

Economic Catalyst Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
1		Cumberland, County of	Project Aero	Defer		Project Aero is American Titanium Metals, LLC (ATM). ATM is pursuing a project to develop a new titanium mill in Cumberland County to support the aerospace and defense industries. ATM will create 304 new jobs paying, on average, over \$120,000, and will make a capital investment of over \$867 million. Cumberland County has requested Golden LEAF funding for public sewer infrastructure needed for the project.
2		Edgecombe, County of	Project Neptune	Defer		Project Neptune is Natron Energy, which has developed a novel battery technology and has announced it will locate its first large-scale manufacturing facility at the Kingsboro megasite in Edgecombe County. The company will create 1,062 new jobs paying an average annual wage of \$72,483 and make a private capital investment of nearly \$1.4 billion. Golden LEAF funding is requested for training equipment to be located at a temporary training site and at a training facility for which the county has requested state funding. The county is gathering more information about the training needs of the company which it will use to develop a more detailed budget for the Golden LEAF request.

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3		Wilson Community College	Wilson Biologics Training Center Equipment	\$13,000,000.00	<p>a) Golden LEAF funds are to be used for training equipment that can be used to train people with the skills needed by Johnson & Johnson (the "Company") and other employers.</p> <p>b) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence that the Company has agreed to allow the Grantee and Golden LEAF to verify the Company's job creation and retention figures, wages, and benefits by reviewing NCUI-101 forms and/or through other means satisfactory to Golden LEAF.</p> <p>c) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence of an inducement agreement, performance agreement, or similar agreement demonstrating that the Company his obligated to create at least 378 new jobs with average annual wages of \$97,940, plus benefits including at least 50% of the cost of employee-only health insurance. The new jobs must be created by December 31, 2031 and must be located at the new manufacturing facility the Company will construct in Wilson County. The agreement must include appropriate consequences should the Company fail to satisfy its obligations. The President of Golden LEAF may approve minor variations from these requirements.</p>	Project Harbor is a major biomedical manufacturing company considering locating in Wilson County that will create 420 jobs paying an average annual wage of over \$108,000 and make a capital investment of over \$1 billion. Golden LEAF funds would be used for training equipment at a facility to be constructed with State funds.

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals						
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4		Christian Recovery Centers, Inc	Property Maintenance & Remodeling	\$175,000.00	Golden LEAF funds may not be used for contracted training. Release of Golden LEAF funds is conditioned on Golden LEAF approval of a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement with Brunswick Community College demonstrating the college's commitment to provide training for the program.	This award would provide funding to Christian Recovery Centers Inc. (CRCI) to support establishment of a property maintenance and remodeling social enterprise in response to the surging residential development in Brunswick and surrounding counties. CRCI will offer a cabinetry and countertop apprenticeship and a computer aided design (CAD) apprenticeship to its program residents, who are individuals recovering from addiction. CRCI anticipates graduating 16 residents annually from the program who will be prepared for cabinet and countertop installation positions with CRCI and local employers. Golden LEAF funds would be used for property upfit and to purchase utility and transport vehicles, supplies, and for advertising.
5	LD	Eastern North Carolina Food Commercialization Center	Project EFFORT (Equipment For Food Opportunities in Rural Towns)	\$500,000.00		This award would provide funding to the Eastern North Carolina Food Commercialization Center (ENCFCC) to support the acquisition of processing equipment for its value-added food production center in Ayden, North Carolina. The project is expected to create at least 20 jobs at the facility and to serve 30 farmers by 2027. Golden LEAF funds would be used for equipment.
6		Greene County Schools	Greene CTE Facility Expansion	\$499,708.00		This award would provide funding to Greene County Schools (GCS) to expand the animal sciences, agriculture sciences, and auto mechanics Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Greene Central High School. With a \$62 million Needs Based Public School Capital Funds grant awarded by the State, GCS is replacing its high school with a new high school facility and a new CTE building that will allow GCS to expand these CTE programs and offer more classes per year, resulting in 200 students per year completing one of the three CTE pathways. Golden LEAF funds would be used for training equipment for the three CTE programs and construction of a horticultural building.
7		Health Education Foundation of Eastern North Carolina, Inc.	Young Civic Leaders (YCL)	\$115,000.00	Golden LEAF funding is to be used for a program manager, mentors, and outreach/marketing.	This award would provide funding to the Health Education Foundation of Eastern North Carolina, Inc. to support the expansion of the Young Civic Leaders initiative which is managed by the Rural Opportunities Institute. This initiative enhances student engagement in work-based learning opportunities in public sector roles in Eastern North Carolina. The objective of this project is to expand a pilot program by establishing a pathway for students and youth aged 15 to 19 to access paid internship opportunities, mentorship, and career pathways within local governments. The project aims to recruit 25 participants for the paid internship program. Golden LEAF funds will be used for staffing, mentors, and outreach/marketing. The award will also leverage matching funding from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation.

