

Economic Catalyst Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
1	LL, BW	Wilson Economic Development Council (Wilson EDC)	Wilson Corporate Park Sewer Upgrade	\$1,492,520.00	<p>a) Golden LEAF funds are to be used for expansion or improvement of public sewer infrastructure reasonably necessary to serve Johnson & Johnson or its affiliates or subsidiaries (the "Company") and that have the capacity to serve the Company and others.</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 NCUJ-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 is obligated to create at least 288 new jobs with average annual wages of at least \$104,921. The deadline for creation of the new jobs must be no later than December 31, 2030. The jobs must be located at the new manufacturing facility the Company will construct in Wilson County, and must be in addition to the jobs associated with the Company's job creation project in Wilson that was announced in 2024. 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of sewer capacity to enable Johnson & Johnson's second manufacturing facility in Wilson - Replace existing lines with larger lines serving Wilson Corporate Park - Funding for sewer infrastructure

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
2		Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	White Lake Sewer	Defer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sewer infrastructure serving planned residential development in White Lake - Address housing shortages to strengthen business recruitment in Bladen County - Funds requested for 2,500 feet of sewer line and a new lift station
3		Dunn Police Athletic & Activities League, Inc.	Dunn PAL Campus Renovation and Career Readiness Expansion	\$0.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of CCR programming, adding agricultural career pathway aligned with Harnett County Schools CTE - Renovated second floor adds four dedicated classrooms for workforce training and skilled trades - Funds requested for renovations
4		Jackson County Economic Development	Webster Village	\$500,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constructs public infrastructure enabling affordable single-family homes for local workers - Infrastructure serving Mountain Projects' workforce housing development only; related to the larger Webster Village development, but separate - Funding for water and sewer infrastructure
5	LL, BW	Metropolitan Community Health Services, Inc.	Aurora Healthcare Expansion Initiative	\$400,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish permanent local access to primary care, emergency stabilization, diagnostics, and pharmacy services. - Create new full-time healthcare jobs and expand local healthcare workforce. - Funding for renovation costs
6		Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (RMOIC)	Building Economic Futures: OIC's Regional Workforce and Business Development Hub	\$0.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish Workforce and Business Development Hub offering credentials in welding, electrical, plumbing, construction trades - Expand training capacity in skilled trades - Funds requested for facility renovation, code-compliant labs, equipment, supplies, technology, personnel, participant support (including business development services)
7		Robeson Community College	Advanced CTE Equipment Initiative	\$500,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relocation and expansion of welding program to new Career & Technical Education facility - Increase lab space from 1,434 square feet to 7,000 square feet of indoor and covered outdoor space - Funding for welding equipment

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
8		5&2 Training Institute Inc	Automotive Technician Workforce Development Program	Y	5&2 Training Institute Inc. seeks funding to support the launch of an automotive technician workforce development program. The Institute is renovating a former prison to house various workforce development programs and is currently offering a welding program. The program aims to train 30 students annually, achieving an 85% completion rate and a 75% job placement rate within 90 days, with an average salary of \$45K per year. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction and renovation, instructional technology, equipment, supplies, furniture, and personnel.
9		Appalachian Mountain Health	Building Back Better: A Healthcare Investment that Creates Jobs and Restores Hope	Y	Appalachian Mountain Health (AMH) seeks funding to support the conversion of an 8,740-square-foot former medical practice into a comprehensive FQHC. The service area includes Black Mountain, Old Fort, Montreat, and nearby rural communities that have endured repeated practice closures and reduced access to care. At full implementation, the facility will support about 60 permanent positions, including 15 that are pharmacy-related. Golden LEAF funds would be used for supplies and equipment related to the pharmacy and dental components of the project.
10		Firsthealth of the Carolinas Inc	FirstHealth Moore Regional-Hoke, Sterile Processing Department Expansion	Y	FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. seeks funding for equipment for the Moore Regional Hospital-Hoke expansion. Construction began in January 2026 on a \$50 million hospital expansion that will create nearly 70 new full-time jobs. The project includes expansion of the Sterile Processing Department (SPD), which is essential to patient safety, operating room efficiency, and access to timely surgical care. Golden LEAF funds would be used for SPD-related equipment.
11		Harnett Regional Jetport	Harnett Regional Jetport Corporate Area Development	Y	Harnett Regional Jetport (HRJ) seeks funding to construct a Corporate Area at the jetport to attract businesses and innovation. The Corporate Area will include build-ready sites for corporate hangars to house aircraft and businesses. One goal of the project is to attract aircraft maintenance businesses and technicians, which will create new jobs at the jetport. Golden LEAF funds would be used for roadway construction.

