

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
THE GOLDEN L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), INC.**

The regular meeting of the Programs Committee of the Board of Directors of The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc. (the “Foundation”), was noticed for and convened on October 1, 2025, at the Golden LEAF Retreat Center located at 301 N. Winstead Ave., Rocky Mount, NC 27804. Committee members participating in the meeting were Lawrence Davenport, Barry Dodson, Michael Easley, Jr., Don Flow, Randy Isenhower, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor (Chair), Bobbie Richardson, Jarette Sampson, Ralph Strayhorn, and Tom Taft. Board member Bill Webb was also present. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Marilyn Chism, Director of Programs of the Foundation; Evan Benedict, Director of Grant Systems and Data of the Foundation; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation. Jenny Tinklepaugh served as secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Programs Committee members.

Mr. Raynor called the meeting to order, declared a quorum to be present, and identified Ms. Tinklepaugh as secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Raynor welcomed Mr. Webb to the Golden LEAF Board.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the open and closed sessions of the August 7, 2025 meeting of the Programs Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked members of the Committee to disclose individual interests related to matters to come before the Committee.

In accordance with the Foundation's Conflicts of Interest Policy, the following standing disclosures and disclosures related to matters to come before the Committee were made or confirmed:

- Mr. Lilley disclosed that his son is Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Mr. Lilley will abstain from the discussion and vote regarding projects for which Golden LEAF knows the Department of Commerce is or may be a funder.

In these minutes, where it is noted with respect to a matter that a director "would abstain" or "abstained," the subsequent vote is subject to all such abstentions.

Mr. Raynor informed members of the Committee that the Committee would organize its discussions and actions regarding proposals and other items by reference to the recommendations sheet distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The recommendations sheet reflecting the actions of the Committee is included in these minutes as Attachment A.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the applications received in the Economic Catalyst Program.

Mr. Lord presented information regarding the Economic Catalyst application that is item 1 on Attachment A. A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding item 1. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote.

A motion was made to enter closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the Foundation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Following the closed session, the Committee resumed its meeting in open session.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Chism and Mr. Lord to present the applications received in Stage Two of the Open Grants Program. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage Two applications received in the Open Grants Program, which are items numbered 2-12. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Chism and Mr. Lord to present the applications received in Stage One of the Open Grants Program. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage One applications received in the Open Grants Program, which are items numbered 13-30. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the SITE Program application. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the SITE Program application, which is item numbered 31. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the NC Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the Out-of-Cycle applications. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Out-of-Cycle applications, which are items numbered 32 and 33. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor declared the Programs Committee meeting to be in recess until 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2025.

The meeting of the Programs Committee reconvened at the Golden LEAF Retreat Center located at 301 N. Winstead Ave., Rocky Mount, NC 27804 at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Committee members participating in the meeting were Lawrence Davenport, Barry Dodson, Michael Easley, Jr., Don Flow, Randy Isenhower, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor

(Chair), Bobbie Richardson, David Rose, Jarette Sampson, Ralph Strayhorn, and Tom Taft. Board member Bill Webb was also present. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Marilyn Chism, Director of Programs of the Foundation; Evan Benedict, Director of Grant Systems and Data of the Foundation; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation.

Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Programs Committee members.

Mr. Raynor called the meeting to order and declared a quorum to be present.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the recommendation regarding the Golden LEAF Colleges and Universities Scholarship. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the Golden LEAF Colleges and Universities Scholarship, which is item numbered 34. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to present the modifications in the Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Program. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the modifications in the Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Program, which are items numbered 35 and 36. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the grant modification requests. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the modification requests, which are items numbered 37 and 38. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to present the modification requests in the Flood Mitigation Program. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend

that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Flood Mitigation Program modification requests, which are items numbered 39 and 40. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord and Ms. Ginsberg to present items under Other Business.

Ms. Ginsberg presented an update on the NC Ag Leads strategic plan and implementation. She shared that Golden LEAF staff members are engaged in the review of various next steps with the NC Ag Leads team and that requests for funding may be available as soon as the December meeting for some of the proposed action items. Ms. Ginsberg shared that the following items are in development:

- AgLaunch is developing the model that addresses the need to better connect innovations and farmers, which was identified during listening sessions.
- Talent Pipeline Management is paused temporarily while the national model is refreshed. The next step in the process will be collecting data to assess demand for certain positions in the agriculture industry.
- Regarding the Land Data Deep Dive, NC Ag Leads is developing a concept document and contract with American Farmland Trust and has been engaging with Google regarding mapping.
- For Extension Revitalization, NC Ag Leads is working with a small group of stakeholders, including Dean Fox of NCSU CALS, David Monks, the new Director of NC State Extension, and the NCSU Chancellor's office to continue the conversation around development of a new staffing model. Ms. Ginsberg added that a consensus for conducting legislative outreach to discuss the next era of Extension and its significance will be developed.
- For Thought Leadership & Collaboration Structure, the NC Ag Leads team held a HARVEST briefing on ag labor and developments at the federal level in September.

