

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chambers

Community Development Committee

*Christopher Williams, Chair
Wesley Hudson
Cyril Jefferson
Tyrone Johnson
Mayor Jay Wagner (Alternate)
Mayor Pro Tem Britt Moore (Alternate)*

As part of the city of High Point's on-going COVID-19 mitigation efforts, in-person attendance will not be allowed at this meeting. Instead, the meeting will be live-streamed and the public can listen to the meeting as it is being live-streamed by clicking on the following link www.HighPointNC.gov/VirtualPublicMeeting.

Community Development Committee - Council Member Williams, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

[2021-182](#)

Update-Homeless Services-Guilford County Continuum of Care

Staff and Officers of the Guilford County Continuum of Care will provide an update on Homeless Services.

[2021-183](#)

Update-CDBG-CV Funding

Staff will provide an update on the CDBG-CV funding.

Attachments: [CDBG - CV VITA Updates 5-4-2021](#)

[2021-184](#)

Update-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Staff will provide an update on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Community Development & Housing Department

C.A.R.E.S. Act and related funding

&

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Community Development Committee

May 4, 2021

CDBG-CV and related funding recap

CDBG-CV must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

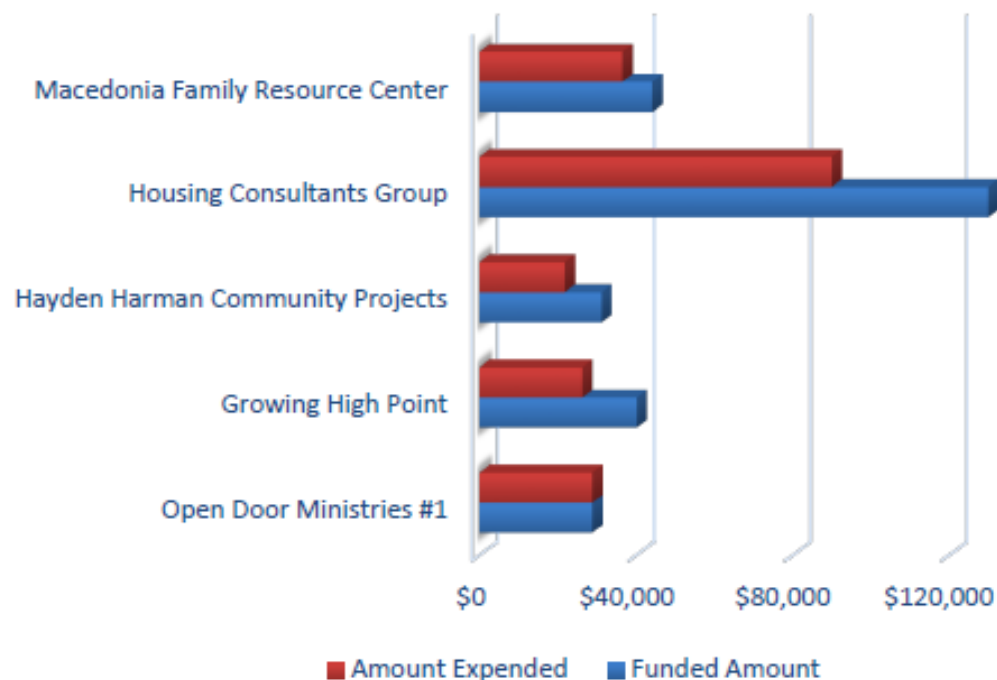
- Contracts issued totaled \$552,706.00 leaving an unencumbered balance of \$0
 - \$333,492.53 reimbursed to date as of April 30th (60.3% expended)
 - \$219,213.47 balance to expend on existing contracts
- CDBG-CV3 (2nd allocation) = \$588,561.
- Total CDBG-CV allocation from 2 awards = \$1,141,357
- CD&H plans to amend the Action Plan to appropriate \$588,561 in CDBG-CV3
 - May 27th – Present AAP Amendment to CAC
 - June 8th – Present AAP Amendment to CD Committee
 - July 19th – Public hearing before Council
 - July 21st – Council approval for submission (if still following 24-hour rule)
 - July 23rd – Submit 2019 AAP Amendment to HUD
- City notified of an allocation of HOME funds from the ARP in the amount of \$1,988,359
- Funds are to be used to address homeless assistance needs by
 - creating affordable housing or non-congregate shelter units and/or
 - providing tenant-based rental assistance or supportive services

