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## MARCH 2025 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

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**NOFA \$10M for Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLF) through NC Housing Finance Agency.** The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (the Agency) will make a total of \$11 million available to eligible organizations for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes in selected counties. The Program targets assistance to the elderly, disabled, veterans or households with children up to 6 years old that are living in owner-occupied homes in these ECC Member counties Carteret, Duplin, and Lenior. Homes must have lead hazards and a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

Eligible organizations include non-profits, local governments, and regional councils of government. Applications are due Friday, **April 4, 2025**, by 5:00 PM. Contact Donna Coleman, 919-981-5006; Mike Handley, 919-877-5627; Chuck Dopler, 919-981-5008; Dan McFarland, 919-875-3753 or Sarah Zinn, 919-578-3580; the link for the NOFA and application material can be found at:

<https://www.nchfa.com/home-ownership-partners/community-partners/community-programs/single-family-rehabilitation-loan-pool>.

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**Duke Energy Foundation allocates \$500k for Community Grants.** The Foundation is funding two program sets involving the continuum of storm preparedness and strengthening communities in these amounts:



1. Storm readiness, response, recovery and resilience: upto \$25,000.
2. Strengthening and uplifting communities, upto \$20,000.

The Foundation has committed \$500,000 in grants to support local **storm preparedness** across the state. Proposal samples include:

- Heightened collaboration across agencies, sectors and communities in local disaster preparedness and response.
- Organized and innovative planning initiatives for local communities to prepare for natural disasters and extreme weather.
- Local storm preparedness training, materials, kits, and other community engagement and education initiatives.
- Specialized training for first responders for natural disaster scenarios.

Ineligible grants include: energy generating equipment or weatherization, such as energy efficiency, generators, solar panels, and other efforts.

Proposals shall not exceed \$25,000 from government entities and Applicants are required to complete in advance a vetting process through Duke Energy Foundation's 3rd-party processor - before being considered for funding. The vetting guide is available at: [https://www.duke-energy.com/-/media/pdfs/foundation/de-foundation-benevity-vetting.pdf?rev=34c485bb5f704a0e8f58e84e09df8851&gl=1\\*avpqhb\\*gclau\\*MjA1MzAwMDczOS4xNzQxMTkzMTYx\\*ga\\*MTA4NDA1MzcyMS4xNzE4MzcoNTYx\\*gaHB58MJRNTY\\*MTcoMTE5MzE2MC41LjEuMTcoMTE5NDkxMi4wLjAuMA](https://www.duke-energy.com/-/media/pdfs/foundation/de-foundation-benevity-vetting.pdf?rev=34c485bb5f704a0e8f58e84e09df8851&gl=1*avpqhb*gclau*MjA1MzAwMDczOS4xNzQxMTkzMTYx*ga*MTA4NDA1MzcyMS4xNzE4MzcoNTYx*gaHB58MJRNTY*MTcoMTE5MzE2MC41LjEuMTcoMTE5NDkxMi4wLjAuMA).

Information about the Foundations grant program may be found at <https://foundation.duke-energy.com/grants/north-carolina/storm-preparedness>. **Applications will be accepted through 5:00PM- April 25th.**

The other category of funding through the Foundation focuses on strengthening and uplifting communities. The Foundation will accept grant applications for upto \$20,000 throughout the year for proposals that advance:

- Vibrant Communities
- Climate Resilience
- Opportunity and Inclusion

For more information visit, <https://foundation.duke-energy.com/grants>.



**NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) Re-opens.** This grant opportunity provides technical assistance and funding for local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties for direct technical assistance to complete a community engagement process, risk, and vulnerability assessment, and develop a resilience project portfolio.

RCCP's four program phases are:

- Phase 1 - Community Engagement; Risk & Vulnerability Assessment.
- Phase 2 - Planning, Project Identification, & Prioritization. (\*)
- Phase 3 - Engineering & Design.
- Phase 4 - Implementation & Construction.

*\*Also included are CAMA Land Use Plan Updates.*

This program does not require a match. The Division is offering an **informational webinar on Friday, March 21st (2:00-3:30 PM)**, to participate Register at this link, <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/h8b5rf2>.

Grant information may be found at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/coastal-management/coastal-adaptation-and-resiliency/nc-resilient-coastal-communities-program#ProgramContacts-3609>

**The grant application deadline is Friday, April 25, 2025, by 5:00 PM** submit all applications to [rccp@deq.nc.gov](mailto:rccp@deq.nc.gov). For additional information interested applicants may contact Mackenzie Todd, Coastal Resiliency Coordinator at [Mackenzie.Todd@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Mackenzie.Todd@deq.nc.gov) or Kasen Wally, Coastal Resiliency

Specialist, at [kasen.wally@deq.nc.gov](mailto:kasen.wally@deq.nc.gov).