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8		Hights Inc.	Career Connect	\$477,926.00	Golden LEAF funding may not be used for staff technology or vehicle insurance.	This award would provide funding to support a new workforce project, Career Connect, for vulnerable youth in Clay, Cherokee, and Graham counties and the Qualla Boundary. Career Connect will serve Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian youth, juvenile justice involved youth, alternative high school students, and community college finishers (up to age 25). A new Career Academy will provide five weeks of employability skills training, industry and college tours, and paid internships with employers in high demand fields such as the healthcare, construction, technology, and automotive industries. Expected outcomes for this project include 40 participants earning a third-party or industry recognized credential, 60 students participating in work-based learning experiences (internship, apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship), and 30 participants placed in jobs and apprenticeships. Golden LEAF funds will be used for personnel, travel, paid work-based learning experiences, and other participant support services. HIGHTS will also use WIOA funding for this project.
9		Piedmont Triad Regional Development Corporation	PTRC Energy & Weatherization Statewide Training Center	\$0.00		Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) seeks funding to provide hands-on weatherization training to workers using mobile units. The mobile units will allow PTRC to provide skilled training to individuals in 16 economically distressed North Carolina counties. The project plans to partner with NC A&T for its STEP4GROWTH program which will create training for the clean energy sector. PTRC expects to train over 200-300 students by use of the mobile units. Golden LEAF funds are requested for two trucks, a mobile tiny home, building, and technology upgrades.
10		Washington County Schools	Hyde Tyrrell Washington Career Tech Innovation Center	\$500,000.00	Release of funding is conditioned on Golden LEAF approval of a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement for each of the school systems that it will send students to the CTIC; Release of funding is conditioned on Golden LEAF approval of a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement from Beaufort County Community College demonstrating its commitment to provide CCP courses at the CTIC.	This award would provide funding to Washington County Schools to establish the Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington Career Tech Innovation Center (CTIC) at the Washington County Early College High School in Creswell, North Carolina. This project will align the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program with local business and industry needs, foster collaboration among economically disadvantaged school districts, and ensure all students can access CTE pathways in high-demand fields. In the initial phase, students can attain EMT/EMR, NC Firefighter, Welding, and Nurse Assisting certifications. Golden LEAF support is expected to result in over 500 students successfully completing a funded CTE pathway and over 100 students having the opportunity to gain practical work-based learning experience. Other expected outcomes include students gaining employment after graduation and more students pursuing post-secondary education. Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington Hyde county public schools will collectively contribute \$1.2M to support salaries, equipment, supplies, student transportation, administrative costs, and instructional aids. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment, supplies, student transportation, instructional resources, professional development, and renovations.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals						
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11		Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care Inc. dba AMOREM	Quality. Compassion. Support.: A Patient Care Unit for the High Country	Y		Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care Inc., dba AMOREM, is seeking funding for the "Quality. Compassion. Support.: A Patient Care Unit for the High Country" project. In 2021, AMOREM obtained State approval to establish a 7-bed patient care unit (PCU) for Ashe, Avery, and Watauga counties. Residents of these counties currently travel to Caldwell or Burke counties for services. Establishing the PCU will not only expand hospice services for the High Country but will also generate 13.5 new healthcare positions. Golden LEAF funds are requested for medical equipment and furniture necessary for the PCU's operations.
12		Carteret Community College Foundation, Inc.	Carteret Works	Y		Carteret Community College, in partnership with Carteret County Public Schools, businesses, MyFuture NC, and NCWorks, proposes to create a pipeline from internship to apprenticeship, connecting high school and college students with businesses for paid opportunities in which students gain real-world experience, earn high school and college credits, and acquire industry-recognized credentials. Modeled after the successful Surry-Yadkin Works program, Carteret Works will enroll 80 students in the program over two years and has initially identified healthcare, construction and automotive trades, hospitality/culinary, and education as its focus areas. Golden LEAF funds are requested for staffing, travel/professional development, student stipends, educational expenses, supplies, consultation, and student transportation.
13		Center for Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship	Expanding FDA Manufacturing Capacity for Mountain Businesses	Y		The Center for Agricultural & Food Entrepreneurship (CAFE) seeks funding for manufacturing expansion at Blue Ridge Food Ventures, a shared-use facility in Buncombe County. Golden LEAF funds would be used to add equipment that will enable businesses to increase the manufacture and sale of foods, cosmetics, and natural products under FDA inspection. The applicant has worked closely with 10 current tenants and gathered data from potential tenants to develop the expansion plan. It is expected that new jobs will be created as a result of these increases in manufacturing capacity and efficiency.