Agency	Activity Type	Project Description and Performance Goals Achieved	Funding Awarded	Expended to Date
Open Door Ministries	Services for the Homeless	This project allowed social distancing of homeless men by opening a temporary emergency shelter located at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Project is complete. 11 homeless men were assisted with emergency shelter. The temporary shelter was staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 12 part time staff were paid using grant funds.	\$28,800.00	\$28,800.00
Growing High Point	Improving Food Access in Low Income Neighborhoods	The "Mobile Market" project will increase access to healthy and affordable foods for vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ten (10) mobile market locations - all in low-income neighborhoods that are also considered "food deserts", are up and running. Mobile grocery store operations began March 1 st .	\$40,150.00	\$26,225.18
Hayden Harman Community Projects	Improving Health and Access to Sanitation Services in Low Income Neighborhoods	The project, "Sanitation Stations During COVID-19", will prevent and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing sanitizing stations in low to moderate income neighborhoods. These stations are equipped with portable toilets and handwashing stations. Project expected to be completed by the end of May 2021.	\$31,090.00	\$21,797.62
Housing Consultants Group	Emergency Financial Assistance	The project, "COVID-19: Response and Recovery", will provide financial education classes targeting those that are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is providing emergency financial assistance up to \$1,000 per participant for rent or mortgage assistance. Assistance has been provided to 65 families. Another 9 applications have been approved and are pending payment.	\$130,000.00	\$90,000.00
Macedonia Family Resource Center	Reducing Food Hardship in Low Income Neighborhoods	The project, "COVID-19 Emergency Assistance", will enable Macedonia FRC to expand the hours of operation for their food pantry by hiring 2 new part-time staff, replenish the food pantry supplies, and provide a community meal open to anyone who has experienced hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Macedonia provides food and essentials supplies daily until 6:30 pm. They offer hot meals once per month to over 100 individuals within the community.	\$44,160.00	\$36,514.07

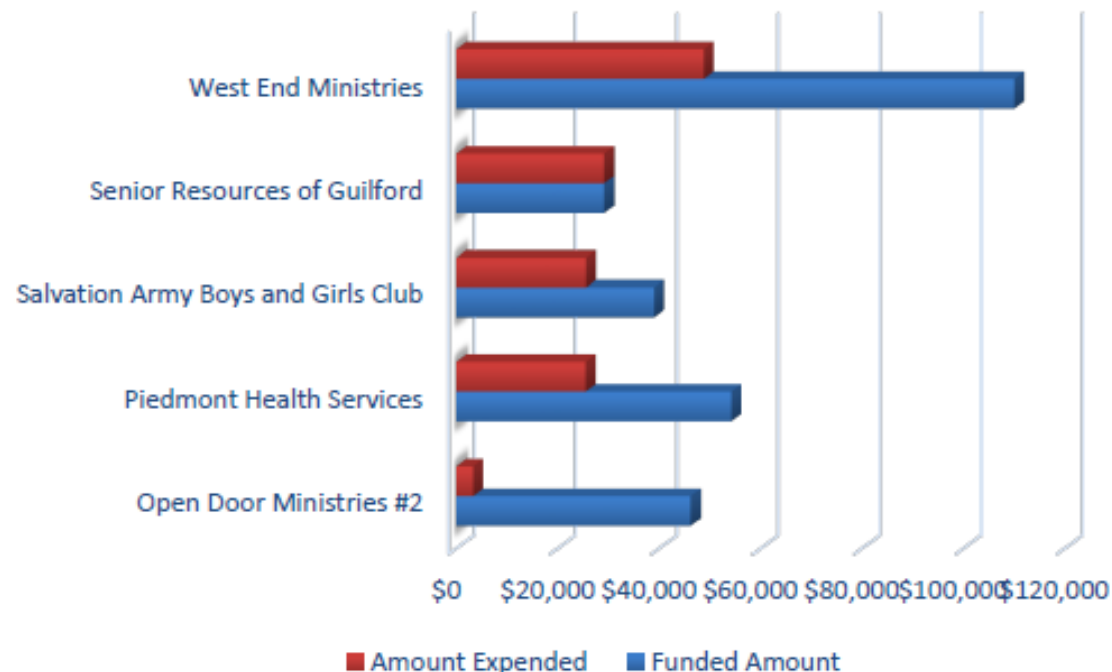
Agency	Activity Type	Project Description and Performance Goals Achieved	Funding Awarded	Expended to Date
Open Door Ministries	Services for the Homeless and Emergency Financial Assistance	The project, "Getting Through This Together", will provide emergency rent and utility assistance to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will also provide first month's rent, security, and utility deposit assistance to transition homeless men into permanent housing. 6 residents have been assisted with rental payments and moved into permanent housing. Emergency financial assistance is being provided by other funding at this time. The agency expects to increase expenditures under this funding by the next update.	\$46,200.00	\$3,275.00
Piedmont Health and Sickle Cell Agency	Emergency Financial Assistance and Health Services for Low Income Neighborhoods	The project, "Life After COVID-19", will equip the organization with personal protective equipment and office supplies to ensure a safe environment for their staff and clients receiving health services. The project will also provide emergency assistance to low-income families enrolled in the food program. The agency has served 25 households and 37 total individuals.	\$54,169.00	\$25,475.30
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club	Youth and Education Services	The project, "Club C.A.R.E.S.", will provide childcare assistance for low to moderate income individuals that will allow them to return to work following the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will also provide extra educational opportunities for children who have fallen behind with the closure of schools. Funding will cover the parent's cost for the summer camp and after school program once school starts in the Fall. Services have been provided to 64 children.	\$39,000.00	\$23,530.00
Senior Resources of Guilford	Services for the Elderly and Improving Food Access	The "Food and Rides for Elderly Adults in a COVID-19 Environment" program will provide delivered meals to 25 homebound seniors in High Point. Program will include transportation costs to transport seniors to medical appointments and local farmers' market. Senior Resources has delivered a total of 2,814 meals to fifty (53) homebound seniors in High Point. In addition to the meals delivered, fifty (50) rides for fourteen (14) senior riders over the grant period.	\$29,137.00	\$29,137.00

