

# JACKSON COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

538 Scotts Creek Road  
Sylva, N.C. 28779



*Michael Poston*  
*Planning Director*  
michaelposton@jacksonnc.org  
Phone: (828) 631-2255

MEMO

To: Jackson County Board of Commissioners  
Cc: Kevin King, County Manager  
From: Michael Poston, Planning Director  
Date: November 14, 2024

RE: Our State, Our Homes Program Application

The nclmpact Initiative is a public policy organization housed at the UNC-School of Government launched in 2017. Their vision is to partner with civic leaders and diverse stakeholders to help improve lives in all 100 of the state's counties. To this end they have organized an initiative called Carolina Across 100. Carolina Across 100 was launched by the UNC Chancellor's office in 2020 in an effort to partner with North Carolina Communities in recovering from the impacts of Covid-19. Their previous programs include Our State, Our Work; Our State, Our Wellbeing; the Tar Heel Bus Tour; and Rural Pharmacy Health Initiative.

The fifth installment of the Carolina Across 100 is the Our State, Our Homes program. In this program, nclmpact will select a cohort of 18 communities across the state that are interested in working across sectors to improve access to and availability of affordable housing options. This project has an 18-month completion timeframe nclmpact is partnering with the Development Finance Initiative to provide technical assistance to the selected cohort communities. Each community is asked to develop a core team to lead the work program. Our core team will be made up by Mike Poston, Jackson County Planning Director, Tiffany Henry, Jackson County Economic Development Director, LeNay Shuler Southwester Commissioner/ Southwestern HOME Consortium, and Pasty Davis, Executive Director of Mt. Projects. The Core Team has committed to attend five trainings at UNC during the 18-month process to learn about housing strategies to bring back to our communities. We will also be working with our local stakeholders in the community to develop strategies to address affordable housing.

There is no cost to the County, other than staff time. The program will cover travel expense for the Core Team to attend trainings. They will also provide a stipend for a program manager. Applications are due on November 22, 2025. Communities will be notified about acceptance into the program by the end of the year. They expect the 18-month cohort to being in early 2025.

I am requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve Staff's request to submit the application for the Our State, Our Homes Program.