

2026 NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT

Quarterly Report, Q3 2026

OCTOBER 2026

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A 2023 Investment Making a Lasting Difference



Letter from the President & CEO

October 29, 2026

Another busy quarter at The Endowment means community resources at work across New Hanover County.

A stronger county takes more than investment. It depends on the connections we build together: between students and careers, between families and care, and among organizations working toward shared goals. This quarter's report shows those connections taking shape, along with the people and partnerships making them possible.

At our September Public Forum, the New Hanover Healthcare Career Partnership shared how it is building clearer pathways into nursing. Educators and employers walked through each stage: introducing students to healthcare careers, supporting them through their education, and helping graduates find good jobs close to home. Every resident of New Hanover County, and every family, will one day depend on a nurse, which is why this work matters to all of us. The pipeline work also makes a point that reaches well beyond nursing. No single program can solve a shared challenge. Progress comes when partners plan together, learn from one another, and stay at the table over time.

The impact story of the Cape Fear Clinic, featured in this quarterly report, shows what that kind of partnership looks like in practice. By bringing care to people through community organizations they already know and trust, the clinic and its partners are helping patients overcome barriers that begin long before a medical appointment and continue long after it. Their results, which you'll find in the pages ahead, show the reach of this work and a simple truth behind it: care only works when people can stay connected to it.

Community voices shape how we do this work. This quarter, Community Advisory Council members helped review grants, joined public discussions, and engaged deeply in our landscape assessments. Two of those assessments are now posted on our website as a resource for anyone working to strengthen New Hanover County. We are grateful to Council members for their time and insight, and to the many residents and organizations helping us understand what is working and where more attention is needed.

Across every investment and partnership in these pages, our responsibility stays the same: listen carefully, make informed decisions, and remain accountable for how The Endowment's resources are used. Progress takes time, and honest reporting means sharing both what we are seeing and what we are still learning. Thank you to our nonprofit partners, public institutions, educators, healthcare professionals, and residents for the work you do every day. The Endowment's contribution matters most when it strengthens yours.



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



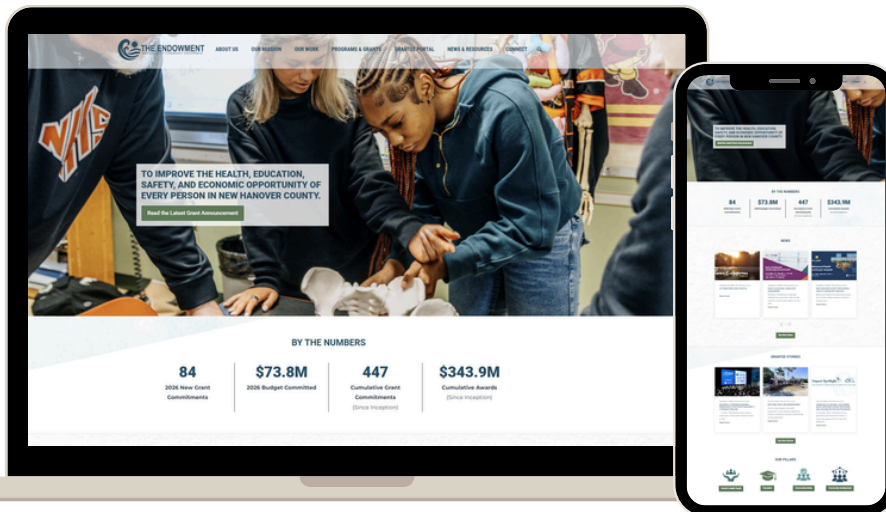
**Community
Development**

2026 Fall Community GRANTS PROGRAM

The Endowment received 143 applications seeking more than \$1.7 million in funding for the 2026 Community Grants fall cycle and the review process is currently underway. As in the spring cycle, a total of \$500,000 is available, with individual grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Thank you to our Community Advisory Council for joining our team in reviewing applications and helping us throughout this process. In the 2026 spring cycle, The Endowment's board approved 41 grants totaling \$500,000 to nonprofit and community-serving organizations across New Hanover County. [Learn more about the 41 spring grant recipients.](#)

The Endowment's WEBSITE HAS BEEN REFRESHED!



It is now easier to navigate our website and find information, including a new homepage featuring accessible data, news, stories, and an overview of The Endowment's work. Streamlined content sections will make key resources, including a grants directory, news, reports, and quarterly updates, easier to find and read. Thank you to our partners at Wilmington Design Co. for assisting us with architecture and layout.

nonprofit resources



Be sure to visit our website and explore resources to help nonprofit organizations build capacity and strengthen their impact. Discover webinars, trainings, conferences, memberships, and other learning opportunities.

- [North Carolina Center for Nonprofits Membership Opportunity](#)
- [New Hanover County Resiliency Task Force \(NHCRTF\)](#)
- [Webinars: Innovative Funding Partners \(IFP\)](#)
- [Funding Strategy: Grant Funding Opportunities](#)

Save the Date!