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14		Inner Banks STEM Center	Inner Banks STEM Center Capital Project	Y		Inner Banks STEM Center seeks funding to complete construction of a 13,000 sq ft Technology & Science Center at the Washington-Warren Airport Industrial Park. The Center will be a youth Career Pathways incubator that offers a digital fabrication lab, virtual reality lab, boat simulation aqua-track, wind tunnel, and flight/boat simulators. IBX STEM will work with Beaufort County Schools and anticipates training 120-130 students annually at the center. Golden LEAF funds would be used for HVAC and alarm systems, interior construction, furniture, and landscaping.
15		Southeastern Regional Medical Center	Provider Integration for Outpatient Palliative Care in Rural Southeastern North Carolina	Y		Southeastern Regional Medical Center seeks funding to establish an outpatient palliative care program. Robeson County currently has a hospice services utilization rate of 37%, below the state average of 47%. Through strategic partnerships with existing palliative care programs, Robeson County aims to develop a comprehensive palliative care initiative to meet the needs of patients while also creating four new full-time positions in the community. The project aims to revitalize an existing facility owned by the organization to provide adequate workspace for staff members. Golden LEAF funds would be used for building upfit and renovations and equipment (\$200,000) and for personnel (\$300,000).
16		Carolina Common Enterprise	Home Health Care Workplace Equity in NC through Worker Cooperatives	N		Carolina Common Enterprise (CCE) seeks funding to plan and develop home health care worker cooperatives in Vance, Warren and Halifax counties to protect workers, jobs, and improve wages for this traditionally underpaid and marginalized workforce. Typical models of providing home health provide low wages and poor working conditions leading direct care workers to seek alternative career opportunities. Through this project, CCE expects to engage workers, employers, educational institutions and sector partners to assess workforce needs more closely, conduct a feasibility study, and pilot a cooperative model home health care business. Golden LEAF funding would be used for personnel, contracted services, travel, and professional development.

