

2026 NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT

Quarterly Report, Q2 2026

JULY 29, 2026

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Letter from the President & CEO

As I reflect on this quarter, I keep coming back to the people behind our work: the residents of New Hanover County, the organizations that serve them, and my team and our partners who work tirelessly and drive our mission to improve the health, education, safety, and economic opportunity of every person in New Hanover County. Our mission statement is more than words on paper, it guides all our conversations, investments, and partnerships.

Some of our most meaningful moments in the second quarter of 2026 came from listening. We heard from residents during our Public Meeting and Board Listening Session, from parents, caregivers, providers, young people, and community members through our behavioral health, early childhood education, and recreational opportunities landscape assessments, and from local leaders. These candid, thoughtful conversations shape our priorities and reinforce that listening is central to our work.

Listening, however, is only the beginning. Acting on what we hear is how change happens. This quarter, several significant investments moved forward, including a landmark 10-year commitment to support a countywide school improvement plan. Every child deserves to learn in safe, modern, and welcoming spaces.

Across our four pillars, we continued investing in organizations that advance health, education, safety, and economic opportunity. I invite you to read about the organizations and the initiatives we supported during the second quarter and the work we are accomplishing together.

I am grateful for the leadership of our Board of Directors, whose guidance keeps us focused on our mission and accountable to the community. We also welcomed seven new Community Advisory Council (CAC) members and recognized seven outgoing members for their service. The CAC's insights and their commitment help keep community perspectives at the heart of everything we do. My sincere thanks also go to our team, whose passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment power our work and strengthen our ability to serve our community.

For our grantees, partners, volunteers, and New Hanover County residents, I am also thankful. Your trust, partnership and support for our shared vision make this work possible. I hope you see yourself reflected in this report. I am excited for the work still to come.



In service, with
gratitude,

Sophie Dagenais
President and CEO

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**

Semiannual Meeting with the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners

May 4, 2026



On Monday, May 4, The Endowment presented to the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners. The Endowment meets with the Board twice annually. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16 at 4 p.m. at the New Hanover County Historic Courthouse.

Board Chair Shannon Winslow opened the presentation by grounding the conversation in The Endowment's mission: to improve the health, education, safety, and economic opportunity of every person in the community. She recognized the Board, Community Advisory Council, and staff whose dedication continues to move this work forward and shared an update on The Endowment's strong financial stewardship, noting that 2026 is off to a strong start with meaningful momentum.

President and CEO Sophie Dagenais updated the Commissioners on The Endowment's 2026 priorities, what we have to work with, how we are moving from strategy into action, and the importance of partnership. As of May 4, The Endowment had awarded 54 grants totaling more than \$16.3 million, including 41 community grants supporting organizations across the county. Since inception, 417 grants had been awarded, totaling \$193 million.

Sophie shared The Endowment's disciplined approach to impact measurement across three interconnected levels: grant level, portfolio level, and population (community) level. She also provided updates on landscape assessments currently underway and highlighted ongoing community engagement efforts. In addition, she outlined The Endowment's work to address cross-cutting barriers to opportunities, including initiatives focused on career pathways, transportation, and food access (including recent grant announcements), and emphasized that strong partnerships are central to driving meaningful progress.

The presentation closed with an open invitation to The Endowment's Public Meeting and Board Listening session on June 3 at the Minnie Evans Performing Arts Center from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



Learn More:
[Video Recap • Presentation](#)

LANDMARK 10-YEAR GRANT

TO SUPPORT COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



In a joint announcement May 28, 2026, The Endowment, New Hanover County and New Hanover County Schools announced a major philanthropic investment to support a comprehensive, countywide school improvement and capital modernization plan that will be implemented over the next decade in New Hanover County.

The Endowment was pleased to share that it will commit up to \$116 million over ten years to help ensure students across the County learn in safe, modern, and future-ready schools.

The County plans to issue \$320 million general obligation bonds to finance the comprehensive school improvement and capital modernization plan. The Endowment's commitment, which is contingent on the County's ability to secure a plan of finance for the initiative, is designed to supplement public funds to support the plan, bringing private philanthropy alongside public investment to accelerate transformational improvements focused on kids and families.

"This investment goes beyond bricks and mortar; it is about creating environments more conducive to teaching and learning, strengthening neighborhood vitality, and ensuring that young people have spaces that reflect their potential," said Sophie Dagenais, President and CEO of The Endowment. "A shared investment by the Endowment, New Hanover County and New Hanover County Schools will be a powerful expression of belief: belief in young people, belief in public education, and belief that communities grow stronger when we create places where people can learn, gather, and thrive together."

These are generational investments meant to shape opportunity for children we will never meet, but who will benefit from decisions made with care and intention this year," said Shannon Winslow, Board Chair of The Endowment.

"I am particularly grateful that this work is being done in a spirit of partnership — not as isolated actors, but as a community choosing to move forward together with purpose and continued commitment to our kids, our families, and our community."

The County's multi-year plan addresses critical needs across the school system, including facility modernization, safety upgrades, and learning environments aligned with the New Hanover County Schools Facility Utilization Study. By combining public financing with philanthropic support, the County can deliver needed improvements while reducing the cost for local families and the community.

"We appreciate the shared commitment from The Endowment and New Hanover County to provide facilities that give our students the best opportunity to succeed," said Dr. Christopher Barnes, Superintendent of New Hanover County Schools. "We firmly believe that school challenges require community solutions."

"Providing safe, modern learning environments for our students is a top priority for this Board. Our students deserve classrooms worthy of their potential," said LeAnn Pierce, Chair of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners. "On behalf of all of us as County Commissioners, the County is committed to supporting our New Hanover County Schools, and we are grateful to The Endowment for helping us shoulder the costs of this initiative. This grant means meaningful relief for our taxpayers while we deliver the schools our students need and deserve."

If the County's proposed bond issue is approved by the voters this fall, implementation of the school improvement plan will begin in 2028, with projects rolling out in phases over the next ten years.