Twice a year, **The Endowment presents to the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners.** Our next presentation is Monday, November 16, at 4:00 PM, at the Historic Courthouse, 24 North 3rd Street, Rm 301.

On Wednesday, December 2, 2026, join us for **The Endowment's Semi-Annual Public Meeting and Board Listening Session** at Blair Elementary School (6510 Market St).

Doors will open at 5PM, the event will begin at 5:30PM.



THE ENDOWMENT NAMES

Dr. David Stegall VP, PROGRAMS & GRANTS



On July 9th, The Endowment announced Dr. David Stegall as our new Vice President, Programs and Grants. Stegall, who previously served as The Endowment's Director of Education and Community Development, will lead program and grant strategy in support of The Endowment's mission to improve the health, education, safety, and economic opportunity of every person in New Hanover County.

"Throughout our search, I had the opportunity to consider the qualities and experience needed to lead our programs and grantmaking into the future," said Sophie Dagenais, President and CEO of The Endowment. "It became clear that the strongest candidate was already on our team. David has shown exceptional leadership, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. He understands our philanthropic work and organizational structure deeply, has cultivated strong partnerships, and has served as a valued mentor to our team. Importantly, David will continue to lead our educational initiatives, where he has laid a strong foundation for growth and impact. Working alongside our partners, he will build on that success while taking on this expanded leadership role."

"I am honored to serve in this new role and grateful to continue working alongside our team and community partners," said Stegall. "The Endowment has a unique opportunity to help create lasting change in New Hanover County, and I look forward to building on our strong foundation as we work together to expand opportunity and improve outcomes for our community."

Since joining The Endowment in 2025, Stegall has helped lead community-focused grant initiatives in education and community development, including efforts to strengthen educational outcomes, expand education-to-career pathways and support learning opportunities for residents of all ages. Through this work, he has built strong relationships with leaders, colleagues, and community partners across New Hanover County.

Stegall will oversee The Endowment's program and grant strategy across its four strategic pillars. He will also guide the organization's impact and learning functions, embedding data, measurement, research, and continuous learning into programs, partnerships, and investments aligned with The Endowment's theory of change. In this role, he will work closely with The Endowment's President and CEO, Board of Directors, Community Advisory Council, staff, and partners to advance long-term, community-rooted solutions to New Hanover County's most pressing challenges.

NEW HANOVER COUNTY LAUNCHES FOOD AND MEDICATION DELIVERY PROGRAM WITH INSTACART AND THE ENDOWMENT



New Hanover County, in partnership with Instacart, announced the launch of the Food and Medication Delivery Program, a two-year grocery and prescription delivery program designed to reduce food insecurity by addressing transportation and mobility barriers. The program, funded by a \$1.2 million grant from The Endowment, expands on a model currently operating in Columbia, S.C. The initiative leverages existing delivery technology to expand access to food, household essentials, and prescription medications for residents in the county's eight identified food desert areas. The county aims to enroll 2,000 households in the first year, growing to 3,000 over the two-year pilot, with a focus on income-qualified residents and older adults. For more information on the program, including eligibility and enrollment, visit [NHCgov.com/FAM](https://nhc.gov.com/FAM).



MIDTOWN YMCA GROUNDBREAKING

Community leaders, partners, supporters, and residents gathered July 31, 2026 to celebrate the groundbreaking of the expanded Midtown YMCA, marking an important milestone in a shared effort to create more opportunities for children, families, and older adults across New Hanover County.

The \$15 million expansion represents years of collaboration among nonprofit, philanthropic, public, and private partners who share a common vision: ensuring more people have access to programs and spaces that support health, wellness, youth development, and community connection.

In 2024, The Endowment awarded a \$4 million grant to the YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina to help transform the Midtown YMCA into a full-service community resource. Together with investments from New Hanover County, federal and state partners, local foundations, healthcare organizations, businesses, and generous individual donors, this project reflects what is possible when a community works together toward a common goal.

When complete, the expanded facility will include a new indoor aquatics center, additional classrooms for childcare and youth programming, expanded fitness and recreation spaces, multi-sport courts, and welcoming gathering places designed to serve residents of all ages. The expansion will increase opportunities for children to learn life-saving water safety skills, families to access affordable childcare and recreation, and older adults to stay active and connected.

The YMCA estimates the expanded facility will serve thousands of additional members, significantly increase childcare capacity, and provide free water safety and swim lessons for every second-grade student in New Hanover County Schools.

Read the full recap [HERE](#).

Sophie's Remarks

"Thank you, Dick, Jenny, and Chris, for having me and The Endowment here today, and to the YMCA team, congratulations on this wonderful achievement.

The Endowment is pleased to have been part of the vision being realized today and expanding this great campus from 16,000 to nearly 48,000 square feet.

