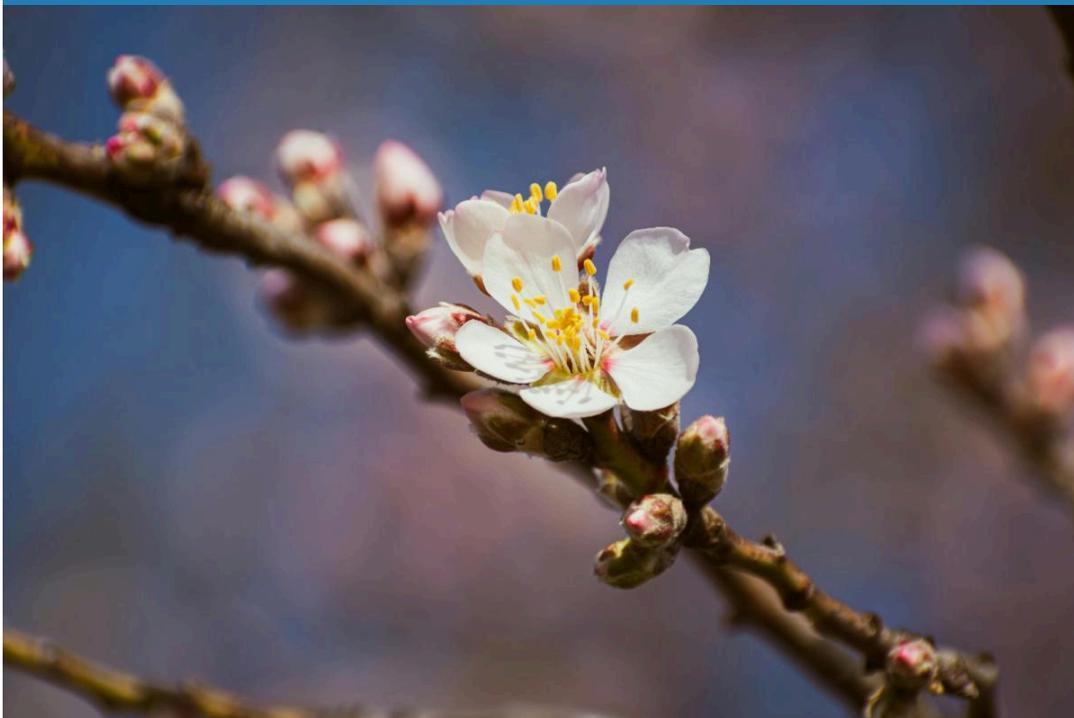




March 2026 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's March 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

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP) RFP



APNEP's Citizen Advisory Council has released a RFP for "community-based engagement and stewardship projects". Projects must align with APNEP's 2025 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). See link [HERE](#) for the full document.

A successful proposal must support one or more of the following engagement actions in the CCMP:

- “C1.1: Communicate the importance of stewardship and offer opportunities for volunteerism to further APNEP’s mission.”
- “C1.2: Provide and promote opportunities for outdoor experiences that connect individuals with the Albemarle-Pamlico ecosystem.”
- “C2.1: Provide environmental education training opportunities for educators.”
- “C2.2: Increase public understanding of the relationship between ecosystem health and human health advisories relating to water, fish, and game.”
- “C3.1: Develop and implement a strategy to improve decision-makers’ understanding of the return on investments in environmental protection, restoration, planning, and monitoring.”
- “C3.2: Enhance the coordination of targeted ecosystem management by federal, state, regional, Tribal, and local governments, and communities, by assisting with the incorporation of resilience, climate change and sea level rise considerations into planning processes.”

Furthermore, the proposal must address one of these focus areas:

- Water quality
- Wetlands
- Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Oyster habitats
- Community resilience

Finally, the project must be located within the APNEP management boundary. See map [HERE](#) for boundary. Award amount ranges from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and the project must be completed within two years. Applications are due April 30.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for RFP.

Duke Energy Foundation – Community Resiliency

Duke Energy Foundation

Duke Energy Foundation accepted applications until March 13 for community resiliency grants. The purpose of this grant program is to promote community resiliency through improving the natural environment.

