



July 2025 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's Grant Resources Newsletter for July 2025. This is a resource for local government employees, elected and appointed officials, and other community-focused individuals in the ECC region for receiving information about upcoming opportunities, relevant updates, and useful tools pertaining to grants.

Grants

205(j) Water Quality Management Planning



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

Is your community interested in a water quality planning project? The NC Department of Environmental Quality offers a 205(j) grant on an annual basis.

Eligible projects include:

- 9-element watershed restoration plan development or update for 12-digit HUC (hydraulic unit code) or smaller watersheds.
- Stormwater infrastructure mapping.
- Assessment/identification of pollution sources.
- Water quality planning efforts between councils of governments and local governments.
- Projects that have regional or statewide impacts.

Only councils of governments are eligible to apply. If you have a water quality planning project idea and are interested in potentially partnering with Eastern Carolina Council on a 205(j) grant, please contact ECC staff as soon as possible. The upcoming cycle will start soon.

This grant is competitive. A local match is not required, but it is preferred. Award amounts vary.

Links:

- Click [HERE](#) for details about 205(j).

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program



**NC Division
of Parks &
Recreation**

The Division of Parks and Recreation in the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is accepting applications for LWCF grants. The purpose of this program is to expand outdoor recreation opportunities through assistance with land acquisition and facility development of public outdoor recreation projects.

Counties, municipalities, and federally recognized Native American Tribes are eligible to apply, and the award maximum is \$500,000. Multiple applications may be submitted per grant cycle. There is a 50% cost share.

An eligible project may include acquisition, development, or a combination of both, must be at a single site, and must be permanently accessible to the public. An eligible project must also support at least one priority in North Carolina's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (see link below). School system projects are not eligible.

Applications must be submitted for technical review by August 29, 2025.

Links

- Click [HERE](#) for the 2025 application guide.
- Click [HERE](#) for the 2020-2025 NC Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)



**NC Division
of Parks &
Recreation**

PARTF is an annual grant program funded by the NC General Assembly and overseen by the Parks and Recreation Authority. The purpose of this program is to assist local governments with the development of public parks.

Cities and counties within the state are eligible to apply for awards up to \$500,000 per application. The competitive grants are reimbursement-based, and there is a 50% local match.

Eligible projects include land acquisition, construction, and renovation of recreational facilities on a single site that are open to the public. Property must be owned by the applicant or under a minimum 25-year lease.

Applications closed on May 1, so now is the time to start planning for the 2025/2026 funding cycle. Successful applications typically involve significant planning efforts.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) to see an overview and contacts for PARTF.

Recreational Trails Program



**NC Division
of Parks &
Recreation**

The Division of Parks and Recreation in the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is accepting applications for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant. The purpose of this program is to provide assistance for the construction of recreational trails projects.

Local governments are eligible to apply. Award amount ranges between \$10,000 and \$100,000, and there is a 25% local match. The grant is a reimbursement.

Eligible projects include construction, maintenance, restoration, acquisition, and other activities related to recreational trails on publicly owned land or easements. Pre-construction activities may not exceed 10% of award.

August 1, 2025 is the deadline for staff review.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for the program website at trails.nc.gov.

Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants



US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is accepting applications for Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants.

The purpose of this program is to assist low-income communities with obtaining water and waste disposal projects.

Eligible applicants include rural areas and municipalities with populations of 10,000 or less that have a median household income under the poverty line or less than 80% of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income.

Grant funds can be used to create applications for potential USDA Rural Development water or waste disposal projects. Maximum award amount is \$60,000 or 75% of the predevelopment planning costs. There is a 25% non-federal match.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information on usda.gov.

Urban and Community Forestry Foundations



The NC Forest Service (NCFS) is accepting applications for Urban and Community Forestry Foundations assistance. Municipalities and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

There are two types of awards:

- **N.C. Arbor Day 2026 Celebration Assistance.** NCFS will provide services and supplies for a 2026 Arbor Day event. Preference is given to communities in Tier

- 1 Counties. The deadline for Arbor Day assistance is August 31, 2025.
- **2025 Professional Staff Development.** NCFS will provide financial assistance for a community's staff member to obtain urban forestry credentials. The deadline for staff development assistance is October 31, 2025.

