



Golden
LEAF
FOUNDATION

Board Retreat Day 1

Application Process Overview



Core Golden LEAF Programs

Program	Maximum Award	FY26 Budget	Priority Areas
Open Grants	\$500,000	\$8,000,000	All
SITE	\$1,500,000*	\$6,000,000	Job Creation and Economic Investment
Economic Catalyst	No max amount	\$10,000,000	Job Creation and Economic Investment
SPARC**	\$1,000,000 expected	\$3,000,000	All, and some special projects

Golden LEAF also supports special projects and initiatives, e.g., NC Ag Leads and Golden LEAF Schools, and receives funding from the State for special initiatives, e.g., disaster relief, flood mitigation, and shell buildings.

*Maximum award in SITE Development phase. Maximum award in SITE Due Diligence is \$200,000.

**SPARC discussed in more detail tomorrow. CBGI not listed because February 2026 is last scheduled round.

Programs Staff Roles

From application, all projects are typically assigned a Program Lead and Primary Staff.

The Senior Program Officer, Director of Programs, Vice President/Chief of Staff, Senior Vice President/General Counsel, and the Director of Programs Administration serve as Program Leads. Program Officers typically serve as Primary Staff.

The Programs team also includes the Director of Grant Systems and Data, Grant Administration Specialist, and part-time Program Associate.

Primary Staff serve as the primary contact with a grantee and handle the day-to-day and detailed review for all applications and reports.

Program Leads oversee the work of primary staff including approving reports and payments, lead due diligence regarding grant applications and initial development of staff recommendations, and respond to inquiries about Golden LEAF funding opportunities.

Priority Outcomes

Job Creation and Economic Investment

- Private capital investment
- New jobs created
- Average annual wage of new jobs
- Business start-ups
- New housing units

Workforce Preparedness

- Courses or programs completed
- Industry credentials earned
- Students participating in work-based learning
- Students receiving meaningful exposure to career opportunities

Agriculture

- Participants at agricultural trainings
- Publications directed towards farmers
- Use of facilities

Funds Typically Used For

Job Creation and Economic Investment

Public infrastructure (mostly water, sewer, and road), clearing and grading of publicly owned property (in the SITE Development Program), some costs to support business start-up and expansion, e.g., incubator space

Workforce Preparedness

Equipment, building renovation/upfit, building construction, community college faculty (start-up costs), supplies, support for work based learning and similar efforts

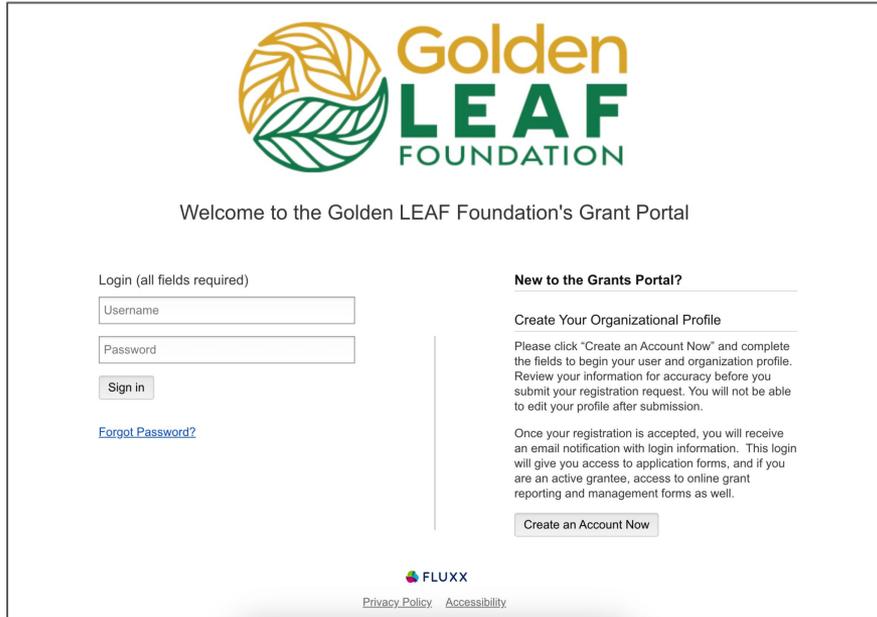
Agriculture

Equipment, shared-use facilities, applied research (personnel, supplies, etc.)

Core Program Application Elements

Applications have common requirements with some variation across programs.

Only governmental entities and 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organizations are eligible.



The screenshot displays the Golden LEAF Foundation's Grant Portal. At the top center is the logo, which consists of a stylized leaf icon in green and gold, followed by the text "Golden LEAF FOUNDATION" in green and gold. Below the logo, the text "Welcome to the Golden LEAF Foundation's Grant Portal" is centered. The page is divided into two main sections. On the left, under the heading "Login (all fields required)", there are two input fields for "Username" and "Password", and a "Sign in" button. Below these fields is a link for "Forgot Password?". On the right, under the heading "New to the Grants Portal?", there is a section titled "Create Your Organizational Profile". This section contains a paragraph of instructions: "Please click 'Create an Account Now' and complete the fields to begin your user and organization profile. Review your information for accuracy before you submit your registration request. You will not be able to edit your profile after submission." Below this text is a "Create an Account Now" button. At the bottom center of the page, there is a logo for "FLUX" and two links: "Privacy Policy" and "Accessibility".

Open Grants Program Application

The Open Grants Program is a two-stage application. This is designed to streamline the process for applicants by not requiring more information that will be needed for evaluation.

Stage One Application Requirements

Project Budget

The total cost of the project including the amount requested from Golden LEAF.

Project Summary (1150 characters maximum)

Briefly describe how you will implement the project, how the project will meet the Golden LEAF funding priorities, and how it will benefit tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, and/or rural communities and the people who live there.

Sustainability (1000 characters maximum)

Describe plans to sustain funding for the project beyond the grant or explain why continued funding is not needed.

Open Grants Program Application

Stage One Application Requirements (continued)

Outcomes Summary (1000 characters maximum)

Describe which of the Golden LEAF priority outcomes this project is expected to achieve. How will progress and success be measured? Address any other project deliverables and results.

Organization History (1000 characters maximum)

Briefly describe the organization's history, current programs, and accomplishments. Include a short summary of the organization's mission, goals, and objectives. [Optional for governmental entities]

Open Grants Program Application

Stage Two Application Requirements

Organizational Fiscal Information

Financial statements, current annual operating budget, and total endowment/reserves

Project Information

Geographic area in NC where project work will be conducted and geographic area served by the project

Priority Outcomes

Applicants identify which Golden LEAF priority outcome(s) their project will address and provide a baseline and target. Applicants also identify the source of data that will be used to verify project results.

Other Project Outcomes

Qualitative or other project outcomes that are not Golden LEAF priority outcomes, with target results and achievement dates.

Open Grants Program Application

Stage Two Application Requirements

Project Activities

Key tasks required to achieve project outcomes, including a completion date for each.

Project Time Frame

Period of time to accomplish project outcomes, which may extend beyond the grant term.

Grant Term Information

Period of time over which Golden LEAF funds would be used.

Open Grants Program Application

Stage Two Application Requirements

Required Attachments

- Board of Directors/ Members of Governing Body
- Evidence of Tax-Exempt Status
- Most Recent Fiscal-Year End Audit or Financial Statements (two years for nonprofits)
- Applicant's Budget for the Current Year
- Applicant's Budget for the Period Covered by the Grant Request
- Organization Information (1 page maximum)
- Proposal Description (3 page maximum)
- Outcomes Narrative
- Baseline Data Supporting Documentation (for increasing existing programs)
- Project Staff list
- Major Contributors (for nonprofits only)

Open Grants Program Application

Stage Two Application Requirements

Required Attachments (continued)

- Community/County Partners list
- Business Plan/ Strategic Plan/ Feasibility Study (if available for the project)

Specific Requirements for SITE and Economic Catalyst Single Stage Applications

SITE

- Includes most core information required for Open Grants Stage Two
- Detailed information about the site to be developed, e.g., location, ownership, utilities
- Information about local economic development strategy and fit with this site
- Due diligence reports, e.g., Phase I ESA, wetlands, archaeological, buildable area, etc.
 - Funding available in due diligence phase, but reports must be completed prior to application in the development phase (can request funding for 3 reports in development)
- Applications also reviewed by an engineer and site selection consultant

Economic Catalyst

- Includes most core information required for Open Grants Stage Two
- Detailed information about the job creation expectations, wages, incentives
- Golden LEAF also has information from NC Dept. of Commerce and EDPNC

Due Diligence Process

Program Leads and Primary Staff conduct due diligence on all applications.

