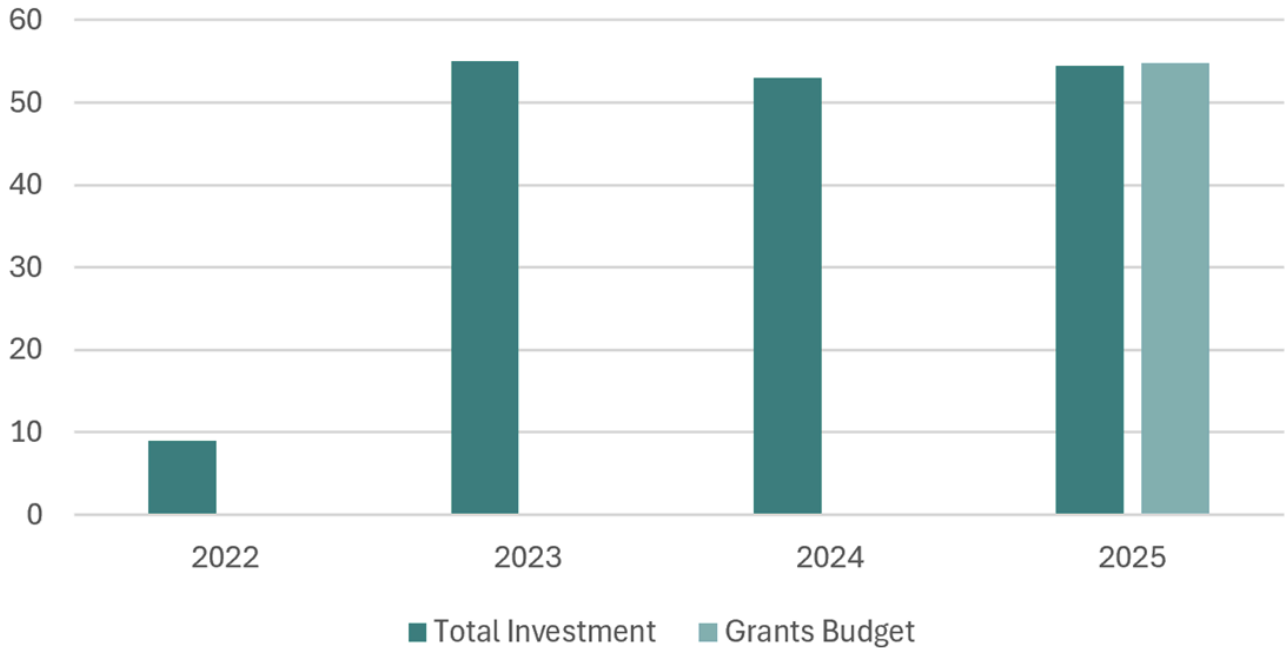


\$2M EMERGENCY RECOVERY Grant Reserve

Looking ahead, the Endowment is launching a \$2 million Emergency Recovery Grant Reserve in 2026. This new initiative is designed to provide fast, flexible support for New Hanover County residents, ensuring timely assistance in the wake of major disruptions or crises.

grant award HISTORY

as of December 31, 2025



Annual Grants Awarded (rounded totals)

2022: Grants Awarded: 111 Total Awarded: \$9.3 million

2023: Grants Awarded: 33 Total Awarded: \$55 million

2024: Grants Awarded: 50 Total Awarded: \$53 million

2025 (Preliminary, YTD)

Total 2025 Budget: \$54.8 million

New Grants Awarded in 2025: 169 (\$59.4 million for disbursement in 2025-2027)

2025 Budget Committed: \$54.4 million

2025 Budget Remaining: \$398,336

2025 LOIs YTD: \$201.3 million

Historical & Cumulative Totals

Cumulative Grants (Since Inception): 363

Cumulative Awards (Since Inception): \$177.2 million



Community-Informed. Grounded in Data. Driven by Impact. | theendowment.org