

<b>Economic Catalyst Proposals</b>						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
1	LL BW	City of Hendersonville	Project Vert	\$1,938,000.00	<p>a. Golden LEAF funds are to be used for expansion or improvement of public sewer infrastructure reasonably necessary to serve BorgWarner 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 NCUI-101 forms and/or through other means satisfactory to Golden LEAF.</p> <p>c. Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence of an inducement agreement, performance agreement, or similar agreement demonstrating that the Company is obligated to create at least 340 new jobs with average annual wages of at least \$58,167. The deadline for creation of the new jobs must be no later than December 31, 2029. The jobs must be located at the new manufacturing facility the Company will establish in Henderson County, and must be in addition to the jobs associated with the Company's job creation project in Henderson County that was announced in 2025. 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"> <li>- Enhance water infrastructure to serve BorgWarner's new Hendersonville manufacturing facility</li> <li>- Create system redundancy and enhance service to surrounding industrial sites</li> <li>- Funding for construction of water infrastructure and related expenses</li> </ul>

<b>Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals</b>						
<b>#</b>	<b>Board Abs.</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Recommendation</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>	<b>Summary</b>
2	LL BW	Appalachian Mountain Health	Building Back Better: A Healthcare Investment that Creates Jobs and Restores Hope	\$200,000.00	Golden LEAF funds may be used for medical, pharmacy, and/or dental equipment only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conversion of former clinic into FQHC delivering integrated primary, behavioral, dental, and pharmacy services</li> <li>- Expanded access for Black Mountain, Old Fort, and nearby rural communities with local hiring and career pathways</li> <li>- Funding for medical, dental, and pharmacy equipment.</li> </ul>
3		Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	White Lake Sewer	Defer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand housing supply to attract residents and employers in Bladen County.</li> <li>- Enable residential development within White Lake by connecting subdivision to municipal sewer.</li> <li>- Funds requested for construction of sewer and a new lift station.</li> </ul>
4		County of Mitchell	Mitchell County Agricultural Center	Defer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funds requested to renovate a vacant school into a multi-purpose agricultural center.</li> <li>- Create commercial kitchen and ag education classrooms.</li> <li>- Funding requested for renovations and equipment, including commercial kitchen and ag demonstration infrastructure.</li> </ul>
5	BK BW	Firsthealth of the Carolinas Inc	FirstHealth Moore Regional-Hoke, Sterile Processing Department Expansion	\$0.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major hospital expansion improving patient access, operating efficiency, and timely surgical care already underway.</li> <li>- Expansion will strengthen local healthcare workforce and drive healthcare-related economic growth.</li> <li>- Funding requested for Sterile Processing Department equipment.</li> </ul>
6	BRa	Harnett Regional Jetport	Harnett Regional Jetport Corporate Area Development	\$500,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of corporate hangar area to attract aviation businesses and innovation</li> <li>- Creation of build-ready sites enabling maintenance operations and quality job growth</li> <li>- Funding for access road construction and related costs</li> </ul>
7		Martin, County of	Martin County Paramedics & Quick Response Vehicles	\$361,500.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish countywide emergency response system to deliver prehospital care</li> <li>- Creation of new paramedic positions to provide higher level of prehospital care as county works to reopen its hospital</li> <li>- Funding for acquisition of quick response vehicles and related equipment</li> </ul>

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8		Meredith College	Addressing North Carolina's Nursing Shortage Through Simulation-BasedTechnology	\$0.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for Nursing Program launched in fall 2025</li> <li>- Project would provide simulation equipment for technology-enhanced clinical training</li> <li>- Funding requested for training and simulation related equipment</li> </ul>

