

Buncombe County Celebrates New, Affordable, Workforce Housing

More than 60 new affordable and workforce housing units are available thanks to a project by Mountain Housing Opportunities (MHO) that was funded in part by Buncombe County.

The Eagle Market Place Apartments are helping families afford to live in downtown Asheville by providing monthly rents as low as \$272. That price point is critical for thousands of families in the county. In fact, data from MHO states shows more than 7,500 county households are spending more than half their income on rent.

In 2017, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners unanimously identified six strategic priorities, with one of those being an intentional push to increase affordable housing opportunities. To that end, the county provided \$2.3 million to the Eagle Market Place Apartment project.

“Many people have worked for years to see this project brought forward,” exclaims Chairman Brownie Newman on behalf of the entire Board. “As housing in Asheville has become more expensive, projects like Eagle Market Place are important in providing housing opportunities for people who work in the heart of the city. We want Asheville to remain a diverse community. Without affordable housing, our community will lose its diversity.”

The county’s Strategic Partnerships Director, Rachael Nygaard, says affordable housing acts as a counterbalance to low wages, high rent, and other barriers. “Buncombe County envisions a community where there are comprehensive opportunities for affordable and safe housing as a foundation for healthy and thriving families and neighborhoods,” she says. “Housing is fundamental, yet we are faced with shortages. Projects like Eagle Market Place Apartments are part of the solution by increasing the stock of affordable and workforce housing.”

Through many of its strategic priorities the county has been intentional about using innovative



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~ Brownie Newman,
Chairman of the
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of Commissioners

approaches to finding solutions, often leveraging our community’s nonprofit and business communities. “Public-private partnerships with community based organizations like Mountain Housing Opportunities are a way to achieve real results,” notes Nygaard.

The Board of Commissioners is also investing in our community’s affordable housing effort by providing funding for:

- Home repair projects for eligible families.

- Self-Help Home ownership and single-family home construction projects.
- Williams-Baldwin Teacher Campus, Asheville-Buncombe teacher housing.
- Lee Walker Heights mixed-income redevelopment project.
- Tenant-based rental assistance through Eblen Charities.
- Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity Curry Court project.

Become a Partner

Buncombe County is always looking for new partners to advance the availability of affordable housing. As a community, we can help ensure housing opportunities for all of our community.

Mountain Housing Opportunities

Are you interested in housing or other opportunities provided by Mountain Housing Opportunities? If so, you can call (828) 254-4030, email info@mtnhousing.org, or visit MtnHousing.org.

Buncombe County

Would your organization like to partner with Buncombe County to help provide affordable and workforce housing opportunities? If so, please contact Rachael Nygaard at (828) 250-6536 or Rachael.Nygaard@buncombecounty.org.



www.buncombecounty.org