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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HEAT RELIEF: COUNCIL ON AGING HAS FANS FOR SENIORS IN HENDERSON COUNTY**

**[Hendersonville, NC] – May 19, 2021** – The Council on Aging for Henderson County competed for and won a \$12,500 grant from Meals on Wheels America. The grant is from the COVID-19 Response Fund focusing on states with the highest percentages of high-risk, disproportionately impacted older adults. Funds will be used in the next several months to continue delivering nutritional meals to homebound aging adults in Henderson County, and expand service to nearly two dozen people who have been on a waiting list.

The Council on Aging is serving 40% more homebound seniors than it did before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the waiting list nearly doubled to 60. Now serving approximately 400 people a week throughout the year (>100,000 meals/year), the Council on Aging is helping fill a nutritional and social gap in the lives of aging adults throughout the county.

Lucy Theilheimer, Chief Strategy and Impact Officer for Meals on Wheels America stated, “With this grant, the Council on Aging can help address the nutritional needs of seniors in Henderson County that have been exacerbated by COVID-19.”

“On behalf of the Council on Aging and our Meals on Wheels clients, we appreciate this critical support from Meals on Wheels America as we continue to make sure ‘No One Ages Alone’,” said Keith Logan, executive director.

Meals on Wheels America is the leadership organization supporting more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network serves virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits, and safety checks that enable America’s seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, education, research, and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time.

The Council on Aging is a nonprofit organization established in 1969 to provide and coordinate services to engage, connect, and support adults in our community as we age. It currently serves meals to 400+ homebound clients each week in all parts of Henderson County. In addition, they host congregate meals at the Sammy Williams Center, provide liquid nutrition to seniors who cannot get sufficient nutrition from solid food (many of whom are getting cancer treatment), and counsel aging adults and their families on helpful resources to navigate the aging process. COAHC’s vision is, “No One Ages Alone.” For more information on the Council on Aging, including how you can volunteer, contribute, or speak out for the seniors in Henderson County this March, visit [coahc.org](http://coahc.org).

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