Joint Press Conference

May 28, 2026

The Endowment joined New Hanover County and New Hanover County Schools at the New Hanover County Government Center to announce the proposed landmark grant during a joint press conference. Speakers included LeAnn Pierce, Chair of the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners; Chris Coudriet, New Hanover County Manager; Sophie Dagenais, President and CEO of The Endowment; Shannon Winslow, Chair of The Endowment Board; and Dr. Christopher Barnes, Superintendent of New Hanover County Schools.

Sophie Dagenais' remarks:

Good morning and welcome elected officials, educators, Endowment board members and community advisory council members, colleagues, community leaders, and media.

On behalf of The Endowment, I am proud to announce a proposed grant of up to \$116 million over ten years to support the County's \$320 million plan to construct or renovate educational facilities that will serve students and families for generations to come.

Today marks more than the announcement of a grant. We look forward to investing in the future of New Hanover County and the environments where learning and community life take shape every day.

This investment goes beyond bricks and mortar. It is about creating environments more conducive to teaching and learning, strengthening neighborhood vitality, and ensuring that young people have spaces that reflect their potential. Schools are among the most important civic institutions in any community. They are places where education happens, but also where relationships are formed, families gather, and neighborhoods find identity and connection. When we invest in schools, we are investing in public health, workforce development, economic resilience, and the long-term well-being of our county.

The physical condition of a school also communicates something powerful to children about whether their community believes in them. Modern, welcoming spaces help create conditions for confidence, belonging, and achievement.

And, by helping to contain the overall costs of school construction and mitigating the pressure on taxpayers, we are also directly supporting our mission of promoting the economic success and stability of families across New Hanover County.

To be sure, The Endowment's investment is contingent on the County's ability to develop and secure a plan of finance for this ambitious schools initiative. Assuming the County secures funding, and this initiative moves forward, the Endowment will proudly join all of New Hanover County in supporting this important effort.

County Manager, County Commissioners, Dr. Barnes, our shared investment will be an expression of belief: belief in young people, belief in public education, and belief that communities grow stronger when we create places where people can learn, gather, and thrive together.



Shannon Winslow's remarks:

Thank you Madam Chair, Commissioner Pierce.

Good morning, everyone! I'll be brief so as not to repeat what has already been said so clearly by our CEO and partners.

Today is a great day for New Hanover County, and The Endowment is proud to be a part of it.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our deep appreciation to the County and the District for their statements of confidence in people, in place, and in what is possible when we are aligned.

I want to acknowledge the educators, administrators, and public partners who do the daily work of making our schools function and serve students well. Capital investments like the one announced today only succeed when matched by strong operational leadership and a shared commitment to excellence.

What we are beginning here is a long-term effort. The buildings that are renovated and constructed will outlast all of us in this room, and that is exactly the point. These are generational investments meant to shape opportunity for children we will never meet, but who will benefit from decisions made with care and intention this year.

As Board Chair, I am particularly grateful that this work is being done in a spirit of partnership not as isolated actors, but as a community choosing to move forward together with purpose and continued commitment to our kids and families and our schools and our community.



Arts & Culture

2026 GRANTS PROGRAM

On April 8, 2026, The Arts Council of Wilmington & New Hanover County announced the recipients of the 2026 Arts & Culture Grants Program. A total of \$430,000 was awarded to 43 arts and culture organizations throughout New Hanover County. The grants were made possible through funding from The Endowment, which provided the Arts Council with support to administer the 2026 Arts & Culture Grants Program.

Building on the success of its 2025 pilot program, The Endowment, in partnership with the Arts Council, launched an enhanced Arts & Culture Grants Program for 2026. The funding strengthens local arts organizations, supports innovative programming, and ensures that arts and culture remain accessible to the community.

"The arts are vital to our community's identity, economy, and quality of life," said Rhonda Bellamy, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Wilmington & New Hanover County. "Thanks to The Endowment, we can invest in our anchor arts institutions as well as numerous volunteer-led organizations that bring creativity, inspiration, and cultural enrichment to Wilmington and beyond."

The 43 grant recipients, selected and awarded by the Arts Council, represent a wide range of disciplines, including theater, music, dance, and literary arts. Funding will support programs ranging from educational initiatives to public performances, exhibitions, and community engagement projects.

Arts and Culture Grantees

Big Dawg Theater \$15,000
Black Arts Alliance \$5,000
Brooklyn Arts Music Academy \$15,000
Cameron Art Museum \$15,000
Cape Fear Chorale \$5,000
Cape Fear Cultural Assoc of India \$5,000
Cape Fear Swing Dance Society \$5,000
Carolina Beach Mural Project \$5,000
Chamber Music Wilmington \$15,000
Children's Museum of Wilmington \$1,000
Cinema Sisters \$5,000
Cucalorus Film Foundation \$15,000
Dance Cooperative \$5,000
Dreams \$15,000
FlowILM \$5,000

Harrington Repertory \$4,575
Island Arts Council \$5,000
Mouths of Babes \$15,000
Music on Market \$5,000
Narrative Arts \$15,000
NC Jazz Festival \$15,000
Opera House Theatre \$15,000
Opera Wilmington \$15,000
Panache \$5,000
Performance Club Theatre Company \$5,000
Port City Playwrights \$4,425
Preservation NC (Bellamy) \$15,000
Soaring as Eagles \$5,000
Thalian Association \$15,000
Thalian Hall \$15,000

Theater For All \$15,000
Turning the Wheel \$15,000
WHQR \$15,000
Willis Richardson Players \$5,000
Wilmington School of the Arts \$15,000
Wilmington Symphonic Winds \$5,000
Wilmington Symphony Orchestra \$15,000
Wilmington Virtuosi Brass \$5,000
Wilmington Voices \$5,000
Wilson Center \$15,000
Working Films \$15,000
Wrightsville Beach Museum \$15,000
Youth Choir of Wilmington \$5,000



Learn More:
[Arts & Culture Program](#)



The Arts Council
of Wilmington & NHC

Semiannual PUBLIC MEETING & BOARD LISTENING SESSION

JUNE 3, 2026 | 5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

The Endowment hosted its Semi-Annual Public Meeting and Board Listening Session on June 3, 2026, at the Minnie Evans Performing Arts Center, welcoming members of the New Hanover County community to engage directly with The Endowment's team and learn about our ongoing work. The session provided an opportunity to share updates, hear youth voices and community perspectives, and gather insights from residents invested in the future of our region.