- For Business Mindset Deep Dive, NC Ag Leads has developed a list of organizations already leading programs within and around North Carolina that support farm business development. The NC Ag Leads team will conduct interviews and potentially host one or two focus groups regarding this need.

Ms. Ginsberg then presented an update regarding Golden LEAF Schools. She provided information on recent activities including training and planning sessions, milestone reporting, and funding dispersed to date. Items discussed included the curriculum trainings and webinars provided to the schools participating in the initiative, the information that will be included in reports that the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will provide to Golden LEAF during the initiative, and reporting milestones. Ms. Ginsberg reported that the coaching team was fully staffed as July 31 and that baseline metrics will be finalized in December and shared with Golden LEAF in January.

Mr. Lord presented information about a potential Open Grants Program application from Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial seeking request to support public infrastructure needed for a housing development in White Lake. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the potential application, which is item numbered 43. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Lord presented information regarding a modification to the NC Housing Finance Agency agreement. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the modified agreement, which is item numbered 44. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Lord then presented information on Golden LEAF funding outcomes reporting. He provided an overview of the reporting timeline for Golden LEAF grants, how staff reviews reports and outcomes, the information that staff receives from grantees, and how that information is used in the Foundation's required annual report to the State. Mr. Lord covered the impact data reported for Fiscal Year 2025, including 1,665 new positions filled, \$116 million in new payroll, \$3.8 billion in private capital

investment, 4,722 people trained, 2,970 industry/third-party credentials earned, and 1,752 degrees/diploma/certificates earned. He also discussed themes and trends. He also told the Committee that the information provided to the Programs Committee for the meeting included a list of all reports from grantees that were in Golden LEAF's FY2025 report to the State, including the outcomes for each report and a brief assessment of the status of each project.

With no other business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jenny Tinklepaugh, Secretary of the Meeting

Read and approved:

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Brian Raynor, Chair of the Programs Committee

**Attachment A**  
Programs Committee Recommendations

<b>Economic Catalyst Proposals</b>				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
1	Cumberland County	Project Aero	Defer	
<b>Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals</b>				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
2	Fayetteville Technical Community College	Training and Education for Advanced Cardiovascular Healthcare (TEACH)	\$500,000.00	
3	Franklinton, Town of	Downtown Franklinton Small Business Incubator & Support Center	\$0.00	
4	Henderson, City of	Henderson Works	\$0.00	
5	North Carolina Business Committee for Education	Tech Team: Building Rural Technical Talent	\$0.00	
6	Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	Piedmont Community College (PCC) CDL Training Expansion	\$480,000.00	No Golden LEAF funding for scholarships
7	Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	Piedmont Community College HVAC and Industrial Maintenance Programming in Caswell County	\$175,000.00	Funding for HVAC equipment
8	Southeastern Life Center, Incorporated	Southeastern Life Center Development Academy	Defer	

9	Stanly Community College	Expanding Instruction in High-Demand Trades	\$375,000.00	Award grant to Stanly Community College Foundation
10	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Lead for NC	\$300,000.00	Golden LEAF funds to be used to support placement of students in rural communities.
11	Uwharrie Charter Academy	Advanced Manufacturing and Health Science	\$350,000.00	For advanced manufacturing equipment and supplies
12	Western Piedmont Community College	Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program	\$479,949.05	

**Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals**

#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
13	Isothermal Community College	Healthcare Simulation Equipment for Health & Sciences Center	Y	
14	McDowell, County of	Foothills Food Hub Sewer Project	Y	
15	Southeastern Community College	Eliminating Barriers in Advanced Manufacturing	Y	
16	Cristo Rey Research Triangle Corporate Work Study Program Inc	Expanding Rural Workforce Readiness through Cristo Rey RT's Corporate Work Study Program	N	
17	Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District	Cumberland SWCD Emergency Watershed Protection Program	N	
18	Drug Education and Human Development Centers, Inc. dba eWorld of Health.com	Rural Smoke-Free Housing Tobacco/Nicotine Addiction Support Program	N	
19	Entryway (formerly known as Shelters to Shutters)	Housing and Employment Pathways for Situationally	N	

