

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
1		5&2 Training Institute Inc	Automotive Technician Workforce Development Program	\$0.00		- Launch automotive technician workforce program with integrated work-study and wraparound services - Establish auto shop for hands-on training and fee-based community services - Funds requested for renovations, instructional technology, equipment, supplies, furniture, personnel, and operations
2		Fayetteville State University	Meeting Nursing Workforce Needs Through Capacity Expansion at FSU's Cape Fear Valley School of Nursing	\$500,000.00		- Expansion of FSU nursing program to address regional RN shortages - Renovation of Nursing Building to add additional simulation, skills, and testing labs - Funding for high-fidelity mannequins for the additional simulation lab.
3		Goshen Medical Center, Inc.	Sneads Ferry Health Center	\$450,000.00		- Opening a new FQHC in Sneads Ferry to expand rural access. - Creating permanent healthcare jobs across clinical, pharmacy, lab, imaging, and administrative roles. - Funding for equipment and medical furnishings for exam rooms, lab, imaging, nursing, and pharmacy.
4		Johnston Community College Foundation, Inc.	Respiratory Therapy Workforce Development	\$499,245.00		- Launch of AAS degree in Respiratory Therapy to meet regional workforce demand - Expanded access to respiratory care in rural and underserved communities - Funding for specialized equipment and instructional technology
5		Mitchell, County of	Mitchell County Agricultural Center	Defer		- Renovate vacant school into multi-purpose agricultural center benefiting farmers and food entrepreneurs. - Create commercial kitchen, outdoor demonstration spaces, and instructional greenhouse for hands-on training. - Funding requested for construction and equipment for kitchen, open-sided barn, and greenhouse.
6		Richmond Community College Foundation	Automotive Training Program	\$304,630.00	No Golden LEAF funds shall be used for outreach and marketing.	- Launch of automotive technician training program at the Hendrick Center for Automotive Training - Hands-on instruction in modern automotive systems leading to industry-recognized credentials - Funding for training equipment, program software, industry tools, and one year of instructor salaries

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
7	DF	Wingate University	Rural Telehealth Workforce Center	\$0.00		- Establish a telehealth workforce center to address rural healthcare access gaps - Provide training for students and professionals in rural telehealth competencies via certificate program - Funds requested for personnel, renovations, equipment, instructional technology, furniture, marketing, and supplies

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
8		Community Land Trust of Western North Carolina	Catawba Hills Workforce Housing Infrastructure	Y	Community Land Trust of Western North Carolina seeks \$485,975 to fund site infrastructure for the Catawba Hills Workforce Housing project in Old Fort. The project will ultimately create 75 permanently affordable, owner-occupied homes, beginning with 13 Phase One units. Outcomes include 75 affordable homes (targeting households earning 60–120% AMI working in fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, and technology), and approximately \$18M in private construction investment (\$3.2M for Phase One). Golden LEAF funds would be used for shared infrastructure for the development, e.g., infrastructure extension to the site, roadways, stormwater, etc.
9	LL	Eagle/Market Streets Development Corporation	Catawba Vale Innovation Market	Y	Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation (EMSDC) seeks funding to support the development of the Catawba Vale Innovation Market (CVIM), a job creation and economic development project located in downtown Old Fort. A former 60,000-sq. ft. manufacturing facility will be renovated to host a business incubator, local artisanal market, manufacturing space, digital film studio, and event production center. A local furniture producer will move to the facility bringing skilled trades and production jobs. The facility is expected to maintain 90% occupancy while supporting at least 18 businesses with incubation and acceleration services. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction-related costs.
10		Halifax Community College Foundation, Inc.	Apprenticeship Roanoke Valley	Y	Halifax Community College Foundation, Inc. seeks funding to establish a regional apprenticeship consortium that links employers, schools, workforce agencies, and industry partners. The project will launch 25 newly registered employer-driven, paid apprenticeships in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, and skilled trades. Student success is to be measured through outcomes in work-based learning and credential attainment. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, professional development opportunities, student stipends and supports, travel, and for a third-party evaluator and a consultant.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
11	LL	Town of Robbinsville	Tallulah Creek Water Treatment Plant	Y	The Town of Robbinsville seeks \$500,000 to reactivate and upgrade the Tallulah Creek Water Treatment Plant, to increase treatment capacity, system redundancy, and drought resilience. The project addresses an infrastructure gap created when the plant closed in 2016 and much equipment became inoperable or obsolete, leaving the town reliant on a single Long Creek source and vulnerable to capacity shortfalls. Restored capacity and reliability will support future economic growth and system stability, including enabling the new Eco-King manufacturing facility projected to create 515 jobs and attract over \$80 million in private investment. Golden LEAF funding will be used for construction and upgrades to the facility including the installation of control equipment, pumps, valves and sensors, filter media and instrumentation, and a backup generator.
