



JANUARY 2025 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



GRANTS



The State of North Carolina Released the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The North Carolina League of Municipalities' (NCLM) endorsed IT services provider, VC3, manages the 'FY24 SLCGP grant application with interested municipalities. Visit <https://www.ncdps.gov/SLCGP> to learn more.

The 3rd funding round of the SLCGP grant will cover project expenses, up to \$250,000 with a required 30 percent funding match. Allowable expenses can include:

- Implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA), deploying endpoint detection and response (EDR), encrypting data, and terminating the use of outdated/unsupported hardware and software.
- Protecting municipalities with appropriate cybersecurity solutions.
- Minimizing operational disruption and mitigating risk with onsite and offsite data backup solutions.
- Training employees (quarterly) to prevent cyber-attacks, providing monthly automated phishing tests, and reporting.

NCLM's VC3 engineers assist with processing the grant application and assurance of its technical and financial accuracy, while working with NC's State Administrative Agency (SAA) through NC's Department of Public Safety. After municipal commitments have been approved, VC3 engineers collaborate to complete/submit grant applications by SAA's **deadline, Friday, January 31, 2025.**



NC Department of Insurance, Office of State Fire Marshall Offers Fire & Rescue Grants and Relief Funds. The 2025 Volunteer Fire Department/Apparatus Tire Replacement Grant **opened on January 15, 2025**, which was created to assist rated/certified fire departments to purchase equipment and make capital expenditures. Review the 2024 guidelines and eligibility criteria prior to the availability of the 2025 online application. **The deadline by the NC Department of Insurance will be in March 2025.** To learn more, visit the link, <https://www.ncosfm.gov/fire-rescue/fire-rescue-grants-and-relief-funds>.



US DOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, Announces OJJDP 'FY25 Enhancing Youth Defense. Funding Opportunity Number (FON) O-OJJDP-2025-172279 seeks to implement youth defense system efforts to strengthen and improve the representation of youth

involved in the juvenile justice system. This program supports organizations providing public defense services through a combination of direct grants, national training, and technical assistance to implement sustainable system improvements resulting in improved youth outcomes, reduced recidivism, safer communities, cost savings, and increased public confidence in the juvenile justice system.

Eligible entities: Governments (Special district, city or town, and county) and Non-profits with 501(c)(3) tax designation. **Attend a webinar on Jan. 23rd, 2:00-3:00 PM** to learn more about the OJJDP 'FY25 Enhancing Youth Defense program; to register, click <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/events/ojjdp-fy25-enhancing-youth-defense-funding-opportunity-webinar>. **The deadline for the competitive grant is Feb. 5, 2025 at 11:59 PM.** For more information contact, grants@ncjrs.gov; the website is <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ojjdp-2025-172279>.



N.C. Forest Service announced the 2025-1 Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program Request for Applications (RFA). As of Jan. 15, 2025, there are 3 offerings for local government and 501(c)(3) tax designated non-profits in Tier 1 Distressed Counties. The Urban and Community Forestry Project Financial Assistance Program is designed to help communities climb NC Forest Service's sustainable management hierarchy and enhance the quality of living in the community. The program provides financial assistance and expertise to develop and complete U&CF projects comprised of urban and community

forestry practices and activities. The 3 offerings can be found on the NC Forest Service website - https://www.ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_program.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery; **the grant deadlines close on Feb. 12, 2025 at 5:00 PM.**