Community feedback plays an important role in shaping The Endowment's priorities and approach to our work. The experiences, ideas, and expertise shared during these conversations help identify opportunities, understand community needs, and strengthen efforts to advance The Endowment's mission.

Public Meeting Resources:

- [Public Meeting Video](#)
- [Career and Leadership Development Video](#)
- [Youth Voices Video](#)



Agenda

- Student Speakers**
- Kelsey McNamara**
Junior, Eugene Ashley High School
 - Marwa Hizoum**
2026 Graduate, Isaac Bear Early College High School
Strategic Engagement and Communications Summer Intern, The Endowment
- Updates from The Endowment**
- Shannon Winslow**
Board Chair, The Endowment
Director, Strategic Accounts, WebMD Health
 - Sophie Dagenais**
President and CEO, The Endowment
 - Shannon Wick**
Network Associate, The Endowment
- Pillar Spotlights**
- Terri Burhans**
Senior Network Officer, Community Development, The Endowment
 - David Stegall**
Director of Education and Community Development, The Endowment
 - Leigh Quarles**
Senior Network Officer, Social and Health Equity, The Endowment
 - Mary Vail Ware**
Director of Social and Health Equity and Community Safety, The Endowment
- Board Listening Session**
- Shannon Winslow**
Board Chair, The Endowment
Director, Strategic Accounts, WebMD Health
 - Bill Blair**
Vice Chair, The Endowment
President, Blair-Squire Management LLC
 - Sophie Dagenais**
President and CEO, The Endowment
- Announcement & Updates**
- Sophie Dagenais**
President and CEO, The Endowment
 - Kathleen Saldívar**
Grants Technology & Operations Manager, The Endowment
- Closing Remarks**
- Sophie Dagenais**
President and CEO, The Endowment





Comprehensive Assessment of RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As part of The Endowment's Comprehensive Assessment of Recreational Opportunities in New Hanover County, The Endowment launched a community-wide recreation survey to gather public input on parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, athletic fields, and other public recreation spaces.

Weston & Sampson is leading the assessment whose findings will help inform The Endowment's future grantmaking in recreation.

To gather a wide range of perspectives, The Endowment has hosted multiple convenings including on May 19–20, with coaches, parks and recreation staff, and leaders from the nonprofit, education, economic development, and tourism sectors. These discussions informed the strengths, needs, and opportunities for recreation throughout New Hanover County.

To ensure youth perspectives were included, additional engagement sessions were held ahead of the June 3, 2026 Public Meeting and Board Listening Session at Minnie Evans Auditorium. Eugene Ashley High School and Charles P. Murray Middle School students offered their ideas and priorities for recreation in their communities. Consultants also gathered feedback from community members on site to capture additional perspectives.

Input collected through the survey, focus groups, and community engagement sessions will help complete the assessment and guide The Endowment's investments in recreational opportunities across New Hanover County.





The Endowment Launches New Grant Writing Support Initiative



The Endowment is proud to partner with Innovative Funding Partners (IFP) in piloting a new capacity-building program to help eligible nonprofit organizations secure funding, strengthen competitiveness, and expand their community impact.

The Grant Writing Support Initiative will help eligible nonprofits in New Hanover County strengthen their funding pipeline by identifying relevant grant opportunities and providing guidance and support for the development of competitive grant applications and proposals.

Applications opened to eligible organizations on July 8, 2026, and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The program will consider and select from the first 75 applications received. The application window will close on Monday, July 20, 2026.

Program overview

The Grant Writing Support Initiative will help New Hanover County non-profit organizations strengthen their funding pipeline by identifying relevant grant opportunities and providing guidance and support for the development of competitive grant applications and proposals.

Applicants will be considered based on a variety of factors, including funding readiness, organizational capacity, and need. In this pilot round of the initiative, IFP will recommend applicants to The Endowment, and together they will preliminarily select up to 15 nonprofits to participate in the direct service component of the capacity-building program. These organizations will be contacted by IFP to schedule a virtual interview as the final step in the selection process. Selected nonprofits will begin receiving grant identification and proposal development support by August 19.

Organizations who are selected will work directly with IFP to receive:

- A customized funding strategy including the identification of grant opportunities that align with the organization's mission, programs and funding needs.
- Virtual consultations with IFP subject-matter experts to assess funding opportunities and identify grant(s) for which the organization is most competitive.
- Full-service development of one grant application, including strategic planning, proposal writing, application preparation, and submission support.

Through this work with IFP, organizations will not only receive support in pursuing an immediate funding opportunity but will also gain the tools, knowledge, and grant prospect pipeline needed to independently identify and pursue future grant opportunities.

Strengthening Grant Writing Capacity:

A Webinar Series for All New Hanover County Non-Profit Organizations

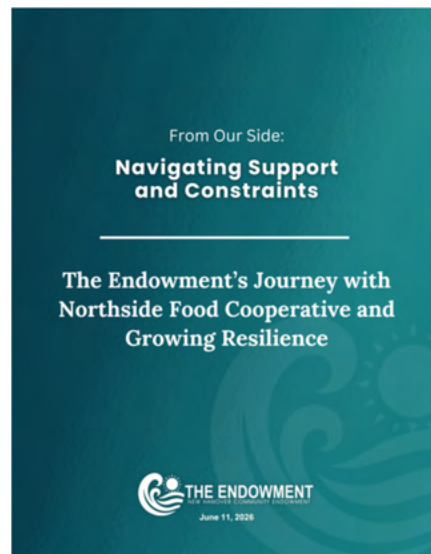
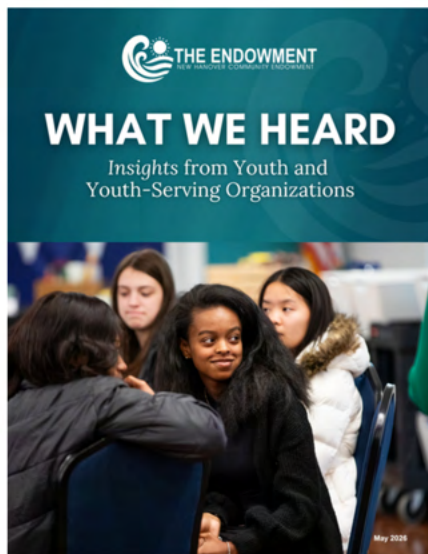
The Grant Writing Support Initiative will also include a webinar series later in the fall, open to all applicants and other New Hanover County non-profit organizations. The IFP series will be developed based upon the needs of all applicants and be designed to help strengthen organizational capacity and long-term sustainability. Stay tuned for more details on upcoming topics and registration opportunities.

