

Board Bulletin for November 22, 2021



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COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 2:00 p.m., there were 160,273 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with 1275 deaths due to COVID-19 reported among Mecklenburg County residents.

Click [here](#) for the latest data report. To learn about vaccination sites and COVID-19 related resources, please click [here](#).

County Introduces Participatory Budgeting Pilot-Program to Budget Engagement for FY2023

Mecklenburg County residents now have an opportunity to turn their ideas into proposals, to positively impact their community through [PB Meck](#), Mecklenburg County's Participatory Budgeting pilot program.

[Participatory Budgeting](#) allows residents to determine how to best address the needs of their communities by turning ideas into actual project proposals. Residents will work with community volunteers representing each County Commission district to identify projects. Funding for the program will be divided evenly among the County Commission districts, and residents across the County will offer ideas that will be vetted by County staff and then voted on by residents. Winning proposals will be funded with the expectation that all projects will be complete within 18 months.

Applications open Nov. 22 to join the volunteer team. There are 10-12 available volunteer positions for each County district. Visit <https://budget.mecknc.gov> to learn more about PB Meck or to apply to become a community volunteer.

For more information on other budget public engagement tools or activities for FY2023, contact Office of Management and Budget Director [Adrian Cox](#).

Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Needs Applicants for the County's Building Development Commission

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, in collaboration with the County Clerk's Office, is encouraging residents to apply to serve on the Building Development Commission (BDC).

The Commission reviews, advises and makes recommendations to the Board and the Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) regarding land development/ building industry matters; the annual budget of County departments with land development/building regulatory functions; the methodology for establishing and the level of all fees charged; land development/building regulatory programs, processes, plans, and procedures for efficiency and effectiveness, etc. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

County residents, especially those in the districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are encouraged to apply by visiting MeckNC.Gov/clerk or contacting the County Clerk's Office, at 980-314-2939, or clerk@mecknc.gov. Residents interested in applying can click [here](#) to find out their district of residency.

County's FY2023 Resident Budget Priority Survey Now Available

The [Resident Budget Priority Survey](#) for Fiscal Year 2023 is now available! The survey, now in its fourth year, is one of several ways for Mecklenburg County residents to get involved in the budget process before the budget is adopted in June.

The survey, which is available until Dec. 20, allows residents to rank eight categories funded by the County in the order they feel is most important. Residents can also provide feedback on categories they feel are *overfunded* or *underfunded*.

Survey results will be shared with the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners during their annual retreat in January. County Manager Dena R. Diorio will use the results to assist with funding decisions for services such as Affordable Housing and Homeless Services, Public Health, Park and Recreation, MECK Pre-K, Workforce Development, Court Buildings and jails, environmental services and more.

Last year, 4,303 surveys were completed for fiscal year 2022. The \$2 billion adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2022 invested more than \$51.4 million in new funding for the Board's priorities and \$668.9 million total in County services.

The [Resident Budget Priority Survey](#) may be found on [MeckNC.gov](#). Paper copies are also available in English and Spanish at libraries across Mecklenburg County, the Community Resource Center located at 3205 Freedom Dr. Suite 1000, and recreation centers across the County.

For more information on the FY2023 Resident Budget Priority Survey or other Budget Public Engagement tools or activities, contact Office of Management and Budget Director [Adrian Cox](#) or visit [MeckNC.gov](#).

Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services Seeks Applicants for Energy Assistance Programs

Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (DSS) is offering help to residents by providing Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds to eligible households.

CIP is year-round program that assists individuals and families in Mecklenburg County who are experiencing a cooling- or heating-related crisis, a life-threatening or health-related emergency, and have a past due or final notice on their heating or cooling utility account.

CIP Qualifying Household Criteria:

- One U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Income below 150% of Federal Poverty Level
- Responsible for energy bills
- Household must be in a cooling- or heating-related emergency.

LIEAP is a federal program that assists households with their home heating energy needs Dec. 1 through March. LIEAP applicants do not have to be at risk of disconnection or delinquent to take advantage of this one-time, direct vendor payment in the amount of \$300, \$400, or \$500 based on their primary heating source. Residents will need to meet the income guidelines, be responsible for the bill, provide their account number and show proof of income.

This year, senior citizens ages 60 and older or disabled individuals receiving services through DAAS (Division of Aging and Adult Services) who received LIEAP payments in FY2021 will be eligible for one-time automatic LIEAP payment. Payments will be automatically credited to the heating utility accounts of the eligible households.

DSS will begin taking LIEAP applications on Dec. 1 for senior citizens aged 60 and older, or those who are disabled and receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services and do not qualify for the FY22 automatic payments. Applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 4 for all other households.

LIEAP Qualifying Household Criteria:

- One U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Income below 130% of Federal Poverty Level
- Responsible for energy bills
- You DO NOT have to be behind on your power or natural gas bill for assistance

Residents may be eligible for both programs at the same time. For more information on CIP and LIEAP please visit [MeckNC.gov/Energy](#).

NEWS RELEASES

- [County Announces Thanksgiving Holiday Closings](#)
- [Budget Survey and Participatory Budgeting Now Available](#)
- [Time is Running Out to Apply for the HOMES Program](#)
- [Triple the Value of Your SNAP Benefits in Time for Thanksgiving](#)
- [New Partnership Brings Support to Maternal and Child Health in Mecklenburg County](#)

Click [here](#) to view a full list of news releases.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Thursday, Dec. 2 - BOCC Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Learn about symptoms, testing, medical advice, what to do when you are feeling sick, as well as links to state and local ordinances at [MeckNC.gov](https://www.mecknc.gov).

Find Us

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