



April 27 2020

## Senator Edwards Announces Proposed 'Buncombe County Tourism Jobs Recovery Act'

Senator Chuck Edwards, along with Buncombe County Commissioner and TDA board member Joe Belcher and Buncombe County TDA board chair Gary Froeba, have announced a collaborative effort to jump-start the Buncombe County tourism business sector and restore critical jobs impacted by COVID-19.

Senator Edwards will file legislation titled "Buncombe County Tourism Jobs Recovery Act" when the NC General Assembly returns for its short session on April 28. The proposal will allow the Buncombe County TDA to establish a Job Recovery Fund that will provide \$5 million in emergency grant funding for Buncombe County tourism-related small businesses and nonprofit organizations affected by coronavirus pandemic.

Eligible applicants can receive up to \$50,000 directed toward the restart of their business once the recovery begins. Should the legislation become law, we will provide more details as they are worked out. Meanwhile, [read FAQs about the Job Recovery Fund here.](#)

[>>See Senator Edwards' press release on the proposed legislation](#)

### Media Coverage about the Announcement

- [WLOS-TV](#)
- [Asheville Citizen-Times](#)
- [Blue Ridge Public Radio](#)
- [Ashvegas](#)

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**Reopening Your Business: Industry Town Halls  
Tomorrow, April 28**

As Buncombe County public health officials consider modifying restrictions in the coming weeks, they want to hear your ideas and strategies around reopening and recovery – items like operational changes and challenges and needed resources for employee and workplace safety.

The County is hosting a series of industry-specific town halls on Tuesday, facilitated by Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce via Zoom video conference. Business owners, managers or senior leadership in the following broad categories are urged to join the session that fits you best. Plans are underway to host other industry segments in the future, including personal services.

- **Arts/Entertainment/Recreation Town Hall**

Tuesday, April 28 – 9 a.m.

[>> Register here](#)

- **Retail Town Hall**

Tuesday, April 28 – 11 a.m.

[>> Register here](#)

- **Lodging Town Hall**

Tuesday, April 28 – 1 p.m.

[>> Register here](#)

- **Restaurants Town Hall**

Tuesday, April 28 – 2:30 p.m.

[>> Register here](#)

If you are unable to attend but would still like to offer input, email [business@buncombecounty.org](mailto:business@buncombecounty.org).

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## How Can Explore Asheville Better Serve You? Take Our 5-Minute Survey

Throughout this public health and economic crisis, the team at Explore Asheville has remained focused on supporting our community's businesses and the more than 18,000 individuals whose jobs depend on visitors.

Please take 5 minutes to complete our survey to share how your business is faring and what resources we may be able to help you with. **Your feedback will help inform our work plans the next few weeks, especially as public health officials consider when and how to begin lifting restrictions.**

[Take the Survey >>](#)



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