

## Alexander County

### Covid-19 Grant Outcomes and Accomplishments

*County and local governments used these funds in many ways, including: supporting public health and safety personnel, equipment for health departments, grants for small businesses and non-profits, and economic support to individuals.*

Session Law	Item	Total Funding Authorized to Alexander County
S.L. 2020-4	Local Government Assistance	\$1,587,828.50

At the outset of this program, Alexander County developed two primary goals to be accomplished with the use of Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds provided through the State of North Carolina. These goals were developed with the intent of maximizing the use of available funding to aid in the recovery efforts undertaken by Alexander County in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Alexander County two primary goals with respect to recovery efforts during the COVID19 pandemic were as follows:

**Goal 1: Prevent or reduce furloughs of employees during the pandemic to help reduce the unemployment rate in North Carolina.**

**Goal 2: Equip employees with appropriate personal protective equipment in an effort to mitigate their risk of exposure to COVID19 while performing their official duties.**

In an effort to achieve these goals, Alexander County elected to utilize a majority of allocated Coronavirus Relief Funds to cover payroll expenses for eligible public safety employees. These employees are essential to the efficient and safe operation of government, serving on the frontlines of this pandemic on a daily basis. The loss of any of these positions would be a detriment to governmental operations as well as the community as a whole. The use of these funds to cover payroll expenses allowed Alexander County to continue normal operations without the need for reductions in force, furloughs, or position eliminations.

Although Alexander County had to reduce its workforce by eliminating three full time positions in June of 2020, no further workforce reductions became necessary, due in part to the availability and use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund allocations. Funds have also been used in conjunction with local funding to provide appropriate personal protective equipment to all Alexander County employees in an effort to reduce their exposure risk while carrying out their official duties. These efforts combined to help maintain full staffing levels during the pandemic response efforts.

Alexander County also served as the pass-through entity for the municipal allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds. The Town of Taylorsville is the sole municipality within Alexander County. Following consultation with officials from the Town of Taylorsville, it was determined that the best course of action would be for the Town of Taylorsville to submit reimbursement requests to Alexander County for review prior to the County disbursing any Coronavirus Relief Funds to the Town. This procedure allowed for appropriate monitoring of how the funds were being used to ensure those uses met current guidance. Alexander County relied on its established Subrecipient Monitoring Policy for guidance on the procedures to follow and disbursed funds on a reimbursement basis to the Town of Taylorsville.

Near the end of 2020, Alexander County was notified by the Town of Taylorsville that they would not be able to claim 100% of their original allocation due to a reduction in eligible payroll expenses resulting in a surplus of \$49,957.00 in unused funds. Alexander County requested that the Town of



Taylorsville consider allowing the County to reallocate those funds to cover eligible public safety payroll expenses for the County. Permission was granted by the Town to reallocate the funds in order to maximize the use of the total allocation and documentation to that effect was obtained. This reallocation of funds allowed for the funds to be fully utilized for eligible expenses and further increased Alexander County's ability to meet its goals of preventing employee furloughs.