For questions specifically related to land use planning and how this initiative overlaps with **CAMA Land Use Plan** updates, reach out to your District Planner – Rachel Love-Adrick in Morehead City at [rachel.love-adrick@deq.nc.gov](mailto:rachel.love-adrick@deq.nc.gov) or (252) 515-5403 (for *Carteret, Craven, and Pamlico Counties*) or Mike Christenbury in Wilmington at [mike.christenbury@deq.nc.gov](mailto:mike.christenbury@deq.nc.gov) or (919) 796-7426 (for *Onslow County*).

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**NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) and Emerging Contaminant (EC) Study projects.** Funding is available for local governments, non-profit water companies, and investor-owned water utilities. Funding is to replace lead service lines and lead connectors between the main water line and the point of the premise plumbing, usually outdoors leading to the building inlet. It cannot be used to replace indoor plumbing or indoor fixtures.

To access the grant application search the link on the LSLR Program website, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/lead-service-line-replacement-lslr-funding>. Applications for these Lead Service Line Replacement funds are open year-round. **The 2025 rolling application deadlines are June 5th, Aug. 1st, and Nov. 3rd.** Contacts for LSLR funding are [David.Giachini@deq.nc.gov](mailto:David.Giachini@deq.nc.gov) at (919) 707-9191 and [Amanjit.Paintal@deq.nc.gov](mailto:Amanjit.Paintal@deq.nc.gov) at (919) 707-9054.

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**RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAMS for utility organizations.** USDA provides 0%-interest loans to local utilities which in turn, they pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the local utility, which are responsible for repayment to USDA.

USDA provides grants to local utility organizations, which use the funding to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). Loans to project from the RLF are to create or retain rural jobs. The Amended Notice of Solicitations of Applications (Nov. 21, 2024) for eligible entities' projects apply to rural areas or towns with fewer than 50,000 residents, which include:

1. Current Rural Utilities Service (RUS), electric or telecommunication borrower.
2. Any former RUS borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act; Or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act.

The local utility applies to USDA for funding support on behalf of specified local projects. Projects may begin after submission of an application, even though there is no guarantee of approval. If approved, USDA will issue funds to the local utility for the specified project. The Maximum Grant Amount is \$300,000 to establish the RLF; up to 10 % of grant funds may be applied toward operating expenses over the life of the RLF. The Maximum Loan Amount is \$1 M.

The local utility passes the funding to ultimate recipients for such eligible projects as:

- Business incubators.
- Community development assistance to nonprofits and public bodies (particularly for job creation or enhancement).
- Facilities and equipment to educate and train rural residents to help economic development.
- Facilities and equipment for medical care for rural residents.
- Start-up venture costs, including, but not limited to, financing fixed assets such as real estate, buildings, equipment, or working capital.
- Business expansion.
- Technical assistance.

For more information visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>. Applications are to be received in the RD State Office on an on-going basis through quarterly funding competitions; **the next quarter ends on June 30, 2025, by 4:30 PM.** Please contact the NC State Office for additional information and to apply - Reginald Speight, State Director, 4405 Bland Rd., Suite 260, Raleigh, NC, 27609, Phone (919) 873-2000, Fax (844) 325-6921.



**NC GO Outside Grant suspended for 2024-25 School Year - Reopening hinges on State Budget.** In January 2025, potential GO Outside Grants applicants were notified that applications will not be available for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. The application deadline remains open but only grant submittals with trips after July 2025 will be considered.

NC GO Outside Grant may offer late 2025 grant awards for field trips and construction of outdoor learning facilities, pending State funding. The NC Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission's objective, "... to encourage and strengthen young North Carolinians' connection to nature by providing opportunities to engage with the outdoors, encourages youth to experience planned outdoor activities."

Eligible entities include: schools (public, private, or charter), home school associations, NC children's homes, and 501(c)(3) non-profits. Allowable projects are field trips, and visiting programs, as well as on-campus, agricultural or aquatic structures, archery ranges, and educational nature trails. Questions may be addressed to [GoOutside.nc.gov](http://GoOutside.nc.gov) and to apply for a grant visit, [www.GoOutside.nc.gov](http://www.GoOutside.nc.gov).



**NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) offers Park Funding.** NC counties and incorporated municipalities are eligible for LWCF funding and may request up to \$500,000 for the acquisition, development, or a combination of both for outdoor public recreation. An applicant must match the grant with a minimum of 50 percent.

LWCF staff review/evaluate/rank projects compared to the goals and initiatives Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); the NC Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025 may be found at <https://www.ncparks.gov/planning-files/north-carolina-statewide-comprehensive-outdoor-recreation-plan/open>. **Applications are due Aug. 1st.** For questions concerning the LWCF grant in NC's Southeast Region, contact Grants Specialist, Sophia Olson at [Sophia.olson@ncparks.gov](mailto:Sophia.olson@ncparks.gov) or (919) 707-9342. Program and Application details may be found at <https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/land-and-water-conservation-fund>.

