



July 2026 Grant Resources Newsletter



Welcome to ECC's July 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

NC Forest Service (NCFS) NC Arbor Day Celebration Assistance

NCFS offers financial support to communities for Arbor Day celebrations. The request for assistance (RFA) opens in July for next year's Arbor Day. North Carolina has designated the first Friday after March 15 as Arbor Day. Only municipalities and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Awardees are provided a ceremonial tree to plant,

tree seedlings to give to participants, and other supplies and services. The ceremonial tree must be planted and maintained.

Check for the RFA in July for details.

Link

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



Rural Building Reuse Program



The NC Department of Commerce (DOC) is accepting applications for its Rural Building Reuse Program. The purpose of this program is to create jobs through building improvements.

Eligible applicants include local governments in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties or rural census tracts in Tier 3 counties. Rural census tracts have a population density of less than 500 people per square mile in the 2020 Census. There is 50% local cash match, and the award amount cannot exceed half of the cost of renovation or construction.

Categories for this award include:

- Renovation and upfit of vacant buildings (vacant at least three months).
- Renovation or expansion of buildings that have been occupied by a business for at least 12 months. Employers must also meet a wage and health benefits requirement.
- Renovation, expansion, or construction of health care facilities.

Priority will be given to projects that create jobs in target industries.

Applications are accepted and awards are issued periodically throughout the year.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for information about this award on commerce.nc.gov.

205(j) Water Quality Management Planning Grant



Is your community interested in a water quality planning project? The NC Department of Environmental Quality offers the 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. If you have a water quality planning project idea and are interested in potentially partnering with Eastern Carolina Council on a 205(j) grant, please reach out to ECC staff.

This grant is competitive. A local match is not required, but it is preferred. Award amounts vary.

Link

- Click [HERE](#) for details about 205(j).

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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