



LIVE GROW THRIVE



DURHAM COUNTY

# Popular Annual Financial Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2018



 **DURHAM COUNTY NC**  
Live. Grow. *Thrive.*



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## ***From the Manager***

We are happy to introduce the Durham County 2018 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This is the first year we are compiling the Popular Annual Financial Report and it is the result of County efforts to further connect with our community. Under the goal of maintaining an Accountable, Efficient, & Visionary Government, Durham County wishes to increase the level of engagement of the citizenry, elected officials, and those with a current or prospective stake in the success and well-being of our County. Efforts to promote effective governance go hand in hand with Durham County being a desirable place to live, grow, and thrive.

The Durham County 2018 PAFR is designed to display information on the County's fiscal health. It is a short-form report based largely on the Durham County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. The report is presented in an accessible format with an emphasis on simplicity, clarity, and accuracy. First, we present a condensed overview of the financial position and activity of the County. Here, the reader will see how Durham County is collecting and spending monies to further address the Five Goals of the County's Strategic Plan (Five Goals) for greater County success. Next, we communicate the four areas of focus that allow for effective fiscal management of Durham County: Financial Management, Budgeting, Debt Management, and Capital Improvement. We present the Five Goals and indicate which County services impact these goals. Lastly, we present an overview of the community strengths and County accomplishments that make Durham a great place to work and play.

This PAFR provides summarized County financial information derived from the CAFR and is not designed to include all financial disclosures required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. To meet the goal of simplicity, the PAFR presentation omits the financial activity of the Durham County ABC Board which is presented in the CAFR as a component unit. Similarly, not all County funds are presented here. The PAFR concentrates on reporting Governmental and Business-Type Activities and the County's General Fund. For the 2018 audited financial statements, independent auditor's opinion, detailed notes to the financial statements, statistical information, and other supplementary information, refer to the Durham County 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) available on the Durham County website ([www.dconc.gov](http://www.dconc.gov)).

Our hope is that you as the user will find it easier to engage with the County through use of this PAFR. We welcome your feedback and encourage your continued involvement.

**Wendell Davis**  
*County Manager*

## ***Board of County Commissioners***



**Wendy Jacobs**  
*Chair*



**James Hill**  
*Vice Chair*



**Heidi Carter**



**Brenda A. Howerton**



**Ellen W. Reckhow**



## County-Wide Financial Overview

Durham County Government's financial position is strong because of sound financial management and fiscal control. This fiscal health is encapsulated by the fact that for over 25 years, Durham County Government has remained one of the few counties across the United States with the triple A rating, the highest bond rating available by national rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. This rating allows the County to issue municipal bonds at a very low interest rate, resulting in savings to taxpayers on dollars borrowed for capital projects. These savings can be used as funding sources for other County services. Jurisdictions achieve this designation on several factors including fiscal stability, economic tax base, locality management, and debt/pension loads.

A broad overview of the County's finances is presented here. The below financial statements use the full accrual basis of accounting and are similar in format to the financial statements of a private-sector business. They provide short

and long-term information about the County's financial status and include both information on the governmental activities and the business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by user fees (e.g. County Sewer Utility).

The summary of the County's financial position at the end of the fiscal year is known as the "Statement of Net Position" and represents what the County owns and what it is responsible for paying out. The following table reflects the summary of net position at the macro level. This report is designed to provide a picture of Durham County's financial position as of the end of the fiscal year. The below statement reports what the County owns (assets), owes (liabilities), future expenses (deferred outflows), and future revenues (deferred inflows) as of the last day of the fiscal year. A measure of financial stability is indicated by a positive total net position balance.

### DURHAM COUNTY'S NET POSITION

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2018	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES 2018	2018 TOTAL	2017 TOTAL
Current and Other Assets	\$300,972,373	\$37,898,194	\$338,870,567	\$320,169,373
Capital Assets	448,987,111	71,153,750	520,140,861	495,268,688
Deferred Outflows of Resources	43,358,417	620,414	43,978,831	52,766,127
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows</b>	<b>793,317,901</b>	<b>109,672,358</b>	<b>902,990,259</b>	<b>868,204,188</b>
Long-term Liabilities	731,676,016	17,989,430	749,665,446	645,727,534
Other Liabilities	19,059,575	589,426	19,649,001	21,367,982
Deferred Inflows of Resources	18,697,005	39,867	18,736,872	2,281,957
<b>Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows</b>	<b>769,432,596</b>	<b>18,618,723</b>	<b>788,051,319</b>	<b>669,377,473</b>
Net Investment in Capital Assets	62,072,041	53,624,526	115,696,567	224,287,892
Restricted	57,833,938	688,047	58,521,985	53,979,427
Unrestricted	(96,020,674)	36,741,062	(59,279,612)	(79,440,604)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$23,885,305</b>	<b>\$91,053,635</b>	<b>\$114,938,940</b>	<b>\$198,826,715</b>



## Changes in Net Position

The Statement of Changes in Net Position summarizes the County's revenue and expense activity for the fiscal year, and it provides a record of the money received and spent by the County

during the fiscal year. A basic function of the Statement is to assess if the County raised enough revenue to cover the expenses incurred by its activities. In short, did the County live within its means?

