



**RESOLUTION TITLE: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GASTON COUNTY'S
CAPITAL AND RELIEF EXPANSION (CARE) INITIATIVE**

- WHEREAS, the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has had and continues to have far-reaching negative impacts on our local, state, and national economy; and,
- WHEREAS, one of the most fundamental roles of government in the United States is to protect the people, their liberties, and to promote the people's general welfare; and,
- WHEREAS, citizens across Gaston County and throughout the State of North Carolina have suffered individual and businesses losses as a result of COVID-19; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the negative impacts COVID-19 has had on Gaston County's individual citizens, families, and businesses; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its deep commitment to proactively care for its individual citizens, families, and businesses throughout the County; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to lead and not follow with respect to battling COVID-19 and to proactively do what it can to care for its people and to help maintain a strong local economy; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners encourages other counties across the State of North Carolina to proactively support their citizens and businesses both now and after the current public health emergency passes; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners wishes to exercise its authority within the limits of state and federal law, to support its citizens, businesses, and Gaston County's overall economy; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, in consultation with staff, has identified \$50 million in already planned capital and community relief projects that can be responsibly but powerfully expedited for the ultimate benefit of Gaston County's families and businesses.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFraley	BHovis	TKelgher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vere
2020-087	03/24/2020	TK	CB	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

Resolution Establishing Gaston County's Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative, which will expedite up to \$50 million in already planned capital and community relief projects to be started as soon as practicable and for the purpose of supporting Gaston County's citizens, families, businesses, infrastructure, and overall economy.

Adopted this the 24th day of March, 2020.



Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners



ATTEST



Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board



Gaston County CARE Plan In Detail

The following items have been identified as projects that are essential to Gaston County and will help stimulate economic growth.

Capital Funds would be used to begin the **immediate projects** in the current fiscal year (FY20). Immediate projects include ADA compliance updates to County facilities, County parking lot improvements, and construction of the Child Advocacy Center facility.

For the **long-term projects** identified, Gaston County could issue debt to finance the projects and provide an additional \$5 million in capital funds for design. Long-term projects include a facility to house GEMS, Emergency Management, and Telecommunications; and a new Fleet Maintenance facility.

Additionally, the **Family Advisory Board** and County programs targeting seven areas of key need would assist at-risk populations in Gaston County that are impacted the most from economic loss. Areas of assistance for these individuals have been identified below. However, these needs may change as the situation evolves. Several of the initiatives are existing programs that would be temporarily expanded or enhanced.

Immediate Projects

1. **ADA Compliance Updates – \$2.7 Million**

Several Gaston County facilities were built before ADA requirements were in place. In order to comply with these ADA requirements, the County formed a plan to complete all ADA upgrades within two years, a total cost of \$5.4 million. The County allocated half of this cost (\$2.7 million) in FY20 and planned to allocate the remaining \$2.7 million in FY21. This action will accelerate this project in order to infuse money into the economy during uncertain economic times.

2. **Parking Lot Improvement – \$2.0 Million**

Much like the ADA improvements, the County allocated approximately half of the funding for necessary parking lot improvements in FY20 and planned to allocate the remaining amount in FY21. This action will also move up the FY21 plan for parking lot improvements to FY20.

3. **Child Advocacy Center Facility – \$2.0 Million**

The CAC in Gaston County serves over 300 children annually that are victims of sexual abuse. Bethlehem Church (now City Church in Gastonia) made a significant donation of land to locate a new CAC. The new CAC will create a more home-like atmosphere as part of a best practice model for this type of facility. The preliminary design of the facility is complete and these funds will complete the final design and construction of the facility.

Long-Term Projects

1. **GEMS/Emergency Management/Telecommunications Facility – \$28.5 Million**

This facility relocation is included in the County's capital plan. This action directs staff to move up the planning and vetting process for the project in order to evaluate the fiscal viability. The current facility is inadequate in terms of space and functionality.

2. **Fleet Maintenance Facility – \$11.25 Million**

This facility relocation is included in the County's capital plan. This action directs staff to move up the planning and vetting process for the project in order to evaluate the fiscal viability. The current facility is inadequate in terms of space and functionality.

Infusion to Family Advisory Board - \$100,000

These are one-time funds to be allocated to the Family Advisory Board to help address the crisis. There will be criteria established around the allocation of funds as it pertains to the pandemic. Additionally, staff will continue to evaluate the structure and guidelines of this board in the future to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

County Programs - \$1 Million

Each of these programs will specifically target citizens that have been negatively impacted as a result of the crisis. The County will use federal funds first to address the needs before utilizing county dollars. The existing programs will be greatly enhanced and mobilized to meet the needs of our citizens as the situation evolves.

1. Food Bank
2. Rental/Housing Assistance
3. Vehicle Payment/Repair Assistance
4. Daycare Supplements
5. Homebound Clients
6. Prescription Assistance for Individuals not Qualified for Medicaid
7. Community Assistance for Foster Children Age 18-21

GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST

TO: Dr. Kim S. Eagle COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: 4110 Commissioners
Dept. # Department Name

3/24/20
 Department Director's Name Date

TYPE OF REQUEST:

☐ Line Item Transfer Within Department & Fund

☒ Line Item Transfer Between Funds *

☐ Project Transfer Within Department & Fund

☒ Additional Appropriation of Funds *

☐ Line Item Transfer Between Departments*

* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION (As it appears in the budget)	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT
	Fund - Function - Dept - Division - Object - Project	Whole Dollars Only
	xxx - xx - xxxx - xxxx - xxxxx - xxxxxx	(See Note Below)
Fund Balance Appropriated	010-99-9900-0000-490000	(100,000)
Other Contracts and Subsidies	010-05-5830-0000-570006	100,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	020-99-9900-0000-490000	(2,200,000)
Care Plan (Coronavirus)	020-05-4790-0000-560000-20050	1,000,000
Transfer to Capital Fund	020-98-9800-0000-580040	1,200,000
Transfer from Public Assistance Fund	040-98-9800-0000-480020	(1,200,000)
Fund Balance Appropriated	040-99-9900-0000-490000	(5,500,000)
Child Advocacy Center Building	040-05-5585-0000-540005-20051	2,000,000
ADA Compliance	040-01-4265-4260-540005-18119	2,700,000
Parking Lot Improvements	040-01-4265-4260-540005-19033	2,000,000

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

Note: Decreases in expenditures & increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures & decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require interfund transfer accounts.



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

County Attorney

Board Action

File #: 20-180

Board of Commissioners - County Attorney - To Approve the Establishment of the Gaston County's Capital and Relief Expansion (CARE) Initiative and Authorize Budget Appropriations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

STAFF CONTACT

Charles Moore - 704-866-3406

BUDGET IMPACT

Amend budget to increase expenditures in current fiscal year.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

See Budget Change Request

BACKGROUND

The Board of Commissioners is amending the current budget to provide immediate funding for new capital projects, additional funding for the Family Advisory Board and funding for Community Care by increasing targeted social services.

POLICY IMPACT

Increase appropriations to provide for community stimulus spending.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution, CARE Plan in Detail and Budget Change Request (BCR)

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