		Homeless Individuals		
20	Fostering Faith Foundation	Paid Internship Program	Withdrawn	
21	The Full Moon Farm Collective	Food Security Workforce	N	
22	Halifax, County of	Halifax County Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility	N	
23	Journeyman INC	Journeyman Asheville: Multi-Year Mentorship Infrastructure and Recovery Support	N	
24	Leah's Hopes and Dreams	Mobile Dignity & Hygiene Support	N	
25	Nitap Transport Service LLC	Nitap Transport Service	N	
26	North Carolina Central University	Cybersecurity k-12 Immersion Program for Strengthening Knowledge and Skills(CyberKICKS)	N	
27	Sullenberger Aviation Museum	Flight Forward Workforce Development	N	
28	Tiny House Community Development, Inc.	Partnering to Enhance Workforce Opportunities: Tiny Houses Community Development and Golden LEAF	N	
29	Today Tomorrow Forever	Today Tomorrow & Forever Home Care	N	

30	White Label Management Institute Incorporated	Building a Sustainable Talent Pipeline to Power North Carolina's Clean Energy Transition	N	
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**SITE Programs**

<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmtc Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
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**Development**

31	Caldwell, County of	Caldwell County Evergreene Industrial Park Grading Project	\$1,016,784	Release of funds is contingent on Golden LEAF approval of the capacity of the water and sewer lines that will serve the site; Release of funds for costs related to grading the site is contingent on Golden LEAF approval of the due diligence completed for the site; Use of Golden LEAF funds for due diligence expenses must be approved in advance by Golden LEAF
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<b>Out of Cycle Proposal</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
32	East Carolina University	ECU Brody School of Medicine Center for Medical Education	\$1,000,000	Funding for the 360 Degree Learning Studio and Whitebox Immersion Room only; Consider additional funding to support other elements of this request at a later meeting
33	UNC-Pembroke	UNC-P College of Optometric Medicine - Clinical Sciences Building Equipment and Instructional Technology Investment	Defer; Express support for the request with action expected after learning more about the final cost of the building	

<b>Scholarships</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
34	North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority	Golden LEAF Colleges and Universities Scholarship (2026-2027)	Award a programmatic contract of \$2,963,330	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Funds are to be used to support 215 new scholarships and 550 renewal scholarships of \$3,500/year, 20 half-year renewal scholarships of \$1,750 each, and \$250,830 for other operational costs, unless otherwise agreed by the Foundation. No Golden LEAF funds may be used for overhead.</p> <p>3. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate financial need and be from a qualifying county designated by Golden LEAF. Golden LEAF will inform NCSEAA of the qualifying counties.</p> <p>4. NCSEAA will gather and provide Golden LEAF contact information regarding scholarship applicants and recipients on</p>

				<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<b>Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Modification</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmtc Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
35	Camp Grier	Helene Relief Project	Approve	Increase grant award by \$100,000 to \$200,000

36	The Housing Assistance Corporation	Helene Relief Project	Approve	Increase grant award by \$120,000 to \$220,000
<b>Modifications</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmtc Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
37	Graham County	Stanley Furniture Economic Efficiency Project	Defer	
38	Graham County Schools	Industry Workforce Incubator	Terminate the grant.	Pay eligible expenses incurred to date and terminate the award.
<b>State Appropriated Programs–Modification</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmtc Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
39	Town of Canton	Rhoda Street Flood Improvements Project	Partial Approval	Increase award by \$189,553 to \$439,553 to reduce the town's contribution and make the town's funds available for the increased costs of the Meadowbrook and Skyline projects.
40	Town of West Jefferson	Downtown Stormwater Detention	Approve	Increase award by \$312,858 to \$562,858
<b>Other Business</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Topic</b>		<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>	
41	NC Ag Leads Update		No action.	
42	Golden LEAF Schools Update		No action.	
43	Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial		Invite an Open Grants application seeking up to \$500,000 for public infrastructure to support a housing development project in White Lake.	
44	NCHFA		Revise the existing scope of work with NCHFA to allow use of Golden LEAF funds as a source of funding available for applicants in the 2026 9% LIHTC QAP process to support development of projects in counties that are persistently Tier 1 or Tier 2 and that have not had a LIHTC project in the past five years. Funds would be available only for new construction family projects and authorize the	

		President of the Foundation to enter a modified agreement with NCHFA.
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