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12		Martin, County of	Martin County Paramedics & Quick Response Vehicles	Y	Martin County seeks funding to support the establishment of an emergency response system. The county will use Paramedic Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) to provide emergency and prehospital care to the residents of Martin County. The QRVs will be fully equipped to deliver high-level care. The effort will create eight paramedic positions earning \$62,000-\$72,000 annually. The county will collaborate with Martin Community College's Paramedic Program to hire local paramedics. This initiative is an important bridge as the county works to establish a Rural Emergency Hospital. The county argues that having an emergency response system is essential to business retention and economic development. Golden LEAF funds would be used for the purchase of the QRVs and related equipment.
13		Meredith College	Addressing North Carolina's Nursing Shortage Through Simulation-Based Technology	Y	Meredith College seeks funding to implement a simulation-based learning lab for its nursing program that launched in Fall of 2025. Simulation-based education enables students to gain hands-on experience that supplements clinical training hours. Golden LEAF funds would be used for instructional technology and equipment.
14		Wingate University	Rural Telehealth Workforce Center	Y	Wingate University seeks funding to establish a Rural Telehealth Workforce Center that will address healthcare workforce shortages in rural communities by training nurses and other providers and incumbent workers in telehealth techniques. The Center will feature a six-month certificate and student-run clinic where students deliver supervised services through consultation suites. Wingate expects the center will enroll 30-50 students annually by year five. Golden LEAF fund would be used for personnel, renovation and construction of the center, equipment, furniture and fixtures, and instructional technology and supplies.
15		ElevIQ Foundation Inc	Rural Workforce Capability Alignment & Career Pathways Initiative	N	ElevIQ Foundation Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 2025, seeks funding to expand its workforce preparedness initiative across Vance, Granville, and surrounding counties. The program equips students, job seekers, veterans, and unemployed adults with career readiness training, workforce assessments, and guided pathways aligned with high-growth occupations. Golden LEAF funds would be used for all components of the program, including personnel, program delivery, technology, and participant services.

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16		High Country Council of Governments	High Country Circular Economy Catalyst	N	The High Country Council of Governments seeks funding to implement the Circular Economy Catalyst (CEC) for Competitive Communities, which will build members' ability to leverage local assets through circular economy strategies. The HCCOG will help its members complete a user-centered circular economy assessment and investment roadmap at the municipal, county, and regional level to identify high viability waste streams into revenue and job-generating public assets. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, travel, outreach and marketing, overhead, and other implementation costs.
17		National Center for Construction Education Research	High School Builder Program launch in five NC schools	N	The National Center for Construction Education Research seeks funding to implement its High School Builder program within five high schools across North Carolina. The program is designed to help schools establish career and technical programs that prepare students for high-demand careers in construction and skills trades. The project will provide training to teachers at the participating schools and help implement components that include career pathways and work-based learning. Golden LEAF funds would be used to support personnel, program accreditation, equipment, and instructional materials.
18		Neighborhoods Hands	Community Workforce Development	N	Neighborhood's Hands, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2020 to serve residents of Forsyth County and the Northwest region of NC, seeks funding to implement an integrated workforce development and support initiative that increases access to training, employment, and wraparound services for low income residents. The organization has expanded its focus from emergency assistance and food insecurity to a more coordinated effort providing workforce development, education, and support programs for low-income and underemployed residents. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, travel, equipment, materials/supplies, contracts/consultants, rent, utilities, telecommunications, and training.
19		North Carolina State University	WNCStrong Youth Service Corps	N	NCSU seeks funding to expand the WNCStrong Youth Service Corps. The program partners with western North Carolina school districts and their high school agriculture CTE students as they work to build resilient food and agricultural systems in their home communities. The Corps provides high school youth with paid on-farm internships/pre-apprenticeships. In its pilot year, the Corps served 24 students across three counties with participants averaging 180 hours each of paid on-farm work. The Corps is seeking formal recognition as a pre-apprenticeship program. This initiative will expand the program to nine additional counties, creating 42 additional internships. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, travel, participant support, and honoraria for teachers and farmers for two years.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
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20		Still Us Foundation	Still Us Rural Dementia Workforce Initiative	N	The Still Us Foundation is a newly formed Moore County, NC based nonprofit founded to transform the lived experience of dementia through community-based support and workforce development. The proposed initiative would establish a regional training pipeline to address critical shortages in dementia-capable healthcare workers across rural North Carolina. Deliverables include development of a standardized training curriculum for multiple training cohorts, credential attainment pathways, and employer partnerships. Expected results include increased numbers of dementia-capable direct care workers, community health workers, and home-based caregivers entering or advancing in the workforce. Golden LEAF funds are requested for personnel, equipment, instructional technology, participant support, professional development, travel, outreach, and other program related costs

