

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 9

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TO FOSTER RESILIENCE IN COMMUNITIES AFTER STRESS AND TRAUMA (ReCAST)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

### **SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:**

In consultation with the Crossnore School, Forsyth County is seeking approval to apply for the ReCAST (Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma) program grant. The purpose of this program is to assist high-risk youth and families and promote resilience and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest through implementation of evidence-based violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs, as well as linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health services.

Based on the array of community advocacy actions over the past year and concerns of increased youth gang and gun violence, Forsyth County seeks the opportunity to operate within the ReCAST grant goals to further improve health and human service outcomes as a consolidated entity. The goals of the ReCAST program are the following:

- Building a foundation to promote well-being, resiliency, and community healing through community-based, participatory approaches;
- Creating more equitable access to trauma-informed community behavioral health resources;
- Strengthening the integration of behavioral health services and other community systems to address the social determinants of health, recognizing that factors, such as law enforcement practices, transportation, employment, and housing policies, can contribute to health outcomes;
- Creating community change through community-based, participatory approaches that promote community and youth engagement, leadership development, improved governance, and capacity building; and
- Ensuring that program services are culturally specific and developmentally appropriate.

If awarded such a grant, Forsyth County will receive one million dollars annually for five years. Key personnel must include a Project Director and Program Manager and the following are allowable activities of the ReCAST grant:

- Coordinate with housing and employment programs (e.g., Youth Build and Workforce Investment Act).
- Provide Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and/or other mental health literacy trainings for first responders (e.g., police, firefighters, emergency services staff), school personnel, clergy, parents, health and human services providers, and other child, family, and community-serving providers.
- Provide cultural competency and implicit bias reduction training to educators, first responders, and other community service providers, to increase awareness and acknowledgement of differences in language, age, culture, socio-economic status, political and religious beliefs, sexual orientation and gender identity, and life experiences.
- Provide activities that address behavioral health disparities and the social determinants of health.

- Provide trainings for law enforcement that focus on increasing positive police/community relationships.
- Provide self-care activities for first responders, educators, and health and human service providers, to reduce secondary traumatic stress (known as compassion fatigue).
- Provide workforce training in behavioral health aspects related to disaster recovery and crisis response for mental health professionals, disaster recovery 10 workers, and law enforcement (e.g., Skills for Psychological Recovery, Psychological First Aid, and Crisis Intervention Team).
- Provide individual and group counseling for grief and loss to support children and adolescents and other family members.

If awarded, this funding allocation could assist Forsyth County in capacity building as a trauma informed community, build systems collaboration among key community stakeholder, entities and service providers and leverage evidenced based services for our distressed youth with unfavorable social determinants of health outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS:  yes  no

SIGNATURE: *J. Dudley Watts, Jr. / JAW* COUNTY MANAGER DATE: February 01, 2021

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TO FOSTER  
RESILIENCE IN COMMUNITIES AFTER STRESS AND TRAUMA (ReCAST)**

**WHEREAS** the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), through its ReCAST Initiative, provides grant funding to local governments in an effort to foster resilience in youth and equity in communities through implementation of evidence-based, violence prevention, and community youth engagement programs, as well as linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health Services;

**WHEREAS** based on an array of unfavorable community wellbeing indicators such as gang and gun violence, academic underachievement, health disparity/social determinants of health and social mobility, the County Manager proposes to accept, if awarded, a grant of \$5,000,000.00 at \$1,000,000.00 per year over five years, to provide such services in collaboration with a lead action agency selected thereafter if funds are awarded; and

**WHEREAS** if the grant is awarded to Forsyth County, the County will fulfill the goals outlined by the ReCAST grant: (1) Build a foundation to promote well-being, resiliency, and community healing through community-based, participatory approaches, (2) Create more equitable access to trauma-informed community behavioral health resources, (3) Strengthen the integration of behavioral health services and other community systems to address the social determinants of health, recognizing that factors, such as law enforcement practices, transportation, employment, and housing policies, can contribute to health outcomes, (4) Create community change through community-based, participatory approaches that promote community and youth engagement, leadership development, improved governance, and capacity building; and (5) Ensure that program services are culturally specific and developmentally appropriate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to submit the grant application to the SAMHSA as set forth herein and to execute on behalf of Forsyth County the necessary documents to receive grant funds and support the goals previously outlined in this resolution, subject to pre-audit certificate thereon by the County Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2021.