This groundbreaking is happening because the YMCA, local leaders, state representatives, federal partners, and the philanthropy of individuals and organizations all came together around a shared goal: the health and well-being of our community. The Endowment is proud that our \$4 million grant helped propel this project forward.

Y? Because here, more children will play and learn confidence and water safety in a brand-new indoor aquatics center, where adults and seniors will also find fitness and community. In pools, on courts, and in exercise studios, families and friends will build healthy habits together. New childcare classrooms will give working parents peace of mind, while our youngest learners launch their educational journeys, activate their imaginations, and form bonds that will last a lifetime. In your gathering spaces, our seniors will stay active and connected. In sum, there is something here for everyone.

And in short, therefore, The Endowment is proud to stand with our founders and residents, investing in the well-being and the belonging of our New Hanover County community for this generation and for decades to come. I wish you a swift, smooth and strong execution of this project. Thank you."

Sophie Dagenais, President and CEO

Building a Healthier Future for New Hanover County Together

Sophie Dagenais
President & CEO



A Public Forum | September 22, 2026

Building a Healthier Future for New Hanover County, Together



In 2024, The Endowment made a three-year investment of \$22.3 million in the New Hanover Healthcare Career Partnership comprising of New Hanover County Schools, the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) and the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and aligning educators and employers around shared strategies for strengthening nursing pathways.

The need was clear. North Carolina was projected to face a shortage of 17,500 nurses by 2033. In New Hanover County, by 2030, nursing jobs in New Hanover County alone are projected to grow 21%.

The Endowment's investment helped answer a call to action, and since then the partnership has taken a long-term approach to building the region's nursing workforce, reaching students as early as fifth grade, supporting nursing students through graduation, and creating opportunities for graduates to stay and work in the region.

On September 22, the partners gathered at UNCW's Lumina Theater for a public forum to share results to date, lessons learned and where the work is headed. Community members heard directly from partner leaders and brought their own questions.



"Today, and together, we are learning what works," said Sophie Dagenais, President and CEO of The Endowment. "And that's a role that The Endowment can play: to foster learning, to share what we learn, and to discover together and help demonstrate solutions to problems we all share."

The stakes are personal, Dagenais shared. "We and all the people we love in New Hanover County are patients, consumers of health care. We all need nurses, so, this nursing shortage truly impacts everyone in New Hanover County."

Dr. Umar Bowers, Co-founder and Medical Director of Dawson Med, moderated the forum. As a local physician, he has seen both the workforce challenges and the partnership, and the difference student support can make.

"I personally have seen it in my clinic, my practice manager's daughter. Her name is Alyssa. She actually accomplished her dreams and goals of becoming a nurse at Cape Fear through some of these wraparound services that The Endowment provided. So, personally, I've seen this happen."

At the forum, Laurie Whalin, President of Novant Health's Coastal Region, described a nursing shortage that began before the pandemic and grew more pressing as the workforce aged and demand for care increased. She said Novant Health has hired 1,200 registered nurses since the partnership began, including a record 200 new graduates last year. Travel nurses, who made up about 40% of their nursing workforce at the pandemic peak, account for only 4% today.

"We are in a much different place today and a much stronger position, but that didn't happen by accident," Whalin said, pointing to investments in nurses, workforce development, and long-term partnerships.

Steven Hill, Vice President of Talent Development for the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, shared how regional growth adds, and will continue to add, to the needs for a robust pipeline of healthcare workers. New Hanover, Pender, and Brunswick counties added about 70,000 residents between 2020 and 2025, he said, with roughly 126,000 more residents projected by 2030 and nearly a quarter-million by 2040.

Connecting Education to Careers
At the forum, Mandy Mills, Director of Career & Technical Education for New Hanover County Schools, shared how students are introduced early to healthcare careers. The district offers more than 30 career and technical education pathways, and its Nursing Fundamentals program has expanded from one high school with 10 students in 2023 to all four traditional high schools, with capacity for 50 students in the 2025–26 school year.

Susannah McDobens, a 10th grader, first explored healthcare through the Career and Leadership Development Academy in seventh grade. Now in the Health Sciences Academy, and HOSA she continues to explore healthcare careers while working toward certifications in CNA I, CNA II, Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy.

"I've learned that there's not one career you have to choose," she said. She now hopes to become a physician assistant.

Mills said, "We want students to not only be aware of the opportunities but actually be able to see themselves in those opportunities."





What Comes Next

During the audience discussion, one attendee asked whether the model could address shortages across healthcare beyond nursing, including respiratory therapy, physicians, and other disciplines. Dagenais said the infrastructure being built has the potential to support multiple healthcare professions and eventually other industries. The first step, she explained, is learning what works, so the partners know what's ready to scale.

"The possibility is that this model may be a model that we can expand and scale across multiple disciplines within a sector, and possibly even across various sectors," Dagenais said.