SITE Programs Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
Development						
21		Surry County Economic Development Foundation	Twin Oaks Business Park	\$1,234,908.20	Release of funds is contingent on Golden LEAF approval of a legal mechanism or structure that will provide assurances acceptable to Golden LEAF that the property to be improved with Golden LEAF funds will be used for industrial purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catalyze private investment and job creation through improved industrial site readiness - Prepare pad-ready site with access road and erosion controls for swift development - Funding for construction, engineering and design, and grading

CBGI Proposals						
#	Board	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
22		Working Landscapes	Soil Amendments and Value-Added Enterprise (SAVE)	\$0	Project endorsed by Warren County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil amendments to improve farmer production and reduce costs - Leverage USDA funding to improve soil health - Funds requested for biochar kiln, composting equipment, and other equipment, supplies, and personnel

Golden LEAF Scholarships						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
23		North Carolina Community College System	Golden LEAF Community Colleges Scholarship (2026-2027)	Award a programmatic contract of \$3,060,000	<p>a) The term of the contract is 13 months, commencing on the Award Date. Golden LEAF may extend the term of the Contract by providing notice in writing. All project-related expenses must be incurred during the term of the contract. The provisions of this Agreement that by their nature extend beyond the term of the contract will survive the end of the term of the contract.</p> <p>b) \$2,980,000 of contract funds are to be used for scholarships and up to \$80,000 may be used by NCCCS for administrative costs of implementing the project and coordinating the activities of the participating campuses.</p> <p>c) Scholarship funds may be awarded on an annual basis or for shorter periods at a maximum amount of \$2,250/year for curriculum students and \$1,850/year for continuing education students.</p> <p>d) NCCCS agrees to submit to Golden LEAF for approval policies and procedures governing the Program that include: 1) the student eligibility and selection criteria and process; 2) the process for allocating (and reallocating) funds among participating colleges; 3) acceptable uses of funds; and 4) marketing and branding guidelines for participating colleges. These policies and procedures must reflect the following: i) a strategy for reallocating scholarship funds among colleges to ensure, to the extent practical, funds are allocated to meet demand; ii) priority funding may be made available to colleges in counties determined by Golden LEAF; iii) colleges may retain and award scholarship funds throughout the school year (subject to the reallocation process described above) with unused funds to be returned to NCCCS by June 25, 2027; iv) colleges must participate in a program management conference with NCCCS; v) at least 25% of funds must be reserved for students enrolled in a Workforce Continuing Education pathway/course that is offered for at least 96 contact hours and leads to a state and/or industry-recognized credential; vi) funds may be used for the total cost of attendance; vii) campuses must use reasonable efforts to ensure that Golden LEAF scholarship funds do not displace state or federal grants available to the student.</p> <p>e) NCCCS must follow Golden LEAF brand guide requirements for use of Golden LEAF logo and must receive Golden LEAF approval for use of Golden LEAF logo on marketing materials.</p> <p>f) NCCCS must collaborate with Golden LEAF on program-related outreach and communications including communications directly with Golden LEAF scholars.</p>	<p>- Annual funding for Golden LEAF Two-Year Scholars Program</p> <p>- Available for students from eligible counties identified by Golden LEAF enrolled in curriculum and continuing education programs</p> <p>- Funding for scholarships and administrative costs</p>

State Appropriated Programs Modification Requests					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
24		City of Elizabeth City	Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Replacement	Y	Increase award from \$996,300 to \$1,459,407 (increase of \$463,107).
25		City of Washington	Washington Medical District Storm Water Project	Y	Increase award from \$3,030,000 to \$4,030,000 (increase of \$1,000,000).