This initiative is intended to increase funding from sources outside of The Endowment. As such, no services delivered through this program may be used to prepare or support applications to The Endowment.



Reports

This spring, The Endowment published three new reports on our work in New Hanover County.



["Community & Capacity Grants Program"](#)



["What We Heard"](#)



["Navigating Support and Constraints"](#)

Improving the Grantee Experience: NEW GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Endowment is transitioning to Temelio, a grants management system designed to strengthen grantmaking operations and enhance customer service and the grantee experience.

Throughout the quarter, existing grantees received individualized communications and support to prepare for the transition, while staff focused on system implementation, training, and phased onboarding. The transition is organized to ensure continuity for active grants while providing a more streamlined, user-friendly experience for applicants and grantees moving forward.

We look forward to launching the new system in July 2026.

The Community Advisory Council

Welcome, New Members! Thank You, Outgoing Leaders!

This quarter, we and our Community Advisory Council (CAC) welcomed seven new members and recognized seven outgoing members for their service.

We extend our gratitude to Kent Locklear, Joe Finley, Gustavo Rodea, Susie Sewell, Frankie Roberts, Abdul Hafeedh bin Abdullah, and Angie Hill for their dedicated service. Five of these members served on the CAC since its inception, helping establish a strong foundation for community engagement and ensuring that local perspectives are incorporated into The Endowment's work. Before concluding their service, several members participated in a transition discussion with staff to share insights from their time as CAC members and offer recommendations to help inform the CAC's future work.

Following a highly competitive selection process, The Endowment Board appointed seven new members to three-year terms beginning June 1. CAC members are selected through a thorough, open recruitment process designed to reflect a balanced representation of perspectives across sectors and the lived experiences of New Hanover County residents. The new members contribute diverse expertise across The Endowment's strategic pillars:

Roberto Ramirez (Social and Health Equity) – Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center; Coastal Horizons; New Hanover County Health and Human Services Board.

Lindy Ford (Social and Health Equity) – Registered Dietitian/Clinical Nutritionist; New Hanover Women's Commission.

Dr. Rob Morgan (Education) – Assistant Superintendent of Operations, New Hanover County Schools.

Rebekah Garcia (Community Safety) – Regional Managing Attorney, Legal Aid of North Carolina (Wilmington).

Carson Porter (Community Safety) – President and Executive Director, Wilmington Hammerheads Youth Soccer.

Megan Mullins (Community Development) – Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, with board service for the Historic Wilmington Foundation and Cape Fear Volunteer Center.

Frances "Perry" Chappell (Community Development) – Business Management and Development Consultant at The Blair Group and member of the UNCW Board of Trustees.

Social & Health Equity



Mireya Lupercio



Sana Rockwell



Lindy Ford



Roberto Ramirez

Education



Timothy Jarman



September Krueger



Nick Rhodes



Mike Priddy



Rob Morgan

Community Safety



Jamar Jenkins



Carson Porter



Rebekah Garcia



Evelyn Adger

Community Development



Carolyn Beatty



Jeremy Hardy



Andrew Hewitt



Perry Chappell



Megan Mullins

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The new members will begin orientation and onboarding in July and will join current CAC members in supporting the Fall Community Grants review process in August, as well as participating in pillar-specific meetings throughout the summer.

On May 20, the CAC held its second-quarter meeting at the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, with Board Chair Shannon Winslow and Vice Chair Bill Blair in attendance. The meeting featured an overview of The Endowment's \$22 million Healthcare Career Partnership initiative. Representatives from UNCW, Cape Fear Community College, New Hanover County Schools, and the Chamber of Commerce participated in a panel discussion on the initiative. Moderated by Dr. David Stegall, the discussion gave CAC members an opportunity to ask questions, share strategic insights, and offer reflections on the initiative's work.

The meeting also included a preview of The Endowment's presentation for The Endowment's June 3 Public Meeting and Board Listening Session at the Minnie Evans Performing Arts Center. CAC members provided feedback and asked questions that helped shape our June program and the production.

Current, incoming, and outgoing CAC members attended the June 3 Public Meeting and Board Listening Session demonstrating the council's ongoing presence in our work and their commitment to community engagement.

AQUARIUM BREAKS GROUND

On May 28, 2026, The Endowment participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion and renovation of the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher. President and CEO Sophie Dagenais and Board Chair Shannon Winslow delivered remarks during the program, joined by Society Board President Brick Brown and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Pamela Cashwell. Board Vice Chair Bill Blair, Director of Education and Community Development Dr. David Stegall, Vice President of External Affairs Tyler Newman, Communications Director Amber Rogerson, and Strategic Engagement and Communications Intern Marwa Hizoum joined them for the celebration.

The groundbreaking celebrated The Endowment's \$7.5 million grant to Beneath the Surface: Campaign for the North Carolina Aquariums, a transformative investment in the future of the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher. The grant provides critical support for the Aquarium's expansion and helps advance key educational features, including a marsh boardwalk, outdoor classroom, and covered entryway for student groups. These additions will enhance opportunities for students, educators, families, residents, and visitors for generations to come.



“As an investor in this project, The Endowment is investing in spaces that will spark scientific curiosity and enhance the unique educational opportunities available to kids and families throughout our region.”