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17		Fair Bluff, Town of	Fair Bluff Business Center - Phase 2	N		The Town of Fair Bluff seeks funding to renovate and purchase equipment for two suites located in the Downtown Development Center. It is anticipated that this project will created five to eight new full time jobs for retail and catering buisnesses. Golden LEAF funds would be used for the purchase of kitchen equipment, construction, and architectural and engineering services.
18	CB	Haven at Blue Creek	Haven at Blue Creek Workforce Development Initiative	N		Haven at Blue Creek seeks funding to establish a new kitchen and expand their garden and homestead as part of their workforce development program. The proposed facilities will offer practical training opportunities for women in recovery, focusing on developing transferable and essential skills in catering, teamwork, and business operations. Participants will acquire proficiency in catering and develop soft skills encompassing communication, teamwork, and professional responsibility. Haven at Blue Creek expects to serve 15-20 women annually in the proposed workforce program. Golden LEAF funds will be allocated to construction, equipment procurement, and installation.
19		Mag Cares	AgriTech Empowerment Initiative	N		MAG Cares seeks funding to puchase Druid agricultural monitoring equipment and distribute it to indoor farmers in Martin County and surrounding counties. Druid is a start-up compamy that has developed a camera system that allows farmers to remotely monitor indoor crops helping reduce crop loss and improve efficiency.The project plans to train students at NCSU and Martin Community College on the installation and operation of the Druid system. Students will collect data from the equipment and run numerous tests to demonstrate the its capabilities. Students participating in the program may earn an electrical wiring certification. Golden LEAF funds would be used for Druid equipment and installation, transportation for students, outreach, administration, and contingency.

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20		Open Way Learning	Cultivating Profession-Based Learning	N		Open Way Learning seeks funding to provide professional development training to school districts and expand a profession-based learning model developed with Caldwell County Schools. The project will provide training to middle school and high school teachers about how to connect with local workforce needs. In collaboration with employers, teachers will develop lessons and projects teaching skills needed by employers. The project will include workshops and coaching, open-source project plans, community showcases, and teacher/student/employer partnerships. Golden LEAF funds would be used for services, travel, substitute teachers, teacher stipends, and related costs.
21		Robeson County Reentry	Robeson County Reentry	N		Robeson County Reentry is a structured program of community integration for the formerly incarcerated. It provides support to individuals and coordinates with other agencies to support long-term employment, education, health, social services, housing, and community engagement. Partners include the community college, which provides job skills training. Golden LEAF funds are requested for personnel, contracts, supplies, travel, phone/utilities, and maintenance.
22		Southern Middle School	Innovative Learning Spaces	N		Southern Middle School seeks funding to replace outdated student and teacher furniture to transform traditional learning spaces into environments that support 21st Century learning. The current desks are over 20 years old and no longer meet the demands of modern learning. Southern Middle School serves approximately 500 students in grades six through eight. GLF would be used to purchase desks, tables, and chairs.

Scholarships					
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23		North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority	Golden LEAF Colleges and Universities Scholarship (2025-2026)	\$3,116,173.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The term of the agreement is 16 months, commencing on the Approval Date unless NCSEAA proposes a later Start Date that is accepted by Golden LEAF. Golden LEAF may extend the term of the agreement. All project-related expenses must be incurred during the term of the agreement. The provisions of this agreement that by their nature extend beyond the term of the agreement will survive the end of the term of the agreement. 2. Funds are to be used to support 215 new scholarships and 600 renewal scholarships of \$3,500/year, 20 half-year renewal scholarships of \$1,750 each, and \$228,673 for operational costs, unless otherwise agreed by the Foundation. No Golden LEAF funds may be used for overhead costs. 3. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate financial need and be from a rural and/or economically distressed county. Golden LEAF will designate qualifying counties and inform NCSEAA of them. 4. NCSEAA will gather and provide Golden LEAF contact information regarding scholarship applicants and recipients on request, including mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers, and updated contact information that NCSEAA may receive. NCSEAA will also cooperate with Golden LEAF to develop a process, including gathering necessary student consents and data, that will allow, to the extent practical, Golden LEAF or an evaluator retained by Golden LEAF to evaluate the outcomes of the program, including student graduation, employment, and location of post-graduation residence. 5. Provided NCSEAA is otherwise in substantial compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Foundation will release funds for scholarships in advance of each academic semester but may retain up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) of funds until NCSEAA completes its obligations under this agreement, including submission of a final report regarding the project.
24		Kelly OCG	Rural Internship Initiative	Approve increase in wages for first year interns to \$16/hour; approve wages of \$17/hour for second year interns; approve wages of \$18/hour for third year interns	

