DECEMBER 2023 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

GRANTS

NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s Lead Serives Line Replacement Funding is available for local governments, non-profit water companies, and investor-owned water utilities. Applications for these Lead Service Line Replacement funds are open year-round; the next awards will be made during State Water Infrastructure Authority meetings in Feb. and April 2024. Visit, https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/lead-service-line-replacement-funding.

In 2023 the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC) helped farmers upgrade, diversify, and maintain 150 family farms in 46 counties, including Greene and Wayne Counties. NC State Extension awarded grants through NC AgVentures for family farms and community organizations. The Commission will give priority to projects based on size of geographic area, number of people impacted, and the impact on the agricultural community. The next round of funding will be available in early January 2024; at that time visit, https://tobaccotrustfund.org/ .

NCDOT, State Planning and Research (SPR) Funds: NCDOT has issued a call for applications to the SPR Grant program. Funding for this program is given to NCDOT by USDOT for the development of the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). NCDOT uses this money to fund MPOs and RPOs throughout the state. Without SPR, there are no RPOs. After funds for the MPOs and RPOs are allocated each fiscal year, NCDOT has money left over to fund additional projects. That funding may be obtained by applying for and being awarded an SPR Grant.

Projects funded in this program are NOT for construction. The grant provides funds for a wide variety of transportation plans and studies, including but not limited to:

· Fixed route transit studies,
· Corridor studies,
· Roadway plans,
· Intersection design studies,
· Bike/Ped plans,
· Economic studies related to transportation projects, and
· Traffic management studies.

Please reach out to your RPO director to discuss this program further if you are interested, but unsure if your plan qualifies for this funding. The SPR Grant program is a reimbursement-based program, and the ECC-

RPO is unable to encumber funds that might be necessary to process invoices during the reimbursement process; unfortunately, our fund balance is insufficient to sustain and supplement the transactions that could be expected while administering this program and directly impacts the RPO budget. In our region, grant recipients will provide 5% local match, the state reimburses 15% amd the federal government reimburses 80%.

To apply, reach out to your RPO Senior Transportation Planner: Contact Becca Eversole, the Down East RPO at beversole@eccog.org, for these 4 counties -Carteret, Craven (outside New Bern MPO), Jones, and Pamlico, and contact Mickey Anderson, the Eastern Carolina RPO at manderson@eccog.org, for these 4 other counties - Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne County (outside Goldsboro MPO). The plan or study is contracted out by the RPO to a qualified planning or engineering firm to work full time on the project. Depending on the project, a steering committee may collaborate with the firm, the RPO, and local officials - to guide the project. The application deadline is February 29th, 2024. If awarded, the funds will be made available on July 1st, 2024, and work may begin on the project.

Go Outside 'GO' Grants provide North Carolina students with opportunities for outdoor experiences -- to learn by doing. North Carolina educators are encouraged to apply for grant funding for outdoor field trips, visiting programs, and educational structures. Visit https://gooutside.nc.gov/grants/ and for more information, and to apply, click on https://gooutside.nc.gov/apply/. There is no application deadline, GO Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are awarded throughout the year, as funds allow. As always, let me know if our office can be of assistance! - *Jim*
Senator Jim Perry, North Carolina General Assembly

NC DEQ's EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant to support "MARC Assessment grants" for Disadvantaged Communities: A "Brownfields site" is one that has been abandoned or is underused property because the potential or real threat of environmental contamination has obstructed its redevelopment. NC's Brownfields Program is administered by DEQ's Division of Waste Management, which works in tandem with property owners and developers to redevelop these sites.

Throughout the 5-year grant cycle, which closes out in Sept. 2027, DEQ Brownfields will work with partner communities and contractors to complete these tasks and encourage productive reuse within disadvantaged communities. DEQ Brownfields Grant Coordinator in the Redevelopment Section, Joselyn Harriger, indicated that 2 more years of BIL funding is available for those seeking Brownfields grants (competitive multipurpose grants for assessment or clean-up); they should plan now to be considered for the next cohort for 'FY 24. She suggested that municipalities ask property questions now – before the Brownfields NOFA is announced. Contact Joselyn at joselyn.harriger@deq.nc.gov or by phone at 980-297-4623. Visit https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/brownfields-redevelopment-section/assessment-grant.