12		Broken Wheel Ministries	Growing Individual's and Youth Through Resiliency	N	Broken Wheel Ministries, a nonprofit organization founded in 2023, seeks funding to expand its automotive training program to strengthen local workforce preparedness. The project addresses a regional shortage of entry-level mechanics, limited public transportation, and overbooked repair shops serving rural residents of Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties. Beginning Fall 2026, the program will offer Safety Training to its first cohort of students with plans to expand the program to offer Basic Tools and Proper Use. Golden LEAF Foundation funds would be used for construction, equipment, instructional technology, and personnel.
13		CAGC Foundation Inc	Workforce Preparedness: CAGC Foundation High School Chapters and Construction Bootcamps	N	CAGC Foundation Inc, a nonprofit organization in Mecklenburg County, seeks funding to expand a construction bootcamp pilot program into an annual program. The project will provide hands-on construction training, industry-recognized credentials, and employer engagement through high school and community college partnerships, with outcomes focused on credential attainment, apprenticeship, and job placement. The project is expected to serve more than 1,200 high school and community college students in 2027, and to award over 2,200 credentials. Golden LEAF Foundation funds would be used for personnel, travel, instructional technology, and other participant support services.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
14		The Community Engagement and Youth Empowerment (CEAYE) Foundation, Inc.	Freedom's Grace	N	The Community Engagement and Youth Empowerment (CEAYE) Foundation, Inc. seeks \$500,000 to develop Freedom’s Grace, a 20-unit housing development with ten duplex-style residential buildings as well as a Community Wellness and Resource Center, in Cumberland County, NC. Planned as a therapeutic veteran housing village, the project addresses housing instability and related barriers that increase risk of homelessness and worsen health outcomes for the veteran population. The project is in pre-development, and the proposed location has not been identified. Golden LEAF funds would support construction and site work, therapeutic design and accessibility features, staffing for supportive services and case management, and program infrastructure.
15		The Freedom Hill Film School	The Freedom Hill Film School	N	The Freedom Hill Film School, seeks funding support its 2026 film production camp and build regional workforce pathways into the film industry. The four-week film camp addresses the South’s lack of media hubs and barriers facing low-income youth and people of color by providing paid training, mentorship, and production opportunities to 25 students annually (up from eight). Golden LEAF funds would be used for operating support.
16		Georgetown High A Village Minded Academy	Onslow County Early Childhood Credential Pathway to Healthcare and Human Services	N	Georgetown High A Village Minded Academy, a nonprofit private high school in Onslow County, seeks funding to establish a high school-to-career pipeline that uses early childhood education (ECE) credentials as an entry into pediatric and family healthcare careers. The project addresses dual workforce shortages—understaffed childcare centers and a lack of credentialed pediatric/family services workers—by ensuring graduates exit with college-ready academics and at least one industry-recognized trade certificate. Golden LEAF funds would be used to purchase lab equipment, cover credentialing costs, fund instructor training, and build practicum infrastructure.
17		Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County	Infrastructure for Multifamily Affordable Housing Units	N	Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County seeks \$100,000 to support infrastructure development for a 14-unit townhome project on Urban Street in Winston-Salem. The project addresses an affordable housing shortage in an economically distressed neighborhood. Golden LEAF funding would partially cover infrastructure costs, including public water and sewer, underground trenching for electric, phone and cable, and stormwater management.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
18		It Takes A Village	Multi Program Rural Youth Development Initiative	N	It Takes A Village seeks funding to establish and expand a multi-program rural youth development initiative serving Caswell and Rockingham Counties. The project addresses workforce preparedness gaps, food insecurity, and limited access to hands-on agricultural, leadership, and career-readiness education in these rural communities. Year one goals include serving youth and families through workshops, camps, mentorship, cooking education, agricultural activities, and career exploration, with anticipated outcomes of increased youth participation in leadership and workforce readiness, expanded food support via the Village Pantry, and stronger community-business partnerships. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction/renovation, equipment, and operating cost.
19		Journees Community Enrichment Center Inc	Community One	N	Journees Community Enrichment Center, Inc. seeks funding to establish a community hub to offer programs to expand education, workforce readiness, and community supports. The project targets Enfield and surrounding rural areas impacted by the decline of tobacco-dependent industries, where residents face limited access to technology, youth programs, and employment resources. Golden LEAF funds would be used for building renovations and code compliance, technology and furnishings for a computer lab and classrooms, program development, and staff/volunteer training and outreach.
