



February 2026 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's February 2026 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 and useful tools pertaining to grants.

Grants

NC Complete the Trails Program - Connecting Communities to State Trails Grants (CCST)



The State of North Carolina has 14 state trails, connecting state parks, natural areas, and recreational areas. CCST allows municipalities to plan and build trails to connect to this statewide system.

\$1.9 million in funds are available to qualifying local governments for CCST. Eligible municipalities must have a population of under 25,000 and be within six miles of an existing or planned state trail. See map [HERE](#) for routes. The ECC region includes portions of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and the East Coast Greenway.

Trails must be open to the public without restrictions. Municipalities with fewer than 5,000 residents are not required to provide a match. Other municipalities must provide at least a 50% match with non-state funds, including donated land and in-kind work.

Award minimum is \$10,000, and award maximum is \$100,000.

Deadline for submission is October 8, 2026.

Link

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

Duke Energy Foundation - America250



Duke Energy Foundation's America250 program provides grants for community projects under the following areas:

- *Care for our country – Community clean-ups, park revitalizations, public landscaping or projects that improve shared community green spaces.*
- *Careers for veterans – Programs aimed at workforce development to prepare veterans for civilian careers.*
- *Sharing the American story – Local history projects, public exhibits, educational programming or field trips related to American's founding and ideals.*

Only qualifying nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Local governments are not eligible.

Applications must be received by February 20, 2026.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information about this grant.

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. 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.

Fiscal Year 2025 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs



The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is continuing to accept applications for its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. Local governments are eligible to apply. One application is submitted for both programs.

Awards must fund projects that reflect at least one of the following EDA Investment Priorities:

- Critical Infrastructure
- Workforce
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Economic Recovery Resilience
- Manufacturing

Detailed descriptions of these Investment Priorities are located [HERE](#).

Furthermore, awarded projects must be consistent with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Please contact ECC staff if you have any questions about ECC's CEDS.

The Public Works program provides assistance with infrastructure design and construction with the goal of making communities more economically competitive. The range of eligible infrastructure projects is wide, including, but not limited to, water and sewer improvements, industrial parks, brownfield redevelopment, telecommunications infrastructure, aviation facilities, and port facilities.

The Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program assists with construction and non-construction activities meant to counter adverse economic changes. As with Public Works, the scope of EAA activities is wide, including, but not limited to, workforce training programs, long-term disaster recovery and resiliency plans, revolving loan funds, market or industry research, and creation or expansion of foreign direct investment and trade. Special consideration is given to communities that have been affected by the closure of nuclear, biomass, or coal power facilities.

Please see the NOFO for details.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for grant details. A link to download the NOFO can be found in the Related Documents tab.

Brownfields Community Network (BCN) Quarterly Meeting



NC DEQ's BCN is holding its next quarterly meeting online on February 20 at 10:00 AM. They will discuss grant opportunities and updates from the Brownfields Redevelopment Section.

Contact Kaili Matiaco at kaili.matiaco@deq.nc.gov for meeting information.

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. Information about grant details requires a paid subscription.



Technical Assistance

Carolinas Development Assistance and Siting Hub (DASH)



Carolinas DASH at the NC Clean Energy Technology Center offers local governments free education and technical assistance for siting and permitting utility-scale solar, wind, and battery energy storage facilities.

They provide a wealth of information about these types of facilities, their impacts, and related policies and regulations, including model ordinances and an ordinance database.

See their flyer [HERE](#).

Links

- Visit their website [HERE](#) to review resources or request technical assistance.
- Click [HERE](#) for their database of renewable energy facility ordinances in NC and SC.

ARPA

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](https://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.*

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