Another audience member asked how the region could better connect military and veteran talent with healthcare careers, noting that many service members bring healthcare experience as hospital corpsmen, combat medics, and other medical professionals.

Andrea Weaver, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer at UNCW, encouraged veterans to explore the university's Office of Military Affairs, admissions, and transfer programs, which offer opportunities to receive credit for military service and prior experience. Dean Naylor pointed to CFCC's Veterans Center and its ongoing work to recognize more of the skills and experience veterans bring to the classroom.

English noted that the relationships built through the partnership also create opportunities to identify barriers and advocate for solutions at the state level. Laurie Whalin highlighted Novant Health's partnership with Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune on a civilian-military psychiatry residency program, with its first class of psychiatrists expected to graduate next year.





nursing program and they're able to take two of those courses for free with the and are also provided with the resources



New Hanover Healthcare Career Partnership

Visit The Endowment's [HCP webpage](#) to learn more about the forum and the partnership, including slides, videos, photos, transcript, and highlights. You can also visit the [New Hanover Healthcare Career Partnership website](#) to learn more about the partnership's work.

- [Highlight Reel](#)
- [Full Video: Public Forum](#)
- [Video: Employer and Provider Perspectives](#)
- [Video: Student Perspectives](#)
- [Slides](#)
- [Transcript](#)

Questions submitted during the Q&A session were answered during the event or in follow-up communications. For additional information, please contact information@theendowment.org.

Learn more about the [New Hanover Healthcare Career Partnership](#)





Cape Fear Clinic

Impact Spotlight: A 2023 Investment Making a Lasting Difference

For adults without health insurance, care is often out of reach long before they ever see a doctor. Many don't know where to go. Others can't get to an appointment or afford the medication they're prescribed. Too often, they go without care until a problem becomes an emergency.

Cape Fear Clinic works to change that and to break down the other barriers that keep people from care. The free and charitable clinic provides medical, pharmacy and mental health services to uninsured adults. It also recognizes that the people who most need its care are often the hardest to reach, so instead of waiting for them to find the clinic, it goes to them, through community organizations they already know and trust.

The investment

In 2023, the Endowment awarded Cape Fear Clinic a three-year, \$1.2 million grant to expand that approach through four partner organizations: The Healing Place, Good Shepherd Center, LINC and A Safe Place. By meeting people at these partner locations, the clinic reaches uninsured residents who might otherwise go without care, addresses their immediate needs and, opens the door to ongoing care, with Cape Fear Clinic as their medical home and access to medications through its full-service pharmacy.





MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS

20,411

(Jan 2024 – Jun 2026)

9,000
projected
(3 years)



126%
above
projections



UNIQUE
PATIENTS

2,637

(Jan 2024 – Jun 2026)

2,100
projected
(3 years)



26%
above
projections



PRESCRIPTIONS
DISPENSED

101,752

(Jan 2024 – Jun 2026)

65,000
projected
(3 years)



57%
above
projections

The scale of the work has exceeded the original three-year projections. From January 2024 through June 2026, Cape Fear Clinic has provided more care, reached more people and filled more prescriptions than initially anticipated—and in just 30 months.

The results

The clinic set projections for the full three years of the grant. It surpassed every one of them in just 30 months. From January 2024 through June 2026, Cape Fear Clinic:

- provided 20,411 medical appointments, against a three-year projection of about 9,000
- served 2,637 patients, against a projection of about 2,100
- dispensed 101,752 prescriptions, against a projection of about 65,000

More than an appointment

Those numbers tell only part of the story. Some patients arrive after a hospital visit. Others come through shelters, recovery programs or community partners. Still others walk in unsure where to begin. Whatever brings them in, the team starts by listening.

“Providing medical care is only part of what we do,” said Dr. Jennifer Buxton, the clinic’s Chief Operating Officer and Chief Pharmacy Officer. “We know that writing a prescription doesn’t help much if a patient can’t afford to fill it, and making a referral means little if they can’t get to the appointment. Our approach is about recognizing those barriers and working together to find solutions that actually work for our patients.”

Sometimes that means an appointment or a prescription.

Sometimes it means help with an application, transportation, health coverage or a referral to another provider. By coordinating services and following up, the clinic keeps practical obstacles from interrupting care.

For one patient connected through Good Shepherd Center, that coordination protected his sight. When a serious eye condition threatened his vision, Cape Fear Clinic, Good Shepherd and an eye specialist worked together to get him the care he needed quickly. His experience shows what this model makes possible: reaching people through organizations they trust, responding fast when it matters and opening the door to ongoing care.

National recognition

The approach has drawn notice well beyond New Hanover County. In 2026, the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics named Cape Fear Clinic its Member Organization of the Year, honoring its patient-centered care and its innovative efforts to reach people facing significant barriers to healthcare.

