



SEPTEMBER 2023 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



2023 BRIC/FEMA LOI: This is part of an outreach effort by NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation to encourage towns and counties to submit their infrastructure needs by the **October 2, 2023, Letter of Interest via EMGrants by the 5:00 PM deadline** for the BRIC/FMA 2023 grant competition. **Over \$2.3B is expected to be available** in the Building Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grant program and **another \$800M** in the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program. This can be for shovel-ready construction projects that mitigate the risk of a natural hazard to public infrastructure or plans and studies to help develop future projects (called Capabilities & Capacity Building or C&CB proposals).

The first step is to submit the LOI. After the LOI panel review, technical assistance in preparing these applications may be available from a variety of sources. FEMA has aligned these funds with the **JUSTICE40 Initiative**, directing 40% to benefit disadvantaged communities. There are helpful tools and a 1-hour webinar about the program at www.NCDPS.gov/BRIC.

Feel free to directly email any questions to Kaine.Riggan@ncdps.gov.



Next State Water Infrastructure Authority Meeting: Sept. 19, 2023, 9:00– 2:20 at the **Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center**, 4400 Reedy Creek Road, **Raleigh**, 27607. Contact Cathy Akroyd at Cathy.Akroyd@ncdenr.gov or call (919) 707-9187 about the free meeting.

For the Fall 2023 funding round, applications for drinking water and wastewater construction projects will be considered for funding from the Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure program, the State Revolving Funds, including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds, the State Reserves (pending State appropriations), and the Viable Utility Reserve (pending State appropriations). Local government units and non-profit water/wastewater corporations (and investor-owned drinking water utilities for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) may apply for funding.

The **Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure (CDBG-I)** program will provide grants to fund projects in areas that meet the U.S. Housing and Urban Development low-to-moderate income threshold (LMI). It is available to non-entitlement municipalities and counties and offers grants up to \$3 million grants per applicant every 3 years. The CDBG-Infrastructure Program typically has 1 funding cycle per year, typically in September; however, if additional application intake is needed to obligate funding, an announcement will be made via our website in the News section, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/news-events-training-public-comment-opportunities> of this website. (For 2023, the deadline is Oct. 2.)

NC DEQ Application Process, Forms, Guidance, and Resources: The Fall 2023 application period opened on Aug. 2, 2023. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Oct. 2, 2023. Visit, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-need-funding/application-forms-and-additional-resources>. Each application includes a priority rating form that assists the Division in evaluating the proposed project in terms of prioritization established by the State Water Infrastructure Authority. After the deadline for each funding round, the Division reviews all applications

and assigns priority rating points as described in the guidance based on information provided in the application. The Division ranks the projects in priority point order and presents this information to the State Water Infrastructure Authority. The Authority is responsible for selecting the applications to receive project funding.



Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program NOFO is a combination of 2 major U.S. DOT Discretionary grant programs – Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) and can be found on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Visit <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rcnprogram> for information about future

webinars, deadlines, and the evaluation criteria. Currently, 3 grant types are available for a total amount of **\$3.1 B.**, which will focus on the following goals: 1) Prioritize disadvantaged communities, 2) Aim to improve access to daily destinations such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, and recreation, 3) Foster equitable development and restoration, and 4) Reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, mitigating, or replacing highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.

Community Planning Grants: DOT will make awards for public engagement, feasibility studies, and other planning activities (for \$50 M. RCP Planning funds and \$135 M. NAE funds). BIL specifies the maximum Community Planning Grant award funded with RCP funds is \$2 M., but there is no maximum award amount funded by NAE.

Capital Construction Grants: Removal, retrofitting, mitigation, or replacement with an existing eligible dividing transportation facility that reconnects communities, mitigates a burdening transportation facility that is a source of pollution, noise, stormwater, heat, or other burdens, or implements a strategy to reduce environmental harm and/or improve access through transportation improvements (from \$148 M. RCP Capital Construction funds and \$1 B. NAE funds). BIL specifies that the minimum Capital Construction Grant award funded with RCP funds is \$5 M., but there is no minimum award amount funded by NAE. If a project is partially funded, project components executed through the RCN Program must demonstrate independent utility.

Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants: The projects must be led by 2 or more eligible applicants to address a persistent regional challenge related to equitable access and mobility (for \$450 M. NAE funds). Even though the priorities are the same as the other 2 grant types, the applicants must show both regional coordination and leverage local, state, and federal resources and policies. DOT may award all \$450 M of NAE funds to support regional collaboration and innovation on the eligible activities under Community Planning or Capital Construction Grants. DOT anticipates awarding 3-5 Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants.