- **Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act:** Census tracts in NC municipalities and tribal lands will receive financial assistance to guide the completion of urban and community forestry projects; the eligible Tier 1 census tracts can be located on the Council on Environmental Quality's [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#5/35.18/-79.86). Click on this link, https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#5/35.18/-79.86. \$4.4 M. funding is available; no cost share is needed.
- **Urban and Community Forestry Foundations:** Financial assistance will help with the completion of a single, initial urban forestry practice or community forestry activity that moves a municipality up the NCFS U&CF Management Classification hierarchy. The grant will cover \$150,000 of the project's cost; disadvantaged communities may be eligible for no cost share or match share agreement structures. Contact Greg Hicks, Assistant Commissioner, at greg.hicks@ncagr.gov or (919) 857-4844 between and during the RFA process.
- **Urban and Community Forestry Projects:** Financial assistance will be offered for projects that include the completion of practices and activities from multiple practice and activity categories

and are not eligible for the Inflation Reduction Act RFA or the Urban and Community Forestry Foundations RFA. The grant will cover \$100,000 of the project's cost; disadvantaged communities may be eligible for no cost share or match share agreement structures. Again, contact Greg Hicks, Assistant Commissioner, between and during the RFA process.

Register to attend the U&CF Financial Assistance **Project Planning and Application Submission Webinar to be held on Jan. 16, 2025 10:00-11:00 AM** using this link, https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=3IF2etC5mkSFw-zCbNftGSeSmhMoQDZCm-KYNhRNp31UMIUxTTQyVFBQNk9TVFpEMoRaNk5SNiY3SS4u&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&route=shorturl.



USDA, Rural Development Offers the NC Rural Decentralize Water Systems Grant Program. The grant program gives non-profits and tribally owned non-profits funding (to develop a revolving fund or to award sub-grants to homeowners in support of access to individually owned water and wastewater services) in eligible areas with less than 50,000 people. Non-profits

who have the following qualifications may apply for this grant opportunity:

- Expertise and experience promoting the safe, productive use of individually owned household water wells systems.
- Legal authority to act as a lender.
- Sufficient expertise and experience in lending activities.
- Financial, technical, and managerial capacity to comply with relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

The grant will include environmental requirements. All non-profits must contribute at least 10 percent in matching funds; an in-kind match is not permitted. To access the grant, Funding Opportunity Number (RDRUS-25-DWS), click on the link,

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/media/file/download/usda-rd-wep-dws-fy25-nof-12312024.pdf>. For more information contact, Lola Maratita at Delores.Maratita@usda.gov or (615) 714-8883. **The deadline is March 3, 2025 by 11:59 PM**



DHHS's HRSA Presents the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Overdose Response (RCORP) program. RCORP - Overdose Response supports improving health care in rural areas by addressing immediate and short-term needs that are related to providing substance use

disorder services. The goal of RCORP – Overdose Response program is to reduce and prevent the risk of overdoses in rural areas.

Eligible applicants include: city, town, special district, and county governments; non-profits with and without 501 (c)(3) tax designations; independent school districts; and small businesses. For technical information, contact Diana Wang at (301) 443-2302 or by email ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov or Kimberly Dews at kdews@hrsa.gov for grants management or budget questions. The link for the announcement is <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/5675> and **the deadline is March 10, 2025.**



FEMA Announced 'FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunities for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) programs. A total of \$600 M. has been allocated for FMA and \$750 M. for BRIC; **the application period is open until April 18, 2025.** North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) has yet to announce deadlines for Letters of Interest (LOIs) or final sub-application submissions, with details to be shared in the

coming weeks.

Both programs aim to reduce long-term risks from natural disasters and enhance community resilience. Eligible sub-applicants include states, U.S. territories, and local governments. BRIC focuses on building capability and capacity, improving critical infrastructure, and implementing mitigation projects that

safeguard public safety. FMA prioritizes minimizing flood risks for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-insured properties, particularly Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss structures. Residential project types under FMA include structure elevation or acquisition of high-risk properties. For more information, visit the NOFOs at:

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/notice-funding-opportunities/bric-fma/fy2024-nofo> or contact Sara Deskar, ECC Community Planner, at sdeskar@eccog.org.



NCDEQ's Division of Coastal Management Offers Beach & Waterfront Access Grants. The Division of Coastal Management provides matching grants to local governments for projects to improve pedestrian access to the state's beaches and waterways. **Grant pre-applications (due April 2025)** and **Grant Guidance for 2025-2026 will be available in February 2025.** Contact your District Planner - for Carteret and Pamlico Counties – Rachel Love-Adrick, Morehead City, (252) 515-5403 or rachel.love-adrick@deq.nc.gov; and for Onslow County – Mike Christenbury, Wilmington, (910) 796-7426 or mike.christenbury@deq.nc.gov.