Due diligence for Stage One Open Grants applications is limited and nearly all through email or phone calls. Due diligence for other applications is detailed.

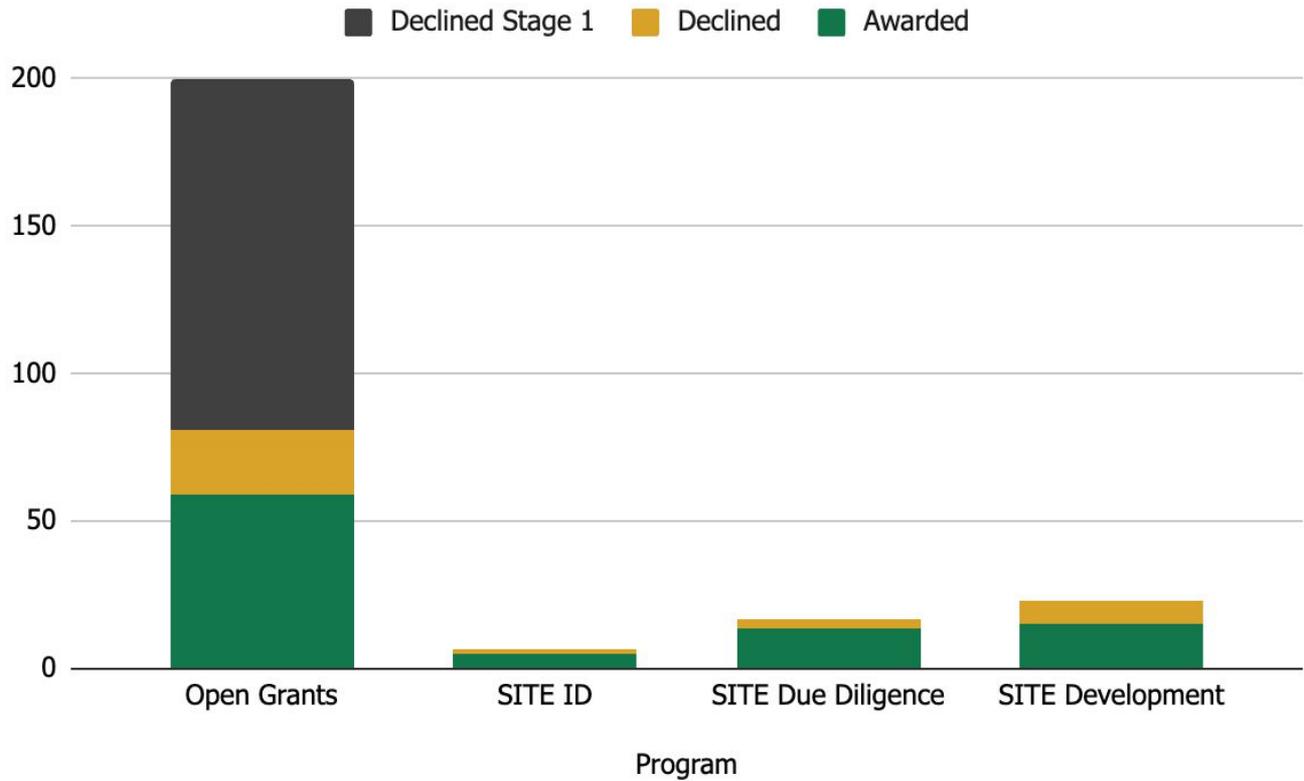
Detailed due diligence includes conducting a review of the application and supporting documentation (e.g., evidence of workforce demand from local employers). Staff also conducts an in-person site visit for nearly all projects.

Staff also evaluate the project's projected outcomes, sustainability, and overall viability, including evidence of sufficient funding to complete the project.

Characteristics of Low Priority Projects

- Tourism, arts, or cultural resources
- Emergency services including fire departments
- General social services
- Reimbursement for prior expenditures
- Capital campaign or endowments
- General maintenance and operational support
- Infrastructure not related to economic development
- Repair or replacement of existing equipment and infrastructure

Declinations Data



Application Review Trends and Analysis

Staff frequently has conversations with potential applicants which reduces the numbers of non-competitive applications; however, staff does not serve as a gatekeeper

For low priority applications, staff does not engage in detailed due diligence

Some applications develop after several conversations and meetings with staff

Economic Catalyst applications generally follow significant pre-application discussions with the Department of Commerce and local economic developers and often after projects are previewed with the Programs Committee

Post-Award Monitoring

Golden LEAF staff follow a grant monitoring policy that is approved by the Board.

The policy establishes the reporting cadence (every six months), parameters for modifications, and processes for expenditure review and verification of outcomes.

Golden LEAF staff compliance with this policy is monitored by our external auditors as part of our annual audit.

Golden LEAF requires invoice level reporting of expenses charged to the grant. Funds are drawn down by the grantee as needed to reimburse for expenses incurred. Grantees may also request limited advances. All awards are considered an “up to” amount with the final amount reimbursed based on actual costs incurred.

Golden LEAF verifies outcomes by reviewing supporting documentation provided by grantees. This includes reports from their data systems and other related documents.

Application Process Refinement

Process Abandoned/Incomplete Applications

- Strengthen language in follow up communications and establish a deadline to complete applications (will allow staff to remove draft applications from the system)
- Require applicants to submit Stage 2 applications within the next two deadlines (most submit by first deadline, on occasion applicants go to next deadline)

Enhance Certainty for Certain Applicants to Spur Activity

- For community colleges, guarantee match for rural colleges applying in the state high cost training programs and eligible under the healthcare leverage criteria
- For nonprofit healthcare providers developing FQHCs or FQHC look alikes and need leverage or matching funds to complete the projects (with appropriate job creation outcomes)

Data and Trends



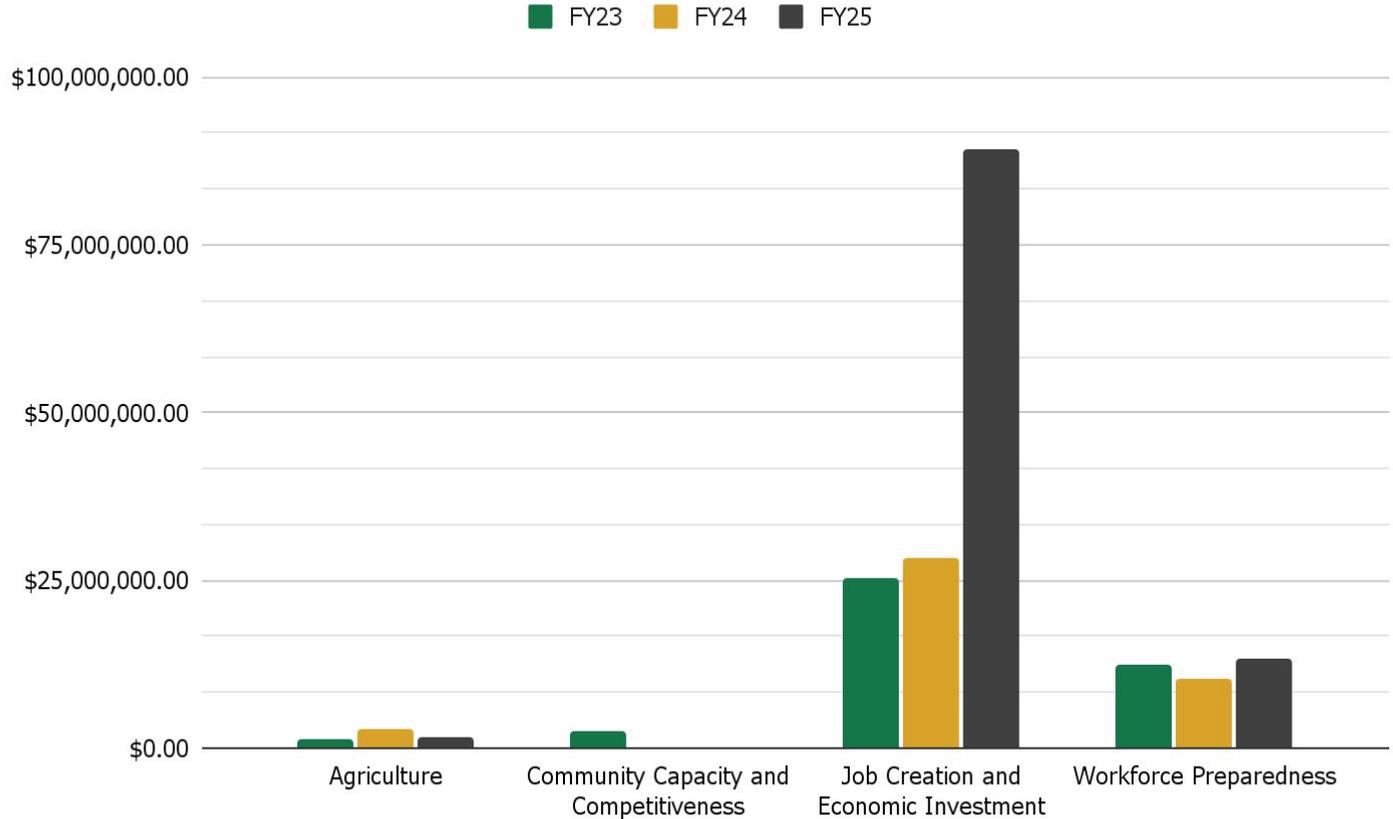
Historical Data

The following charts include historical information from FY23, FY24, and FY25 regarding awards made by priority area, program, and tier of the county where the project is located.