### DURHAM COUNTY'S CHANGES IN NET POSITION

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2018	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES 2018	TOTAL 2018	TOTAL 2017
<b>Revenues</b>				
Program Revenues	\$86,688,410	\$11,158,133	\$97,846,543	\$111,586,413
General Revenues	384,670,317	313,434	384,983,751	353,664,968
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>471,358,727</b>	<b>11,471,567</b>	<b>482,830,294</b>	<b>465,251,381</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
General Government	67,278,145	-	67,278,145	64,194,870
Public Safety	83,743,115	-	83,743,115	75,533,420
Transportation	238,948	-	238,948	353,001
Economic and Physical Development	5,761,844	-	5,761,844	7,368,799
Environmental Protection	5,997,974	-	5,997,974	5,966,371
Human Services	86,632,504	-	86,632,504	93,649,136
Education	155,678,995	-	155,678,995	149,192,760
Cultural and Recreational	20,693,870	-	20,693,870	14,802,765
Interest and Fiscal Charges	16,547,326	-	16,547,326	12,999,003
Sewer Utility	-	8,302,269	8,302,269	7,970,882
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>442,572,721</b>	<b>8,302,269</b>	<b>450,874,990</b>	<b>432,031,007</b>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	28,786,006	3,169,298	31,955,304	33,220,374
Previous Net Position, Beginning	110,942,378	87,884,337	198,826,715	171,407,876
Restatement	(115,843,079)	-	(115,843,079)	(5,801,535)
Restated Net Position, Beginning	(4,900,701)	87,884,337	82,983,636	165,606,341
<b>Net Position, Ending</b>	<b>\$23,885,305</b>	<b>\$91,053,635</b>	<b>\$114,938,940</b>	<b>\$198,826,715</b>



**GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES** represent over

**90%**

of the total increase in the net position of the County.

**PROPERTY TAXES**

levied for general purposes increased by over

**\$15.8 million.**

**LOCAL OPTION SALES TAXES**

increased for the eighth consecutive year by over

**\$6.9 million.**

**BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES**

increased the County's net position by almost

**\$3.2 million.**

Governmental activities represent over 90% of the total increase in the net position of the County, with an increase to net position by just over \$28.7 million. Total revenues for governmental activities are over \$471 million, up from over \$452 million in fiscal year 2017. Expenses are up by over \$18 million. In fiscal year 2018, governmental units were required to restate beginning net position balances to present each unit's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability which represents health care and other post employment benefits provided to County employees. Benefits are received upon County employee retirement based on years of service. Durham County presented a restatement of over \$115.8 million due to a new financial

reporting requirement. However this reporting requirement has no impact on the County's fund balance.

Business-type activities (made up of the Sewer Utility) increased the County's net position by almost \$3.2 million, accounting for almost 10 percent of the increase in the total growth of the net position. Charges for services of almost \$10.2 million along with capital contributions of just under \$1 million and investment income were partially offset by expenses of \$8.3 million with the difference making up the change in net position for the Sewer Utility.

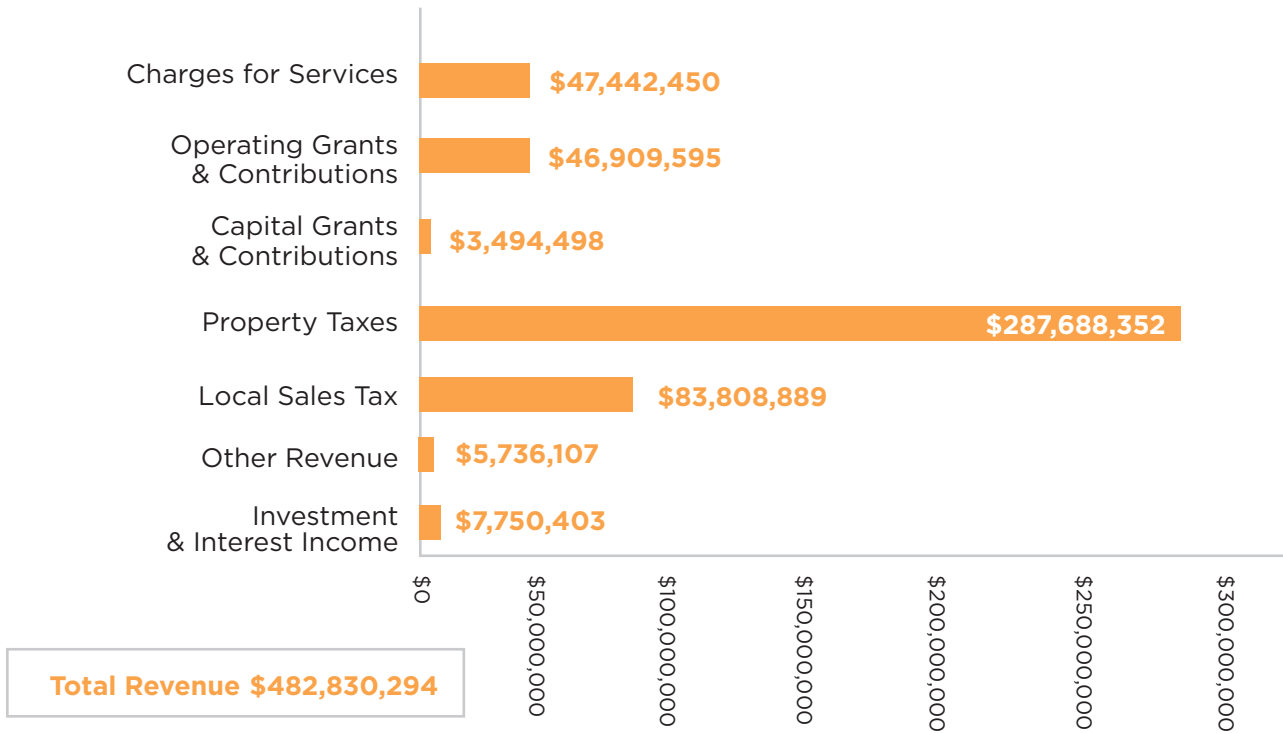


## County-Wide Revenues

Of all County-wide revenue, tax revenue from all tax sources (e.g., property, occupancy, local option sales, gross receipts, etc.) makes up 77.9 percent of total revenue. Property taxes comprise the largest portion at 60 percent of total revenue. Property tax revenue increased by over \$15.7 million since last fiscal year. In fiscal year 2018, property taxes levied for general purposes increased by slightly over \$15.8 million. This increase was primarily because of the increased collections rate and increased County tax rate combined with the County's continued collection efforts including participation in the North Carolina