Some potential projects include:

- Improving public access to nature
- Improving or restoring natural environments
- Educating the public about the environment

Award amount is \$25,000, and there is \$500,000 available this cycle. The award period is 12 months. Certain nonprofit organizations and governmental entities that function in areas served by Duke Energy are eligible to apply. Capital projects and general operating expenses are ineligible.

Center for Dementia Respite Innovation (CDRI) Grants

CENTER FOR
**DEMENTIA RESPITE
INNOVATION**

The letter of intent deadline for the 2026 cycle was March 2.

The CDRI grant program provides financial assistance to organizations that would like to start, continue, or expand a respite care program for caregivers of people with dementia. Respite care is where a caregiver is provided temporary relief from caregiving, while the person with dementia continues to receive quality care.

The types of awards are as follows:

- Start-up awards for organizations not currently providing respite care services described above. The award total is \$100,000, or \$50,000 per year for two years.
- Pilot awards for organizations currently providing services that would like to improve their program “by adding innovative components to make an impact in multiple [service sites].” The award maximum is \$125,000.
- Continuation awards for organizations that have already received either award above.

A variety of organizations, including local governments, are eligible to apply. Partnerships and collaborations are encouraged.

There is a required 25% match of total project cost, and total project cost is the requested amount plus the match amount. The required match amount can be calculated by multiplying the requested grant award amount by 25% and then dividing by 75%. This match can be cash or in-kind contributions to the project, including volunteer time. Some indirect costs can also count towards the match.

There is a range of allowable expenses, and there are multiple eligibility criteria that are primarily based on organizational capacity. Details about allowable expenses and eligibility can be found at the link below.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information.

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP)



*North Carolina Department of
Agriculture & Consumer Services*

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation StRAP provides assistance for stream debris removal, sediment removal, stream restoration, streambank stabilization, and PL-566 small watershed project rehabilitation. This program is intended to reduce flooding risks while preserving the natural habits of streams. Organizations eligible to apply include nonprofits, local governments, municipal and county service districts, water and sewer authorities, sanitary districts, and soil and water conservation districts.

This is a reimbursement-based program, and grantees can seek reimbursement for completion of work on each stream segment. Up to 15% of total reimbursements can be for technical and administrative assistance. Grantees must obtain permission from property owners to work on privately owned lands and must also obtain any required permits. Contractors for StRAP projects must follow all program work standards. Reimbursement requires passing inspection to ensure these standards are followed.

Organizations within the ECC's nine-county region are currently not eligible to apply for StRAP. Check the website below for program updates.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for the program's website.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

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 \$750,000. There is a 50% match for projects at or under \$1.5 million in total cost.



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. Projects that support the North Carolina's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (see link below) will score better. School system projects are not eligible.

The notice of funding should be available on May 1, and applications are due November 2. As of now, this program has provided \$3,797,629 in funding and supported 54 projects in ECC's nine-county region.

Links

- Click [HERE](#) for the program's website.
- Click [HERE](#) for the 2025-2030 NC Outdoor Recreation Plan.

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** were 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.

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.



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](#). If you've forgotten your entity's expiration date, please consider checking your registration status on SAM.gov soon!

Have you received closeout instructions from Treasury?

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.

Planning and Zoning Regional Board Workshop



School of
Government

April and May 2026

1:00pm - 4:30pm | Course cost: \$115

***See the course page for group registration rates**

In April and May, the School of Government will be in regional locations across the state to lead half-day workshops on legislative zoning decisions. These workshops will focus on the roles and responsibilities of land use planning, as well as the procedures and considerations for legislative zoning decisions like rezonings and zoning text amendments.

Workshop dates/locations:

April 28, 2026 | Asheville

April 30, 2026 | Online

May 5, 2026 | Pembroke
May 7, 2026 | Kernersville
May 12, 2026 | New Bern
May 14, 2026 | Online

Who Should Attend: Members of planning boards and elected boards, as well as the staff who serve them.

AICP credit available.

[Click here to see the course page and register](#)

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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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