<b>Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals</b>					
<b>#</b>	<b>Board Abs.</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Recommendation</b>	<b>Summary</b>
9		Fayetteville State University	Meeting Nursing Workforce Needs Through Capacity Expansion at FSU's Cape Fear Valley School of Nursing	Y (request amount of \$500,000)	Fayetteville State University (FSU) seeks \$1.91 million in funding to expand its nursing program in direct response to the unmet healthcare needs in the Southeastern region. Current projections indicate that more than 720 new Registered Nurse (RN) hires are required annually to address the growing demand. Despite ongoing recruitment efforts, the region's RN turnover rate exceeds 90%, compared with the statewide average of 43%. FSU intends to increase its nursing school capacity by enrolling an additional 100 students, bringing the total to 300 in Fall 2027. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction, equipment, hardware, mannequins, and furnishings.
10		Goshen Medical Center, Inc.	Sneads Ferry Health Center	Y	Goshen Medical Center seeks funding to equip its new Sneads Ferry clinic, now under construction in rural Onslow County. The project will expand rural healthcare infrastructure, projecting to serve at least 1400 new patients in the first year after opening; and create more than 20 permanent jobs at the Sneads Ferry clinic. These new positions will include providers, nurses, laboratory, imaging, pharmacy, administrative, and support staff. Golden LEAF funds would be used to purchase equipment and furniture for the medical center's exam rooms, laboratory, imaging suite, nursing station and pharmacy; as well as outfitting the center's administrative, IT and environmental spaces.
11		Johnston Community College Foundation, Inc.	Respiratory Therapy Workforce Development	Y	Johnston Community College Foundation seeks funding for start-up costs to launch Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Therapy. The program expects to increase the number of locally trained Respiratory Therapists, meeting regional workforce needs, improving access to critical respiratory care services in rural and underserved communities, and providing stable, high-demand healthcare employment. Golden LEAF funds would be used for specialized equipment, instructional resources, faculty development, and summer camp support.

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12		Richmond Community College Foundation	Automotive Training Program	Y	Richmond Community College seeks funding to help launch an automotive technician training program. The college, which serves two Tier 1 counties with persistently high unemployment, has a newly constructed Hendrick Center for Automotive Training where the program will be housed. Students in the program will gain skills in modern automotive systems through classroom and applied learning, preparing them for high-demand careers. The program will ensure workforce readiness by offering industry-recognized credentials, to include ASE Entry Level Certifications. Golden LEAF funds would be used for training equipment, program-specific software, and industry tools; as well as supporting student assistance, recruitment, and retention of qualified instructors.
13		Bountiful Cities Project	Kinked Hose Farm Agricultural Capacity and Market Expansion	N	Kinked Hose Farm seeks funding to expand an existing neighborhood-scale agricultural initiative in Buncombe County into a more viable small-farm income model. With Bountiful Cities serving as the fiscal agent, the proposed project would bring additional acreage into cultivation, diversify crops, improve soil and drainage, and add wash/pack infrastructure and cold storage. Golden LEAF funds would be used for a washing station, renovations, and other equipment costs.
14		Carolinas Advanced Manufacturing & Technology Center Incorporated	CAMTechUSA Workforce Development Training Center	N	Carolinas Advanced Manufacturing & Technology Center, Inc. (CAMTechUSA), a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2026 to address workforce shortages in advanced manufacturing and emerging technology sectors, seeks funding to establish workforce development training center. CAMTechUSA proposes the delivery of hands-on training, industry-aligned certifications, and direct collaboration with regional manufacturing partners. The proposed facility would also support new product development and limited production activities. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction (including design/engineering, due diligence, and construction administration), equipment, supplies, furniture, instructional technology, contingency, and key personnel.
15		Catawba Valley Leadership Foundation	Strong Student Leader Program (SSL)	N	The Catawba Valley Leadership Foundation seeks funding to sustain and expand its Strong Student Leader (SSL) Program, a year-long initiative designed to develop leadership skills in high school students across four counties in the Catawba Valley. The program combines interactive workshops, mentorship and skill-building activities to help students develop confidence, self-awareness, critical thinking, and professional readiness. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, operational/admin support, supplies, volunteer training, travel, and marketing.