The charts do not include information about the following programs: Food Distribution Assistance Program, Flood Mitigation Grant Program, Shell Building Pilot Program, certain special initiatives (Golden LEAF Schools) or Scholarships.

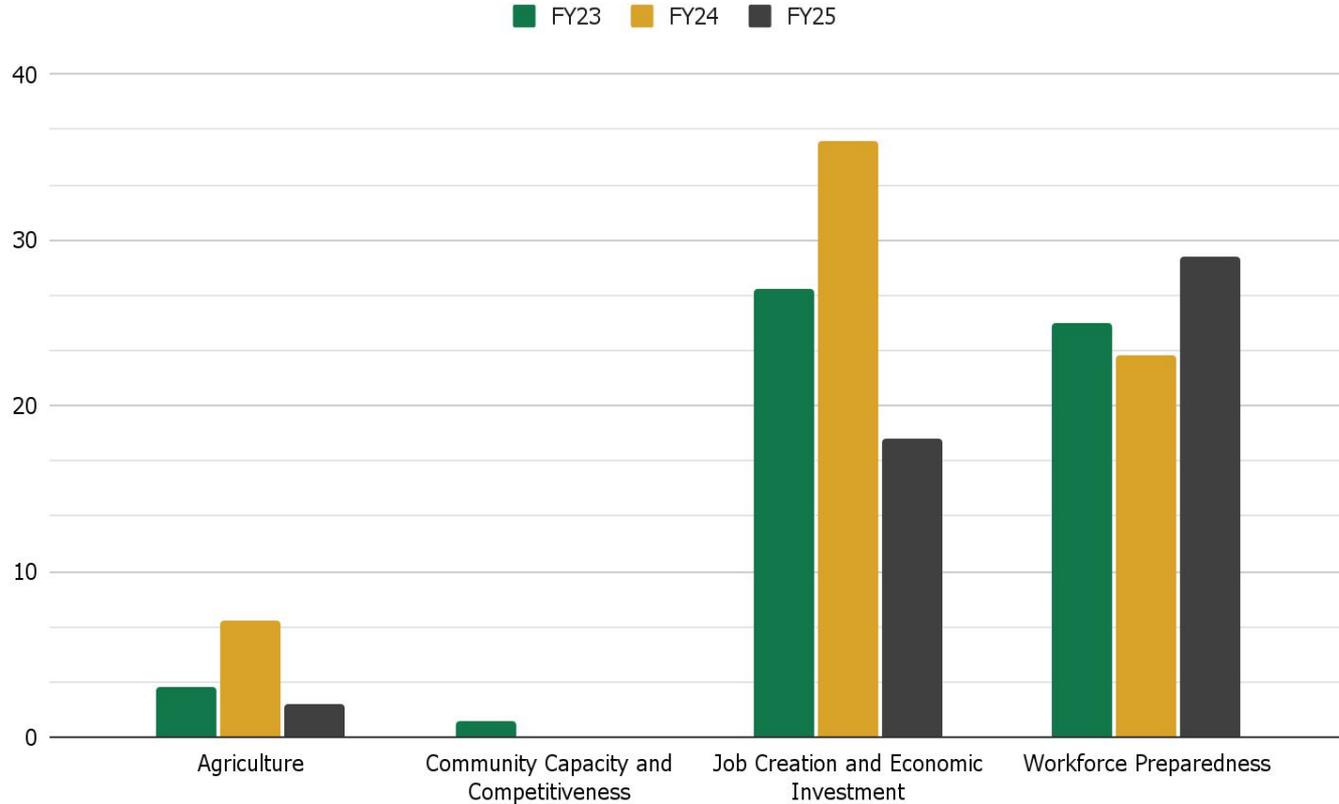
Tier data reflects the tier at the time of the award. Tier data also doesn't include awards made at at UNC or NCSU for the benefit of the state.

Dollars Awarded by Priority Area



Projects awarded in Open Grants, CBGI, SITE and Economic Catalyst.

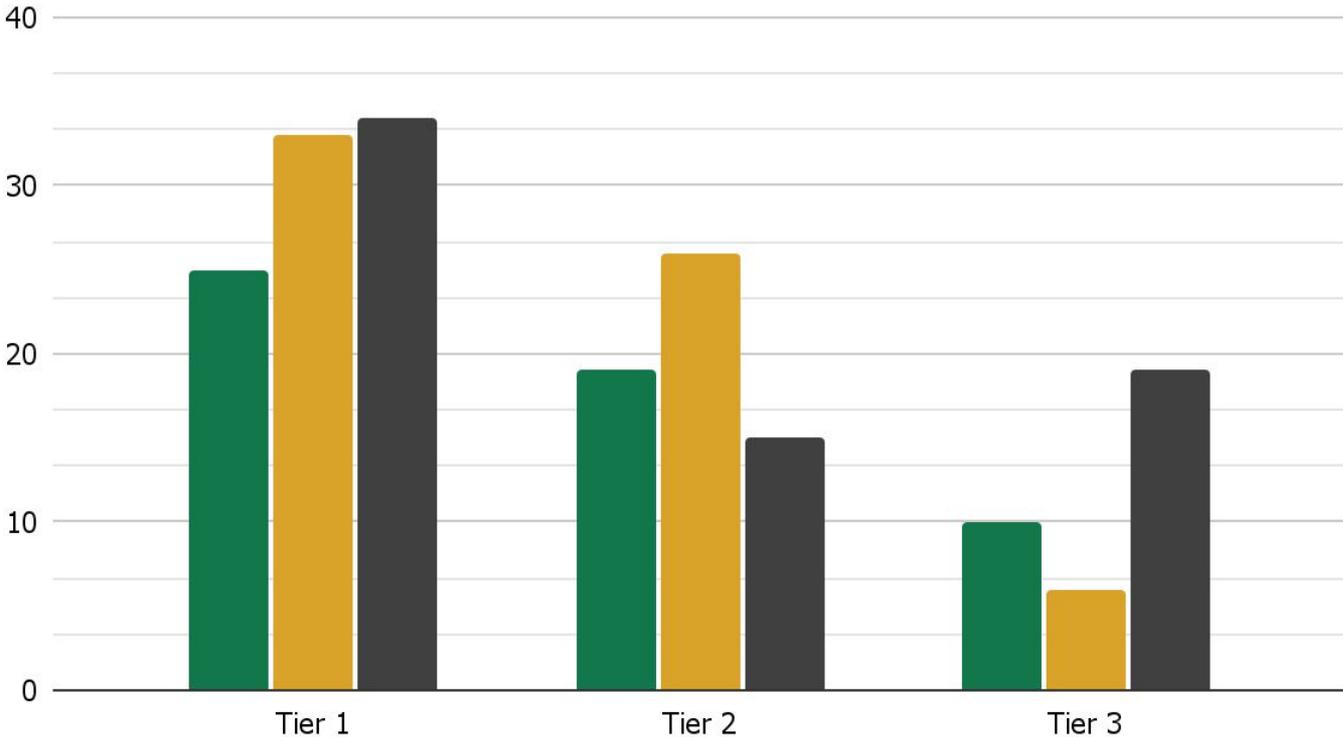
Number Awarded by Priority Area



Projects awarded in
Open Grants, CBGI, SITE
and Economic Catalyst.

