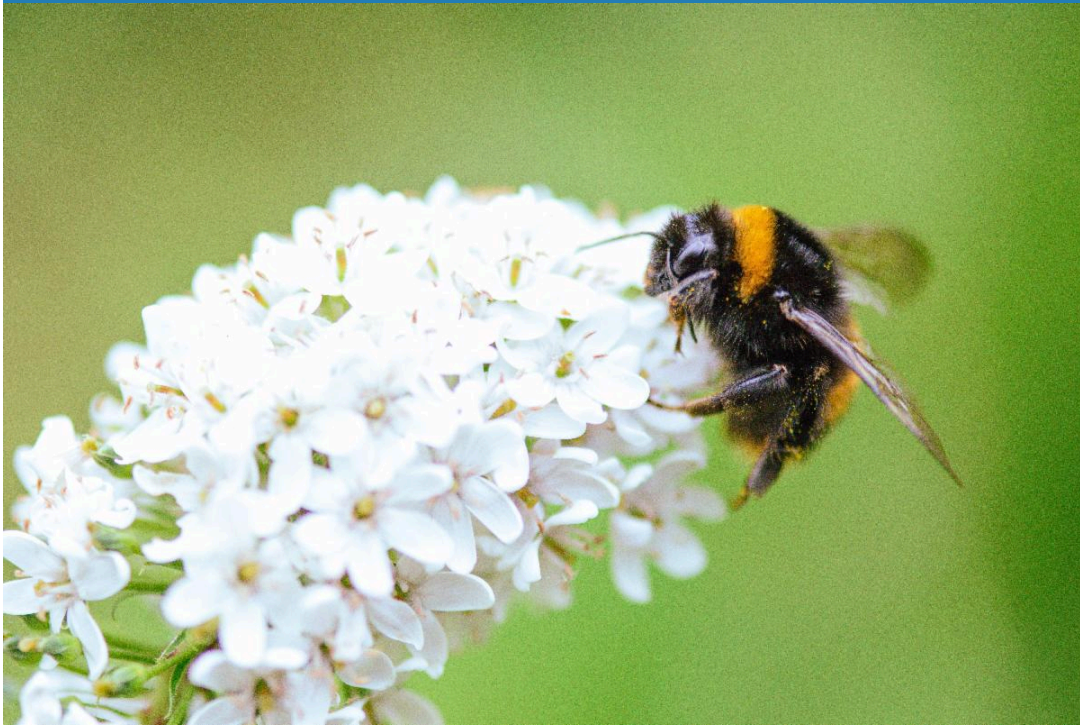




June 2026 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's June 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 related to grants.

Grants

Duke Energy Foundation Powering Local Economies



The Duke Energy Foundation is offering \$25,000 grants to nonprofits to provide microgrants to small businesses. These microgrants can range between \$1,000 and \$5,000 and be used for small capital investments. \$2,500 can be used for program administration. Eligible nonprofits must be in communities that

receive services from Duke Energy. See link below for other requirements and restrictions.

Applications are due by June 30.

Link

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

\$648 million for firefighters and first responders

FEMA announced three grant programs for firefighters and first responders. Check [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for more information.



- **Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)** - \$291.6 million is available to fire and EMS departments for personal protective equipment, vehicles, and health and wellness initiatives.
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)** - \$324 million is available to fire departments for salaries and recruitment.
- **Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S)** - \$32.4 million is available to fire departments and certain organizations for fire prevention and firefighter safety research.

Applications are due by June 22.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for press release.

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.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for program information.
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Industrial Development Fund Utility Account



The NC Department of Commerce (NCDOC) is accepting applications for its Utility Account. The purpose of this program is to create jobs through public infrastructure improvements.

Eligible applicants include local governments in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. All counties in the ECC region are Tier 1 or 2, with the exception of Carteret County. There is a 25% local cash match for projects not located in one of the 25 most distressed counties. Check [HERE](#) for 2026 designations.

Eligible projects are construction or improvements to public infrastructure (water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, transportation infrastructure, electrical utility lines) that will result in the creation of private sector jobs. See the guidelines below for job creation and other requirements.

The local government is responsible for repayment if the proposed job creation goal is not met.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Links

- Click [HERE](#) for guidelines document.
- Click [HERE](#) for NCDOC page on the Utility Account.

EDA AI Upskill Accelerator Pilot Program



The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is accepting application for its AI Upskill Accelerator Pilot Program. \$25 million has been allocated to “support non-construction activities that will help start or augment industry-led workforce training programs that deliver trainings in AI skills and that lead to jobs for those trained.”

Around 5 to 8 awards will range between \$1 million to \$8 million. Eligible applicants will meet EDA’s Special Needs criteria.

See the addendum in the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs NOFO for details.

4:59 PM on July 10, 2026 is the deadline for applications.

Link

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

Fiscal Year 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program



The US Economic Development Administration has posted the 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 closed.

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 US 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.



ECC staff are available to provide ARPA SLFRF technical assistance to local governments within the nine-county ECC region until **October 1, 2026**. There is no cost for this service.

Reach out to ECC staff if you have questions or concerns related to:

- SAM.gov registration
- Closeout
- Treasury notices / documentation requests
- ARPA compliance requirements
- Anything else related to ARPA SLFRF

Contact Carlton Gideon, Senior Community Planner, at cgideon@eccog.org for information.

Updates

ECC Services

Would you like to pursue a grant opportunity but are short-staffed? Consider grant writing and administration services offered by ECC.



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Eastern Carolina Council's Mission *is 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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