Sophie Dagenais, President and CEO



Impact Spotlight



GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER SHARES THE IMPACT OF 2024 GRANT

HOMELESS TO HOUSED:

Sustaining Good Shepherd's Rapid Rehousing and Housing Retention Programs

By Lauren Henderson, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, Good Shepherd Center



In October 2024, The Endowment awarded Good Shepherd Center a three-year grant commitment totaling \$1,665,000 (\$555,000 each year), to support the center's Rapid Rehousing and Housing Retention programs. This effort builds on 18 years of experience using housing-focused Best Practices to end the homelessness of a diversity of neighbors, single men and women, families with children, seniors, Veterans, persons with disabilities, and to assist them in remaining housed.

By Lauren Henderson,
Chief Finance & Operations Officer, Good Shepherd Center

"Grant funding has ensured our continual ability to provide homeless households with first and last month's rent, security deposits, and/or utility support, accelerating their transition to permanent housing. During the grant period, we have helped 428 unduplicated persons move to permanent housing. 199 of these people were directly supported by Endowment grant funds, with an average support amount of \$2,949.

Fiscal year 2025-26 was the first full year impacted by these grant funds and we were able to increase the number of people moved into permanent housing by 30%. Our team of four Case Manager/Housing Specialists help shelter guests develop individual housing plans, which is supported by housing navigation, connection to appropriate services, and engagement in continual landlord recruitment and relationship development.



BY THE NUMBERS:

Endowment Investment, October 2024

- \$1.665 million
- 3-year commitment
- \$555,000 annually

During the Grant Period:

- 428 people moved into permanent housing.
- 199 directly supported by Endowment funding.
- 97% housing retention rate for the current cohort.
- 30% increase in people moved to permanent housing in the first full year of funding.
- 32% reduction in shelter stay length, from 180 days to 122 days.

Impact Spotlight

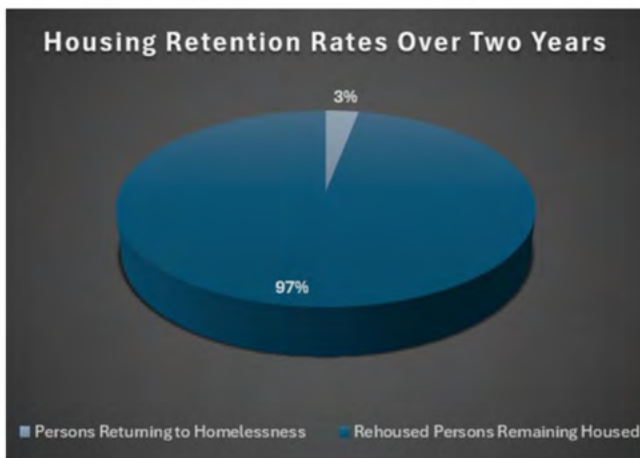
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All of this is underpinned by applying national Best Practices learned from the Corporation for Supportive Housing, North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

In addition to Rapid Rehousing support, the Endowment's grant provided funds for Housing Retention, another Best Practice intervention that Good Shepherd has committed to learning and implementing.

These funds are utilized to stabilize situations where a rehoused, formerly homeless household may have experienced a new crisis jeopardizing their housing, such as a medical emergency, an unexpected car repair for work transportation, or a loss of income. These funds have directly supported 71 individuals, with an average spend of \$1,789 per person.

While that is a small percentage of the thousands of individuals who Good Shepherd has helped move into permanent housing over the years, it does assist with preventing returns to homelessness. Specifically looking at the 199 individuals who have moved to permanent housing over the grant period, the current housing retention rate is at 97% during the first two years. Since this cohort is still within its two-year retention window, we expect the rate to normalize slightly as more households reach the full measurement period. Based on previous rates from our programs, we expected it to stay close to a 90% retention rate.



The National Alliance to End Homelessness sets 85% as the standard for a high-performing Rapid Rehousing program at one year and published two-year retention rates in comparable programs run closer to 75%.

For Additional information: <https://endhomelessness.org/resources/policy-information/rapid-rehousing-a-history-and-core-components/>

This puts Good Shepherd ahead of national benchmarks. The National Alliance to End Homelessness sets 85% as the standard for a high-performing Rapid Rehousing program at one year and published two-year retention rates in comparable programs run closer to 75%.

“
Our goal is for homelessness to be rare, brief, and non-recurring. Rapid Rehousing and Housing Retention directly support that goal.
”

When being able to help more people move to permanent housing at a faster rate and help them retain their housing, we are also able to reduce length of shelter stays and the number of people who are staying with us for longer than 12 months, while maintaining an above national average for exits to permanent housing destinations. In the past fiscal year, the length of time someone has stayed at Good Shepherd's overnight shelter has decreased by 32%, going from 180 days to 122 days.

The percentage of people who have been in our overnight shelter for over one year has dramatically decreased by 92%, moving from 21.4% of the total people staying with us to just 1.70% of the total, all while continuing to serve the greatest number and most challenged of unhoused persons as the region's lowest barrier emergency shelter.

With just over one year remaining in this three-year commitment, Good Shepherd is positioned to build on this momentum, sustaining faster placements, deeper retention support, and shorter shelter stays for the neighbors still ahead of us.

The Endowment's investment has not only changed lives, it has proven that homelessness can be made rare, brief, and truly non-recurring when evidence-based practices are fully resourced. We're deeply grateful for this partnership and the opportunity to continue this work going through year three.”



Lauren Henderson,
Chief Finance & Operations Officer,
Good Shepherd Center



Visit theendowment.org
to view additional
charts and data.



SOCIAL & HEALTH EQUITY

Grants Awarded Q2 2026

3Wheel Therapy


\$5,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$5,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support 3Wheel Therapy's insurance, fuel, maintenance costs, and safe transport of adaptive tricycles to partner agencies and local parks/trails to provide an accessible and therapeutic riding experience for anyone unable to ride a traditional bicycle.

4th Trimester Mission


\$12,500
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$12,500
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To sustain postpartum doula home visits and new mother meetups, providing essential emotional and physical support and resource connections for families in Greater Wilmington.