Number Awarded by Tier

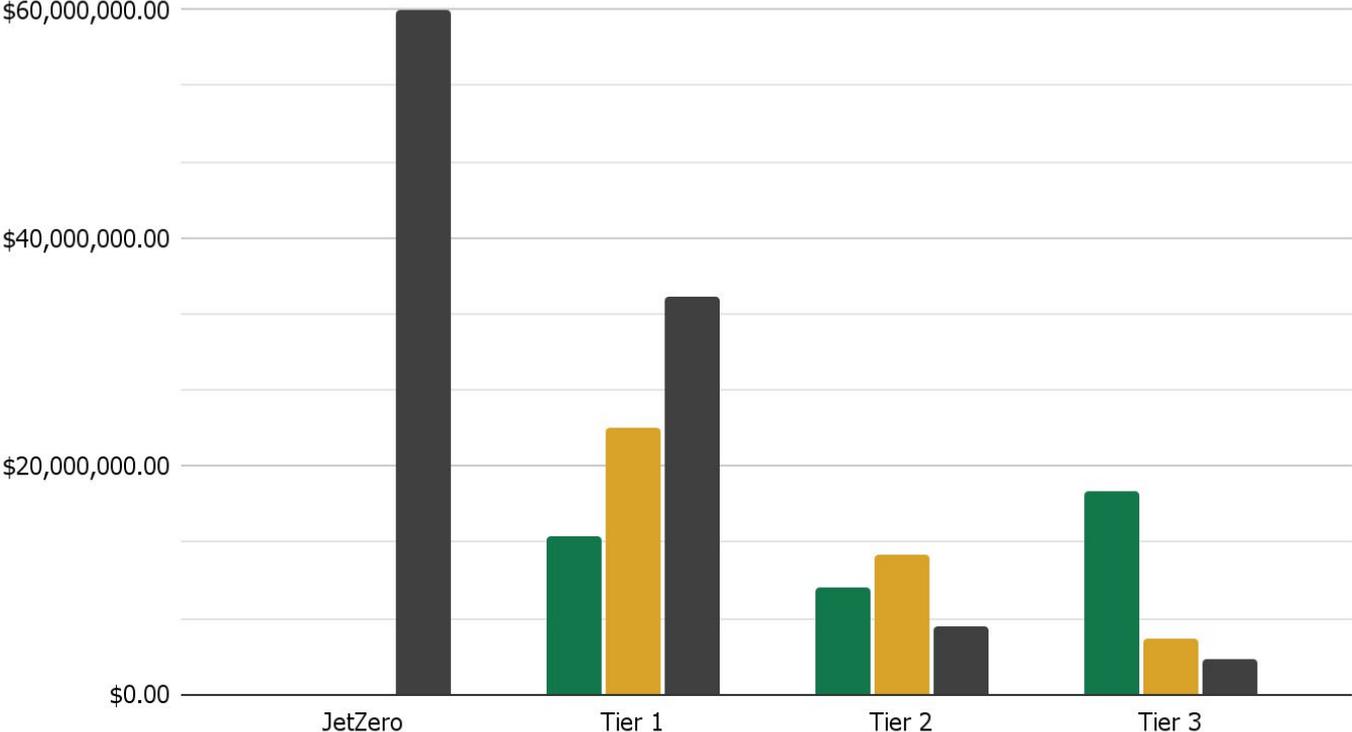
FY23 FY24 FY25



Projects awarded in Open Grants, CBGI, SITE and Economic Catalyst.

Dollars Awarded by Tier

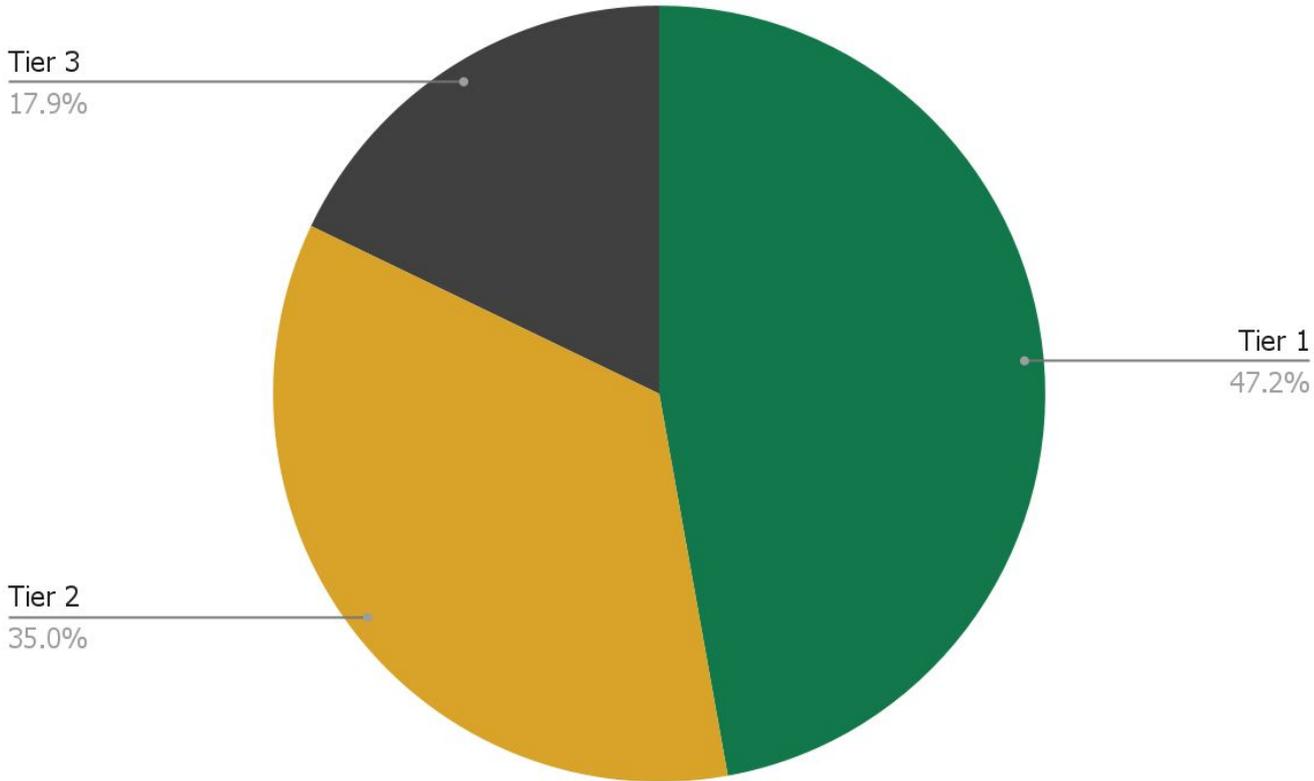
FY23 FY24 FY25



Projects awarded in
Open Grants, CBGI, SITE,
and Economic Catalyst.

Number Awarded by Tier

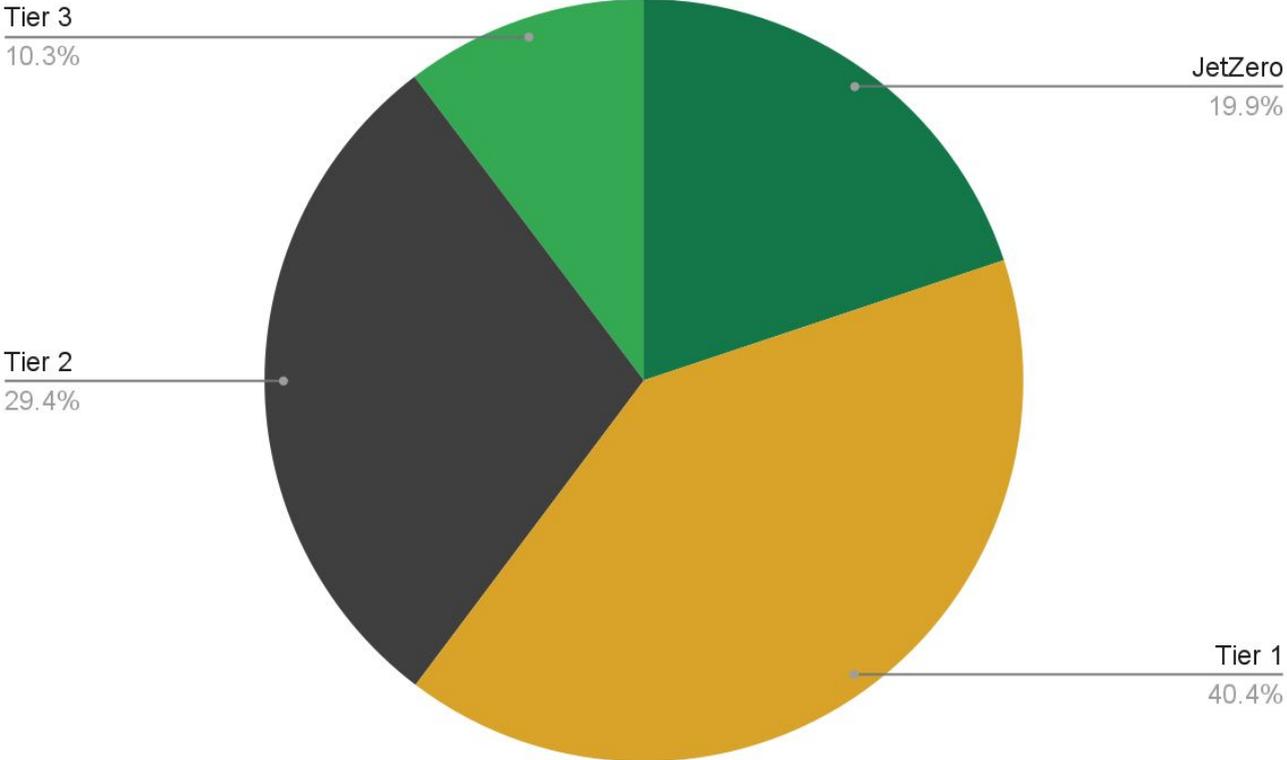
Total FY2023 through FY2025



Projects awarded in
Open Grants, CBGI, SITE,
and Economic Catalyst only.