To apply and submit applications, **a new procedure is necessary to follow** – the 3 grants will use 2 portals: Applicants must submit their applications **via Valid Eval** at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/rcn_planning/signup for Community Planning Grants and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants with planning activities, and at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/rcn_capitalconstruction/signup for Capital Construction Grants and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants with construction activities. The **deadline is September 28, 2023, 11:59 PM.**



Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) created the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which makes \$10 million available over 5 years to provide states, local governments, and tribal governments with grants to support project development leading

to future applications to DOT credit or grant programs. The grants can support legal, technical, and financial advisors to help them advance infrastructure projects. The first notice of funding opportunity will include 2 fiscal years and will make \$3.4 million available to eligible applicants on a 1st-come, 1st-served basis. Eligible project sponsors may receive grant funds to select advisors to assist with pre-development-phase activities, including:

- feasibility studies,
- project planning,
- revenue forecasting and funding and financing options analyses,
- preliminary engineering and design work,
- environmental review,
- economic assessments and cost-benefit analyses,

- public benefits studies,
- statutory and regulatory framework analyses,
- value-for-money (VFM) studies,
- evaluations of costs to sustain the project, and
- evaluation opportunities for private financing and project bundling.

For further information, visit:

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/RuralandTribalGrants>. The online application window is open from August 14 until September 27, 2023.



Inaugural Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Grant Program: The Notice of Funding Availability for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program is live at https://scrc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SCRC-SEID-Grant_NOFO-06082023-release.pdf. This program has been developed to fund projects that meet the following investment priorities: 1) Invest in Critical Infrastructure, 2) Improve Health and Support Services Access and Outcomes, 3) Strengthen Workforce Capacity, 4) Foster Entrepreneurial and Business Development Activities, 5) Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Access, and 6) Promote Environmental, Conservation, Preservation, and Access.

This inaugural grant cycle will fund projects that revitalize and transform communities in the 69 NC counties. To learn more about SCRC's grant program, please click on this link <https://SCRC.gov/state-economic-and-infrastructure-development-seid-grant-program/>. Important dates to remember: **Pre-Application due – September 15, 2023, and Full Application due December 15, 2023.** Please note, pre-applications are **REQUIRED**.



EDA announces Recompets Programs and releases new program tools Eligibility Mapping resources and information. EDA has released funding through the Recompets Program to alleviate persistent economic distress and support long-term comprehensive economic development and job creation in places with high prime-age employment gaps (defined as employment gaps in 25-54 age group). The competitive program is set up in 2 phases. For Phase I, applicants can apply for 1 of the following: Strategy Development only; Recompete Plan Approval only; or both Plan Approval and a Strategy Development Grant.

Entities applying for Strategy Development Grants will be considered for investments in the range of \$250,000 - \$500,000, with limited potential up to \$750,000. These grants will be designed to connect/support plans to spur economic development in the Project Region.

Entities applying for Recompete Plan Approval will be applying for selection which confers no immediate funds, but which opens the door to compete as part of Phase II for Implementation Funds. Applicants must apply for and receive Recompets Plan Approval to be eligible to apply and receive Phase II Implementation Funds. EDA anticipates making 4 – 8 Phase II Implementation grants where grants to Local Markets average approximately \$50 M and grants to Local Communities average approximately \$20 M.

Those interested in applying for both Strategy Development and Recompete Plan Approval must complete both application requirements. To be eligible, areas can utilize the Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool to determine the eligibility of their project region. The mapping tool is available at: [Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool \(REMT\) - Main Map Viewer \(anl.gov\)](#). In cases where an area is shown as partially eligible on the map, they are encouraged to view the Census Tract Mapping Tool to determine the eligible census tracts. This Census Tract Tool is available at: [Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool – Census Tracts Viewer \(anl.gov\)](#). For ease of use, interested parties may find it most helpful to remove all layers on the left, except the box for Eligible Census Tracts with Partially Eligible Municipalities and Eligible Census Tracts within Partially Eligible Counties.

Applications for both Strategy Development and Recompets Plan **Phase I must be submitted on October 5, 2023, by 1:59 PM EST**. Only applicants who apply for and receive approval for their Recompets Plan will be eligible to apply for Phase II Implementation resources in winter 2023. The full notice for the Recompets Program is available at

https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/202306/Recompete_Pilot_Program_NOFO_phase_1_vF.pdf. General program FAQs are available at <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program/faq>. EDA's 2 July webinar on the Recompets program were recorded; access the public webinar, here <https://www.eda.gov/news/media/video/3613> and the webinar's Powerpoint slides- here <https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2023->



EDA is accepting applications under Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs to support accept construction, planning, technical assistance grant applications to advance job creation. EDA provides grant funds to support a range of construction and non-construction activities, which will advance economic development and enhance the competitive environment in which jobs can be created and private investment leveraged. Public entities, or nonprofit entities working in collaboration with local governments, looking for support to construct or renovate public assets, or to conduct analysis or regional technical assistance programs with clear economic development outcomes should consider EDA's grant programs. **The Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs have a rolling deadline!** For further information, please go to <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>. Contact Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov for more information and to discuss program projects.



