



PRESS RELEASE

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Yancey County Economic Development Commission Announces Grant Award through Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program To Homeplace Beer Company's West Main Street Expansion

The Yancey Economic Development Commission is pleased to announce a grant award made through the Burnsville Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program.

"I'm very pleased to announce a Yancey EDC Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program grant was awarded to Homeplace Beer Company in conjunction with their expansion and new facility development on West Main Street in Burnsville" said EDC Director Jamie McMahan. "Homeplace Beer Company has been a fantastic example of a successful local startup that has not only been economically successful, but has also been an exemplary corporate citizen, actively participating and engaging in the community in positive ways, such the many local nonprofits the company actively assists with their fundraising efforts on a regular basis."

"We have deep roots in Burnsville and the surrounding area. It has been a longtime goal of ours to connect the growing Western North Carolina craft beer industry with the rich history and agriculture of Yancey County. We partner with local farms and raw material suppliers to add a sense of place to all our beers. As Homeplace Beer Company gears up to move to its new homeplace on West Main, we are incredibly grateful for all the support we've received from the community, the Town of Burnsville, and the EDC for fostering economic growth in the place I love and grew up in. This grant will assist us as we continue the build-out of what we hope will be a new magnet for Burnsville, the all-encompassing community gathering space we've envisioned from the beginning. With a restaurant and lots of outdoor space added to our taproom model, we can't wait to open later this year" said Homeplace Beer Company proprietor and Yancey County native John Silver.

The Burnsville Downtown Entrepreneur Assistance Program (DEAP) is an incentive grant program with the goal of creating new jobs, increasing revenue, and making downtown Burnsville an attractive option for business development. The purpose of this program is to support business recruitment by assisting new start-ups within the critical first six months of business.

Since its inception in fall of 2018 the Yancey EDC Downtown Entrepreneur Assistance Program has made four grant awards to Burnsville business owners, helping to spur economic investment in downtown Burnsville.

The DEAP program requires applicants submit a written business plan when applying for the grant and may, depending upon the applicant's previous business experience, require attendance of business management and training courses at Mayland Community College through the Mayland Small Business Center, or other accredited institution offering the required courses and will require recipients to create at least one new full time equivalent job. In addition to the grant award of \$2,500 the grant will also cover the cost of the recipient's first year of membership in the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

For more details on how to apply for the grant program contact Jamie McMahan, Executive Director of the Yancey County Economic Development Commission, at (828) 682-7722 or via email at yanceyedc@gmail.com. Application information may also be obtained at the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce or the Mayland Community College Small Business Center.

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