West End Ministries	Services for the Homeless and Emergency Financial Assistance	The project, “Leslie’s House Shelter/Housing Stabilization”, will provide funding for increased case management services for homeless women with a goal of moving them from the shelter and into permanent housing quicker. To date, 59 homeless women have been provided emergency and supportive services. The grant has enabled West End to hire extra staffing to provide increased case management. The agency has been awarded additional funding to provide emergency rent and utility assistance to those with COVID-19 related hardships.	\$110,000.00	\$48,738.36
		Total CDBG-CV Funding Allocated	\$552,706.00	
		Total Expended to Date		\$333,492.53

CDBG-CV Grant Expenditures



CDBG-CV Grant Expenditures



High Point VITA Coalition



We value...

Preparing Accurate Returns

Providing Excellent Customer Service

Serving Clients with Low to Limited Incomes and Educating Clients on Ways to Maximize Their Tax Refund

Earning Client Trust

Connecting Clients to Community Resources

Protecting Client Confidentiality and Safeguarding Client Information

COVID-19 Preventative Measures

- Appointments only (staggered)
- “Drive Up & Drop Off” option
- Virtual Prep option
- PPE – Masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer
- Single-use, disposable pens for clients
- Remote options – telephone intake, quality review via Zoom or telephone
- Social distancing
- Ability to email secured link for clients to access completed tax returns
- Site hours are limited based on site location availability and restrictions in place. Many sites are closed to the public or operating on reduced hours.

VITA 2021 (January 26th – April 13th)

Monday	• GTCC Jamestown 9am – 12pm (In-person appts starting 2/1) • HPU Tax Prep/QR/Scheduling Appts 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday	• The Arc of High Point 9am – 12pm (In-person drop off/intake) • HP Library Book Mobile 5pm – 7pm (pick ups)
Wednesday	• GTCC High Point 9am – 12pm (In-person drop off/intake) • HPU Tax Prep/QR 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Thursday	• GTCC High Point 9am – 12pm (In-person QR/pick up) • YWCA 5pm – 7pm (Valet tax prep appointments)
Friday	• GTCC Jamestown 9am – 12pm (In-person appts starting 2/1) • HPU Tax Prep/QR 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Saturday	• HP Library Book Mobile 10am – 2:00pm (Drop off/intake) • Macedonia FRC Times 12pm – 4pm (Drop off/Intake/Prep/QR)

VITA Sites

In-person Tax Prep Locations

The Arc of High Point
153 E Bellevue Dr

GTCC Jamestown
and GTCC High
Point

Tax Prep (etc.) Only Locations

High Point University
Phillips 116

Macedonia Family
Resource Center
401 Lake Ave

Drive Up & Drop off /Pick Up Locations

High Point Library
Book Mobile
901 N. Main St.