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16		Early Identification Early Intervention Outreach Program	EIEIOP Recovery to Workforce Healthcare Pathway	N	The Early Identification Early Intervention Outreach Program (EIEIOP) seeks funding for a workforce preparedness project to assist adults in recovery and those involved in the justice system in securing entry-level positions in healthcare and human services. The project's proposed service area is Wilson, Nash, Edgecombe, and Johnston Counties, with Wilson County serving as the implementation hub. EIEIOP plans to enroll 50 adults in recovery and reentry, with the goal of helping 40 complete workforce readiness and employability training, 30 earn an employer-recognized credential or complete training, and 25 engage in work-based learning, job shadowing, or employer interviews. The project aims to secure employment for 20 participants and support 15 in maintaining employment for at least 90 days. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, equipment, supplies, furniture, instructional technology, hard/software, participant support, professional development, travel/transportation, outreach/marketing, and grant administration. □
17		Empowering Community Services	Rural Workforce Empowerment & Community Stability Initiative (RWECSI)	N	Empowering Community Services, a nonprofit organization founded in 2025, seeks funding to develop a comprehensive workforce development and community support program. The program is designed to support workforce training, job placement and employer engagement, wraparound services, and youth workforce exposure. The application provides no information regarding the location or subject matter of the proposed training. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, certifications, workshops, supplies, case management, transportation, and other training materials.
18		Free All My Suns	Pathways Training Academy	N	Free All My Suns, which received its 501(c)(3) status in 2024, seeks funding for a virtual reality and digital training platform to deliver simulation-based instruction in electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and construction to youth and young adults. In its first year, the program aims to serve 20–30 participants, with a target of at least 75% completing training modules. Training will be conducted in a leased facility located in an economically distressed rural county (not specified in the application). Golden LEAF is the sole proposed funder of the project, and funds would be used for equipment, hardware, furniture, leasing, utility and IT costs, personnel, contracted services, supplies, and materials.

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19		Grand Pathway Ministries	Kick Off Project	N	Grand Pathway Ministries, incorporated in 2025, seeks funding to support a project that would create jobs for those in need of food, housing, and accessible transportation. In addition to job creation, the applicant proposes the creation a self-help agriculture program and job training classes. The application provides no detail regarding the location or subject matter of the training. Golden LEAF funds would be used for due diligence items, administrative staff, participant support, travel, and marketing.
20		Guiding Hands Foundation INC	Iredell & Alexander Counties Community Resource & Economic Stability Center	N	Guiding Hands Foundation, Inc., established in 2025 to address housing and other economic challenges in Iredell and surrounding counties, seeks funding to create a regional community resource and economic stability center in west Statesville. Center activities will include distributing essential goods and providing workforce readiness and economic stability workshops. Golden LEAF funds would be used for building renovations, equipment, supplies, and operational costs.
21		Hcac Contractors Academy	HCAC Academy Rural Construction Workforce Preparedness Initiative	N	HCAC Contractors Academy, a nonprofit organization founded in 2023, seeks funding to implement a construction workforce initiative across seven Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Through a four-cohort training model, HCAC Academy will provide bilingual, employer-informed training in OSHA 10/30, contractor readiness, blueprint reading, cost estimating, accounting and finance, entrepreneurship, and hands-on construction basics. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, equipment, instructional technology, and other participant support costs.
22		HOPE CENTER MINISTRIES, LLC	Eastfield Recovery to Work Campus Selma NC	N	Hope Center Ministries, LLC seeks funding to support Phase 2 of a Recovery to Work Workforce Pipeline program in Johnston County. Phase 2 involves construction of a 30-bed residential facility that will also include dedicated space for soft-skills workforce preparation activities. This project will annually support approximately 80–90 residents in vocational training, with an expected 70–80 individuals transitioning into full-time employment each year, the majority of whom are expected to sustain long-term employment. Residents will enroll in pathways at Johnston Community College to obtain credentials in welding, HVAC, machining, and construction, while simultaneously engaging in structured, work-based learning opportunities with local employers. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction-related expenses.