Please see links below for details on requirements and award criteria.

Links

- Click [HERE](#) for information about the grants on ncagr.gov.
- Click [HERE](#) for information about the NC Arbor Day 2026 Assistance application.
- Click [HERE](#) for the 2025 Professional Staff Development RFA.

CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR)



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE

The Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) of the NC Department of Commerce has posted a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the CDBG-NR program. The purpose of this program is to provide grants for housing, housing-related activities, and public facilities.

The funding source is the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Eligible applicants include municipalities that are not entitlement cities and counties that are not designated urban counties by HUD.

Maximum award amount is \$950,000, with the exception of projects in areas affected by Helene or using Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. There is approximately \$12.2 million in funding available, with approximately \$4.75 million designated for public facility projects in Tier 1 counties.

Applications are due by October 29, 2025.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for NOFA.

Rural Building Reuse Program



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE

The NC Department of Commerce (DOC) is accepting applications for its Rural Building Reuse Program. The purpose of this program is to create jobs through building improvements.

Eligible applicants include local governments in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties or rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties. Rural census tracts have a population density of less than 500 people per square mile in the 2020 Census. There is 50% local cash match, and the award amount cannot exceed half of the cost of renovation or construction.

Categories for this award include:

- Renovation and upfit of vacant buildings (vacant at least three months).
- Renovation or expansion of buildings that have been occupied by a business for at least 12 months. Employers must also meet a wage and health benefits requirement.
- Renovation, expansion, or construction of health care facilities.

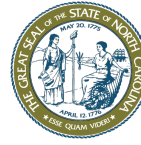
Priority will be given to projects that create jobs in target industries.

Applications are accepted and awards are issued periodically throughout the year.

Link:

- Click [HERE](#) for information about this award on commerce.nc.gov.

Rural Demolition Program



NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE**

The NC Department of Commerce (DOC) is accepting applications for its Rural Demolition Program. This program is intended to assist with the demolition of publicly owned buildings for the purpose of redevelopment.

Eligible applicants include local governments in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties or rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties. Rural census tracts have a population density of less than 500 people per square mile in the 2020 Census. There is a 25% local cash match.

The maximum award amount for buildings up to 100,000 square feet is \$75,000, and the maximum award amount for buildings over 100,000 is \$150,000. Furthermore, there is a maximum amount of \$12,500 per projected job.

The property must be owned by the local government, not zoned residential, and the building must be vacant at least three years before demolition. As this program is intended to encourage private sector job creation, the property cannot be used for parking, recreation, housing, or any public use for at least three years after the award has been granted.

Applications are accepted and awards are issued periodically throughout the year.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information about this award on commerce.nc.gov.

ARPA Updates

Office Hours

The UNC School of Government (SOG) hosts office hours via Zoom for discussions on local government finance including ARPA. Click [HERE](#) for the office hours page on UNC SOG's NC Finance Connect website. Consider bookmarking this page to stay up to date on future offerings.



Reminder: December 31, 2026 is the deadline to expend ARPA SLFRF funds.

Reminder: If your entity accepted ARPA SLFRF funds, you must maintain an active registration on [SAM.gov](#). If you've forgotten your entity's expiration date, please consider checking your registration status on SAM.gov soon!

Reminder: ECC staff are available to provide ARPA SLFRF technical assistance to local governments within our nine-county region. There is no cost for this service. Reach out to ECC staff if you have questions or concerns related to:

- SAM.gov registration
- Treasury notices / documentation requests
- ARPA compliance requirements
- Anything else related to ARPA SLFRF

Contact Carlton Gideon, Senior Community Planner, cgideon@eccog.org, 252-638-3185, ext. 3018

Updates

ECC Services



Would you like to pursue a grant opportunity but are short-staffed? Consider grant writing and administration services offered by ECC. If interested, contact Larry Faison, Regional Planning Director, lfaison@eccog.org, 252-638-3185, ext. 3015

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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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