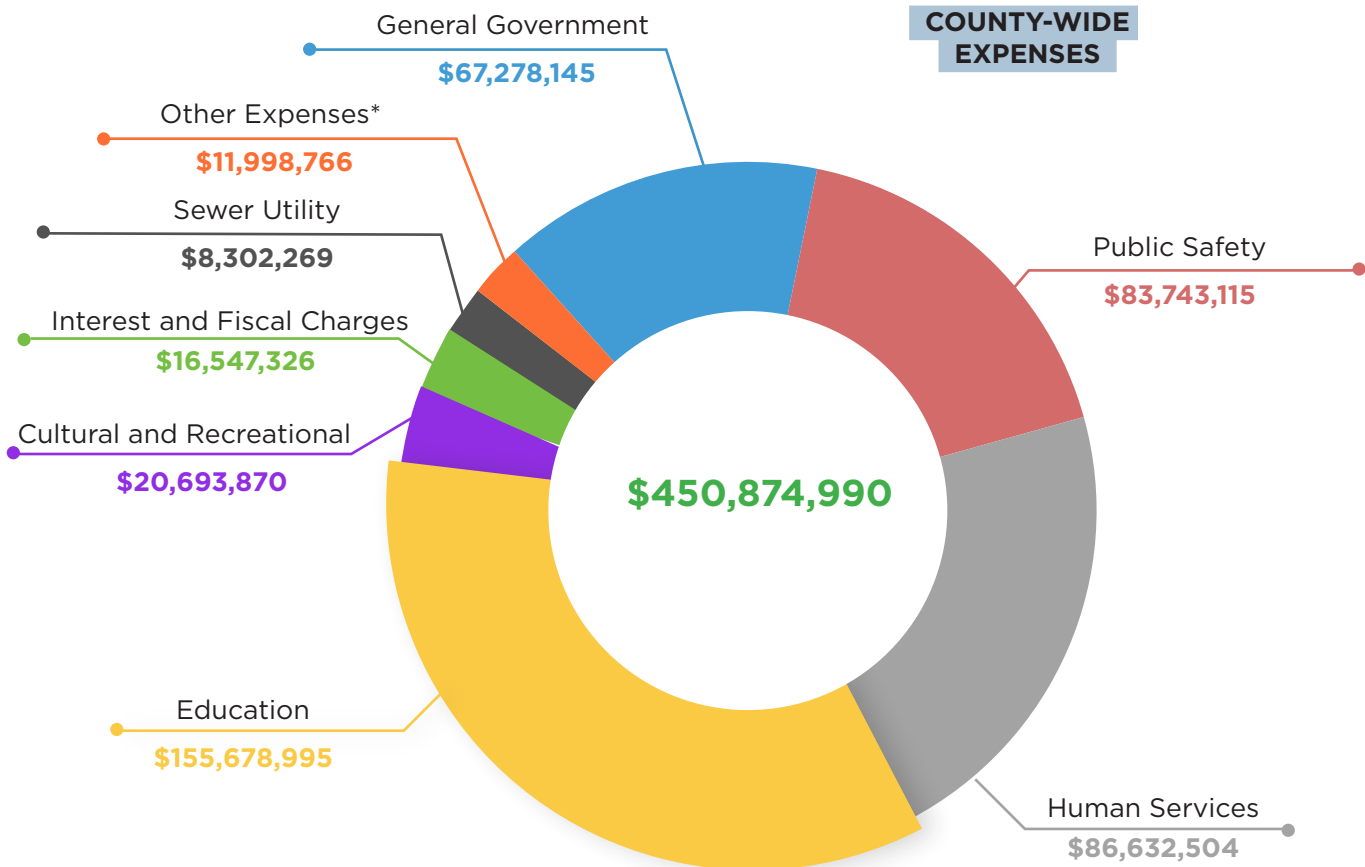
Local Government Debt Setoff Clearinghouse Program. In addition, local option sales taxes increased for the eighth consecutive year by over \$6.9 million as a result of increased spending and collections, an indicator of a healthy economic climate. Continued diligence in the collection of property taxes aided the County in achieving a collection percentage of 99.82 percent for fiscal year 2018, up from 99.78 percent the year before. The tax rate assessed for the 2019 fiscal year is \$0.7779, an increase of \$0.01 from fiscal year 2018.

### COUNTY-WIDE REVENUES



## County-Wide Expenses

Expenses increased by over \$18.8 million (4.36 percent). For the most part, increases in expenses for both governmental and business-type activities closely paralleled inflation and growth in the demand for services. The County's finances continue to be strong, sound and stable because of solid, dedicated and committed financial management.



*\*Other expenses are comprised of environmental protection, economic and physical development, and transportation functional areas.*

### MAJOR EXPENSE CATEGORIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

**Education** (Durham Public Schools and Durham Technical Community College)

**Human Services** (Public Health, Mental Health, and Social Services)

**Interest and Fiscal Charges** (Bond Interest, Issuance Costs)

**Transportation** (Airport Authority, Go Triangle)

**Public Safety** (Sheriff, County Jail, EMS, County Fire Protection)

**Economic and Physical Development** (Planning, Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water, Open Space, Industrial Extension)

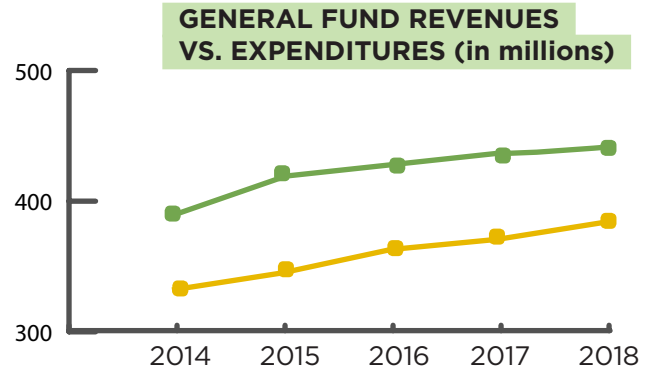
**Cultural and Recreational** (Library, and Museum of Life and Science)

