



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2023

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WCMS Awarded \$1K Neighborhood Grant from The Starbucks Foundation

Asheville, NC – The Western Carolina Medical Society is pleased to announce that The Starbucks Foundation has awarded the organization a \$1K Neighborhood Grant to address access to affordable healthcare.

Specifically, this grant will support WCMS’s Project Access program, which provides low-income, uninsured patients, ages 18 to 64 living in Buncombe and Madison counties, a barrier-free avenue to comprehensive healthcare ranging from outpatient specialty care to inpatient surgeries, says WCMS CEO Elisa Quarles.

“The Starbucks Foundation Neighborhood Grant ensures that Project Access continues to provide pathways to healthcare for our Western North Carolina neighbors,” said Quarles. “This grant will help us to sustain the health of our neighbors and bolster our flourishing communities.”

WCMS’ Project Access provides free or low-cost comprehensive medical care to low-income, uninsured individuals. This medical care ranges from primary care, specialty care, inpatient surgeries, mental health, and medications to interpreter services, referrals, and navigation for socio-economic resources.

About The Starbucks Foundation Neighborhood Grants

The Starbucks Foundation Neighborhood Grants program offers grants to organizations that one or more Starbucks partners (employees) have nominated based on the important work they are leading in our communities. During Starbucks Global Month of Good in April 2023, The Starbucks Foundation received 19,000 nominations from Starbucks partners and alumni across the U.S. and Canada. 1,900 nonprofits were selected to receive a Neighborhood Grant.

Neighborhood Grants strengthen longstanding and newly established community connections that partners are nurturing and building as community champions, all in service of our neighborhoods. The organizations nominated in this round are empowering youth, fighting hunger, uplifting families, and promoting environmental stewardship. You can find more information about the Neighborhood Grants on [Starbucks Stories](#).

About The Western Carolina Medical Society

The Western Carolina Medical Society's mission is to advocate for healthy communities, increase access to affordable healthcare, fight health inequities, and promote wellness in WNC. Since 1885, WCMS has been respected for its leadership and innovation in addressing issues of access to affordable health care, disparities in health, and wellness promotion. Throughout its history, WCMS has been at the forefront of working collaboratively with area organizations to address the health challenges facing our community's residents.

For more information about the Western Carolina Medical Society, contact Niki Duff, Sr. Manager of Development and Strategy at niki@mywcms.org or visit www.mywcms.org.

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