- **NC Department of Information Technology, Division of Broadband and Digital Equity** has launched its 2nd round of the **Digital Champion Grant Program**; funding requests may be $400,000 per county served to a maximum of $1.5M. Eligible applicants include: Community service (local governments, town, city, and county), County libraries, K-12 Schools 501(c)(3), higher education, and Councils of Government. Projects must address at least 1 of the following digital inclusions: 1) Affordable, reliable high-speed internet; 2) Provision of internet enabled devices (computers, laptops, etc.) that meet users' needs; 3) Provide access to digital literacy and skills training; 4) Provide quality technical support; and 5) Creation of applications and online content designed to enable and encourage sufficiency, participation, and collaboration. Expanding broadband infrastructure will not be considered. The funding invitation window is open now. **Deadline: Jan. 22, 2024 at 11:59 PM.** To register for Drop-in Office Hours Dec. 11, 11:00-12:00 PM and Dec. 19, 10:00-11:00 AM, go to the website, https://www. NC+Department+of+Information+Technology%2C+Division+of+Broadband+and+Digital+Equity&form=ANNH01&refig=03657efe877b445db6d49376b0d9f2cc&pc=LCT; then

click on Funding Programs and Digital Equity Grant Scroll and down to Webinar and Office Hours, for a Teams meeting. Aand for more information, visit https://www.ncbroadband.gov/digitalequity .

ARPA UPDATE

ARP OFFICE HOURS: The School of Government has a final end-of-year date: Wednesday, December 20, 8:30-9:30am

ZOOM LOG IN ;Here is the new Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:
https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UlE2VHNhN2luS0JEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09
Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044
Passcode: 779726
One tap mobile
+16469313860,,95481909044# US
+19292056099,,95481909044# US (New York)

UPDATES

US DOT recently announced its Navigator tool - a resource to help communities understand how to apply for federal grants and plan for and deliver transformative infrastructure projects and services. Visit, https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator. The website will be updated periodically to provide access to general information, to aid in the development of grant applications, and understand frequently required documents; it is also another resource to identify regional and field offices is by its
searchable menu of technical assistance resources, which is available for new and repeat grantees. **Visit,** https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator
For NCDOT grant application questions, contact: Becca Eversole at beversole@eccog.org for DERPO (Carteret, Craven, Jones, and Pamlico Counties) and Mickey Anderson at manderson@eccog.org for ECRPO (Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne Counties).

New Historic Resilience Workshop offered by UNC, School of Government, **Online Dec. 14th 9:00-4:00**; course fee - $25.

The goal of the workshop is to seek and find common ground between historic preservation, hazard mitigation, private ownership, and public regulation, which generally represent worlds that are sometimes in conflict, despite common goals. Attendees will participate through structured discussions, case study problems, and open dialogue.

Targeted audience: Community Members and Property Owners; Historic Property Owners and Businesses; Preservation Advocates and Design Professionals; Preservation Planners, Historic Preservation Commissioners, Local Planning, and Preservation Officials; Preservation Nonprofits and Consultants; Historic Site Operators; and Architects, Engineers, and Other Designers; Elected Officials and Local Government Managers; Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Officials; Hazard Mitigation Planners, Floodplain Managers, and Land Use Planners; Religious, Higher Education, and Other Institutional Leaders; and Community Cultural Advocates. For more information and to register, visit:
https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/historic-resilience-workshops

The Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) manages Resilience Corps NC, which is funded through the federal agency, Americorps, and the NC Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer NC). This program is part of the Resilience Service Network and is coordinating placement of community based Americorps Members through the NC Climate Action Corps.

ECC will serve as a host site from Jan. 16 - Sept. 30, 2024 with an Americorps Member/ NC Climate Action Corps serving FT as a Resilience Project Coordinator to provide a year of service to our 9-county region. This individual will provide local communities with the tools they need for community and climate resilience to become more resilient to changes by developing a community assessment, identifying key partners, developing and supporting projects, and securing funds for both regional and local efforts.

FEMA GO Stakeholders Briefing: Over 500 participants attended its Quarterly Status Briefing held on Nov. 9th, many represented stakeholders from state and local emergency management agencies, grant recipients, and potential grant applicants. The briefing included an overview of FEMA GO, the updated schedule of future functionality to be released, and helpful and informative training and communication updates. View the Adobe Connect recording, FEMA GO Quarterly Status Briefing (Recording) at **https://fema.connectsolutions.com/pultoax355ec/** and share it via a downloaded copy of the presentation with access to the weblinks. Once the next briefing date, time, and virtual venue are confirmed, please accept FEMO GO's Stakeholders' invitation.

Visit the FEMO Grants Outcome webpage at includes user guides, and watch its FEMA GO Guides (tutorial videos) at **https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL720Kw_OojlKKTHyZPYrOabVboHNAgQA5**
For technical support, submit questions and/or suggestions to the general FEMA GO Help Desk email account **FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov**. The FEMA GO helpdesk has hours of operation - Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM EST or call 1-877-585-3242.

ECC Staff send to you holiday greetings and wishes for a Happy New Year!