



September 2025 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's September 2025 Grant Resources Newsletter. 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

Fiscal Year 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has posted the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to support long-term economic recovery in areas that received a major



disaster declaration in the calendar year 2023 or 2024. For the ECC region, this only includes **Carteret and Onslow counties**.

Eligible applicants include local governments in the areas specified above. Total funding for this program is \$1,447,000,000, and federal cost share is generally 80%. Award amount range depends on the selected project pathway.

Eligible projects fall under three pathways:

- The **Readiness Path** is for non-construction projects focused on planning and building capacity for future projects related to economic development and disaster recovery. The award range for this pathway is \$250,000 to \$500,000. Some project examples include strategic planning, additional staff, or preparation for future construction projects.
- The **Implementation Path** is for construction and non-construction projects that improve local economies and disaster resilience. The award range for non-construction projects is \$100,000 to \$5 million, and the award range for construction projects is \$2 million to \$20 million. Some project examples include infrastructure improvements, workforce training programs, and revolving loan funds.
- The **Industry Transformation Path** is for a portfolio of three to five projects under a public-private partnership that improves or develops a specific industry sector. The award range for this pathway is \$20 million to \$50 million.

Applications under the **Industry Transformation Path** are due on March 3, 2026.

Applications under the **Readiness Path** and **Implementation Path** are accepted on a continuous basis until funds are gone or the NOFO is canceled.

Links

- Click [HERE](#) to access the NOFO.
- Click [HERE](#) to access the project's page on EDA.gov.

North Carolina Land & Water Fund (NCLWF) - Acquisition



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The NCLWF, within the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, is prioritizes drinking water and protecting natural habitats. Eligible applicants for their grant programs include local governments and conservation nonprofits.

There are four regular cycle grant programs:

- **Land acquisition** of eligible properties through purchase or perpetual conservation agreements.
- **Restoration** of natural water resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, living shorelines, and related projects.
- **Innovative** projects for managing stormwater aimed at improving water quality.
- **Planning** to reduce surface water pollution.

The focus of this article is the acquisition program. Eligible properties for acquisition include one or more of the following characteristics:

- It is within 300 feet of the top of a stream bank, or it encompasses the width of the 100-year floodplain;
- It contains elements defined by the NC Natural Heritage Program (click [HERE](#) for more information) or adjacent lands critical to those elements;
- It is a buffer to certain military properties (or eligible for state matching funds for related federal programs);
- It is the location or viewshed of significant events.

These projects are subject to permanent conservation agreements. Matches are not required, but they are strongly recommended.

The grant cycle opens mid-January, and applications are due on March 1.

Links

- Click [HERE](#) for more information about the NC Land & Water Fund.
- Click [HERE](#) for the program manual.

EPA Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) Program



EPA's CAWAG program offers no-cost technical assistance to communities with impaired septic systems or lacking wastewater infrastructure with the intent of assisting those communities in applying for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) funding.

Key activities include:

- A community wastewater assessment
- A community wastewater solutions plan
- Assistance with finding funding opportunities
- Developing long-term capacity

Local governments, homeowners, and utilities are eligible to apply.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. ECC can provide assistance with this program for a fee.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information about the program.

NCDOT Rail Industrial Access Program (RIAP)



The Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Program consists of multiple programs aimed at improving the state's freight rail network. One of its grant programs, the Rail Industrial Access Program (RIAP), assists with building or improving railroad spurs for new or expanding businesses to aid economic development.

Eligible expenses include engineering, site preparation, and construction costs for building tracks. Eligible expenses do not include studies or construction of related infrastructure, such as docks or unloading facilities.

Grants can reimburse up to 50% of project, depending on score, and there is a \$200,000 limit per project.

Local governments, community development organizations, railroads, and other private businesses are eligible to apply.

Project eligibility and match amount are determined by the following factors: total capital investment, job creation, county economic tier, and rail carloads served.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for the project page 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 Carlton Gideon, Senior Community Planner, cgideon@eccog.org, 252-638-3185 ext. 3018.



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