**General Government** (General Services, Human Resources, IS&T, Tax, Finance, Risk Management, Legal, County Manager, and Register of Deeds)

**Environmental Protection** (Solid Waste, Environmental Engineering)

## General Fund Financial Overview

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the County. The County’s core services are accounted for here (e.g. general government, human services, public safety, education, etc.). General Fund revenues in recent years have consistently been greater than expenditures. During fiscal year 2018, revenues were over \$450 million while expenditures were greater than \$375 million. Of this excess of revenue, over \$73 million was transferred to other governmental funds, with the majority transferred to the Debt Service Fund to pay down County debt. The difference between the excess of General Fund revenue over expenditures and net transfers out is over \$12.6 million for 2018 which represents growth to the fund balance of the General Fund.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total Revenues</b>	391	420	429	438	450
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	332	345	363	371	375

Fund balance is the measure of the County’s savings to use in emergencies and for unforeseen contingencies so as to continue to provide services to the citizens during that time. A reality is that the County can be affected by forces outside the control of its

managers. Market conditions affect the economy and thus our community and influence variables such as property ownership, employment, and interest rates, thereby impacting the amount of property tax collected, the human services

## Budgeting

In accordance with the North Carolina State Statute, the County adopts a detailed budget annually. This budget is a plan for identifying funding sources, for how monies will be raised and spent, and for how these funds will be applied to programs and objectives to best meet County goals. Controls are in place to ensure that any changes, known as amendments, to this budget during the fiscal year are properly approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the Budget & Fiscal Control Act of North Carolina General

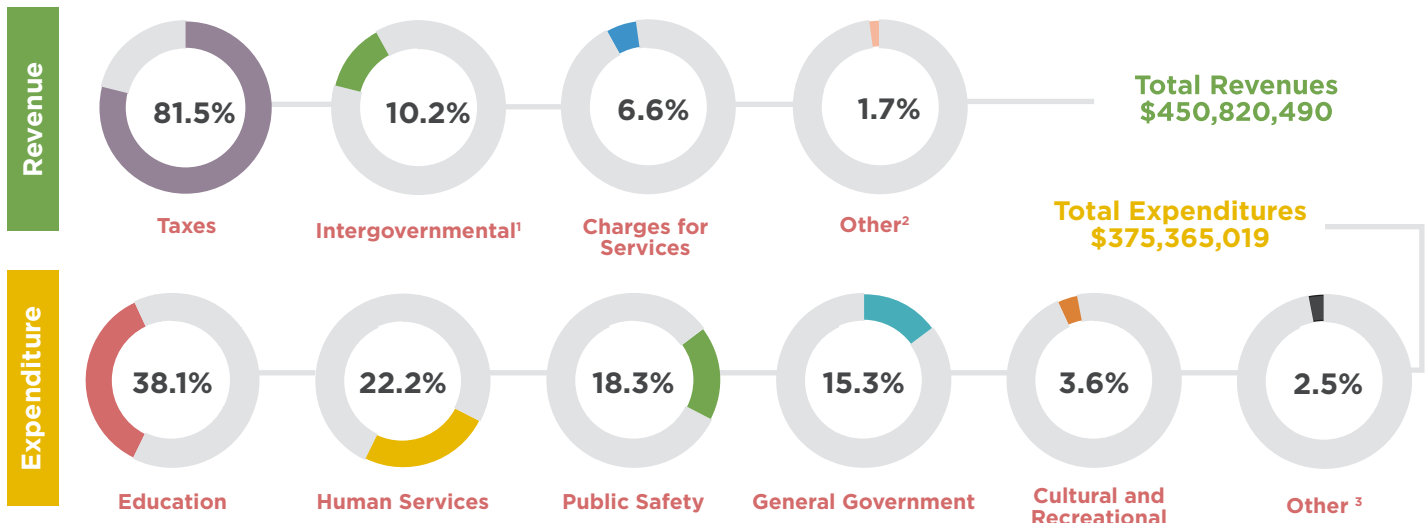
Statutes, and includes all appropriations required for debt service. The General Fund is the most significant fund budgeted.

During the year, revenues and other financing sources combined to exceed budgetary estimates by almost \$10.8 million. Expenditures and other financing uses were far less than budgetary estimates with a positive variance of almost \$23 million, thus eliminating the need to draw upon the budgeted fund balance appropriation of almost \$21.2 million to cover costs, leading to net growth in fund balance of over \$12.6 million.

support required, and the cost of carrying debt. The federal and state governments provide significant funding for local County programs. Negative changes in this funding can have an impact on the level of service the County is able to provide to its citizens. Therefore, maintaining a strong fund balance ensures that the County