Grant Modification Requests					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
26		Appalachian State University	Preparing the Rural Nursing Workforce: Lab Expansion at App State Hickory Campus	Authorize the President and Chair of the Board, with the assistance of counsel, to approve modifications to the Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement.	
27	LL	Brunswick County	Highway 74/76 Industrial Park Water Project	Y, with conditions	<p>Approve the following conditions and authorize the President to implement them through appropriate agreements and/or modifications to the Grantee Agreement for the project:</p> <p>1) If the Epsilon Advanced Materials (the "Company") does not announce its intent to move forward with the project by March 31, 2027, the Golden LEAF award will be terminated without further action by Golden LEAF. For the Company's announcement to satisfy this condition, it must include a date certain by which the Company expects to begin construction of its facility and/or when it expects to begin production at its facility. The announcement must also confirm that the project will be of substantially the same scope as originally announced.</p> <p>2) If the Company satisfies the requirement that it announce its decision to move forward, the Company must make material progress on construction of the facility within one year of that announcement or the award will be terminated without further action by Golden LEAF. Material progress on construction of the facility includes, at a minimum, significant site work conducted by the Company at the Brunswick County site.</p> <p>3) No Golden LEAF funds will be released until the Company has incurred construction expenses of at least \$100 million at the project site. Those expenses must be incurred no later than June 30, 2029. If the Company has not incurred at least \$100 million in construction expenses at the project site by June 30, 2029, the award will be terminated with no further action by Golden LEAF.</p> <p>4) If the conditions above are satisfied and Brunswick County is eligible to receive Golden LEAF funds for the project, Golden LEAF funds may be used to reimburse Brunswick County for expenses incurred constructing public infrastructure consistent with the approved project budget, even though construction may have been completed at the time of the reimbursement.</p>
28		Caldwell County	Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park Due Diligence	Y	Increase award by \$26,490 to \$76,490 to allow additional work regarding potential cemetery on the property.

Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
29		Baptists on Mission	Helene Relief Project	Y	Increase award from \$3,690,000 to \$4,570,000 (increase of \$880,000)
30		Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative Applications	N/A	Y	Decline all pending applications in the Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative, a list of which was provided in the Board materials.

Programs Committee Recommendations (April 1-2, 2026)

Strategic Planning			
#	Board Abs.	Topic	Comments Special Conditions
31		Golden LEAF Schools Update	Staff will provide an update regarding Golden LEAF Schools, including information from recent reports submitted by DPI and updates from in person visits.
32		NC Ag Leads Update	Staff will provide an update regarding NC Ag Leads, including next steps regarding potential funding for ag innovation and workforce development.
33		Preliminary Programs FY27 Budget/Strategic Planning Update	Staff will present a proposed preliminary FY27 Programs budget following the guidance regarding determination of availability of funds provided by the Board at the January retreat. Staff will also present updates on strategic planning topics discussed at the January retreat including shell buildings, community college collaboration, and support for small businesses.

Other Business			
#	Board Abs.	Topic	Comments Special Conditions
34		Authority to Manage Inactive Applications	Authorize staff to remove draft applications that are more than 60 days old from the grants portal and to require applicants to submit a Stage 2 application within two Board meetings of receiving an invitation to submit or be subject to administrative declination.
35		The Forward Fund	Invite a comprehensive application through the SPARC initiative.
36	BW, LL	Town of Bladenboro/Project Jay	Accept OneNC agreement as satisfying performance agreement requirement in the Golden LEAF Grantee Agreement. This agreement requires the company to meet the county average wage to receive incentives, which is \$46,852.
37		Methodist University/Methodist University Cape Fear Valley School of Medicine	Authorize the Chair of the Board and the President to approve a budget modification of approximately \$1.6 million, shifting funding from current approved items to costs for equipment used for ultrasound training for students, exam rooms used for training with standardized patients, and a simulation area for student training.

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.