

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
1		Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	White Lake Sewer	Defer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sewer expansion to new single-family development in White Lake - Expansion of housing supply in Bladen County - Funds requested for sewer main extension and construction of a new lift station
2		Isothermal Community College	Healthcare Simulation Equipment for Health & Sciences Center	\$1,000,000.00	Funding from healthcare workforce training leverage initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expands high-demand healthcare programs with new Health & Sciences Center - Adds programs that broaden regional training in allied health careers - Funding for simulation equipment and related computers, software, and IT infrastructure
3		North Carolina State University	Implementing an Image-based Grading Method at Peanut Buying Points	\$200,000.00	No Golden LEAF funding for conference participation; funding for two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will modernize peanut inspection with automated grading using high-speed imaging and sensing. - Reduce bottlenecks at grading stations and risk of loss while awaiting inspection. - Funding for personnel, travel, and supplies to advance development and deployment.
4		Southeastern Life Center, Incorporated	Southeastern Life Center Development Academy	\$0.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workforce training integrated with SEIC's behavioral and medical services - Prepares residential clients for peer support, community health, residential, and food/warehouse roles - Funding requested for instructor salary, equipment, renovations, and participant costs

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5		Appalachian State University	Preparing the Rural Nursing Workforce: Lab Expansion at App State Hickory Campus	Y	Appalachian State University seeks funding to launch its Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) program. The program will serve 24 students each year. The university will outfit a learning lab for the program on its Hickory campus in the fall of 2026. The establishment of this DNP-FNP program is in response to North Carolina’s healthcare workforce shortage. There are currently over 1,300 FNP openings statewide and thousands more projected annually. Golden LEAF funds would be used for advanced clinical tools and technology.
6		Dunn Police Athletic & Activities League, Inc.	Dunn PAL Campus Renovation and Career Readiness Expansion	Y	Dunn Police Athletic & Activities League, Inc. seeks funding to expand its College & Career Readiness program, which is currently at full capacity, and to develop a new agricultural career pathway. Golden LEAF funds would be used for renovations to the main campus, which will allow the program to double its capacity for existing CCR programs, and for permitting and construction of a hoop house to support the new agricultural program.
7		Haywood County Schools Foundation	Career Technical Education: Bridging Skills and Opportunities	Y	Haywood County Schools (HCS) seeks funding to sustain and strengthen workforce readiness opportunities for students in Grades 6–12. HCS will provide career development services, including career exposure and exploration in middle schools, and expansion of work-based learning experiences and career planning in high school. The project also will add simulation/career labs at two local high schools to enhance hands-on learning for students in construction, welding, masonry, machining, healthcare, business and information technology pathways. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, equipment, furniture, technology/software, and supplies.
8		Haywood Vocational Opportunities, Inc.	Advancing Workforce Development and Manufacturing Capacity Through Automation	Y	Haywood Vocational Opportunities (HVO) seeks funding to expand production, enhance quality, and streamline operations by integrating automation, optimizing facility layouts, and reducing bottlenecks to meet growing customer demand and support new product lines. The project will increase HVO’s manufacturing capacity and production from 35,000 to 50,000 units per week. It will also create new jobs, upskill employees, and provide vocational training aligned with industry needs. Golden LEAF funds would be used for advanced automation technology, installation, and professional development.

