



## November 2025 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's November 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

#### USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

This US Department of Agriculture Rural Development program assists with funding essential community facilities in rural areas. Local governments are eligible to apply.

Rural area is classified as a jurisdiction of no more than 20,000 residents based on Census data.

Essential community facilities broadly include educational, health care, administrative, community support, and public safety facilities as well as streets and local food systems such as community gardens and food banks.



Funding includes low interest direct loans, grants, or a combination of both. This is a competitive program. Smaller communities (5,500 residents and less) and low-income communities (median household income under 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income) are prioritized.

This program is open year round. Please see below for additional information.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information.

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## North Carolina Land & Water Fund (NCLWF) - Innovative Stormwater



**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 innovative stormwater projects. Eligible projects will:

- *"Bring something new or different to practices in stormwater-quality management,"*
- *"Build on experience and current practices,"*
- *"Advance practices in stormwater-quality management regionally or statewide, or"*
- *"Fall into the category of 'local pilot project'."*

A good study design or outreach and education plan are essential for this type of project. Along with a standard maintenance plan, project monitoring is another long-term obligation for awardees. Local pilot projects can be based on established practices that have not yet been demonstrated in the applicant's region.

The "Areas of Research Needed" section of NC DEQ's Stormwater Design Manual can serve as a good resource for innovative project ideas.

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.
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## Rural Downtown Economic Development Grants (RDEDG)



NORTH CAROLINA  
**DEPARTMENT of  
COMMERCE**

The Rural Economic Development Division of the NC Department of Commerce is accepting applications for RDEDG. The purpose of this program is to encourage economic development through investment in downtowns.

Local governments with downtowns in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties (or with downtowns in rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties) are eligible to apply. All counties within the ECC region are either Tier 1 or Tier 2, with the exception of Carteret County, which is Tier 3. A rural census tract has a population density of less than 500 people per square mile based on 2020 Census data. Refer to this NC Commerce map [HERE](#) showing Tier 3 rural census tracts.

There is no minimum award amount, and the maximum amount is \$850,000. Furthermore, the award amount cannot exceed \$12,500 per job created or retained. Required local match is 5%.

Local governments in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties involved with the NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center will be given priority.

Eligible projects are located in a downtown district and include:

- Public infrastructure improvements (e.g., streetscapes, alleys, parks).
- Parking lots are excluded. Renovation or additions to public buildings that are available to the community (e.g., libraries, community centers).
- Renovations or additions on publicly owned properties that can be zoned for mixed use.

Applications are due on January 8, 2026.

### Links

- Click [HERE](#) for the guidelines document.
- Click [HERE](#) for the project page on commerce.nc.gov.

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## The Grant Portal (TGP) - Aging Grants / Grants for Seniors

View a catalog of aging grants at <https://north-carolina.thegrantportal.com/aging-seniors>. TGP is online database of grant opportunities. It shows there are currently around **75** available grants and over **\$12 million** in available funds for aging services in North Carolina. Information about grant details requires a paid subscription.



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## North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP)



NORTH CAROLINA  
**Environmental Quality**

RCCP is managed by NCDEQ's Division of Coastal Management. The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance for coastal resilience projects. Local governments in North Carolina's 20 coastal counties are eligible to apply. Within the ECC region, that includes Carteret, Craven, Onslow, and Pamlico counties and their municipalities.

This program is based on four phases. The first two phases are planning-related and concurrent, and they result in the creation of resilience strategy and project portfolio documents. Phase 3 includes engineering and design for selected projects, and Phase

4 consists of project implementation (construction). Participation in the first two phases is required for participation in the subsequent phases.

Phases 1 and 2 are awarded directly to approved contractors that assist communities. Phases 3 and 4 are awarded directly to communities.

**There is no local match for this program.**

This program is awarded annually. The 2025-2026 RCCP Cohort has already been awarded. Visit the links below for more information.

**Links**

- Click [HERE](#) for an overview of the program on [deq.nc.gov](#).
- Click [HERE](#) for the 2025 RCCP Planning Handbook.

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## 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.



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

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**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!

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**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](mailto:cgideon@eccog.org), 252-638-3185 ext. 3018.

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## 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](mailto: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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