The **Golden LEAF Foundation** plans to award any of the 100 counties' local governments up to \$250,000 which may be used for public infrastructure projects to reduce flooding through the Flood Mitigation Program. Applications **are accepted on a rolling basis until all available funds are awarded**. Visit <https://goldenleaf.org/mitigation/>.

Categories of funding are available: 1) Construction of new or improvement of existing publicly owned stormwater infrastructure, including natural drainage infrastructure and flood control equipment, 2) Repair of existing stormwater infrastructure damaged or destroyed by flooding, which must include improvements to mitigate against future flooding, and 3) Engineering expenses related to planning and development of flood mitigation solutions.



USDA Rural Development: Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees: Application **deadline: Open**. USDA Rural Development offers financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas. Visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees#overview>.

OTHER RESOURCES – FREE WEBINARS

Registration Now Open for ECC's Eastern NC Transportation Summit on Oct. 19th

ECC will be hosting a **Regional Transportation Summit on Thursday, Oct. 19th – 9:30-3:00** at Craven County's Riverfront Convention Center. Thank you to Craven County for helping to sponsor this event! Registration is now open for ECC's Eastern Carolina Transportation Summit to elected officials, local and state government staff, Highway 70 Commission Board Members, Highway 17-64 Association Board Members, RPO/MPO Board Members, economic development professionals, and sponsoring organizations. The event will include updates on regional transportation projects / issues and a discussion about the intersection of investments in transportation infrastructure and economic development. The keynote speaker will be the new NCDOT Secretary Joey Hopkins (effective Oct. 1st). Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration for the Transportation Summit is required. To register, visit: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejym2bkj7a4d13d7>

ECC Hosting “Flood Insurance & the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)” Training on Sept. 12th

David Holcomb, ISO/CRS Specialist, works for the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) and is contracted by FEMA to do fieldwork on the Community Rating System (CRS) as the contact for NC communities. He will co-

present a hybrid training session entitled, *Flood Insurance and the NFIP*, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 1:00-2:00 PM at Eastern Carolina Council's (ECC) 3rd Floor Conference Room and via online.

ECC's Community Planner, Holly C. Lippitt, will introduce the subject of the Community Rating System (CRS), which is a voluntary program for municipalities to consider for residential and business owners to identify, implement, and manage community activities on mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). David Holcomb will provide information about the program and the application process; he will explain what the community initially needs to do, the CRS Series activities, and how communities can progress through the program as he provides follow-up technical assistance. He will guide municipalities towards potentially reduced flood insurance premiums by flood protection activities and outcomes. He will demonstrate how to apply as a community member and plan/administer CRS activities to maintain and increase their CRS score to be eligible for NFIP insurance and become an integral part of floodplain management.

The training session will focus on NFIP goals: 1) Provide flood insurance to property owners, 2) Encourage flood loss reduction activities by communities, and 3) Save taxpayer's money. To register for the training, visit: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejxsi9ntf466fb51>.



UNC, Chapel Hill, School of Government Class – “LELA 301: Emotional Intelligence: a Key to Extraordinary Leadership” will be offered on Sept. 13th.

This class is ideally suited for anyone who is interested in improving their self-awareness in interactions with others and becoming a positive influence on others in their communities. Included is a confidential personal assessment of your emotional self-awareness, and breakouts include personal coaching that is unique to the individual. Registration information is available at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/lela-301-emotional-intelligence-your-key-extraordinary-leadership>.



ECC Hosting “FEMA, Region 4: Identifying, Preparing for, and Submitting FEMA’s Preparedness Grants for ULGs” on Sept. 28th

FEMA’s BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant program supports states and local governments as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

On September 28th at 1:00 p.m., ECC is hosting a BRIC/ FEMA Grant Preparedness workshop. Kaine Riggan, Grant Development Specialist with the NC Department of Public Safety, will provide the program. Kaine will provide a general overview, deadlines, and other information about the 4 FEMA and 3 DEQ grant programs to help prepare for application submittal. He will also share the latest VI scores (2020) for Eastern Carolina’s Economically Disadvantaged Rural Areas.