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9	LL, BW	Mountain Community Health Partnership Incorporated	MCHP Spruce Pine Healthcare Clinic Equipment Project	Y	Mountain Community Health Partnership, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving Mitchell and Yancey counties, seeks funding to equip a new healthcare clinic. The Spruce Pine Integrated Healthcare Clinic, a 20,000-square-foot facility, that is under construction, will integrate primary care, behavioral health, pharmacy and supportive services under one roof. It is expected that the project will create 24 new healthcare jobs. Golden LEAF funds would be used for exam room, diagnostic, and treatment equipment.
10		Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (RMOIC)	Building Economic Futures: OIC's Regional Workforce and Business Development Hub	Y	Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc. seeks funding to expand training and entrepreneurship opportunities at its 37,000-square-foot facility in Rocky Mount. The project is expected to equip 200+ residents annually with industry-recognized certifications in welding, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry, addressing more than 350 unfilled skilled trade positions in the region. It is also expected to support the launch of 20+ small businesses each year. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction and renovations, equipment, supplies, furniture, technology, personnel, participant support, and marketing.
11		Casa Azul De Wilson	Building a Bilingual Workforce Pipeline	N	Casa Azul de Wilson seeks funding for its Bilingual Workforce Pipeline Initiative. The organization plans to create a workforce and leadership hub at its new facility to be used for workforce-related programming, including digital literacy, college and career readiness, bilingual navigation, and employer engagement. Casa Azul de Wilson will partner with Wilson Community College (WCC) and individuals will complete training and earn 3rd-party certifications through WCC's continuing education and curriculum programs in Wilson's top industries—healthcare, manufacturing, education, and agribusiness. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, participant support, training materials, operating costs, and outreach.
12		Communities In Schools of Robeson County	College Access Inspires Students	N	Communities in Schools (CIS) of Robeson County seeks funding to support its efforts to increase the number of students pursuing and obtaining industry-recognized certifications and/or enrolling and completing community college classes and degrees. CIS targets high school students who are not participating in CTE classes and have not yet demonstrated a career plan. It provides case management and support needed to guide students into pathways. CIS works in partnership with Robeson Community College. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel and travel.

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13		Communities In Schools of Thomasville	Supporting Student Success for Workforce Development	N	Communities In Schools of Thomasville seeks funding to support a three-year initiative to improve readiness for workforce pathways. Through this initiative, CIS would place a full-time student support specialist in Thomasville City Schools to work with up to 50 high-need students annually with a focus on improving attendance, academic performance, and graduation rates. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, professional development, participant support, and administrative/indirect costs.
14		Designed for Joy	From Crisis to Career: Expanding Workforce Pathways for Women	N	Designed For Joy seeks funding to expand the length of its workforce training program, which supports women in Wake and surrounding counties who are overcoming homelessness, incarceration, trafficking, addiction, and domestic violence. The program offers paid transitional employment and workforce training to achieve long-term economic stability. Beginning January 2026, the program will expand from 12 weeks to a 16-week model. Golden LEAF funds would be used for participant wages, supplies and materials, and operating costs.
15		Drug Free Moore County, Inc.	Operation Uplift Moore & Beyond	N	Drug Free Moore County, Inc. (DFMC) seeks funding to support its Operation Uplift Moore & Beyond initiative that will serve Moore County and surrounding areas. Through this initiative, DFMC is expected to provide economic empowerment for 150 low-income families by providing them with resources and vouchers for high-quality childcare, stable housing, and transportation. DFMC will provide career coaching and addictions and mental health counseling and will also help participants develop empowerment plans to promote educational and economic advancement. Golden LEAF funds would be used for facility
16		Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries Crisis Center	Crisis Center Update	N	Duplin Christian Outreach Ministries seeks funding to update its Crisis Center equipment. The Crisis Center provides crisis intervention to clients experiencing economic distress and seeking help with rent, utilities, food, clothing, diapers, housing, and referrals for employment. Golden LEAF funds would be used for computers/laptops, software, and presentation supplies.
17		Healing Lives Fellowship Inc.	Vision Beyond Trauma: Women's Empowerment Program	N	Healing Lives Fellowship Inc. seeks funding to support its program that equips women in Charlotte/ Mecklenburg County with tools for long-term stability. The program primarily serves trauma survivors and single mothers from economically distressed communities. Participants are expected to complete accredited training that introduces them to medical coding along with workshops on soft skills, entrepreneurial development, financial literacy,