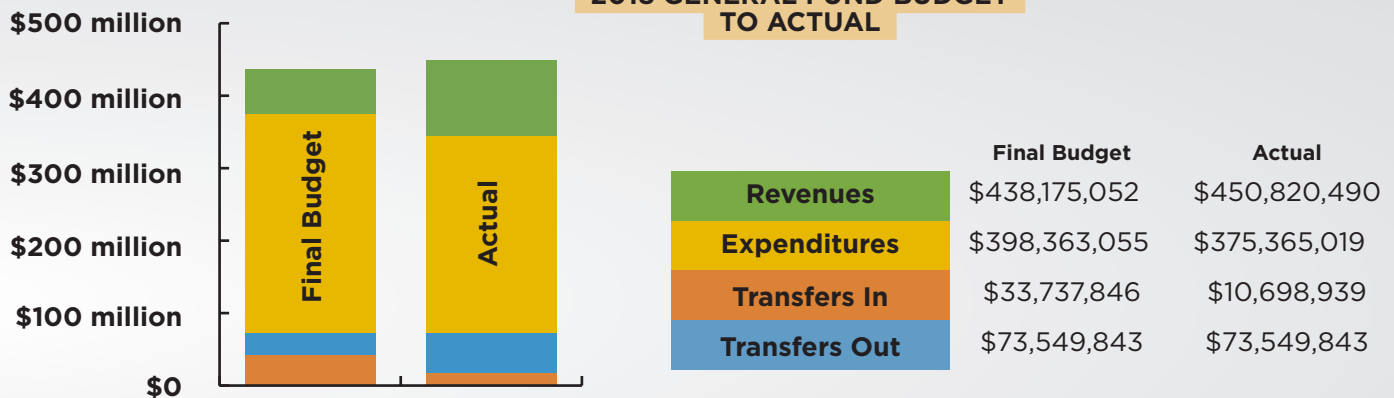
can consistently provide the services upon which citizens rely through times of financial stress. At the end of the current fiscal year, with revenues being greater than expenditures, fund balance available for appropriation for the general fund increased by slightly over \$6.7 million, a change of 4.25 percent since last fiscal year.

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE AREAS**



1. Intergovernmental revenues are grant revenues, often from other governmental units.  
 2. Other General Fund revenues are made up of Investments, Licenses & Permits, Other Revenues, and Rent.  
 3. The Other category is made up of Economic and Physical Development, Environmental Protection, and Transportation expenditures.

**2018 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO ACTUAL**



The increase in fund balance in the General Fund is due mainly to the fact that revenue collections were 102.89 percent of budget while expenditures were 94.23 percent of budget, combined with transfers in of over \$10.6 million and transfers out of over \$73.5 million. The transfers out primarily fund County debt.

## Debt Management

Durham County continues to maintain its bond ratings by the agencies of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and Standard and Poor's Rating Services of Aaa and AAA, respectively. The County considers this unique achievement to be a key factor in keeping the interest costs low on the County's outstanding debt.

When conscientiously utilized, borrowing can be a powerful vehicle for improvement. Durham County takes on debt in order to fund projects that benefit our

community to include the public schools, community college, and museum. The County's total issued debt increased by over \$6.4 million during the current fiscal year, an increase of 1.2 percent. The key factors in this increase were the annual retirement of governmental and business-type activities debt and the issuance of over \$49.6 million in installment purchases.

State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a governmental entity may issue

up to 8 percent of its total assessed valuation. The current debt limitation for the County is \$2,892,737,734, leaving a legal debt margin of \$2,666,282,734, which the County is considerably below. The legal debt margin is the difference between the debt limit and the County's net debt outstanding applicable to the limit, and represents the County's legal borrowing authority. To be below this limit is favorable to the County.

### DURHAM COUNTY'S OUTSTANDING DEBT

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2018	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES 2018	2018 TOTAL	2017 TOTAL
General Obligation Bonds	\$258,989,288	-	\$258,989,288	\$288,086,321
Revenue Bonds	-	7,732,153	7,732,153	8,489,040
Certificates of Participation	195,759,181	-	195,759,181	206,894,554
Installments Notes Payable	70,263,209	-	70,263,209	22,103,195
Other Financial Agreements	47,485	9,928,280	9,975,765	10,656,869
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$525,059,163</b>	<b>\$17,660,433</b>	<b>\$542,719,596</b>	<b>\$536,229,979</b>



## Capital Improvement

The total increase in the County's net capital assets for the current fiscal year was over \$24.8 million.

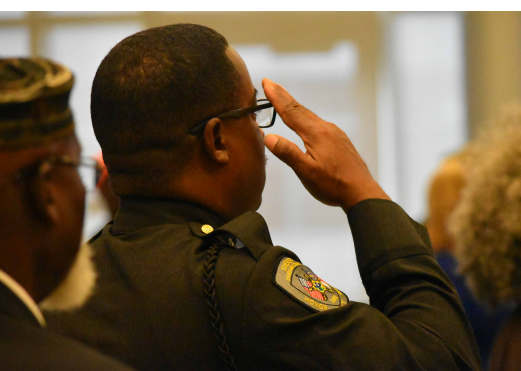
The Main Library Upgrade Project, the Administration II Building Renovation, the Emergency Responder Radio Upgrade, and the Lincoln Community Health Center Phase II Project were major factors in the increase in capitalized construction costs, offset by the completion of construction on County buildings during the fiscal year.

Construction spending on the Durham Public School projects, Durham Technical Community College, Museum of Life and Science, W.G. Pearson Center renovation, and the County's share of the E911 Facility project were not capitalized as the County does not hold title to this property.

### DURHAM COUNTY'S CAPITAL ASSETS

(Net of Depreciation)

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES 2018	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES 2018	2018 TOTAL	2017 TOTAL
Land	\$8,673,131	\$185,226	\$8,858,357	\$8,858,357
Easements	1,954,981	5,000	1,959,981	1,862,991
Improvements - Water and Sewer Lines	-	13,474,145	13,474,145	13,052,496
Buildings	334,436,384	45,386,965	379,823,349	188,160,966
Water Systems	2,354,779	-	2,354,779	2,402,917
Office Furniture and Equipment	543,641	-	543,641	739,255
Machinery and Equipment	5,856,534	571,071	6,427,605	7,310,250
Computer Hardware	6,390,487	321	6,390,808	1,754,154
Computer Software	1,377,183	30,948	1,408,131	1,183,997
Vehicles	7,622,985	82,141	7,705,126	7,964,652
Construction in Progress	79,777,006	11,417,933	91,194,939	261,978,653
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$448,987,111</b>	<b>\$71,153,750</b>	<b>\$520,140,861</b>	<b>\$495,268,688</b>



# Capital Projects

The County maintains a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), updated every two years and adopted by the BOCC as they see fit. The plan itself provides a blueprint which the County uses to meet the growing facility needs of the schools, libraries, museum, court system, public safety, public health, social services, County administration, and open space. The CIP also provides an overview of the financing options for the existing capital projects as well

as those capital projects not yet implemented but that are included in the 10-year plan. Annually, the financing options are reviewed, as are the projects and their respective estimated costs. Having an effective CIP and the proper assets in place while efficiently managing the CIP and capital assets is critical for providing the County services expected as well as deserved by our residents.

