

## **WATAUGA COUNTY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING**

Watauga County will be holding a public hearing to solicit citizen input on the submission of an application for 2020 Community Development Block Grant funds for the Coronavirus Program for approximately \$900,000. The CDBG funds will be to used help Watauga prepare, prevent, and/or respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Activities will be designed to assist primarily the low- and moderate-income residents of the County. The CDBG funds are proposed to be used to provide subsistence payments to families and individuals to prevent foreclosure, eviction, and utility disconnections attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds may also be used for food distribution, health care and mental health services, technology and broadband hot spot assistance, and emergency financial assistance to owners and employees of small businesses, also attributable to the pandemic.

The public hearing will be conducted electronically on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm through ZOOM and conference call. The live hearing can be accessed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86785942099?pwd=bVptNTB2SWRLUmFyT1VpRnpoQ3dnUT9> The conference call number is 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 867 8594 2099, Password: 12345. In order to speak during the public hearing, please call 828-265-8000 by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 19, 2020, and sign up by giving your name and either your onscreen name or phone number from which you will be calling to participate. Once the public hearing is called to order, the Chairman will call the name of those signed up when it is their turn to speak.

Due to public health and safety concerns amid the Covid-19 and Executive Order 163 restricting the number of persons allowed to gather in public places the hearing will be conducted remotely. However, citizens are asked and encouraged to submit written comments on past and proposed use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are encouraged to participate in the following ways:

1. Present your comments at the public hearing.
2. Send written comments to the Clerk to the Board at 814 West King Street, Suite 205, Boone, NC 28607 or at [public.comments@watgov.org](mailto:public.comments@watgov.org). All comments received on or before, October 21, 2020 will be made part of the official record.

Also, all citizens are encouraged to view and listen to the hearing online via live video. In addition, following the hearing, the recording of the public hearing will be made available.

If additional information is needed, please contact Joe Furman at (828) 265-8043, [joe.furman@watgov.org](mailto:joe.furman@watgov.org).

Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Deron Geouque, at (828) 265-8000, [deron.geouque@watgov.org](mailto:deron.geouque@watgov.org) or Relay North Carolina #711 by 12:00 noon, October 19, 2020. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Deron Geouque, at (828) 265 -8000, [deron.geouque@watgov.org](mailto:deron.geouque@watgov.org) or at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC, for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Deron Geouque, at (828) 265-8000, [deron.geouque@watgov.org](mailto:deron.geouque@watgov.org) or at 814 West King Street, Boone, NC de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

John Welch, Chairman  
Watauga County Board of Commissioners