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18		Industries of the Blind Inc	Mobile robots helping people who are blind in distribution settings	N	The Industries of the Blind Inc seeks funding to expand employment for individuals who are blind or visually impaired by removing navigation barriers through the use of Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMRs) in warehouse operations to act as collaborative assistants. The AMRs are equipped with obstacle avoidance and follow predetermined routes while workers who are blind stay in their primary picking area. Expected benefits include reduced training time, improved accuracy, greater opportunities, and stronger retention. Golden LEAF funds would be used for equipment.
19		Macon County Schools	C++STEMIC	N	Macon County Schools seeks funding to develop computer-based CTE pathways focused on Cybersecurity, Networking, and Programming to meet industry demand for digital skills. The computer science coursework associated with this project will be a stand-alone program, but will also be integrated into other existing CTE pathways. Working with Southwestern Community College, the program is expected to lead to expanded certification and dual enrollment options. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, instructional technology, participant support, professional development, outreach/marketing, teacher externships, and administrative overhead.
20		Marizetta Kerry Child Development Center Inc	MZK & CORA'S Intergenerational Campus & Resource HUB	N	Marizetta Kerry Child Development Center, in partnership with CORA'S Intergenerational Center, seeks funding to establish an intergenerational campus and resource HUB where early learning, adult day health, and family resource navigation would be co-located in West Charlotte. The HUB is expected to connect 400+ residents each year to workforce, health, and housing resources that strengthen family stability and caregiver employment. Golden LEAF funds would be used for facility renovation, technology, and equipment upgrades.
21		MedAid Foundation	MedAid Workforce Development Program	N	The MedAid Foundation, a global nonprofit dedicated to improving healthcare access for vulnerable populations by providing essential hygiene products, medical supplies, and life-saving medicines, seeks funding establish a workforce development program. The agency plans to implement the project in Guilford and Forsyth counties and to partner with local colleges, hospitals, veterans organizations, and workforce development boards to equip 100 veterans and underserved individuals with training, support, and credentials for high-demand healthcare careers. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, training and

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22		Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.	Operation Restoration - Phase III	N	The Partnership for Children (PFC) seeks funding to complete the final phase of restoring its Family Resource Center (FRC) which serves as the community hub for PFC and its 25 partner organizations that provide direct services to families with young children in Cumberland County. The 43,261 square foot building that houses the FRC was damaged by hurricanes Florence and Matthew. The Partnership has successfully completed two phases of the restoration; this final phase involves removing and replacing three large glass curtain walls that are prone to moisture issues. Golden LEAF funds would be used for renovations.
23		Pathway Community Foundation Corp	Wilson County Smart Tech Workforce Program	N	Pathway Community Foundation (PCF), a North Carolina-based nonprofit organization, seeks funding to implement an initiative to equip post-secondary students with skills in cloud computing, Internet of Things, and IT networking. Students will gain hand-on training and earn industry certifications such as AWS Cloud Practitioner, CompTIA Network+, or IoT Fundamentals, and will engage in paid apprenticeships or project-based learning. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, technology equipment and software, professional development, curriculum development, training materials, and travel.
24		Real Life Inc	Pathways to Prosperity Workforce Readiness Program	N	Real Life Inc. seeks funding to launch a workforce initiative to equip unemployed and underemployed residents with industry-ready skills. Supported by recruitment through NCWorks and Guilford Works, the program will offer training in healthcare, advanced manufacturing/EV technology, logistics/transportation, IT/cybersecurity, and skilled trades. Participants will receive childcare, transportation, and counseling services, along with employer engagement. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, technology, participant support, professional development, marketing, equipment and supplies, travel, transportation, and leasing costs.
25		Smart Start of Forsyth County	Forsyth Drive & Care Workforce Bridge: CDL + CNA Pathways for Rural Families	N	Smart Start of Forsyth County (SSFC) seeks funding to launch a new workforce program to help participants from rural communities in Forsyth County access training for CDL and CNA careers. SSFC will partner with training organizations such as Mercy Training Institute, TransTech/Goodwill Industries of NWNC, Forsyth Technical Community College, and NCWorks. SSFC will recruit participants, provide case management services, and fund wraparound supports including transportation, childcare, and testing/licensing fees. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, equipment, a truck and trailer, supplies, and

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26		Team Leading Edge	Construction Technology Education	N	Team Leading Edge (TLE) seeks funding to expand its Procore Implementation Program, a construction project management system that supports teachers and students in high-demand construction careers. The program will offer free OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 certification courses to students and help train teachers to instruct the courses. TLE plans to implement the program to ten North Carolina high schools over the next two years. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, professional development, and travel.
27		The Carrington Center, Inc.	Digital Workforce & Housing Stability Hub for Rural Families	N	The Carrington Center, Inc. seeks funding to establish a Digital Workforce & Housing Stability Hub in Granville County serving the surrounding rural counties (Vance, Warren, Franklin). The project is expected to expand access to technology, training, and housing navigation for low-income families, veterans, and underserved small business owners. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, equipment, instructional technology, participant support, outreach, and administrative costs.