Modifications					
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25	DF	Davidson Davie Community College	DCCC's Health Care Programs in Davie County	Approve modification	Reduce grant amount to \$568,000. Golden LEAF staff to work with DCCC to establish a reasonable timeline for implementation of the project.
26		City of Sanford	Sanford-Pittsboro Sewer Force Main and Other Utilities Improvement Project	Approve modification	Allow grantee to implement a phased approach to construction and release of funds for construction phases as they come under contract.
27		Watauga County	High Country Kill & Chill Processing and Livestock Center (Regional Project)	Approve modification	Approve request and modify the purpose of the grant to refer to a lessee selected by Watauga County rather than a specific lessee.

State-Appropriated Programs Modifications					
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28		Town of Fairmont	Town of Fairmont - Pump Station Rehabilitation	Defer	
29		Town of Fairmont	WWTP Access Road & Generator Improvements	Decline modification and terminate grant	

Strategic Planning

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30		North Carolina Housing Finance Agency	Approve Modification	Authorize the Chair of the Board, Chair of the Programs Committee, and President of the Foundation to modify the agreement with NCHFA to implement proposed changes in eligibility and implementation.

The Foundation's Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement used for these awards will contain the following standard conditions on the release of grant funds in addition to any special conditions recommended above:

- a) Release of grant funds is contingent on Grantee attending a Golden LEAF grants management workshop or participating in satisfactory discussions with Golden LEAF staff to gain training in the management of Golden LEAF grants and reporting requirements.
- b) Release of funds is contingent on Grantee returning a fully executed copy of this Agreement no later than forty-five (45) days after the Award Date, unless Golden LEAF agrees to extend the deadline for its submission.
- c) Release of funds is contingent on Golden LEAF's approval of activities and outcomes that will be used to monitor and assess Grantee's implementation of the project. Unless otherwise directed by Golden LEAF, Grantee must submit proposed outcomes and activities for approval within forty-five (45) days of the Award Date.
- d) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee submitting a project budget for approval by Golden LEAF. The project budget must be submitted for approval within forty-five (45) days of the Award Date unless Golden LEAF agrees to extend the deadline. Unless otherwise approved, the project budget must be submitted on Golden LEAF form(s).
- e) If the approved project budget includes funds from other sources that are required for project implementation, Golden LEAF grant funds will not be released until Grantee demonstrates that it has secured those funds.
- f) Golden LEAF grant funds may not be used for acquisition of interests in real property or for costs of grant administration.
- g) If the Grantee fails to comply with its obligations under this Agreement, no further grant funds will be released unless such noncompliance is resolved to the satisfaction of Golden LEAF.

The Foundation's Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement used for Flood Mitigation and Recovery awards will contain the following special condition on the release of grant funds in addition to any special conditions recommended above:

- a) Use of grant funds must comply with applicable requirements of S.L. 2021-180 and S.L.2023-134.

The Foundation's Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement used for Shell Building awards will contain the following special condition on the release of grant funds in addition to any special conditions recommended above:

- a) Use of grant funds must comply with applicable requirements of S.L. 2023-134.
- b) Release of funds is dependent on Grantee satisfying the match requirements for the program established by S.L. 2023-134.
- c) No later than June 30, 2025, Grantee must provide information satisfactory to Golden LEAF that Grantee is making reasonable progress securing funding necessary to complete the funded project.