The next chapter

Building on these results, The Endowment awarded Cape Fear Clinic an additional \$850,000 in 2026 to strengthen its collaborative model. The grant supports integrated medical, behavioral health, pharmacy and care coordination services through community partnerships, and will help the clinic bring services closer to the people who need them and keep care consistent as patients’ circumstances change.

There is no single path to Cape Fear Clinic. But whether someone arrives through a partner, a referral or the front door, the goal is the same: meaningful access to care, and the support to keep moving forward.

Learn More About Cape Fear Clinic and Its Impact

<https://theendowment.org/cape-fear-clinic/>

Behavioral Health Landscape Analysis

NEW HANOVER COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT
AUGUST 2026



WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Behavioral health support that families can find easily, that reaches children and young people early, and that is delivered by professionals who stay in this community.

Behavioral health touches nearly every part of life in New Hanover County. It shapes how children arrive at school and whether they can learn once they are there. It also influences whether families hold together under strain, how people move through the justice system, and whether adults can enter and stay in the workforce. That reach is why The Endowment has made behavioral health a priority. Its work spans health, education, community safety, and community development, and progress in behavioral health strengthens all of them.

New Hanover County can become a community where behavioral health support is an ordinary part of growing up, where crisis is the exception rather than the way people enter care, and where the professionals who provide that care are able to stay. It is a future the county can build together with providers, schools, County agencies, community organizations, families, and The Endowment, each contributing over time.



Full Landscape Analysis:

- [Behavioral Health Landscape Analysis](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Appendix A](#)

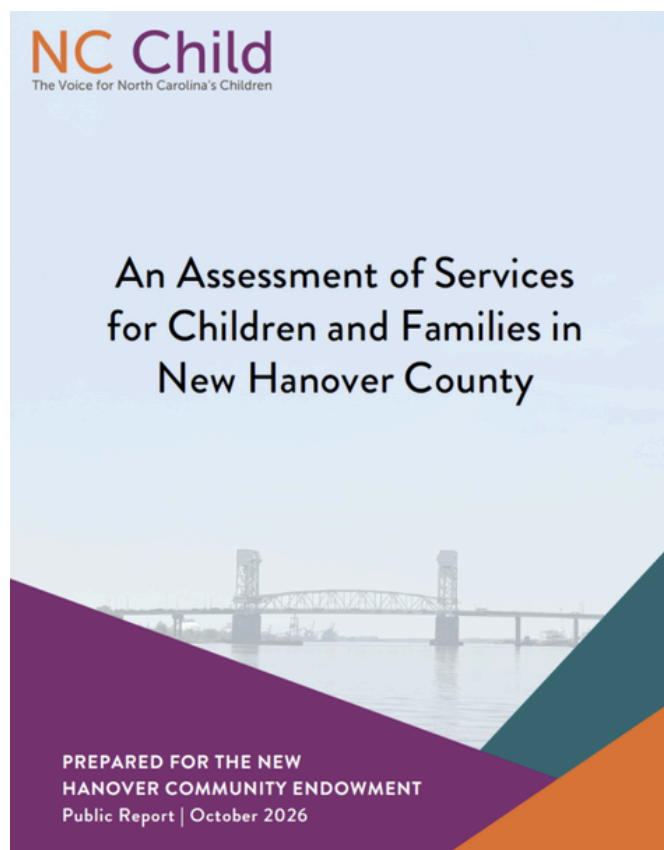


Early Childhood Landscape Assessment

PREPARED FOR THE NEW HANOVER
COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT

PUBLIC REPORT | OCTOBER 2026

The Early Childhood Landscape Assessment examines what young children and families need to thrive and where gaps remain in New Hanover County's early childhood system. The findings give the community a clearer picture of the challenges facing families and providers and point to opportunities to strengthen child care, support early childhood educators, connect families to resources, and expand services that give children a strong start.



Executive Summary

Children's early experiences are shaped by the care, relationships, and resources available to them and their families. Child care, early intervention, maternal and infant health care, housing, food access, and transportation all influence children's development. The New Hanover Community Endowment commissioned NC Child to conduct an early childhood needs assessment and develop strategies to strengthen New Hanover County's early childhood system. This report examines child care, child development, maternal and infant health, and the social conditions that affect children and families.

Phase I of the New Hanover County Early Childhood Landscape Analysis, conducted from January through March 2026, examined local indicators of child outcomes, provider capacity, workforce conditions, and system performance. Phase II, conducted from April through June 2026, added focus groups with parents, child care teachers, and directors, as well as interviews with community leaders and service providers. Conversations with state and national experts informed the strategies presented at the end of the report.

New Hanover County performs above the state average on several broad early childhood measures, but countywide results do not fully capture families' experiences. Child care remains difficult to find and afford. Infant care costs more than 10% of the median income of married couples in the county, exceeding the federal affordability benchmark of 7%. The burden is greater for single parents: approximately 26% of median income for single fathers and nearly 35% for single mothers. Parents described long waitlists, limited information about openings and tuition, and few options that accommodate non-traditional work hours.

