



MAY 2025 GRANT RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



Together we can achieve our goals.

GRANTS

NORTH CAROLINA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



NC Community Foundation grant opportunities. NCCFs community grantmaking supports a broad range of purposes to meet local needs that include human services, education, youth development, health, food/nutrition, arts, and more. NCCF serves the entire state, with a focus on rural North Carolina through 53 affiliate foundations. The affiliate foundations create a grass roots connection between rural communities and NCCFs expertise which also provides our fundholders with local insight that strengthens grantmaking. An organization must meet the following criteria to apply:

- 501(c)(3) public charity nonprofit organizations registered with the IRS (see answers to the questions below for additional details)
- Organizations with fiscal sponsors that are 501(c)(3) public charity nonprofit organizations registered with the IRS (see below for additional information)
- Local governments (including public schools)
- Fire and rescue departments
- Religious entities, including churches, congregations and other houses of worship, and/or faith-based organizations whose core functions/operations promote religious doctrine or are restricted to members of a particular faith may apply for funding to support social outreach and charitable service programs to benefit the community-at-large, but they may not apply for general operating support.
- Only those organizations that serve the counties within a NCCF affiliate network will be considered. If an organization serves multiple counties within the network, that organization may complete a separate application for each of those affiliates.
- Organizations must offer programs and services without discrimination based on age, race,

national origin, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious belief.

Grant opportunities may differ between county's therefore prior to completing an application, it is important for interested applicants to learn about the grantmaking of the community program to which they may apply. Different community grantmaking programs may also seek applications for certain target areas, capacity building, organizations with operating budgets within a specified range, or for other permissions and restrictions. The amount of grant awards also vary widely across programs as does application deadlines. For more information on program offerings in your county, go to <https://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/nonprofits/community-grantmaking#search>, and search programs by county, through the APPLY FOR GRANTS BY COUNTY, drop down menu.

There are several Training Modules for first time applicants, visit these links for:

Module I:

https://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/04/2017_Grants_Tutorial_Series_Module-I_Creating_a_New_Profile-1.pdf.

Module II:

https://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/11/2025_Grants_Tutorial_Series_Module-II_Adding_an-Application.pdf.



The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), a federal-state partnership, in portions of 6 states (AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, VA) and all of FL, promotes and encourages economic development. The SCRC's State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grants program opened May 12th. Pre-applications are due May 27th, and full applications are due July 18, 2025. Funding will enrich economically distressed counties, create new jobs to enhance residents' lives, and build stronger communities. Contact NC's Program Manager, Olivia Collier, at ocollier@commerce.nc.gov and ECC's Executive Director, David Bone, at dbone@eccog.org about potential projects.

The following program guidelines will provide justification for developing a SEID grant application:

- SEID grant awards may fund both construction and non-construction projects.
- Grant amounts will range from \$50,000 (minimum) to \$500,000 (maximum), although exceptions to the maximum may be granted with justification.
- At least 50% of funds must support projects in Distressed Counties (with Tier designation of 1 and 2), and 40% must support infrastructure projects. (Rates are highest in unemployment, per capital income, and poverty.)
- Matching funds are required for project consideration.
- It is critical that projects are ready when the pre-application window opens (date TBD).

NC has developed priorities for SCRC's SEID project investments, including the following models:

- Projects that enhance long-term infrastructure commitments that support commerce and job creation/retention.
- Projects that strengthen partnerships between local industries, K-12 schools, and community colleges to enhance workforce development and ensure a skilled talent pipeline in the region.
- Projects that stimulate economic activity in the health care sector and improve rural health care services, while supporting local initiatives to address health care challenges.

Eastern Carolina Council (ECC), as SCRC's Local Development District (LDD), supports local governments in our region by coordinating applications with SCRC's Department of Commerce for SCRC and other federal funds, and provides related programs.



NC DEQ's Energy Saver North Carolina program expands across the state. The Energy Saver North Carolina program helps income eligible homeowners and renters in different areas of the state to cover the cost of energy efficiency and electrical upgrades through two programs HOMES (Homeowners Managing Efficiency Savings) and HEAR (Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates). DEQ will be expanding funding opportunities to more counties, including those affected by storms, as contractors are trained and registered. However, funding is offered on a first come, first serve basis, until all funds are spent or until 2031. DEQ suggests that interested homeowners begin the ON LINE application process immediately and gather income

documents to be ready once funds are extended to your area.

The accompanying NC County Expansion Phases Map indicates the statewide timeframes for the roll-out of programs.



An overview of the Energy Saver NC program can be found at <https://energysavernc.org/>, and answers to 'Frequently Asked Questions' is located at <https://energysavernc.org/frequently-asked-questions/>, also for program details you can contact DEQ by email: energysavernc@aptim.com or by calling (866) 998-8555, Mon. – Fri., 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM.



