

WNCSource CEO Report

September 14, 2023

Pisgah Health Foundation Grant for Older Adults Services in Transylvania County

Friday, August 11 I attended a meeting with Deb Haight, Lauren Street, and Laura Sherrill - Reece. Deb supervises our Older Adults programs in Transylvania County. Lauren and Laura run our congregate meal sites at Quebec and Silvermont respectively. I was invited by Julie Heintish, Philanthropic Lead for the Pisgah Health Foundation (PHF). Terri Bowman, WNCSource Development Director, and Deb Haigh had been talking about our programs for seniors and the need for more support with PHF.

We were under the impression that the meeting was informational. After talking for several minutes about the programs, Julie said she had some information that might be helpful and gave Deb a folder. When Deb opened the folder it said:

CONGRATULATIONS! WNC SOURCE HAS BEEN AWARDED A GRANT

In partnership with Dogwood Health Trust, Pisgah Health Foundation is pleased to award WNC Source a grant in the amount of \$203,675.00

Grant funds will be used to support the following programs in Transylvania County only with the amount per program to be determined by WNCSource staff:

- *LunchPlus*
- *Liquid Nutrition Supplement Program*
- *Personal Hygiene Program*
- *Shelf Stable Meal Boxes*
- *Box Fan Program*
- *Mobile Meals*

This is certainly great news for WNCSource and older adults in Transylvania County. Currently, we are negotiating the period of performance. In order to make the most strategic use of these funds WNCSource is requesting to have until June 30, 2026 to use the money. We want to make sure we are spending the funds where they are most needed. We also want the expansion of these services to be sustainable.

Terri Bowman and Deb Haight have put together a survey to be distributed in Transylvania County to help us prioritize needs. Terri is also publicizing the survey to increase responses. With this information, and the funds provided by the grant, we will be expanding these needed services soon.

Progress on Trauma Resilient Communities (TRC) Initiative

This summer all WNCSource employees were invited to complete a survey to assess the agency's current trauma resiliency, and our organizational readiness for change. I received the results a couple of weeks ago, and I attended a meeting led by the TRC evaluation team, to help participating agencies understand the results. I am working with Brett Loftis, TRC Team Leader, to communicate the information to the WNCSource Board and staff effectively.

August 29 – 31, five additional WNCSource senior staff members attended TRC training at Saint John in the Wilderness in Flat Rock. We are learning the shared values and practices that will transform WNCSource into a trauma resilient organization. There is much more to come from this strategic priority.