## Construction Projects Substantially Complete in FY 2018

Administrative Building II Renovation

Lincoln Community Health Center Phase II Renovation

Fire Station #17, an EMS and City Fire Department Co-Location

Criminal Justice Resource Center Alley Drainage Improvements

Board of County Commissioners Audio-Visual Technology Upgrades

## In-Progress and New Projects

Administrative Building Renovation

Judicial Building Annex Renovation

EMS Station #1 Renovations

Downtown Parking Decks/300 and 500 Block Mixed-Use Development

Detention Center Officers Station Improvements

Main Library Renovation





# County Goals



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Provide access to educational, vocational, economic and cultural opportunities while empowering citizens to choose pathways for their own success.

**IN THE LAST 5 YEARS THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE HAS INCREASED FROM 79.6% TO 81.50%**

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL



Improve the quality of life across the lifespan through protecting the health of community, reducing barriers to access services and ensuring a network of integrated health and human services available to people in need.

**THE POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY HAS DECREASED BY 3.4 PERCENT OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS OF AVAILABLE DATA.**



## SAFE COMMUNITY

Partner with stakeholders to prevent and address unsafe conditions, protect life and property, respond to emergencies and ensure accessible and fair justice.

**ACCORDING TO A RECENT RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY, THE PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS THAT FEEL SAFE OR VERY SAFE DURING THE NIGHT AND DAY INCREASED BY 2.6 AND 1.7 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROSPERITY



Protect natural resources and support and promote community and economic vitality for all residents of Durham County.

**DURHAM COUNTY PROMOTES SMART GROWTH BY PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION, ENERGY CONSERVATION, AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS.**

**80.5 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS TO A RECENT RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY RATE THE COMMUNITY AS A GOOD OR EXCELLENT PLACE TO LIVE.**

## ACCOUNTABLE, EFFICIENT AND VISIONARY GOVERNMENT



An effective organization committed to continuous innovation, exceptional customer service, transparency and fiscal responsibility.

**ACCORDING TO A RECENT SURVEY, OVER 55 PERCENT OF DURHAM COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE SATISFIED WITH COUNTY SERVICES. THIS RATING IS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK OF 45 PERCENT.**

# LIVE. GROW. THRIVE

## Services Delivered

County services that affect the Five Goal areas include: sheriff and fire protection, emergency medical services, human services (public health and social services), elections, register of deeds, animal control, youth home, criminal justice, cultural and recreational, and clean water. The County also provides sewer and waste water treatment services as well as clean water to the Rougemont Community. Funding is provided for educational services through the Durham Public Schools and Durham Technical Community College. Funding is provided for cultural and recreational services of the

North Carolina Museum of Life and Science. Also, the County funds services provided in conjunction with the City of Durham through inter-local agreements including emergency communications (911), planning and inspections, and the Durham Convention Center. Solid waste services are provided through contracting with a private company. Mental health services that include substance abuse and developmental disabilities are provided through a contract with a managed-care organization, Alliance Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

	2018	2017	2016
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>			
Adult Home Care Residents Served Through On-site Inspection	1,069	997	982
STD Tests Provided	20,387	22,412	15,577
Persons Who Received Food Assistance	37,430	30,853	40,358
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
Public School Attendance	32,374	33,151	33,501
Community College Attendance	12,898	10,819	19,027
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>			
Animal Control Service Calls	10,967	12,191	12,889
Animals Impounded	2,087	2,516	2,869
Sanitation Inspections	3,343	3,149	3,327
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>			
Detention Intake	8,417	7,558	11,013
Civil Processes Served	24,755	20,505	33,147
Fire Department Responses	3,320	2,025	2,587
Durham EMS Responses	48,547	46,934	44,222



## Community Strengths

Durham County was incorporated on April 17, 1881 and currently measures 299 square miles, with the City of Durham taking up 112 of these square miles, located in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, a top growth area of the State. Currently 308,941 people call Durham County home. The County maintains a strong economy by playing host to diverse industry with a foundation in electronics, metallurgy, telecommunications, health care, and the medical field, fueled by an education pipeline from local top universities bringing talent and knowledge into the workforce. Desirable employment opportunities, a culture of innovation, and a high quality of life are driving others to relocate here, thanks in part to Durham County's proximity to Research Triangle Park (RTP), the nation's largest and most successful research and development-oriented business park. RTP hosts more than 300 tenant companies representing some of the world's most prestigious organizations in scientific and technological research. Businesses in the Park employ approximately 55,000 full-time employees and an estimated 8,000 contract employees.

In May 2018, **CBS This Morning** **#3** **News** ranked Durham **#3** IN "TOP EMERGING TRAVEL CITIES."

In June 2018, **Best Cities** **#16** recognized Durham as **#16** ON THE LIST OF "AMERICA'S BEST SMALL CITIES."

Durham has **FOUR TIMES THE** **4x** **NATIONAL AVERAGE** of physicians, three times the national average of nurses, and nearly one third of all workers in the labor force works in a health or medical related industry.

### PRIMARY INDUSTRIES IN DURHAM COUNTY

- **Biotechnology**
- **Medical & Pharmaceutical Sciences**
- **Financial Services**
- **Information Technology**
- **Transportation Products**
- **Environmental Products**
- **Education**
- **Automated Products**

Population growth was almost 2.6% over the last year and with the below accolades, it is easy to see why.