Since 2019, the county has experienced a net loss of 10 licensed child care programs, an 11.9% decline. Among the 36 programs that responded to NC Child's January 2026 provider survey, 69.4% reported maintaining a waitlist. Yet enrollment filled only 59.4% of licensed capacity. Providers described classrooms that could serve more children but remain closed because they lack sufficient staff. Survey respondents estimated that they could collectively serve 774 additional children if staffing barriers were resolved. This figure reflects the responding programs, not a countywide projection.

Financial pressures make those staffing barriers difficult to address. For infants in five-star centers, the report estimates that subsidy reimbursements cover 56.5% of the cost of care, leaving a gap of approximately \$946 per infant each month. Directors described balancing rising operating costs against tuition that families can afford. Teachers described low wages, inconsistent benefits, limited planning time, and burnout. Parents recognized the need to pay educators more while questioning how their families could manage higher tuition.

The analysis also found gaps in children's developmental and educational supports. Participation in early intervention services is below the state average. At the beginning of the 2024–2025 school year, 36% of

Full Report:

[An Assessment of Services for Children and Families in New Hanover County](#)



[Executive Summary](#)



[Child Insights Dashboard](#)



The Community Advisory Council

Quarter 3: Engagement & Contributions

This quarter, the Community Advisory Council (CAC) continued to strengthen The Endowment's connection to New Hanover County residents and community partners. Members participated in public events, contributed local perspectives to community initiatives and supported the Fall Community Grant review process.

July 26, Roberto Ramirez and fellow CAC member Mireya Lupercio contributed input to the recreation assessment during an engagement session at Los Portales.



In August, longtime CAC member Carolyn Beatty stepped down from the Council. We are grateful for Carolyn's dedicated service, thoughtful perspective and commitment to ensuring community voices help inform The Endowment's work. Her contributions helped strengthen the CAC's role as a valued source of community insight and guidance.



September was an especially active month. Eight CAC members completed training and served alongside Endowment staff on pillar-specific review teams, rigorously evaluating and scoring Fall Community Grant applications. Their local knowledge and perspectives helped keep community needs central to the review process.

CAC members also engaged with the Healthcare Career Partnership initiative, including the September 22 Public Forum at UNCW, where CAC member Roberto Ramirez delivered closing remarks.

Members were also invited to Wilmington Business Journal Power Breakfast events focused on healthcare.

Through grant reviews, public forums and community assessments, CAC members continued to provide valuable perspectives and lived experiences, helping ensure The Endowment's work remains informed by the community it serves.

Community Advisory Council Engagement | July–September 2026

- **July 2026 | Healthcare Community Engagement:** CAC members were invited to attend the Wilmington Business Journal's Power Breakfast focused on healthcare.
- **July 26, 2026 | Recreation Assessment:** CAC members Roberto Ramirez and Mireya Lupercio participated in a community input session at Los Portales, connecting with residents as part of The Endowment's recreation assessment.
- **August 2026 | Council Transition:** Longtime CAC member Carolyn Beatty stepped down from her role. The Endowment recognizes and appreciates her service and contributions to the Council.
- **September 2026 | Community Grants Review:** Seven CAC members completed training and served alongside Endowment staff on pillar-specific review teams, evaluating and scoring applications for the Fall 2026 Community Grants Program.
- **September 2026 | Community Engagement:** CAC members were invited to attend the Wilmington Business Journal's Power Breakfast, providing an opportunity to engage with regional leaders and community stakeholders.
- **September 22, 2026 | Healthcare Career Partnership Public Forum:** CAC members were invited to participate in The Endowment's public forum at UNCW, highlighting progress and collaboration across the Healthcare Career Partnership. CAC member Roberto Ramirez delivered closing remarks, reinforcing the importance of community perspectives in shaping long-term solutions.

SOCIAL & HEALTH EQUITY

Grant Payments and New Awards Q3 2026

Bread for Life Senior Pantry (BFL)



\$100,000 (Awarded Q2, 2025)
\$25,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support operations, expand senior outreach, and provide food and essential items to older adults.

Cape Fear Clinic Inc



\$850,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

Funding will support and strengthen Cape Fear Clinic's proven collaborative healthcare model, delivering integrated medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, and care coordination services through trusted community partnerships.

Cape Fear Group Homes Inc



\$180,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$91,547 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

The grant funded an Integrated Education Coordinator position to provide training and education for direct support staff, employment specialists, and community partners.

Cape Fear HealthNet Inc



\$125,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$125,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

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

Coastal Horizons Center Inc



\$4,039,073 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

Build and strengthen New Hanover County's trauma-informed behavioral health continuum by supporting implementation of a Tier IV Behavioral Health Urgent Care, providing matching funds for one of the county's few permanent supportive housing programs to leverage HUD funding, sustaining the county's only rape crisis program, and implementing and scaling the Trauma Institute.