Register for the hybrid training to be held in the ECC Conference Room on Sept. 28th at 1:00 PM: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejym2bfi7d3a0484>

ARPA Update: ARP OFFICE HOURS

The School of Government just released new dates:

- Tuesday, Sept. 12 – 8:30-9:30 a.m. (Focus on Opioid Settlement Funds)
- Thursday, Sept. 21 – 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Focus on ARPA Basics)
- Tuesday, Sept. 26 – 8:30-9:30 a.m. (Focus on Procurement)
- Tuesday, Oct. 3 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 12 – 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Focus on Subawards)
- Thursday, Oct. 19 – 8:30-10:30 a.m. (Focus on ARPA Basics)
- Tuesday, Oct. 24 – 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 31 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.

ZOOM LOG IN

Here is the new Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=U1E2VHNhN2luSoJEYtJqZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95481909044# US

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF): Preparing for the Audit

As detailed in previous [posts](#), all NC counties and municipalities received federal grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARP/CSLFRF). There are detailed expenditure guidelines, and compliance and reporting requirements for these grant funds. A local government's auditor plays an important role in monitoring compliance with these requirements and flagging any issues during the annual audit process. Most NC local governments spent at least some of their ARP/CSLFRF funds this fiscal year, and it's time to start preparing for the annual audit. The following is a summary of the ARP/CSLFRF grant and helpful resources for a local government and its auditor in preparing for this significant compliance check.

Brief Overview of ARP/CSLFRF – The ARP/CSLFRF is a federal grant program that provided funding to the state, counties, and municipalities for a mix of COVID-related and general government expenditures. Eligible projects are defined in 4 broad areas: 1) Responding to COVID-19 and Its Negative Economic Impact, 2) Revenue Replacement, 3) Premium Pay, and 4) Necessary Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Broadband Infrastructure.

The US Treasury has defined in detail what qualifies as lawful expenditures in each of these categories. And North Carolina local governments also must ensure that they have state law authority for the expenditures. (There are some expenditures authorized by the grant that are not authorized for NC local governments under state law. For the full article, visit [ARP - Preparing for the Audit](#).



NC Department of Public Safety, FEMA Hazard Mitigation partners, *All Together for Climate Resilient Communities: Equity, Partnerships, Capability and Capacity*, a virtual workshop will be held between **Oct. 16-19 from 12:00 - 4:45 PM**. To register visit, <https://hmpartnersworkshop.vfairs.com/en>.



Save the Date

Brownfields Training, ECC Conference Room and virtual (hybrid), Wed., Nov. 15th, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. More information will be forthcoming.

RESOURCES / NOTICES

The new GSA FAC - (U.S. Government Services Administration and Census [U.S. Census Bureau] **Federal Audit Clearinghouse**) <https://www.fac.gov/> - is designed to be accessible and consistent. It is like the Census FAC, but with transitioning (for 'FY 2022 and 'FY 2023), it will rely on the users' feedback in their decision-making for present and future enhancements. Visit <https://www.fac.gov/walkthrough/> for the step-by-step overview of the new process that will take place on Oct. 1, 2023, particularly to see what changes affect NC organizations.



2024 Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative: Site Interest Form

The Rural Internship Initiative provides eligible Golden LEAF Scholars with professional work experience related to their career field in a rural North Carolina community. Internships are offered on a competitive basis. The Golden LEAF Foundation provides funding to pay interns \$15/hour for their work. The internship takes place over a period of at least 8 weeks, between May and August

2024.

Golden LEAF Scholars are responsible for identifying a site to complete their internship. In preparation for the upcoming summer 2024 internship season, Golden LEAF is gathering information from entities interested in hosting an intern next summer. There is no commitment to host an intern. Internship site information can be found at <https://scholars.goldenleaf.org/rii/sites/#survey>, which will be shared with Scholars in the fall of 2023 as a resource to locate internship sites. If you have any questions, please contact Arlena Ratliff, Golden LEAF Scholarship Program Manager, at rii@goldenleaf.org.



Street/Pedestrian Counters available through ECC – Traffic/pedestrian data can be helpful to support transportation requests. If any local governments would like traffic or pedestrian counts for a particular roadway/intersection, ECC has the counter equipment to do so. For more information, contact ECRPO Director Mickey Anderson at Manderson@eccog.org or DERPO Director Becca Eversole at Beversole@eccog.org.



Grant writing services available through ECC - ECC provides grant writing services to member communities. Grant writing projects are being accepted on a case-by-case basis (by availability and other considerations). If you are interested in ECC helping your community with grant writing, please contact Community Planner, Holly C. Lippitt

hcraighead@eccog.org, (252) 638-3185, Ext. 3021) or Executive Director, David Bone (executivedirector@eccog.org, (252)-638-3185, Ext. 3005).



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