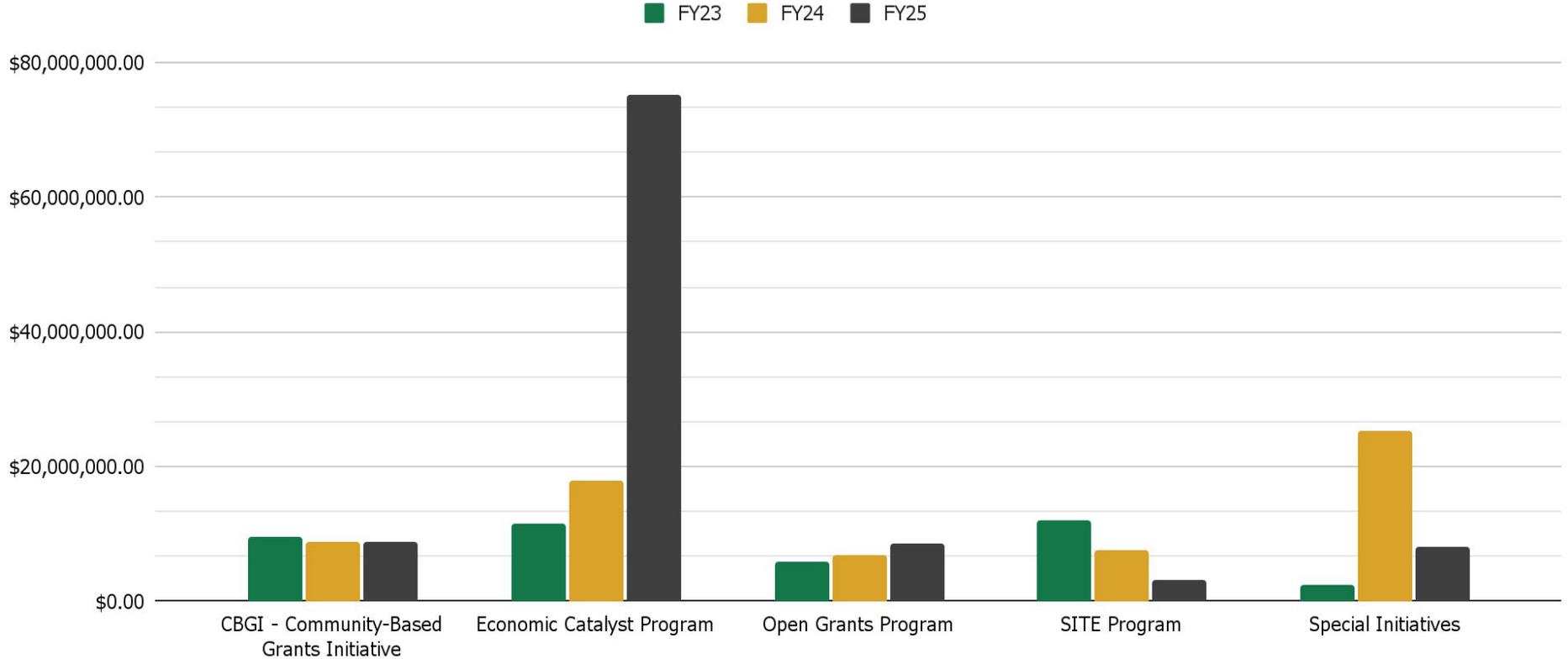
Dollars Awarded by Tier

Total FY2023 through FY2025

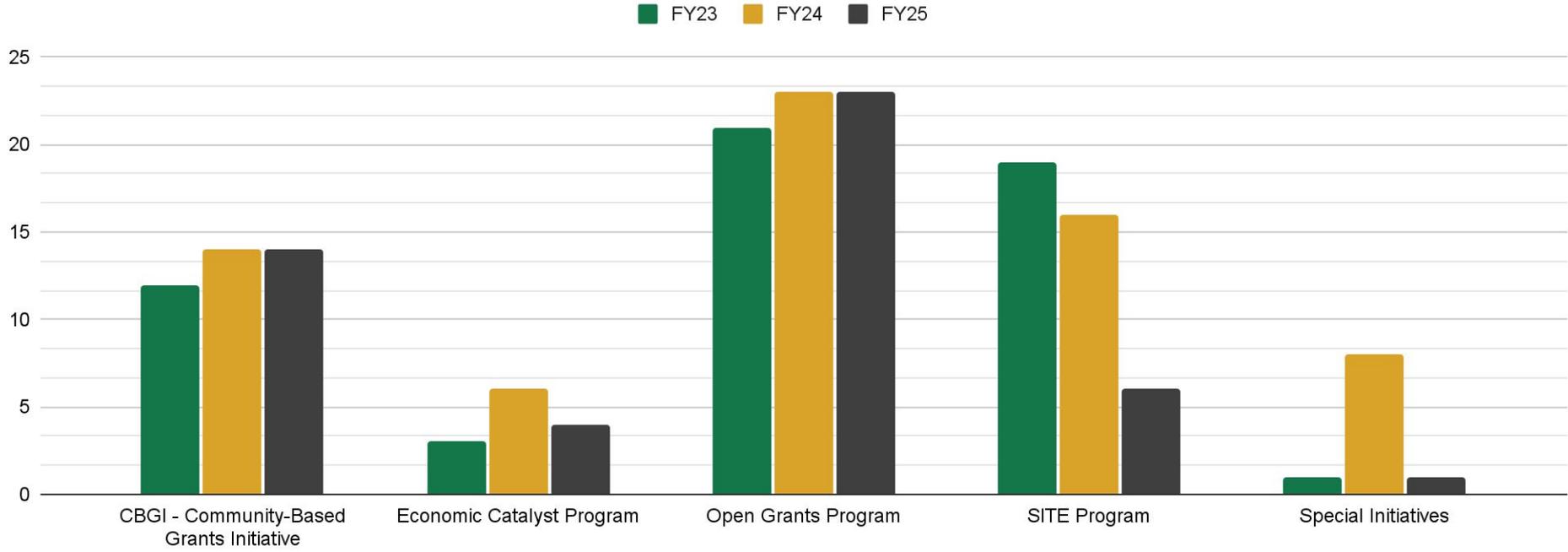


Projects awarded in
Open Grants, CBGI, SITE
and Economic Catalyst.