Autism Society of North Carolina, Inc.


\$5,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$5,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To purchase music, art, and sensory supplies for the Autism Society's Wilmington Social Recreation after school and summer camp programs for children with autism to develop precursor skills necessary for academic success.

American Red Cross - Cape Fear Chapter


\$2,490,474
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$952,433
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To help fund the first and only North Carolina-based American Red Cross Community Adaptation Program site, in New Hanover County, and strengthen the capability, capacity and continuity of local services for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Cape Fear Area Doulas


\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To expand scholarships for birth and postpartum doula care for families with financial barriers in NHC and support advanced training to strengthen quality, equitable maternal care.

Cape Fear HealthNet, Inc


\$125,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To meet the health care needs of uninsured adults in NHC.



Cape Fear Veteran Resilience Project


\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To strengthen suicide prevention efforts and expand coordination access to critical mental health, employment, financial literacy, and training services and support for veterans and their families in the Cape Fear region.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH EQUITY GRANTS AWARDED | Q2 2026

Coastal Bringing Up Down Syndrome



\$12,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$12,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support "Down to Stay Healthy", offering fitness and nutrition programs for individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities in the Cape Fear area to lower chronic disease risk.

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear



\$2,507,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To launch and establish a Social Care Network to strengthen local service delivery systems, create a community care hub, expand access to essential supports, and improve coordination among healthcare and community-based organizations.

El Cuerpo



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To fund essential medical costs, including lab work, supplies, and volunteer and staff training to support El Cuerpo's free medical clinic addressing barriers to health access for the Latino community in NHC.

Feast Down East, Inc



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support Farmers Fighting Hunger by covering a portion of food costs for partner agencies, providing fresh, local food to an estimated 7,000 individuals in NHC.

New Hanover County - Administration



\$1,244,215
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To fund a two-year Grocery Access Program Pilot in a public-private partnership between NHC and Instacart.

Restored Souls Foundation



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support Restored Styles Mobile Salon, a trauma-informed, accessible program serving children in foster care and individuals with disabilities in NHC to reduce barriers to accessing personal care services due to mobility limitations, sensory sensitivities, trauma histories, or lack of accessible facilities.

Tides



\$515,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support the region's only perinatal recovery housing program and will strengthen staff capacity, enhance data systems, achieve state and national certifications, and advance planning for a dedicated recovery housing site.

The Coastal Therapeutic Riding Program



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support approximately 130 therapeutic riding lessons for low-income NHC residents, expanding access to adaptive equestrian therapy for individuals with disabilities.

The LGBTQ Center of the Cape Fear Coast



\$5,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$5,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To enhance the LGBTQ Center's capacity to assess community needs and provide accessible resources through program evaluations and a new website for LGBTQ+ residents in NHC.

The Wilmington Farmers Market



\$13,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$13,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support the Wilmington Farmers Market's SNAP Double Bucks program, increasing access to fresh, locally grown food for low-income families in NHC.

Wilmington CareNet Counseling Center



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To cover mental health counseling fees for clients unable to afford care, including children, teens, adults, couples, and families in NHC, and support key operational costs, including administrative pay, office rent, and supplies.





EDUCATION

Grants Awarded Q2 2026

Assistance League of Greater Wilmington



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Education

To support the Operation School Bell Care Closet Program in three Title I high schools in providing essential resources like clothing, hygiene supplies, and school supplies which are critical necessities to learning.

Brooklyn Arts Music Academy



\$70,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$70,000
Pillar: Education

To use music-based learning to close opportunity gaps, strengthen early childhood development, and build the cognitive, emotional, and social skills that support long-term academic success, resilience, and economic mobility.

Cameron Art Museum



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Education

To address the achievement gap in NHC by offering two evidence-based arts integration professional development sessions for teachers to evolve Cameron Art Museum's Closing the Gap (CTG) workshops for NHC schools.

Cape Fear Community College Foundation, Incorporated



\$3,000,000
2025 Q4 Drawdown: \$778,843.74
Pillar: Education

CFCC's NHC Apprenticeship Accelerator Program will expand and strengthen the pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship pipeline by creating a unified Apprenticeship Department with dedicated staff. This expansion will scale programs, better support employers and students, and directly advance workforce and economic growth in New Hanover County.

Cape Fear Community College Foundation, Incorporated



\$147,843
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$147,843
Pillar: Education

The Construction Career Skills Training Program will provide students with foundational construction knowledge, workplace safety certification, and essential employability skills that align with regional workforce needs. The program will provide students with direct access to residential construction employers to achieve job placement goals and help students transition to the workforce.

Child Development Center



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Education

To support delivery of a seven-week summer program during the school closure period to provide consistency, structure, and developmentally appropriate support for students with special needs.

EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED | Q2 2026

GLOW Academy

 **\$896,000**
Pillar: Education

To close opportunity gaps and build lasting pathways to post-secondary success and economic mobility.

Greater Wilmington Chamber Foundation

 **\$2,000,000**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$1,000,000
Pillar: Education

To support the Career Leadership Development Academy (CLDA) which aims to provide distinct-district wide, career-connected industry exploration for all 7th grade students in NHC Schools and extended mentor programming for students in grades 8-11. This continues the expansion of the program, which as made possible by a special legislative appropriation sponsored by Senator Lee.

The Children's Museum of Wilmington

 **\$15,000**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Education

To support 'Building Bright Beginnings' to address gaps in kindergarten readiness and access to high-quality early learning opportunities for young children in NHC through educator-led, play-based programming and hands-on STEM and literacy experiences.

Theatre for All, Inc

 **\$8,000**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Education

To support the Public School Outreach Program in providing instruction to students with intellectual and developmental disability in "Specially Designed Academics" classrooms to enhance skill-building and employability through performing arts education.

United Way of Cape Fear

 **\$12,900**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$12,900
Pillar: Education

To provide two new books across genres and languages to students in grades K-5 at six NHC schools, impacting approximately 1,922 students in advancing early childhood literacy.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington - Watson College of Education - Teaching with Joy Network

 **\$15,000**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Education

To further develop and expand the Teaching with Joy Network, with a focus on educator well-being, student belonging, and joyful teaching practices, across NHC schools to increase retention and recruitment of educators.

