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October 2025 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's October 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

NC DEQ Food Waste Reduction Grant



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

The NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service has posted a request for proposals for its 2026 Food Waste Reduction Grant. The purpose of this program is to reduce food waste, with a priority on food donation and organic recycling. Local governments are eligible to apply.

Maximum award amount for Standard Projects is \$40,000, and maximum award amount for Priority Projects is \$60,000. There is a 20% cash match.

Priority Projects either expand organic recycling infrastructure or recover food for consumption. All other projects are Standard Projects.

Some eligible projects include:

- Equipment for collecting food scrap.
- Facilities for food scrap composting.
- Drop-off sites for food scraps.
- Vehicles for transporting food scrap or edible food.
- Facilities for edible food recovery and redistribution.

Ineligible expenses include salaries, land acquisition, administration, studies, utility payments, and contracted services.

Proposals are due Friday, October 24 at 5:00 PM.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for the RFP.

North Carolina Land & Water Fund (NCLWF) - Restoration



NORTH CAROLINA
LAND & WATER
• F U N D •

The NCLWF, within the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 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 on the restoration program. Eligible projects include:

- Stream improvements
- Wetland improvements
- Floodplain restoration
- Living shorelines
- Dam and culvert removal

Stream improvements include restoration, enhancement, or streambank stabilization. These projects are subject to a permanent conservation agreement, including a 50-foot vegetated riparian buffer. Riparian buffers need to be managed to protect native vegetation from invasive species.

Matches are recommended but not required.

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.

205(j) Water Quality Management Planning



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. Contact the ECC if you are interested in partnering on a 205(j) grant for next year's cycle.

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).

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)



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.

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.

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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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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