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23		Hyve Cares	HYVE CARES: Free K-12 Digital Education Access for Rural and Tobacco-Dependent North Carolina Communities	N	HYVE CARES, a nonprofit based in Wilson NC, seeks funding to expand its AI-powered K-12 education platform that provides digital lessons, courses, virtual science labs, and test preparation to students free of charge. The educational services will be targeted to rural North Carolina K-12 students and their families including homeschool compliance support services. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, technology equipment, outreach and marketing, training/onboarding, and administrative costs.
24		Mars Hill University	MHU Career Catalyst Internship Program	N	Mars Hill University, a four-year private liberal arts university, seeks funding to expand its existing internship program. Over a two-year period, MHU will secure 24 business partnerships and 39 internship placements. The project will target first generation and Pell eligible students and students from rural communities. Golden LEAF funds would be used for salaries, travel, supplies, professional development, outreach, and participant support (\$1,500/internship; \$58,500 total).
25		NC4ME	Regional Workforce Integration Initiative	N	North Carolina for Military Employment (NC4ME) seeks funding to implement a regional workforce integration designed to connect transitioning service members and military spouses with high-demand career opportunities. NC4ME is an established public-private partnership whose mission is to leverage existing workforce resources and technology to educate business leaders on the value of military talent. The project focuses on connecting transitioning service members and spouses to career opportunities in Eastern NC primarily through hiring events and military cultural competency training for employers. Golden LEAF funds would be used for salaries, equipment, supplies, travel, marketing, events, and contracting.
26		Organic Growers School	Growing Resilient & Thriving Farm Businesses	N	The Organic Growers School, based in western North Carolina, seeks funding for a 2-year program that would provide farmers, small farm businesses, and farm entrepreneurs with professional development training in farm business management, financial planning, climate resiliency, and other agribusiness topics. The project would provide 30 farmers with a one-year course "Farm Beginnings" and/or a "Journey person" course and approximately 270 farmers with climate resiliency training, farm tours, forest farming field days, and organic crop management workshops, webinars, and a spring conference. The organization aims to advance organic growing practices, strengthen local food systems, and promote economic vitality for small farms in western North Carolina. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, technology equipment, participant support, outreach, speaker fees and honorariums, and related items.

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27		Pathways Village	ASCEND: Workforce Advancement for Middle-Skill Careers in Economically Distressed Durham County	N	Pathways Village, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established by the Durham Housing Authority to deliver resident workforce and self-sufficiency services, seeks funding to expand its reach and serve more individuals. The organization's current ASCEND program moves unemployed and underemployed adults into middle-skill careers through a curriculum covering workplace readiness, financial management, and certification pathway navigation. Golden LEAF funds would be used for new coaching personnel, participant support, instructional technology, curriculum delivery, equipment and supplies.
28		Reaching for the Stars	AI Workforce Readiness Initiative	N	Reaching for the Stars Empowerment Inc. (RSE) seeks funding to support an AI workforce readiness initiative. RSE is a non-profit organization focused on empowering youth, underserved, and academically struggling students to overcome barriers and build essential skills, seeks funding. The proposed project would provide AI literacy training, hands-on instruction, mentoring, and tutoring. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, technology, equipment, supplies, participant support, and marketing.
29		Social Finance, Inc.	The ReNEW Fund: Expanding Access to Nursing Careers in Rural North Carolina	N	Social Finance, Inc., a national nonprofit based in Boston, Massachusetts, seeks funding for the ReNEW Fund, a program designed to provide 0% interest loans to nursing students from rural North Carolina. The ReNEW Fund loans would be available to Pell-eligible students enrolled in the Western Governors University (WGU) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program to remove financial barriers and improve student persistence. The WGU BSN program is competency-based and combines online coursework with hands-on student learning in regional nursing simulation labs and local clinical placements. The zero-interest loans are for essential living expenses and tuition gaps with repayment tied to successful employment. ReNEW student loans are financed with philanthropic funds and sustained through repayments from successful graduates or their employers. Golden LEAF funds would be used to fully fund 14 nursing student borrowers over two years (\$485,000 total; approx. \$34,600 each) with 16 additional students funded through recycled payments, and for Social Finance management fees (3% of requested funds). □

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30		We Will Walk With You	Expanding Workforce Participation Through Family Stability in Rural North Carolina	N	We Will Walk With You, a Triangle based nonprofit, seeks funding to support workforce programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. The project would work in Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin, and Chatham counties and would collaborate with local partners to support IDD youth through the delivery of a specialized assessment tool that identifies employment barriers and guides service decisions. This process is expected to result in individuals developing workforce development skills and finding employment, simultaneously enabling their caregivers to maintain or seek employment. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, technology, professional development, and travel.