Williston Middle School PTA

 **\$12,000**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$12,000
Pillar: Education

To fund filtered water bottle filling stations for 668 middle school students to provide access to safe drinking water and improve health and education outcomes for Title I students in an economically disadvantaged school.

Wrightsboro UMC

 **\$8,000**
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$8,000
Pillar: Education

To support the Backpacks of Dignity Project in partnership with local public schools to ensure students from under-resources families begin the school year with the essential school supplies and hygiene items they need to succeed.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington - Precollege Mentoring Program (Formerly Mi Casa)

 **\$675,000**
Pillar: Education

To provide postsecondary near peer advising support to underserved high schools through one-on-one student advising, parent and family engagement, FAFSA assistance, college application assistance, creation of a Next Step Plan, and planning and facilitating student engagement opportunities.

United Way of Cape Fear

 **\$25,000**
Pillar: Education

To explore StriveTogether implementation model and sponsor a group from NHC to attend the StriveTogether conference.



Alliance for Hope kick off meeting for all Community Justice Center supporters and key partners.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Grants Awarded Q2 2026

100 Black Men of Coastal NC



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$12,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To expand the number of African American middle and high school youth that participate in evidence-based success academics and engage in high-impact workshops and competitions at the local Youth Summit and 100 Black Men of America's Annual Conference to expose them to pathways to success via economic opportunities.

A Safe Place



\$313,806
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$313,806
Pillar: Community Safety

To support long term, safe, transitional housing and support for victims of human trafficking in NHC.

ACCESS of Wilmington



15,985
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,985
Pillar: Community Safety

To fund a summer camp that provides a full-day youth development program designed to keep youth with disabilities, engaged, supported, and inspired while school is out.

Better Is Possible



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support the Teen Summit, a free, full-day experience for youth in NHC to address a critical need in NHC for safe, affirming, youth-led spaces for teens to openly address the social, emotional, and economic challenges shaping their lives.

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



\$323,120
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$323,120
Pillar: Community Safety

To provide paid and supportive summer youth employment programming and supportive services for at-risk youth to reduce violence and help youth move toward high school graduation and beyond.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern North Carolina



\$400,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$400,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To fund a summer camp that provides a full-day youth development program designed to keep young people engaged, supported, and inspired while school is out.

COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANTS AWARDED | Q2 2026

Camp Schreiber Foundation



\$12,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$12,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To purchase fractional accounting services to reduce their administrative duties to allow for full time staff to expand direct programming to remove financial, social, and practical barriers standing between young men and college graduation.

Education Without Walls



\$160,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$160,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To provide intensive case management and life skills development for at-risk youth.

Family Promise of the Lower Cape Fear



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support a strategic marketing initiative that strengthens brand visibility and messaging to better reach families experiencing housing instability, domestic violence survivors, and other vulnerable populations, while increasing community awareness and support.

First Tee of Greater Wilmington



\$13,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$13,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support one week of no-cost summer programming for approximately 40 youth, ages 12-18, through 20+ hours of structured programming that combines golf instruction with social-emotional learning and mentorship from trained coaches and volunteers and provides meals.

Freedom Sailing



\$14,600
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$14,600
Pillar: Community Safety

To secure the operational stability needed to keep these therapeutic sails free of charge and funding an accessible slip and safety equipment to eliminate time-consuming logistics to directly increase capacity to serve more veterans and first responders.

Keep Your Hands Off Me, Inc.



\$300,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support direct services to victims of intergenerational abuse, with an emphasis on sexual abuse.

DREAMS Center for Arts Education



\$412,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support facility upgrades, a facility manager, and a community rental program to build diversified and sustainable funding pathways to support services for youth.

Family Promise of the Lower Cape Fear



\$260,226
Pillar: Community Safety

To support re-entry services that include transitional housing, mental health counseling, employment assistance, and linkages to healthcare.

First Fruit Ministries



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To fund a new oven and maintenance to ensure safe, uninterrupted meal preparation and increase kitchen efficiency, allowing meals to be prepared more quickly and consistently for individuals experiencing homelessness in NHC.

Five14 Revolution



\$822,600
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$822,600
Pillar: Community Safety

To support operating expenses to increase staff capacity relative to client load and sustain their work in the community for victims of human trafficking.

Foster Pantry, Inc



\$200,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support the provision of services, resources and programs for children moving through foster care, youth aging out of foster care, and kinship caregivers.



COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANTS AWARDED | Q2 2026

Leading Into New Communities, Inc



\$2,069,736
Pillar: Community Safety

To support re-entry services that include transitional housing, mental health counseling, employment assistance, and linkages to healthcare.

Legal Aid of North Carolina



\$462,814
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$462,814
Pillar: Community Safety

To support civil legal services that include civil protective orders, housing, and expungement.

North Carolina Coastal Federation



\$45,794
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$45,794
Pillar: Community Safety

To support an 8-week, full-time paid summer internship for a Cape Fear Community College Marine Technology student (targeted to a first-generation or low-income student) and provide coverage of transportation and meal costs that would otherwise prevent participating youth from accessing NCCF programming, for a term of 1 year.

paws4people foundation



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To allow paws4people to support acquisition of puppies and adolescent dogs to more comprehensively address its waiting list for highly trained Assistance Dogs, Facility Dogs, and K9-assisted intervention service dogs in NHC.

Purpose International



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To support the Purpose Youth and Teen Camp to reduce summer learning loss, strengthen emotional resilience, and increase clarity around future pathways by integrating academic enrichment with trauma-informed supports and applied learning.

Rescue Mission of Cape Fear



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To provide funding for basic necessities, stabilization support, and recovery-focused services for NHC men in Rescue Mission of Cape Fear's residential recovery program experiencing homelessness or housing instability challenges.

StepUp Wilmington



\$126,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$126,000
Pillar: Community Safety

To engage NHC youth in structured career pathways and paid internships.