**#16**  
**Forbes** ranked Durham **#16 FOR "BEST PLACES FOR BUSINESS AND CAREERS."**

**#1**  
**Growella**, March 2018, recognized Durham as the **#1 "CITY FOR MILLENNIALS IN THE U.S."**

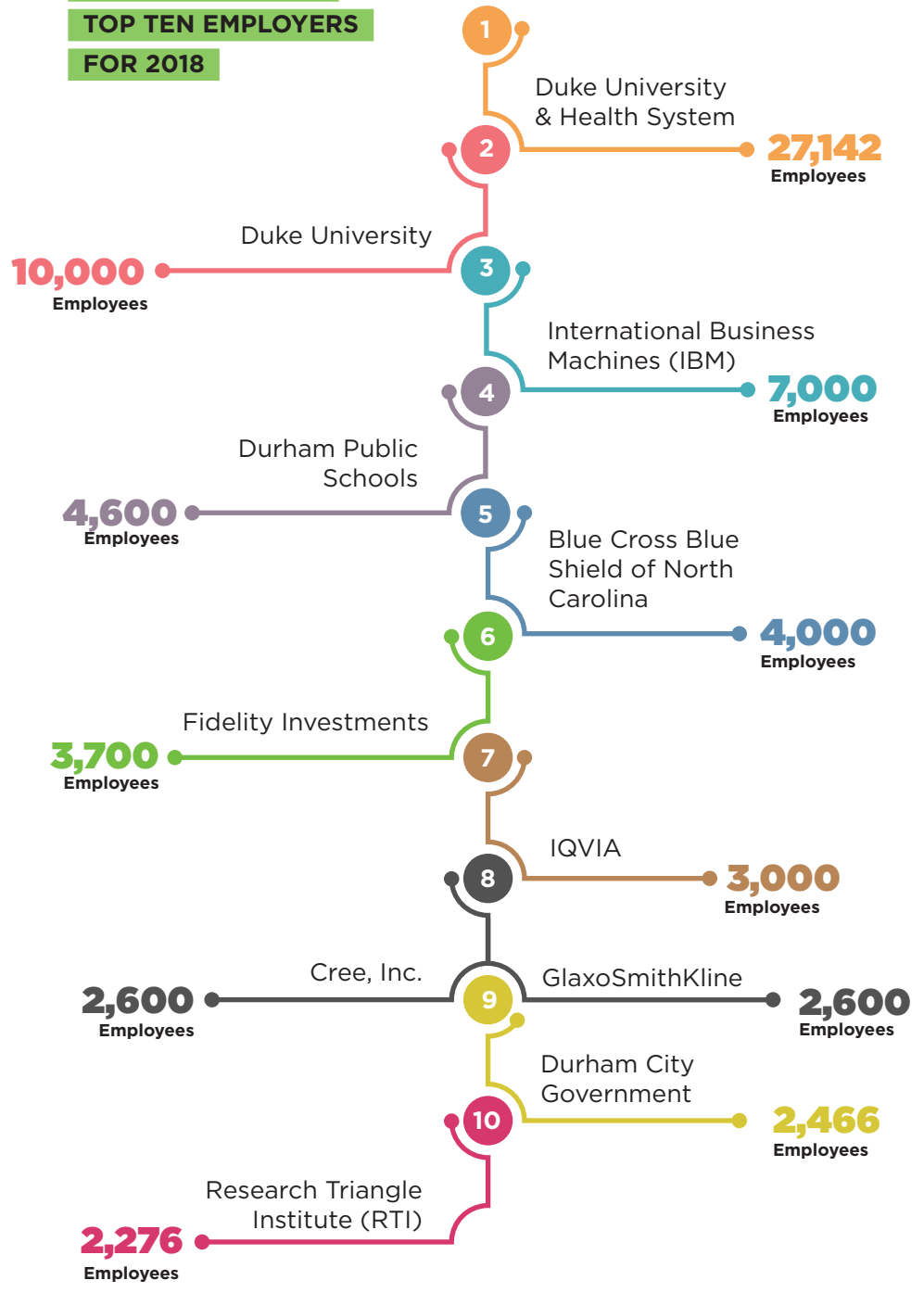
**#1**  
 In July 2018, **Money Tips** ranked Durham **#1 FOR THE "BEST PLACE TO LIVE WHEN YOU'RE IN DEBT."**

**#13**  
 In July 2018, Durham was ranked **#13 ON THE LIST OF "125 BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN THE U.S."** by **U.S. News & World Report**.

**#4**  
 In December 2017, Durham was ranked **#4 FOR "5 CITIES THAT ARE GREAT FOR WOMEN'S CAREERS"** by **Equities**.

**#5**  
 In February 2018, **GoBanking** ranked Durham as **#5 ON THE LIST OF "CITIES WITH HIGH SALARIES AND LOW COST OF LIVING."**

**DURHAM COUNTY TOP TEN EMPLOYERS FOR 2018**



**#10**  
 Durham is home to Duke University, which was ranked **#10 FOR "BEST UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING"** by **U.S. News & World Report** in September 2018.

**#19**  
 Durham is home to Duke University Medical Center, the **19TH BEST HOSPITAL IN THE NATION**, as ranked by **U.S. News & World Report**, with five specialties ranking in the top 20.



## 5<sup>th</sup>

In July 2018 at the National Association of Counties annual convention, Durham County leaped to **5TH PLACE IN THE LATEST DIGITAL COUNTIES SURVEY**, which identifies the best technology practices among U.S. Counties.

## #9

Durham is also home to North Carolina Central University which was ranked **#9 ON THE LIST OF “BEST HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES”** by *College Consensus* in April 2018.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate in Durham County has, for the most part, been lower than the unemployment rate for both the State of North Carolina and the United States. Since 2014, the County’s employment rate has declined from 5.3% to 3.8% as of June 30, 2018, a decline of 1.5%.