20		Kellin Foundation	Expanding North Carolina's Behavioral Health Workforce Through Peer Support Certification	N	Kellin Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Guilford County, seeks funding to upfit a facility it owns to support the expansion of its Recovery Can Happen Peer Support Training Program, which trains and certifies participants to become Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS). The organization expects 90 students to complete the training annually. The project addresses critical workforce shortages and will prioritize recruitment and sponsorship of participants from rural, tobacco dependent, and economically distressed communities. Golden LEAF Foundation funds would support construction and renovations of the Hope Hub Conference Center, personnel, instructional technology, equipment, and participant support costs.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
21		Kingdomvision7 Corp.	Kingdomvision7 Workforce Access & Economic Mobility Initiative	N	Kingdomvision7 Corp., a nonprofit in Mecklenburg County that received its 501(c)(3) designation in February 2026, seeks funding to implement an initiative to prepare residents of economically distressed and rural North Carolina communities for employment. The project addresses workforce shortages and barriers to employment—limited digital access, transportation, and job-readiness skills—by providing job readiness training, resume and interview coaching, digital skills instruction, transportation support, and access to technology while coordinating with local employers. Golden LEAF funds would be used to support personnel, training, technology/equipment, transportation assistance, and employer partnership activities.
22		Mills Community Enhancement Center INC	MCEC Aegis Project: Agricultural Innovation & Veteran Workforce Initiative	N	Mills Community Enhancement Center INC, a newly established nonprofit in Duplin County, seeks funding to implement a combined agricultural innovation and veteran workforce initiative. The project aims to establish agricultural and manufacturing training facilities by purchasing CNC routers and vertical agricultural equipment. Expected outcomes include fully operational agricultural arrays and a training center, upskilling at least 50 veterans and rural residents in agtech, logistics, and technical operations, and creation of sustainable regional jobs and localized food distribution partnerships. Golden LEAF funds would be used for equipment. Additional funds are also being pursued through a pending USDA application.
23		Nash Community College Foundation Inc	Workforce Project Name: "Shared plastinated cadavers + anatomy/simulation enhancement at NCC"	N	Nash Community College Foundation Inc. seeks funding to enhance anatomy/simulation training for students in its nursing, EMS, and medical assisting programs. The project anticipates that using plastinated cadavers will improve program performance, promote student retention, increase credential completion, and expand the pipeline of local nurses and allied health technicians to serve eastern North Carolina. Golden LEAF Foundation funds would be used for the equipment purchases.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
24		North Carolina State University Foundation Inc	GROW Sandhills: Growing Rural Opportunity through Workforce-connected Teaching	N	North Carolina State University Foundation Inc. seeks funding to implement a three-year initiative to build capacity for CTE teachers in the rural Sandhills region by creating a leadership- and workforce-connected teaching pipeline. The project addresses workforce and education gaps by recruiting 12 Kenan Fellows from Rural Teacher Leader Network alumni for 120-hour industry immersions and 80 hours of leadership professional development (PD), then deploying them to expand CTE programming across three districts. Over three years, the initiative will reach 2,700+ students, increase CTE enrollment, completion, and industry credential attainment, and strengthen teacher retention and leadership as alumni return as mentors, PD providers, and Step Up to STEM instructors. Golden LEAF funds would be used to support professional development, personnel, travel, a third-party evaluator, and university overhead.
25		Operation XCEL Promoting Excellent Communities Education & Leadership	Advanced Manufacturing Skills Acquisition Initiative	N	Operation XCEL Promoting Excellent Communities Education & Leadership seeks funding to implement the Advanced Manufacturing Skills Acquisition Initiative, a nine-month credentialing program serving 75 high school students in partnership with Guilford County Community College. The program seeks to address the workforce shortage in advanced manufacturing in the local community by providing comprehensive technical training, recognized credentials, career-readiness workshops, employer engagement initiatives, and support services for participants. The program will complement existing advanced manufacturing initiatives in Guilford County, including those provided by Guilford County Schools, Guilford Technical Community College, Guilford Apprenticeship Partners, and NC FAME. Operation Xcel aims to engage with students who may lack awareness, access, transportation, familial support, or the necessary academic and career preparedness to pursue these opportunities. The project expects to serve 75 participants. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, participant support, and supplies.