Dollars Awarded by Program



Number Awarded by Program



Programs Trends

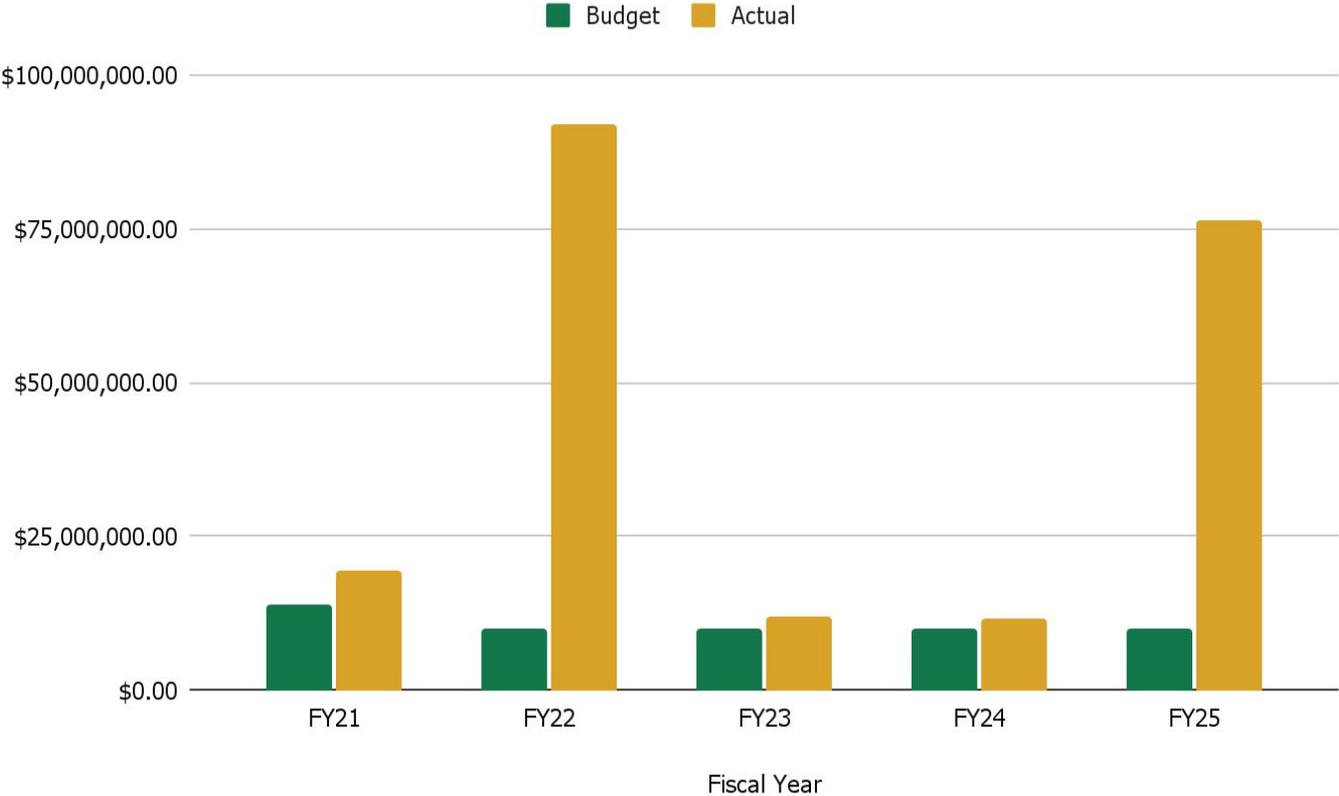
Increase in dollars awarded and number awarded for Open Grants likely attributed to increase in cap to \$500,000 in recent years. Average award size has increased from \$300,565 in FY24 to \$365,744 in FY25.

Number of grants and dollars awarded for SITE declining, but could be part of a larger cycle and due to the length of site development process.

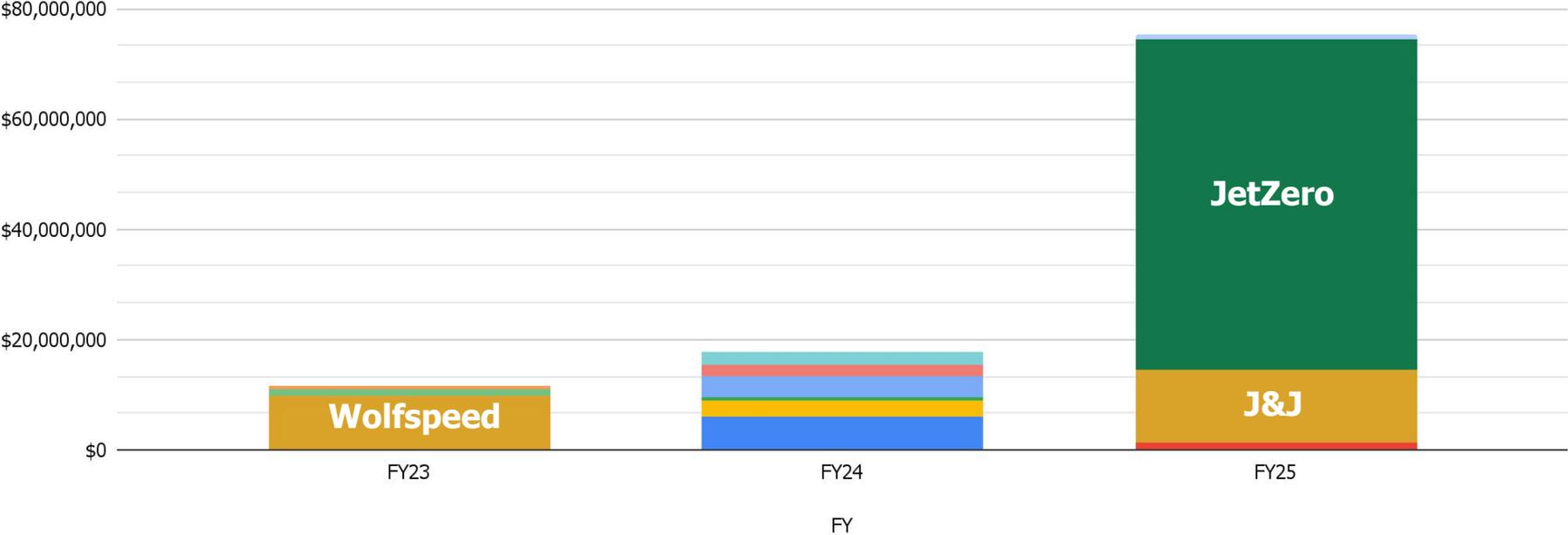
The Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI) is entering the final prosperity zone for awards in spring 2026. CBGI has a budget of \$11m for FY26. Recommendation for next steps with those funds planned for Programs budget discussion in April.

Project costs continue to increase overall.

Economic Catalyst Data



Economic Catalyst Data



*Each color represents a project. Major projects labeled.

Economic Catalyst Data

Fiscal Year	Average Jobs	Average Award Amount/Job	Average Projected Annual Wage	Average Private Capital Investment
FY2020	212	\$3,554.31	\$47,233	\$47,376,666.67
FY2021	348	\$7,021.25	\$60,897	\$439,080,000.00
FY2022	1,942	\$8,968.66	\$57,160	\$1,138,930,000.00
FY2023	964	\$5,209.13	\$61,767.50	\$2,409,750,000.00
FY2024	676	\$5,546.41	\$56,144.50	\$469,000,000.00
FY2025	253	\$14,703.77	\$74,406.00	\$413,666,666.67
FY2026	4,727	\$9,008.89	\$69,518.00	\$1,553,333,333.33
Overall Average	1,266	\$7,774.17	\$60,475	\$839,986,666.67

Economic Catalyst Data

County Tier*	Average Jobs	Average Award Amount/Job	Average Projected Annual Wage	Average Private Capital Investment
Tier 1	401	\$10,309	\$58,160	\$287,070,909
Tier 2	3,266	\$4,160	\$60,993	\$1,337,428,571
Tier 3	665	\$6,921	\$64,500	\$1,273,316,667
Overall Average	1,266	\$7,774	\$60,475	\$839,986,667

*Tier at time of award

Status of Active Major Projects (2016-2023)

Project	Year	Award Amount	Amount Released	Status
Kingsboro Mega-Site	2016	\$7.5m	\$4.1m	Off track; engineering delays
Sanford/Mountaire Farms	2018	\$2m	\$0	Progressing; contingency funds
ECU/Eastern Region Pharma Center	2021	\$1.9m	\$1.5m	Off track; equipment acquisition delayed
Holly Springs/Galaxy	2021	\$4m	\$817,615	On track; revised engineering
Sanford/Vinfast	2022	\$50m	\$47.2m	Off track; Infrastructure nearly complete; company not active
Brunswick Co/Hwy 74/76	2023	\$3m	\$0	Progressing; delayed while pursuing other funds