## #4

In November 2017, *Culture Cheat Sheet* recognized Durham as the **#4 “UNDERRATED FOODIE CITY THAT’S ACTUALLY WORTH VISITING.”**

## #4

In March 2018, *Wallet Hub* recognized Durham as **#4 ON THE LIST OF THE “BEST CITY FOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL FANS.”**

## #4

In March 2018, *Livability* ranked Durham the **#4 “UP-AND-COMING TECH HOT-SPOT.”**

In April 2018, *GQ Magazine* recognized Durham in **“WHERE TO DRINK, EAT, SLEEP, AND CHILL WITH LEMURS IN THE SOUTH’S BEST SECOND CITY.”**



## #16

In April 2018, *Business Insider* recognized Durham as **#16 ON THE LIST OF “THE 35 CITIES IN THE U.S. WITH THE BIGGEST INFUX OF PEOPLE, THE MOST WORK OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE HOTTEST BUSINESS GROWTH.”**

## Accomplishments

- Durham County designed a Court Reminder System to reduce the number of people fined or jailed for missed court appearances.
- Durham County is first in average weekly wages in the state.
- Re-entry Partnerships helped 700 residents with second chance opportunities.
- Durham County continues to have a low unemployment rate which compares favorably to State and national rates.
- The new Mental Health Court was implemented to better meet the mental health needs of people in the community.
- Durham is now one of the only two providers in the state with a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center to handle urgent mental health needs.
- Durham County continues to receive the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

# 600+

Over the past year, Durham County has spent almost \$100,000 to bring racial equity training to over 600 multi-sector partners.

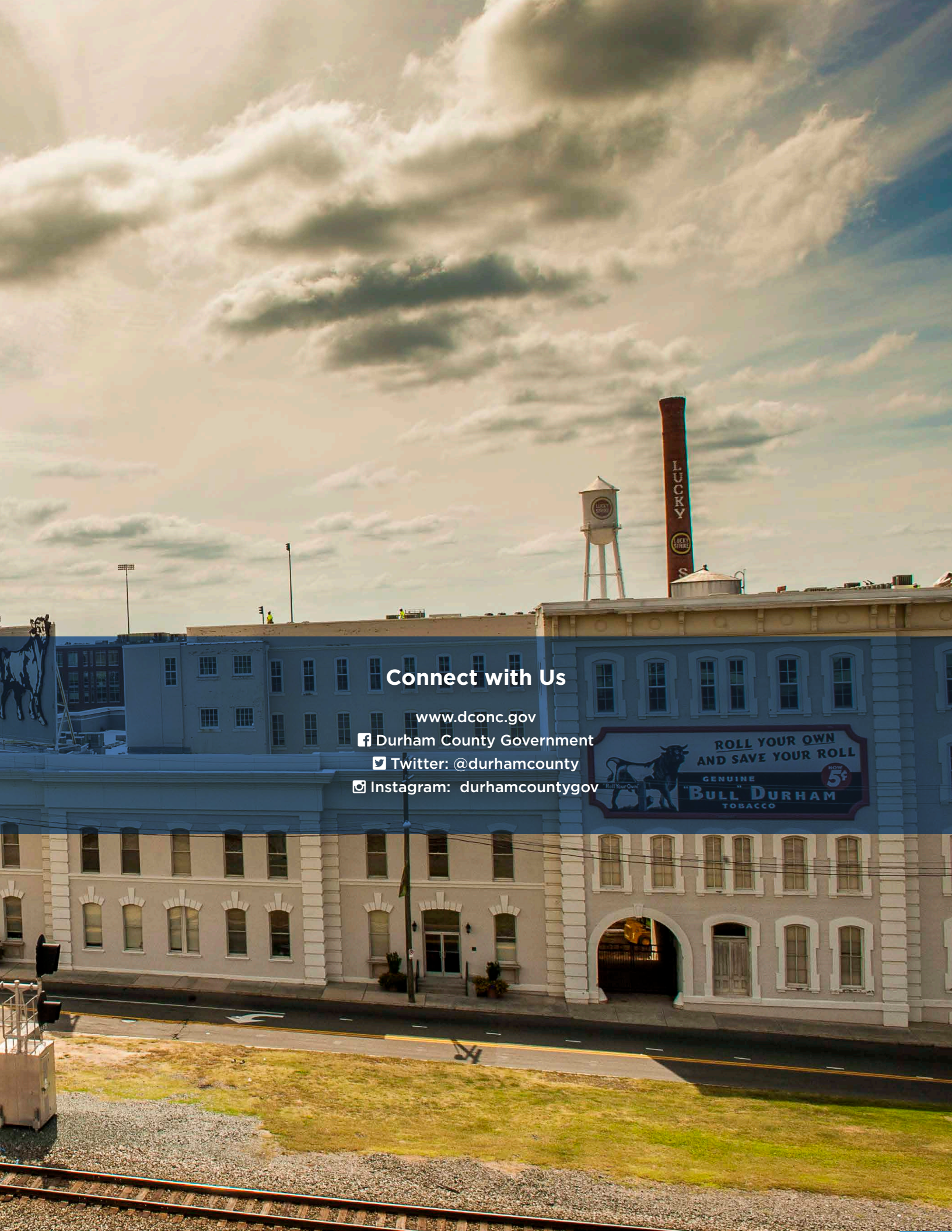
# 9

The County has completed nine LEED certified buildings.

# \$1.5M


This year Durham County fully funded the \$1.5 million needed to operate eight Pre-K classrooms.







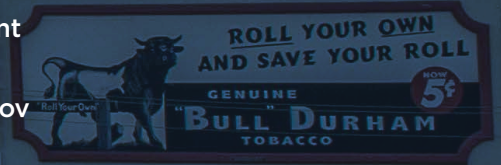
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**DURHAM COUNTY**  
**Popular Annual Financial Report**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**  
*Prepared by the Durham County Finance Department*