SITE Programs						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
Identification						
28		Yadkin, County of	Yadkin County Commerce Park	\$15,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industrial site identification aligned with Yadkin County's economic development strategy. - Tier 2 county
Due Diligence						
29		Troy, Town of	Uwharrie Business Park	\$120,000.00	Golden LEAF funds may only be used for due diligence items approved by Golden LEAF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due diligence to catalyze industrial and commercial development at 76-acre Uwharrie Business Park - Funding for due diligence including: Phase I ESA; wetlands; threatened and endangered species; and more
Development						
30		Warren, County of	Warren County Hwy 1 Industrial Site Development & Waterline Extension	\$1,087,460.00	Golden LEAF funds for due diligence and remediation may only be used for items approved by Golden LEAF; use of Golden LEAF funds for construction and related expenditures is conditioned on Golden LEAF approval of due diligence and, if needed, remediation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water line extension to county-owned Hwy 1 Industrial Site for manufacturing and distribution recruitment. - Improved infrastructure to boost competitiveness and expand quality job opportunities. - Funding for construction, engineering, due diligence, and potential environmental remediation.

Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief –Modification					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
31		North Carolina Baptist Men	Helene Relief Project	Y	Request increase of \$750,000 to \$3,290,000

Modifications					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
32		Graham County	Stanley Furniture Economic Efficiency Project	Defer	
33		North Carolina State University	Aviary Facility for Pullet And Layer Research and Extension	Y	
34		Uwharrie Charter Academy	Advanced Manufacturing	Y	Staff recommends that the grantee be allowed to use up to \$50,000 of the Golden LEAF award for construction and renovation of the areas of the building that will be used for advanced manufacturing, including common areas in the building.

Shell Building Program Modification					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions
35	LL, BW	Ashe County	Ashe County - Shell Building	Y	Staff recommends increasing the award to Ashe County by \$1,075,000, bringing the total award to \$2,500,000
36		Robeson County	Robeson County Shell Project	Y	Staff recommends awarding Robeson County an additional \$1,075,000, bringing the total award amount to \$2,500,000.
37		Scotland County Economic Development Corporation	Building 3	Y	Staff recommends awarding Scotland County EDC an additional \$296,415.25, bringing the total award amount to \$1,696,415.25.
38		Tabor City	Tabor City Shell Building	Y	Staff recommends awarding Tabor City an additional \$620,000, bringing the total award amount to \$2,045,000.

Flood Mitigation –Modification					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
39		Town of Beech Mountain	Greenbriar Rd. Flood Mitigation	Y	Recommend approval of the request to modify the purpose to allow for a broader range of solutions to implement the project.

Disaster Recovery –Modification					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
40		Town of Fairmont	Pump Station Rehabilitation	Y	Increase grant award by \$1,278,500 to \$1,623,500 and modify purpose to install generators, elevate the controls, and make other mitigation improvements at all three pump stations.
41		City of Washington	Washington Medical District Storm Water Project	Defer	Defer pending determination of final funding needed for other disaster recovery projects.

Other Business			
#	Board Abs.	Topic	Comments Special Conditions
42		NC Ag Leads Update	Recommend that the Board authorize staff to revise the NC Ag Leads contract with the NC Chamber Foundation to include an at large member appointed by Golden LEAF on the steering; clarify that the vote of the at large member shall not be considered when determining the vote of a majority of Golden LEAF appointees; and appoint Mr. Lee as a Golden LEAF member of the steering committee and Lawrence Davenport as the at-large member of the steering committee.
43		Golden LEAF Schools Update	Staff will provide an update regarding Golden LEAF Schools, including information from recent reports submitted by DPI.
44		UNC-Pembroke	Update regarding the UNC-P application seeking funding for the Doctor of Optometry facility.
45		The Housing Assistance Corporation	Recommend approval of the request to modify the purpose to allow for purchase of two vehicles.

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.