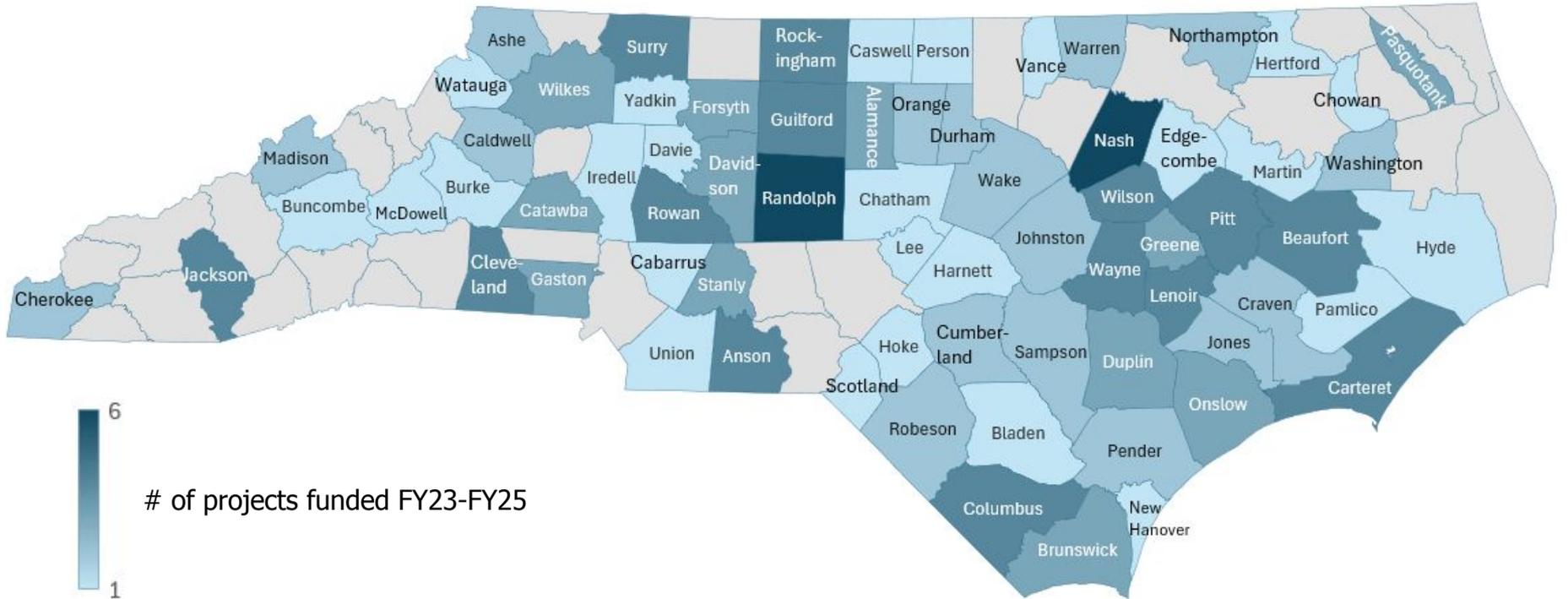
*Active (in process/not paid) Economic Catalyst and certain strategic initiatives with award amounts of \$1.5m or greater.

Status of Active Major Projects (2023-2025)

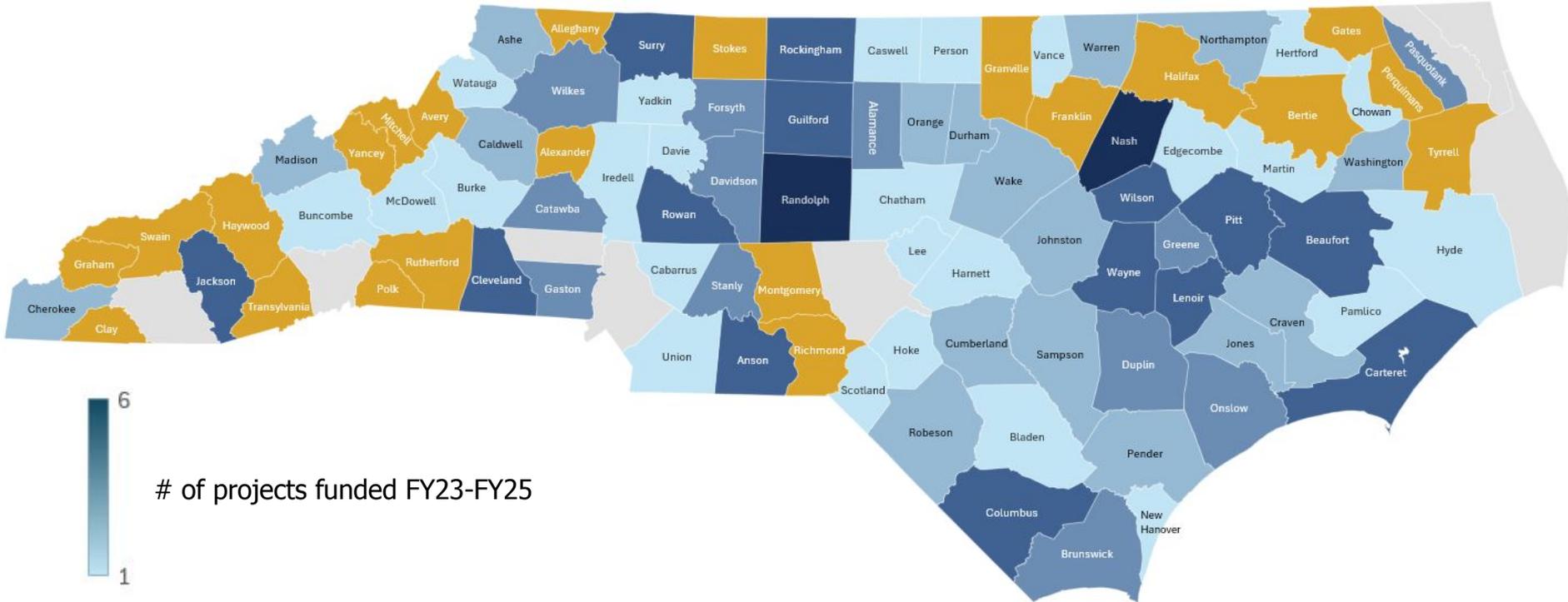
Project	Year	Award Amount	Amount Released	Status
GUC/Project Gen	2023	\$2m	\$447,750	On track; company in production
NCGTP/C130	2024	\$6m	\$0	On track; construction underway
Methodist University Medical School	2024	\$8m	\$550,000	On track; construction underway
Wilson Community College/J&J	2024	\$13m	\$0	On track; planning
Johnston Community College/Vulcan Elements	2025	\$3.6m	\$0	Just awarded
City of Greensboro/JetZero	2025	\$60m	\$0	On track; planning

*Active (in process/not paid) Economic Catalyst and certain strategic initiatives with award amounts of \$1.5m or greater.

Awards by County



Awards by County



of projects funded FY23-FY25

Priority counties without any funded projects

Community College Awards

Since FY2022 and through FY2025, Golden LEAF has funded at least one project at 37 of the 58 community colleges. Three additional colleges were funded so far in FY26.

Those not recently funded (and in Golden LEAF priority communities) are:

- Bladen Community College
- Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
- Edgecombe Community College
- Halifax Community College
- Mayland Community College
- McDowell Technical Community College
- Montgomery Community College
- Nash Community College
- Richmond Community College
- Robeson Community College
- Sandhills Community College (Moore and Hoke)
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Western Piedmont Community College (Burke)

College and University Awards

From FY2022 through FY2025, Golden LEAF has funded at least one project at 10 of the state's public and private universities. Recent/anticipated funding at ECU and UNC-P.

- Appalachian State University
- Barton College
- Elon University
- Gardner-Webb University
- Methodist University
- N.C. State University
- N.C. Wesleyan University
- UNC Chapel Hill
- University of Mount Olive
- Western Carolina University

UNC System Schools not recently funded include:

- Elizabeth City State University
- Fayetteville State University
- N.C. Central University
- UNC Greensboro
- UNC Wilmington
- N.C. A&T University

Active and Post-Award Monitoring

Program Type	Active Projects	Post-Award Monitoring Only	Total
Regular Programs	146	122	268
State-Funded Disaster Recovery and Flood Mitigation Programs	45	0	45
Federally-Funded Food Distribution Assistance Program	7	21	28
Other/Special Programs and Scholarships	27	1	28
Total	232	144	376

*Hurricane Helene relief projects not included.

Prior Year Comparison

Program Type	Active Projects	Post-Award Monitoring Only	Total	Prior Year Total
Regular Programs	146	122	268	248
State-Funded Disaster Recovery and Flood Mitigation Programs	45	0	45	75
Federally-Funded Food Distribution Assistance Program	7	21	28	65
Other/Special Programs and Scholarships	27	1	28	32
Total	232	144	376	434

*Hurricane Helene relief projects not included.

Programs Trends

Increase in special initiatives and other strategic projects = additional staff time due to complexity, program design, etc.

Large drop in total number projects due to wrapping up state-appropriated programs for disaster recovery, flood mitigation, and food distribution assistance. Time limited staff for FDAP program employment ended December 31.