NCDIT's Office of Broadband and Digital Opportunity launched the \$17 M Digital Opportunity Grant program. It will expand access to digital devices, help desk and technical support, and digital skills and online safety programs through 2 tracts.

Division of Broadband and Digital Equity•

- Track 1** creates or expands digital literacy and online safety skills programs and/or creates or expands digital navigator programs.
- Track 2:** focuses on computer ownership capacity building and sustainability. (Apply only for Track 2a or 2b, not to both.)
- Track 2a:** Computer Refurbisher Hub: Hubs are organizations responsible for receiving, processing, and preparing used computers for redistribution through Computer Deployment Leads and Partners throughout NCDIT.
- Track 2b:** Computer Deployment Lead: Leads refer to key coordinating organizations responsible for identifying, managing and supporting local Computer Deployment Partners. They serve as the liaison between NCDIT, Hubs, and Computer Deployment Partners to ensure seamless communication, operational efficiency, program alignment, and monitoring that program outcomes are met.

The Digital Opportunity Grant program provides access to affordable high-speed internet and high-quality large-screen computers, and the necessary digital skills training for safe navigation on the internet, thereby providing both technology and skills to develop competitive NC job employment opportunities. **The grant deadline is June 9, 2025 at 11:59 PM** For more information visit, <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/Digital-Opportunity-Grant>.

US Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services - COPS Office, is providing the Fiscal Year 2025 School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) grant. Up to \$73 million in funding is available for FY25 SVPP. Each award is three years (36 months) in duration for a maximum federal share of \$500,000 per award.



There is a local cash match (cost share) requirement of at least 25 percent.

SVPP funding will provide up to 75% funding for the following school safety measures in and around K-12 (*primary and secondary*) schools and school grounds:

- Coordination with law enforcement
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against others and self
- Metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures
- Technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency
- Any other measure that the COPS Office determines may provide a significant improvement in security

Information about the application process may be found at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>. Eligible applications will be accepted from units of local Law Enforcement Agencies, units of local government, or federally recognized Indian tribes to improve security through evidence-based school safety programs and technology at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee. A SVPP webinar was hosted on May 8, 2025, which will be recorded and made available on the above website - between the end of May and the first of June. **At this time only applicants with an active [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) registration will be eligible** for Funding Opportunity # O-COPS-2025-172379; it requires 3 steps and has tight deadlines:

- **STEP 1:** Ensure active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) database at <https://www.sam.gov/>. [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov/) registration must be updated or renewed annually to maintain an active status. For those who actively are registered, **it must be active 30 days prior to the COPS SVPP deadline.**

****ALERT:** You must **submit a notarized letter** appointing the authorized Entity Administrator before your registration will be activated. This requirement now applies to both new and existing entities. (www.grants.gov)

- **STEP 2:** Register at Grants.gov and complete form SF-424 **by the deadline, Mon, June 16, 2025 at 4:59 PM.**
- **STEP 3:** Submit a full application, including all attachments via [Justgrants](https://www.justgrants.gov) **by the deadline, Thurs., June 26, 2025 at 4:59 PM.**

JustGrants is the US Department of Justice's system access for grant application and grant management, "Frequently Asked Questions," user support, and training resources. It also has information about Grants.gov and registration or renewal for an active [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) account, which must take place before the deadline. Visit <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/> for more information. Contact 800-421-6770 or askCopsRC@usdoj.gov with questions.

You may also sign up for notifications at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/subscribe> for COPS Office funding opportunities and activities.



NC Department of Commerce's Rural Engagement & Investment (RE&I) Program offers (3) Rural Reuse & Development Programs (Rural Building Reuse, Rural Infrastructure, and Rural Demolition). Local governments in Tier 1 and 2 counties, or those counties within a Tier 3 rural census tract, are eligible - to support not only economic development projects, but also to create NC jobs.

Application deadlines are Thurs., June 19, 2025, Thurs., Oct. 23, 2025, and Thurs., Feb. 26, 2026.

- **Rural Building Reuse** - A \$1-for-\$1 cash match is required. Visit <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/building-or-site-funds/building-reuse/building-reuse-state-rural-grants> for more information.
- **Rural Infrastructure** - A cash match of 5% is expected as part of the grant. Visit <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/public-infrastructure-funds/infrastructure-state-rural-grants>, for more information.
- **Rural Demolition** - Damaged local government-owned buildings that have been vacant for 3

years are eligible for this fund. Local government also is obligated to provide a cash match of 25% toward the total project. Visit <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/building-or-site-funds/demolition/demolition-state-rural-grants>, for more information.

Contact Hazel Edmond, Director Rural Engagement & Investment, Rural Economic Development Division at hazel.edmond@commerce.nc.gov.