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear Inc



\$2,507,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$2,507,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
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 support, and improve coordination among healthcare and community-based organizations.

Med North



\$1,271,095 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support a one-stop shop center to deliver coordinated medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and ancillary services that close care gaps, advance health equity, and strengthen the overall well-being of the population served.

New Hanover County - Administration



\$1,244,215 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$512,786 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To fund a two-year grocery delivery program serving all 8 food deserts in New Hanover County.

Welcome Home Angel



\$247,500 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To provide down payment assistance for the acquisition of a permanent home for Welcome Home Angel.

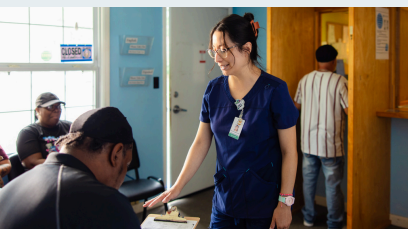
NC Department of Health and Human Services



\$50,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$50,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Social and Health Equity

To support implementation of the 2026 Sun Bucks program serving North Carolina children in New Hanover County.

Our grants provide funding for organizations whose work aligns with our mission, four pillars, and strategic priorities.



EDUCATION

Grant Payments and New Awards Q3 2026

Cape Fear Community College Foundation



\$5,500,000 (Awarded Q4, 2023)
\$687,500 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

This grant supports Cape Fear Community College Foundation's (CFCC) aims to broaden its impact on high school students by discovering and connecting with individuals interested in advanced manufacturing and other industry sectors. The goal is to provide students with post-secondary education, career pathways, and apprenticeship opportunities. Participation in these programs can pave the way to secure local employment in high-demand fields with competitive wages.

Christ Community Church of Wilmington North Carolina, DBA El Cuerpo



\$440,000 (Awarded Q2, 2025)
\$225,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

To augment tutoring & enrichment services and provide academic support, mentorship, and social resources to students at Mary C Williams and Myrtle Grove Middle School and their families.

Union Baptist Church



\$400,000 (Awarded Q2, 2025)
\$200,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

To support the operation of the Union Missionary Baptist Church After School program.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) - Academic Affairs - Student Engagement, Enrollment, & Retention (SEER) - Precollege Programs



\$675,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$225,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

Funding supported near-peer advising, FAFSA assistance, college applications, and postsecondary planning for high school students.

Our grants provide funding for organizations whose work aligns with our mission, four pillars, and strategic priorities.

Child Development Center Inc



\$800,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

To support a behavioral and mental health program through a full-time early childhood behavioral and mental health professional to provide assessment, individualized intervention, classroom consultation, direct child support, staff coaching, family consultation, data collection, coordination with community providers, and a research-based social-emotional curriculum.

Girls Leadership Academy of Wilmington Foundation



\$896,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$896,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

To close opportunity gaps by strengthening academic supports, expanding access to transportation, and providing meaningful career exposure and leadership development that help students build the skills needed for postsecondary success and economic mobility.

United Way of the Cape Fear Area



\$25,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$25,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

To support exploration of the StriveTogether implementation model by sponsoring a New Hanover County delegation to attend a national conference.

North Carolina Aquarium Society



\$7,500,000 (Awarded Q1, 2025)
\$2,500,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Education

To help build new education spaces as part of the overall expansion and renovation of the aquarium, including interior classrooms, space for live animal encounters, an outdoor classroom, a new deck walkway to the marsh for experiential learning, and an entry pavilion to provide a secure entrance for student groups.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Grant Payments and New Awards Q3 2026

A Safe Place

\$313,806 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$313,806 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Safety

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

Dreams of Wilmington Inc

\$412,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$177,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Safety

To support facility upgrades and resources, and help build diversified and sustainable funding pathways, for youth development through arts education.

Education Without Walls

\$160,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$80,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Safety

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

Five 14 Revolution Inc

\$822,600 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$287,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
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.

Keep Your Hands Off Me, Inc.

\$300,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$150,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Safety

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

United Way of the Cape Fear Area

\$2,801,248 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$1,400,624 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Safety

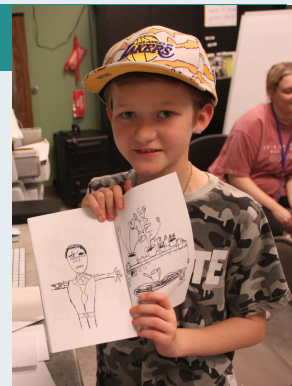
To support a network of nonprofit and public partners working to address the social determinants of crime in neighborhoods with above-average community needs.

The Salvation Army

\$226,861 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Safety

The Grant will retain and attract qualified Center of Hope Social Service Professionals who positively impact the lives of Center of Hope residents.