Strategic Plan Implementation



Strategic Plan Implementation

- ❑ Encourage **regional (or multi-county) projects** that improve regional competitiveness and have regional impact
 - ✓ Funded regional AdvanceNC strategy through SPARC
- ❑ Invest in **local skill training capacity** (facilities, equipment, trainers, talent) that meets business needs
 - ✓ Through Golden LEAF Schools, increasing the capacity of school districts to provide education to middle school students that meets business needs
- ❑ Increase the **number of healthcare professionals** in target communities
 - ✓ Community college healthcare training leverage; other healthcare training projects (Methodist, ECU, UNC-P)

Legislative Engagement



Legislative History

At inception Golden LEAF received 50% of the State's annual MSA payment. Funds were transferred directly to the Foundation from the MSA auditors.

In legislation passed in **2011**, the State intercepted \$17.6 million of Golden LEAF's anticipated MSA payments for FY2012 and FY2013 and directed that Golden LEAF's portion of funds deposited in North Carolina's Disputed Payment Account (an account established as part of the MSA) be transferred to the General Fund. (As of June 30, 2011, the Foundation's net assets were approximately \$700 million.)

In 2013, the State changed the statute governing payment of funds from the MSA, directing that all MSA payments be credited to the State's Settlement Reserve Fund. This legislation removed the language allocating a 50% share of the MSA payments to Golden LEAF, **eliminating Golden LEAF's annual payment.**

Legislative History

In 2015, the State modified the statute regarding Master Settlement Agreement payments to appropriate to Golden LEAF \$10 million from the Settlement Reserve Fund annually (received beginning in FY2016). (The remainder of the Settlement Reserve funds are transferred to the General Fund.)

In 2017, the State increased the annual payment to Golden LEAF to \$17.5 million (received in April 2018).

In 2023, the State increased the annual payment to Golden LEAF to \$25 million (received in April 2024).

Framework for Appropriations

In 2023, the Board adopted a framework to provide for Golden LEAF response to state appropriated opportunity. Framework outlines guidance in the following categories:

- Use of funds
- Programs guidelines and process
- Grant recipients
- Release of funds to Golden LEAF
- Reporting
- Audit expectations

This framework was reviewed in 2024. No changes recommended by staff.

Legislative Engagement

Maintain relationships with legislators through regular touchpoints led by staff.

- Asking legislators to share about the Golden LEAF Scholarship with their constituents
- Notification of awards in their district following each Board meeting
- Including quotes from legislators in press releases announcing new scholars (June)
- Outreach and sharing regular updates regarding special initiatives (Ag Leads/Schools)

Process

Board members should coordinate with the Board Chair and staff before engaging with legislators on Foundation-related matters to ensure alignment with approved strategy. Where possible, keep reference to Golden LEAF to a minimum.

Ideas



Survey Results

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	3	0	4	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
3	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0
2	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	1
1	2	0	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0
2	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
1	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0
1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1
1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
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0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	1
0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	2	1	1	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	2
0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	1	2
1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	5

Numbers along the top represent the ranking order.

Each row represents an idea.

Numbers in the checkerboard represent the number of Board members who ranked that idea in that ranking.

Idea (lower number indicates more interest)	Mean	Median
Job Creation: Incubate new small businesses	4.62	4
Job Creation: Shell buildings	4.92	3
Small business capital	5.85	6
Collaboration among community colleges	6.31	6
Job Creation: Downtown revitalization	6.31	5
Healthcare: Incentivize Providers	7.08	6
Healthcare: Increase Access	7.31	6
Flood mitigation/stream debris removal	7.62	9
Local Government Capacity: Access to Tools and Shared Services	7.62	8
Housing: Additional strategies for development	8.31	7
Local Government Capacity: Training for Staff	8.69	9
Local Government Capacity: Staffing Support	9.69	10
Tourism	9.69	11
Childcare	11.00	13

Survey Analysis

Idea	1	2	3	4	5	6
Job Creation: Incubate new small businesses	1	3	0	4	2	0
Job Creation: Shell buildings	3	1	4	0	0	1
Small business capital	2	2	1	1	0	1
Collaboration among community colleges	1	2	0	2	1	1
Job Creation: Downtown revitalization	2	0	2	1	2	1
Healthcare: Incentivize Providers	1	2	1	1	0	2
Healthcare: Increase Access	1	1	2	1	1	1

Survey Analysis

Staff presented 14 concepts to be ranked, representing a cross-section of ideas.

Checkerboard layout shows some areas of greater consensus and generally wide range of openness to ideas from the Board

On following slides we will review information related to the top ranked ideas, including possible permissible uses of funds, for discussion and additional feedback

Idea: Shell Buildings

Goal: Expand inventory of ready-to-occupy industrial space to attract employers.

Possible Uses of Funds: Expand the state-funded shell building pilot program. Direct grants to local governments for construction or site development for publicly owned shell buildings. Support cost-sharing models with local economic development organizations. Provide funding for feasibility studies, engineering, and site preparation to accelerate project readiness.

Recommendation: Continue review and implementation of the state funded pilot program and assess results.

Idea: Incubate New Small Businesses

Goal: Support entrepreneurship and new business growth in rural areas.

Possible Uses of Funds: Fund the renovation or up-fit of incubator or co-working spaces. Provide seed funding for program management, mentorship, and technical assistance. Support shared equipment or maker spaces that lower startup costs for small firms. Encourage partnerships with universities, SBTDCs, and local chambers to strengthen support systems.

Recommendation: This is currently an eligible use of funds in the Open Grants program. We can enhance outreach and engagement with potential applicants for this use of funds.

Idea: Small Business Capital

Goal: Expand access to financing for small businesses and entrepreneurs in rural communities.

Possible Uses of Funds: Capitalize loan funds operated by CDFIs. Could include strategies to leverage loan capital from other sources, to improve loan terms for borrowers, and/or funding for technical assistance and financial coaching alongside access to capital.

Recommendation:

Idea: Collaboration Among Community Colleges

Goal: Encourage cost-effective and collaborative workforce training.

Possible Uses of Funds: Provide funds to community colleges that jointly design or deliver programs addressing regional workforce needs. Fund shared equipment or facilities accessible to multiple campuses. Support start-up and early implementation costs for joint programs that become self-sustaining through enrollment.

Recommendation:

Idea: Downtown Revitalization

Goal: Revitalize rural downtowns to attract businesses and create jobs.

Possible Uses of Funds: Grants to local governments or nonprofit partners for rehabilitation of publicly owned buildings for lease or sale to private businesses. Funding for façade improvements, infrastructure upgrades, or streetscape enhancements. Support for loan programs operated by nonprofit or CDFI lenders targeting priority downtown locations. Leverage federal programs and tax credits (e.g., USDA, EDA, Historic Preservation).

Recommendation:

Idea: Incentivize Healthcare Providers

Goal: Increase the number of healthcare professionals serving rural North Carolina.

Possible Uses of Funds: Provide scholarships or loan repayment tied to service commitments in rural areas. Fund partnerships with hospitals, medical schools, and health systems to place providers in high-need locations. Explore joint recruitment programs with regional health networks or AHECs.

Recommendation:

Idea: Increase Healthcare Access

Goal: Expand healthcare access points in rural communities and create healthcare jobs there.

Possible Uses of Funds: Provide guarantees or matching funds (up to \$1 million) for organizations securing FQHC or Look-Alike designation or for FQHCs or Look-Alikes expanding services. Support planning, construction, or renovation of new or expanded rural clinics. Fund mobile or satellite healthcare units in partnership with major systems or universities. Promote collaboration models (e.g., ECU Dental School) that bring specialized services to rural areas.

Recommendation:

Other Ideas Recommended by Board Members

Education Capacity: Incentives support for teacher retention on a Regional Level.
Incentive more public/private collaboration in tier 1 counties.

Open Discussion

Appendix



Current Programs Budget

For fiscal year 2025-2026, \$58.95 million is available through these major programs:

- \$8 million for the Open Grants Program
- \$10 million for Economic Catalyst
- \$11 million for the Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative
- \$6 million for the SITE Program
- \$7 million for the Golden LEAF Scholarship Program
- \$16.9 million for special initiatives

Each year, the Board adjusts among the Programs budget line items depending on demand and occasionally considers projects that require an increase of the Programs budget.

For fiscal year 2025-2026, the Programs budget includes \$4.8m for state appropriated programs (Disaster Recovery, Flood Mitigation, Food Distribution, and Shell Building).

Current Programs Budget -- Special Initiatives

For fiscal year 2025-2026, \$16,950,000 was allocated for Special Initiatives:

- \$3 million for SPARC
- \$4.5 million for NC Ag Leads Implementation
- \$450,000 Golden LEAF Schools Follow On
- \$7 million for Healthcare Leverage
- \$2 million for Hurricane Helene Relief