## ARPA UPDATES



**ARPA Reporting Reminder - April 30, 2025 - for Both Annual and Quarterly Reporters:** Please keep in mind the ARPA Project and Expenditure Report is due April 30, 2025 for Both Annual and Quarterly Reporters

Counties and municipalities with a population below 250,000 residents that are allocated less than \$10 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funding must submit **annual** P&E reports. Larger local governments and those allocated more SLFRF funding must submit **quarterly** P&E reports.

Even if your community has not obligated or expended ARPA funds during this reporting period, you still must submit a report to Treasury. In preparation for the report, it would be helpful to do the following:

- If roles have changed since the last reporting deadline, make sure your Treasury portal credentials are available.
- Check your SAM.gov registration expiration/renewal date, roles, and credentials. An active SAM.gov registration is required during the award period.

Please reach out to ECC staff if you have any questions, issues, or would like assistance with ARPA matters.

**ARP OFFICE HOURS:** The UNC School of Government (SOG) hosts virtual ARPA Office Hours for local governments to discuss issues related to the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund program and local government finance. NCACC participates in these sessions and provides timely updates for counties on ARPA-related matters.

Upcoming ARP/Finance Office Hours (NC Finance Connect):

- March 18, 2025: 12:00-1:00 PM
- March 24, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM

The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=U1E2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09#success>.

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## UPDATES

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# DISASTER RECOVERY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

## BACKGROUND

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments (NCARCOG) supports local governments in effectively managing and building capacity for local and regional disaster recovery, mitigation, and resilience efforts.

In 2023, NCARCOG partnered with High Street Consulting, LLC (HSC) to develop **Disaster Recovery Public Assistance Financial Administration Training to address gaps in the financial administration of disaster recovery efforts**. The curriculum was developed with input from an NCARCOG Subject Matter Expert (SME) Committee and from Public Assistance grant experts.

## IN-PERSON TRAINING

NCARCOG is continuing its commitment to support local governments by providing an updated version of the training in a one-day format based on changes in FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program requirements.

**Who should attend?** This training is designed to help local communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. It is intended for **local financial administrators, first responders, town administrators and support staff, and elected officials**.

Date and Time	Location
Thursday, April 10, 2025 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Check-in and refreshments begin at 8:30 am Lunch and snack breaks will be provided	Lumber River Council of Governments 30 CJ Walker Road Pembroke, NC 28372 Free onsite parking is available <a href="#">Google Maps</a>

**Is there a cost?** This training is offered **free of charge** to local NC communities.

**What are the hotel accommodations for attendees?** Lodging is not included with the training. There are a number of hotels available in Lumberton, between 8-10 miles from the COG (15-20-minute drive). [Nearby hotels](#)

**How can I register?** Send an email to [NCARCOGtraining@hscllc.net](mailto:NCARCOGtraining@hscllc.net) with the name of the individual attending the course, any dietary requirements, and any accommodation needs.

**When should I register?** Registrations must be received by **Friday, April 4, 2025**.

**For more information, please email [NCARCOGtraining@hscllc.net](mailto:NCARCOGtraining@hscllc.net)**



### Updated FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program available in April.

The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments (NCARCOG) will offer an updated version of FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program in April. NCARCOG, made up of the Eastern Carolina Council and the other 15 NC councils of government (COGS), offered the initial FEMA Public Assistance Financial Administration Training in each region during 2023-2024.

In its efforts to support local governments NCARCOG has revised the training into a 1-day format. In eastern NC, this free training will take place on Thursday, April 10, 2025 from 9:00-4:30 at the Lumber River Council of Governments in Pembroke, NC.

This training is designed to help local communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. This training is highly beneficial for local government staff with financial

administration responsibilities, first responders and emergency management professionals, local administrators, and elected officials. To register, send an email to [NCARCOGtraining@hscellc.net](mailto:NCARCOGtraining@hscellc.net) with the individual's name, and any dietary requirements and accommodation needs. **Registrations must be received by Friday, April 4, 2025.**

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**NC DEQ Brownfields Redevelopment Section hosts quarterly Stakeholder Group Meetings.** The Brownfields Redevelopment Section offers stakeholder meetings to provide programmatic updates and create an environment for information sharing. To receive notifications of the Stakeholder Group Meetings or other stakeholder information, use the email list link to sign up for notifications - <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/brownfields-program/program-information/join-our-email-list>. The next Stakeholder

Meeting will be held on **March 20th from 1:00-2:00 PM**; questions are encouraged during the meetings. Register for the March 20th meeting at <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/d4922278-964f-4e18-b216-0e83d74b26f9@7a7681dc-b9d0-449a-85c3-ecc26cd7ed19>.

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Direct questions related to FEMA Go Outcomes to [FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov) at the FEMA GO Help Desk or call 1-877-585-3242 on Monday - Friday, 9:00-6:00 ET.

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The next [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) scheduled maintenance dates are April 19-21, 2025.

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## CONNECT WITH US!

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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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