<b>SITE Programs Proposals</b>						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
<b>Due Diligence</b>						
31	LL BW	County of Columbus	Southeast Regional Park Site Due Diligence	Defer	Staff expects the county to submit an updated application requesting additional funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due diligence on a 63.34-acre Southeast Regional Park site for industrial recruitment.</li> <li>- Leverage prior Golden LEAF SITE Program work to accelerate marketability of a second park in the site.</li> <li>- Funding requested for Phase I ESA, Title Opinion, T&amp;E species, and initial historical/cultural/archaeological review.</li> </ul>
<b>Development</b>						
32		Surry County Economic Development Foundation, Inc.	Twin Oaks Business Park	Defer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pad-ready site to attract advanced manufacturing .</li> <li>- Enhanced competitiveness by preparing infrastructure and access to accelerate private investment and job creation.</li> <li>- Funding requested for clearing, grading, stubbed access road, erosion control, engineering, and design.</li> </ul>

<b>SPARC Initiative</b>						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
33		Pay It Forward Fund (d/b/a The Forward Fund)	Education Loans Transformed to Move North Carolina Forward	\$1,000,000.00	Release of funds is conditioned on Golden LEAF approval of the community colleges and coutines of residence of students that are eligible to participate in the Golden LEAF funded loans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand zero-interest loans to rural NC students in high-demand workforce programs.</li> <li>- Improve completion, job placement, and post-training wages through living-expense and tuition-gap financing.</li> <li>- Funding for loan capital, servicing and origination, personnel, and marketing.</li> </ul>

<b>Special Initiatives</b>						
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34		Gaston College	Gaston College Immersive Technology and Simulation for Healthcare Programs	\$1,000,000.00	Release of funds is conditioned on the Grantee demonstrating that available State funding is insufficient for the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expands Health Sciences programs with new facility and renovations to existing facilities</li> <li>- Incorporates immersive, multisensory learning environment to enhance skills</li> <li>- Funding for immersive simulation lab equipment purchase, installation, and commissioning</li> </ul>
35		Roanoke-Chowan Community College	Rural Healthcare Workforce Development through Allied Health Infrastructure Expansion	\$1,000,000.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion of allied health training capacity through new facility and renovated instructional spaces</li> <li>- Increased enrollment and new LPN pathway aligned with regional healthcare and emergency services</li> <li>- Funding for purchase and installation of clinical simulation equipment and related faculty training</li> </ul>

<b>Grant Modification Requests</b>					
<b>#</b>	<b>Board Abs.</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmt Recommendations</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
36		Methodist University, Inc.	Job Creation and New Regional Educational Pathways with Methodist University Cape Fear Valley School of Medicine	Y	Approve request for reallocation of funds for medical training equipment and for mobile medical clinics.
37		Yadkin County Schools	YCS LINKS	Y	Approve relocation of project site and associated project extension.

Programs Committee Recommendations (June 3-4, 2026)

<b>Strategic Planning</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Board Abs.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
38		Golden LEAF Schools Update and Modification Request	Recommend that the Board approve the budget modification request to allow expanded eligibility for stipends.
39		NC Ag Leads	Recommend that the Board approve an award of \$100,000 to NC Chamber Foundation, Inc. to implement the Agricultural Workforce Intelligence Pilot.
40		NC Ag Leads	Recommend that the Board approve an award of \$2,150,000 to NC Chamber Foundation, Inc. to implement the Farmer Innovation Bridge project, subject to approval of the final programmatic design by the Chair of the Board, the Chair of the Programs Committee, and the President.
41		Small Business Ecosystem	At the April 2026 meeting, the Committee expressed interest in a white paper detailing the connection for small businesses incubation to rural communities. The white paper is uploaded with these materials. At the meeting, the Committee will decide whether to recommend the Board invite a full proposal from NC IDEA for this ecosystem strategy.
42		Shell Building Program Approval	Recommend that the Board authorize the Chair of the Board, the Chair of the Programs Committee, and the President to finalize the details of the Shell Building Program and launch the Program for FY27.

<b>Other Business</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Board Abs.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
43		Scholarship Updates	Staff will share information about the most recent cohort of new scholarship recipients, data from the survey of 2026 graduates, and an overview of the recent graduate survey in process.

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.