



Foothills Regional Commission and Dogwood Health Trust partner to improve housing and economic opportunity across our four county region

ABOUT FOOTHILLS REGIONAL COMMISSION

Foothills Regional Commission (formerly known as Isothermal Planning and Development Commission) was formed in 1972. The Commission serves its members and their citizens by fostering regional collaboration and providing professional and technical expertise. The organization houses the region's Area Agency on Aging, Housing Programs, Rural Planning Organization, Workforce Development Board and provides services to all the local governments in the four county region through its Community and Economic Development Department and Technical Assistance programs.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Dogwood Health Trust (DHT) was formed in 2018 through the sale of Mission Health System. They serve the 18 westernmost counties of western North Carolina. DHT has been a valued partner with the Councils of Government in those 18 counties since its inception. DHT funds projects and collaborations that increase access to housing, education, economic opportunity and health & wellness across Western North Carolina with an emphasis on community equity.



PROJECTS

- Regional housing study by county
- HUD Home Consortium – preparation and match funds
- EDA planning grant match
- Building capacity program with four COGs in DHT footprint
- Safe Streets for All matching funds (RPO initiative)
- Caregiver program funding
- Grant writing through their Leverage Fund

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

DHT has worked closely with FRC on many projects allowing us to expand capacity and our offering of services to local governments. The housing study, in particular, has allowed us to work with advisory groups made of elected and appointed officials and community leaders to do a deep dive into the housing crisis in western North Carolina. The partnership with DHT allowed FRC to address all four of the CEDs strategies dealing with housing:

- Explore the development of a public/private partnership to stimulate housing construction
- Address vacant and dilapidated buildings/houses throughout the region
- Increase supply of all housing types
- Update land use regulations to reflect housing market preferences