United Way of Cape Fear



\$2,801,248
Pillar: Community Safety

To support a network of nonprofit and public partners serving residents in neighborhoods where social determinants of crime are above the county average (census tracts around seven NHC schools from International School at Gregory through New Hanover High School).





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Grants Awarded Q2 2026

2SHARE, Inc

\$15,000

2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development



To purchase approximately 75 good quality mattresses, platforms, and sheets at no additional cost for low-income NHC households in need.

Alliance for Cape Fear Trees

\$15,000

2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development



To plant 130 native or regionally-adapted trees in Wilmington's Southside and Bottom neighborhoods – historically underserved areas and areas of low tree canopy.

Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity

\$950,000

Pillar: Social and Health Equity



To support the acquisition of a 30-acre site for development of up to 200 new homes.

Carolina Small Business Development Fund

\$11,000

2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$11,000
Pillar: Community Development



To support the Cash Flow Confidence Program, a two-part workshop that will serve 30+ business owners and teach an understanding of cash flow fundamentals and business operations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AWARDED | Q2 2026

City of Wilmington Economic Development



\$7,750,000
2026 Q1 Drawdown: \$7,750,000
Pillar: Community Development

The City of Wilmington, New Hanover County, and The Endowment have partnered to support the acquisition and preservation of approximately 25 acres of green space located off Greenville Loop Road for the development of a future public park. The total acquisition cost of \$9.75 million will be funded through a joint commitment, including a \$7.75 million grant from The Endowment and \$1 million contributions from both the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County.

Genesis Block Foundation



\$7,500
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development

To support the Resident Cohort Meetup initiative that addresses the need for continued connection, support, and resource access for small business owners after completing formal entrepreneurship programming through the Block Academy Program.

Pine Valley Elementary PTA



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development

To fund outdoor play space improvements at Pine Valley Elementary by providing access to hydration, safe outdoor play spaces, and quality recreational equipment to support physical health and well-being for students.

Working Films



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development

To present the Story Leads half-day conference in Wilmington in early Fall 2026, bringing together current and emerging nonprofit, public service, media professionals, and college/university students pursuing careers to support organizations using film and storytelling to communicate impact.

Growing Resilience



\$320,940
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$20,227
Pillar: Community Development

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

Community Enrichment Initiatives Inc



\$14,500
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$14,500
Pillar: Community Development

To support greenhouse repairs, refrigerated storage, and operation support for Willowdale Farms to address food insecurity in NHC through growing food, feeding food insecure residents, and teaching regenerative gardening classes.

Making Waves Foundation



\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development

To provide fare subsidies to human service nonprofit agencies who provide assistance to members of the community in need and individuals who otherwise would not have access to transportation.

Wilmington Minority Chamber of Commerce



\$10,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$10,000
Pillar: Community Development

To provide operations funding for the Wilmington Minority Chamber of Commerce to create a brand presence and hire core staff for overall support for minority-owned businesses in NHC.

Young Mogul Development Group

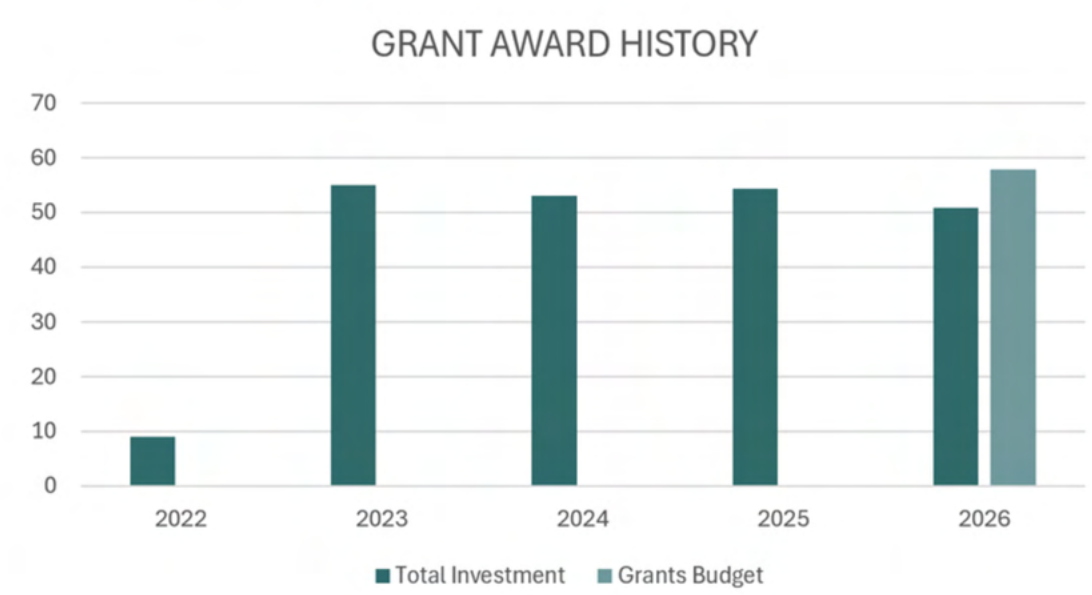
\$15,000
2026 Q2 Drawdown: \$15,000
Pillar: Community Development

To provide young students of color with in-depth career development activities, and training with the aim of early exposure to employable skills such as verbal communication, CPR/First Aid certifications, and developing STEM, digital, and market-relevant skills.



grant award HISTORY

as of June 30, 2026



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: Grants Awarded: 169, Total Awarded: \$54 million

2026 (Preliminary, YTD)

Total 2026 Grants Budget: \$58 million

New Grants Awarded in 2026: 73*

Total 2026 Commitments (including new, prior and multi-year): \$50.8 million*

2026 Budget Remaining: \$11.2 million

*Excluding contingent \$116 million commitment to New Hanover County for Schools Initiative

Historical & Cumulative Totals

Cumulative Grants (Since Inception): 436

Cumulative Awards (Since Inception): \$322.9 million*

*Including contingent \$116 million commitment to New Hanover County for Schools Initiative



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