Final applications are due in July 2025. Visit the following link as more information is made available, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/coastal-management-beach-waterfront-access-program/beach-waterfront-access-grants>.



ECC to Host its 12th GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP on Feb. 18-19, 2025, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Click on the following link to register <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7jardkg> or use the QR Code, below.



ARPA UPDATE



Upcoming UNC SOG ~ ARP Office Hours:

- January 21, 2025: 12:00-1:00 PM
- February 5, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM
- February 21, 2025: 12:00-1:00 PM
- March 6, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM
- March 18, 2025: 12:00-1:00 PM

Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

UPDATES



State CDBG-NR and ED Grantees to complete/submit the 2024 Annual Performance Report (APR). The Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) will use 2 documents via hyperlink for the 2024 APR. The new report adds an applicability question regarding Build America, Buy America (BABA). Please use the hyperlink to access the Excel and PDF documents - <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/document-terms/annual-performance-apr>.

As a reminder, the documents include instructions and all the APR required forms in a single Excel workbook. Some of the format features include:

- **Single Entry for the Grantee Name and Grant Number:** Once the grantee name and grant number is entered on the cover page, it will auto populate throughout the workbook.
- **Replacement of the Contractor Information form with the HUD Form 2516:** This form has been added to ensure a single location for all the HUD MWBE reporting requirements.
- **Section 3 Reporting Form:** This form replaces the HUD 60002 form, which is no longer required.
- **Main Summary Page Section 3 Section:** The form now includes a new question to identify Section 3-related and BABA activities.

Please adhere to the new submission requirements. In addition, **mail the hard copy by 5:00 PM on Friday, January 31, 2025, and grantees must submit the Excel workbook saved as 2024 APR-Grantee Name and Grant Number with the signed cover sheet** to compliance@commerce.nc.gov. Contact Tamisha I. Evans, NC Department of Commerce, Federal Programs Compliance Specialist, tamisha.evans@commerce.nc.gov.



The Latest FEMA GO Quarterly User Focus Group Webinar Is Available. View or share the Adobe Connect link from the Nov. 14, 2024 Recording with your colleagues and stakeholders who were unable to attend the webinar,

<https://femacqpub1.cosocloud.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/catalog.html?folder-id=485487837&from-origin=fema.cosocloud.com>.

The FEMA GO Help Desk hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM ET. The Help Desk accepts phone calls at 1-877-585-3242 and emails at femago@fema.dhs.gov. Sign up for FEMA Grants News at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/subscriber/new>.



Grants.gov - Upcoming maintenance dates: Jan. 18-20 and Feb. 15-17, 2025.



NC Rural Center's Rural Population Growth - Analyzed. Population data from 2010-2020, demonstrated that rural America experienced a slight population decline (contrary to decades of growth), which caused economic challenges. However, more recent data shows a shift. Rural areas have experienced growth again, which was mainly due to increased net migration.

Analysis by the NC Rural Center found the population in NC's 78 rural counties from 2010-2020 grew by 106,632 people, a 2.9 percent increase. Even though there was growth, many rural counties lost population during this time, and rural growth fell behind that of urban and suburban counties. From 2020-2023, growth in rural NC accelerated to 2.7 percent, adding almost as many people within 3 years, as in the previous decade.

Increased net migration into rural counties was the primary cause of rural growth. It started growing in

the late-2010s, but it also accelerated after the COVID-19 pandemic, and has continued to rise, leading to the greatest rural population growth in more than a decade. (Source: Bailey, Dalton. Rural Resurgence: Recent Population Growth in Rural N.C., NC Rural Center, 2024.)

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Eastern Carolina Council Mission - to improve the region's quality of life by providing human, planning, and economic development services to local governments and area residents by leveraging resources and collaborating regionally.

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