NC's Department of Commerce's One North Carolina Small Business Program is accepting Incentive or Matching grant applications. The Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation (OSTI) assists expansion of the state's economic opportunities and resiliency through Incentive or Matching grants. **Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2025** or until all 2024-2025 funds have been exhausted. The One North Carolina Small Business Program is comprised of two programs:

- The SBIR/STTR Phase I **Incentive Funds** Program - As authorized by NC General Statute § 143B-437.80, awards reimbursement to qualified NC businesses for a portion of the costs incurred in preparing and submitting Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) proposals to federal agencies. The goals are to increase the number, quality, company and technology diversity, and geographic breadth of NC applications for Federal SBIR and STTR Phase I awards.
- The SBIR/STTR Phase I **Matching Funds** Program - As authorized by NC General Statute § 143B-437.81, awards matching funds to NC businesses who have received a federal SBIR or STTR award. The goals are to help NC companies bridge the funding gap period between the final Phase I payment and the first Phase II payment in the Federal Program, and increase the intensity of the research conducted under Phase I, making NC small businesses more competitive in the competition for Phase II funds.

For more details visit, <https://www.commerce.nc.gov/grants-incentives/technology-funds/one-north-carolina-small-business-program>. Contact David Rhodes at rhodes@commerce.nc.gov or call (919) 814-4611.



USDA Rural Development currently is not experiencing any changes to the following 2 programs.

The **Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program** is for local governments and private non-profits with financially distressed rural communities of 10,000 or less to provide funds for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to local households and businesses in eligible rural

areas. **Applications are accepted year-round.** For more information visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/nc>. Contact USDA Program Specialist Stephanie Hardison at stephanie.hardison@usda.gov or (252) 526-9799 at the Kinston RD office serving (9) Eastern Carolina Counties.

USDA also offers a **Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program in NC**, which funds the development or improvement of essential public services and facilities in rural areas. Potential projects comprise fire and rescue stations, town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, childcare centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community-based initiatives. Whereas, specific opportunities include the purchase, construction, or improvement of facilities, the purchase of equipment, or to pay related project expenses. **Applications are accepted year-round** for communities with a population of 5,500, or less and those with low-incomes exhibiting a median household income below 80%. For more information visit, <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/nc>.

Contact USDA Program Specialist Stephanie Hardison at stephanie.hardison@usda.gov or (252) 526-9799 at the Kinston RD office serving 9 Eastern Carolina Counties.

ARPA UPDATES



Read UNC-SOG's blog, *After the Obligation Deadline: Managing ARP/CSLFRF Funds and Projects through the End of the Grant Term*, before completing all projects, ensuring compliance of allocated funds, and fully expending all ARP/CSLFRF funds by Dec. 31, 2026. Access the blog at

<https://canons.sog.unc.edu/2025/03/after-the-obligation-deadline-managing-arp-cslfrf-funds-and-projects-through-the-end-of-the-grant-term/>.

UNC-SOG Office Hours:

- May 20, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM
- May 29, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM
- June 6, 2025: 12:00-1:00 PM
- June 12, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM
- June 19, 2025: 12:00-12:45 PM
- June 24, 2025: 8:30-9:30 AM

Zoom Link for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=ULE2VHNhN2luSoJEYtJqETZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

UPDATES



[Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) is retiring the mobile app and upgrading it with a more mobile-friendly version on the [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) website. For more information, visit the Community Blog entitled, *Grants.gov is retiring its Mobile App*, at

<https://grantsgovprod.wordpress.com/2025/04/01/grants-gov-is-retiring-its-mobile-app/>.



2025 Economic County Snapshots for North Carolina are provided annually through NC's Budget and Tax Center (BTC). The Durham-based 501 (c)(3) non-profit captures economic and social indicators for each of NC's 100 counties – comparing employment, poverty, income, affordable housing, health, education, and collaborative catalysts for policy and system change. All data is available to download in a Google or Excel spreadsheet. Data methodology and their sources are also available; search

<https://ncbudget.org/2025-economic-county-snapshots-for-north-carolina/> to discover snapshots of counties' tools and resources, legislative

briefs, press releases, videos, and reports.

Every quarter BTC connects communities of people to the process for legislative decision-making – to learn about policy topics, engagement tools, and additional opportunities – to provide community perspectives. Registration for the free webinars and access to past webinars provide valuable resources for NC residents to learn about legislative policies and how they were designed. The most recent May 14th *Making Connections* webinar was held from 7:00-8:30 PM. Search the Making Connections web page for future webinars at <https://ncbudget.org/makingconnections/>.

US EPA's Water Finance Clearing House. The Clearing House is a web-based portal of 2 searchable databases for communities to access funding



information and resources for decision making about drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure requirements. Funding sources are available in one database, while the second resource database provides case studies, training modules on financing, webinars about financial methods, and reports – all to assist communities in making appropriate decisions planning for their water infrastructure investments.

For more information visit, <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-finance-clearinghouse>.

CONNECT!



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.

Eastern Carolina Council | PO Box 1717 | New Bern, NC 28560 US

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