YWCA High Point
155 W. Westwood Ave

Macedonia Family
Resource Center

Drive Up & Drop Off Book Mobile @ the High Point Library



HPPL 2020

Drive Up

- Tax appointments required. Drop off and pick up appointments.
- Designated VITA parking.

Intake Interview

- Intake sheet will be filled out and interview with clients takes place car-side.

Document Scanning

- Client documents are scanned and originals are returned.
- Client signs Drop Off Consent VITA form and leaves with instructions on next steps.

*Returns prepared off site. Volunteers and tax clients have access to HP Library for restrooms. Volunteers only inside heated Book Mobile.



Drive Up & Drop Off

@ Macedonia Family Resource Center



Drive Up

Tax appointments required. Drop off and pick up appointments.

Designated VITA parking.



Intake Interview

Intake sheet will be filled out and interview with clients takes place car-side.



Document Scanning

Client documents are scanned and originals are returned.

Client signs Virtual VITA form and leaves with instructions on next steps.



Car-side Tax Preparation Appointments @ YWCA High Point

Tax clients wait in their cars while their returns are prepared. Intake interviews and reviews with clients take place car-side or by phone.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Program Year	Tax Year	Total Returns	Federal Refunds	EITC	Average AGI
1	2006	151	\$130,811	\$53,153	\$13,496
2	2007	378	\$259,165	\$125,463	\$12,135
3	2008	320	\$330,565	\$141,582	\$12,567
4	2009	341	\$457,804	\$183,006	\$14,329
5	2010	417	\$546,725	\$236,249	\$14,740
6	2011	325	\$425,126	\$186,284	\$14,226
7	2012	522	\$659,069	\$297,529	\$16,025
8	2013	462	\$589,519	\$264,982	\$15,738
9	2014	530	\$643,009	\$265,381	\$17,161
10	2015	525	\$657,578	\$287,289	\$16,948
11	2016	807	\$1,025,488	\$369,275	\$20,424
12	2017	884	\$1,052,918	\$434,460	\$21,211
13	2018	1,050	\$1,211,356	\$499,858	\$21,814
14	2019*	725	\$1,015,848	\$376,338	\$22,452
15	2020**	653	\$866,361	\$245,691	\$21,969
PROGRAM TOTALS		8,090	\$9,871,342	\$3,966,540	\$17,016

*Sites closed in March due to COVID-19 pandemic. 2 locations reopen briefly in June and July to complete the filing season.

**Site hours limited due to COVID-19 restrictions and varied site accessibility. Season is ongoing as IRS/State filing and payment deadlines have been extended until May 17th.

Season Highlights

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



VITA SITES

6

TOTAL OPERATING HOURS

414

VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARERS

35

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,300

COMMUNITY IMPACT

653	×	\$250	=	\$163,250
RETURNS		AVERAGE PAID PREPARER FEE		AMOUNT SAVED BY USING VITA

CLIENTS

Average Gross Income \$21,969

Average Age 58

Filers with Dependents 102

Season Highlights

- Tax returns impacted by the ARP had to be held until the IRS issued guidance and developed new tax forms and the tax software was updated.
- Taxpayers that filed prior to these changes will have the returns automatically adjusted by the IRS.
- The State of North Carolina has not allowed the exclusion of unemployment income.
- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 excluded from income the first \$10,200 in unemployment compensation received in 2020 per taxpayer on their 2020 tax return.
- The ARP Act also suspended the requirement that taxpayers increase their tax liability by all or a portion of their excess advance payments of the Premium Tax Credit (excess APTC) for tax year 2020. A taxpayer's excess APTC is the amount by which the taxpayer's advance payments of the Premium Tax Credit (APTC) exceed his or her Premium Tax Credit (PTC).
- **15% of VITA clients had at least 1 adult receiving unemployment benefits during 2020.**

Thank You

Michael E. McNair, M.P.A.

Director, Community Development & Housing Department

336-883-3676

michael.mcnair@highpointnc.gov