Our grants provide funding for organizations whose work aligns with our mission, four pillars, and strategic priorities.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Grant Payments and New Awards Q3 2026

Cape Fear Council of Governments



\$200,000 (Awarded Q2, 2025)
\$99,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Development

To sustain the New Hanover County Coordinated Entry Program, the primary entry point to housing and services in New Hanover County homeless response system. Request is for two years of funding.

Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity



\$950,000 (Awarded Q2, 2026)
\$950,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Development

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

North Carolina Center for Non Profit Organizations Inc



\$40,000 (Awarded Q3, 2025)
\$20,000 (Drawdown Q3, 2026)
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.

Town of Carolina Beach



\$3,500,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Development

Carolina Beach Park & Event Stage will create a year-round oceanfront civic space including a professional performance stage, amphitheater, open lawns, accessible pathways, emergency access, stormwater improvements, and connections to the Boardwalk, beach, and commercial district.

Town of Wrightsville Beach



\$1,500,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Development

To support Phase I of the John Nesbitt Loop Expansion project to improve the accessibility, functionality, and amenities associated with the most popular trail in NHC.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) - Academic Affairs - College of Health & Human Services (CHHS)



\$2,868,000 (Awarded Q4, 2023)
Pillar: Community Development

Funding supported workforce development efforts to recruit, train, and retain healthcare professionals in New Hanover County.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) - Academic Affairs - Research & Innovation (R&I) - Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE)



\$125,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)

To support three core programs for NHC entrepreneurs: Idea Test Lab, the CIE Mentor Program, and 1 Million Cups.

YMCA of Southeastern North Carolina



\$6,500,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Development

To support the development of a 50-meter indoor aquatics center at the Nir Family YMCA in NHC to significantly expand the community's access to aquatic recreation, water safety, wellness, competitive swimming, and community programming.

Our grants provide funding for organizations whose work aligns with our [mission](#), [four pillars](#), and [strategic priorities](#).

YWCA Lower Cape Fear



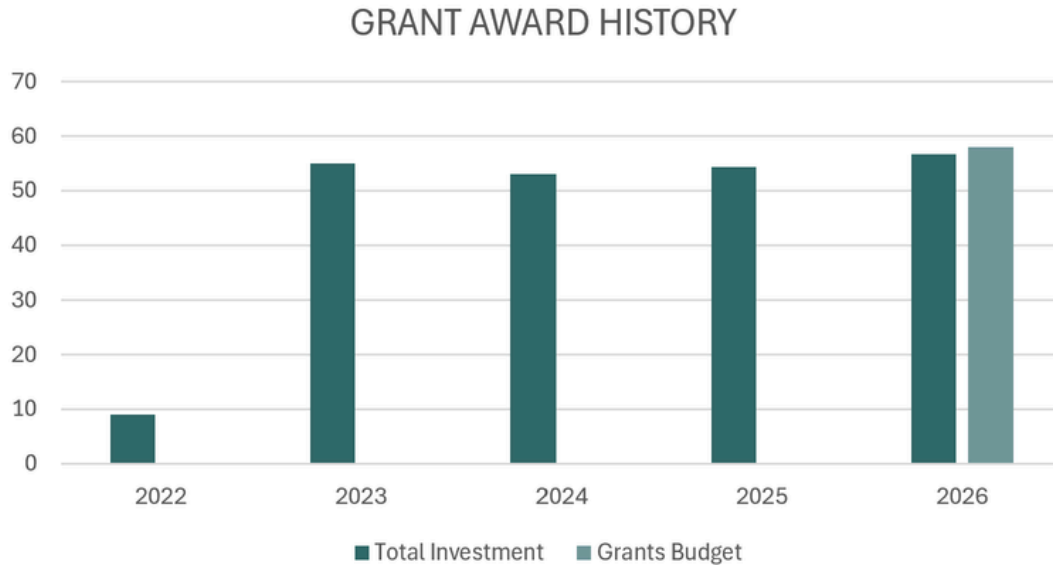
\$2,000,000 (Awarded Q3, 2026)
Pillar: Community Development

To support a renovations and infrastructure improvement project at the YWCA Aquatics Center including pool resurfacing, deck restoration, accessibility enhancements, ADA-compliant locker rooms and entrances, flood mitigation, upgraded HVAC systems, energy-efficient lighting, improved safety features, and modernization of community spaces.



grant award HISTORY

as of September 30, 2026



2026 (Preliminary, YTD)

- New Grants Awarded in 2026: 84
- Total 2026 Grants Budget: \$58 million
- 2026 Budget Remaining: \$1.35 million + \$2 million emergency recovery grant reserve
- Total 2026 Commitments (including new, prior and multi-year): \$73.8 million*

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

Historical & Cumulative Totals

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

Cumulative Grants (Since Inception): 447

Awards Committed (Since Inception): \$343.9 million*

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



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