

Vance 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 Vance County |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| S.L. 2020-4 | Local Government Assistance | \$1,838,932 |

Vance County provided its CRF funds to the City of Henderson (\$459,733) and the Granville-Vance Health Department (\$101,637) with the balance (\$1,385,492.79) utilized by the County. All of the funds, whether provided to the City, the health department or the County, were utilized to cover payroll for front line workers (EMS, Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, City police department, and health department workers). All of these workers are critical first responders in the COVID fight and are substantially deployed, addressing pandemic-related duties in addition to regular response duties.

Even with this funding, these first responders are inundated and as COVID cases have occurred within these departments, staffing challenges remain. As case counts increase, the CRF funding was also essential in allowing the County to provide emergency paid sick leave as needed to employees.

As a result of utilizing the CRF funds for payroll expenses, the County made a choice to utilize additional County dollars to outfit buildings and work areas to better socially distance and prepare the spaces for the public. These County-funded projects (outside CRF funding) included adding a video system in the commissioners room that has allowed for remote meetings, retrofit of bathrooms and doors to make them touchless, installation of drop boxes, installation of hand sanitizer and temperature scan stations at entrances, and other upgrades.

Additionally, County funds were utilized to purchase laptops and prepare certain departments for remote working. One of the purchases included backpack sprayers and handheld sprayers that have allowed maintenance and public safety staff to disinfect vehicles and workspaces regularly as well as following positive COVID cases. This has allowed for only minor interruptions and quicker reopening of County facilities following positive cases. The purchase of enhanced PPE for EMS and other public safety departments has allowed them to continue operating and go into situations where known positive COVID cases are present, and to do this as safely as possible while carrying out the mission of helping citizens in need.

These upgrades were critical in allowing County departments to get back to semi-normal operations in a quicker timeframe. Without receiving CRF funding to assist with those substantially deployed, the County would not have been in position to create these other safeguards for employees and the public.