26		Richmond County Schools	Paxton & Patterson College & Career Ready Labs - Richmond County Schools	N	Richmond County Schools seeks funding to establish College & Career Ready Labs at four middle schools and an alternative learning center. The project is expected to expand middle school career exploration to students who have limited pre-high-school career exposure and few marketable skills. Installing multi-module labs (skilled trades, healthcare, technology, agriculture, business) will provide hands-on workforce preparation for over 1,500 students annually, create a clear path to Richmond Senior High's 13 CTE pathways, and aim for a measurable annual increase in students identifying a CTE pathway before the end of 8th grade. Golden LEAF funds would be used to purchase equipment and to support teacher professional development.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
27		RREPS	Recidivism Reduction Vocational Career Pathway Project	N	Recidivism Reduction Educational Program Services (RREPS) seeks funding to launch its vocational career pathway project that will provide training, housing, and integrated support services for justice-involved and impacted people. The facilities of the former Wayne Correctional Prison in Goldsboro will be renovated into the Recidivism Reduction Campus. RREPS plans to house up to 300 residents who are expected to complete a six-month vocational program including job training, job placement support, and other reentry services. The organization currently provides mobile recidivism reduction centers in Wayne County and the surrounding area and has served 13,000 justice involved or impacted people since launching in 2025 through the mobile centers and its recidivism reduction hotline. The organization currently partners with Wayne Community College to provide job training services for participants. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel and construction/renovation.
28		Scouting America Old Hickory Council	Workforce Development through the Scouting America Merit Badge Program	N	Scouting America Old Hickory Council seeks funding to expand the Trade Skills Facility at Camp Raven Knob which serves Northwest North Carolina. The scouting council plans to build training stations for welding, electrical, plumbing, mechanics, painting, nuclear science, and carpentry for youth ages 11–17 as they explore careers and gain fundamental trade/vocational and life skills. The scouting council also plans to retrofit the camp's restrooms with ADA fixtures for year-round programming. Participants will gain hands-on experience and training through the completion of each merit badge in vocational trades to address the skilled labor shortages in Stokes and Surry counties and the surrounding region. Golden LEAF funds would be used for construction/renovations and related costs.
29		Stem Wellness Empowering Lifelong Learners -Swell-	The Spring Street Project — Landscaping Trades Workforce Training Program	N	Stem Wellness Empowering Lifelong Learners -Swell- in Cumberland County seeks funding to launch a 12-week (190-hour) landscaping workforce training program in Hamlet, a Tier 1, tobacco-dependent community with 25%+ poverty and no existing landscaping training provider. The program will train four cohorts of five students (20 annually) with 70% hands-on fieldwork and 30% classroom instruction, awarding OSHA-10 and S.W.E.L.L. Green Trades Certificates while providing free weekly lawn care to 40–60 elderly and disabled residents to revitalize a distressed corridor. By Year 1, S.W.E.L.L. targets 20 unduplicated trainees, 3,600+ fieldwork hours, 100% credentialing, 60% job placement within 90 days, and starting wages of \$14–\$18/hr. Golden LEAF funds would be used for commercial equipment and PPE, a climate-controlled storage shed with electrical upgrades and construction contingency, student laptops, an LMS, training stipends, curriculum setup, and dedicated outreach.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
30		Tarboro Municipal Stadium Preservation Foundation	Tarboro Municipal Stadium Community Concourse and Workforce Development Project	N	Tarboro Municipal Stadium Preservation Foundation, seeks funding to support construction and capital improvements at the Tarboro Municipal Stadium, a historic public asset with deep roots in Tarboro's baseball and community history. The project addresses infrastructure and accessibility gaps, safety deficiencies, limited event capacity, and rural workforce development needs in Tarboro and surrounding agricultural communities facing long-standing economic challenges. Expected impacts include events hosted and attendance, vendor participation and revenue, and documented youth workforce learning experiences. Golden LEAF funds would be used for final design and permitting, construction, capital equipment and site work as well as to support workforce-exposure activities in food service and event operations.
31		Tiny House Community Development, Inc.	Building Futures: Expanding Construction Workforce Pathways in Guilford County	N	Tiny House Community Development seeks funding to expand its construction workforce training pathway in Guilford County. The program provides project-based training and is designed to move students from foundational construction skills into earning nationally accredited trade certifications and employment or apprenticeship opportunities. The majority of the 150 students that will be served by this project are low-income young adults and youth seeking a path into stable employment. Training will be offered in partner locations such as Goodwill Industries in Greensboro and High Point Community Against Violence in High Point, NC. Golden LEAF funds would be used for tools and equipment, safety supplies, construction materials, transportation, training space improvements, credentialing/testing fees, and instructor certification costs.
32		Trucker Down	Commercial Driver Workforce Development Initiative	N	Trucker Down, a Wake County nonprofit, seeks funding to launch a workforce development initiative to address North Carolina's critical shortage of commercial truck drivers. The two year program will provide CDL training scholarships, workforce readiness training, career coaching, job placement assistance, and supportive services to approximately 100 participants, prioritizing unemployed/underemployed adults, veterans, displaced workers, and those facing employment barriers. Golden LEAF funds would be used to support training scholarships, program personnel, employer and training partnerships, and participant supportive services.

Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Summary
33		University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan-Flagler Business School & Institute of Government	Tarheel Business Academy 2.0: Building an Entrepreneurial Culture in North Carolina's Most Distressed Communities	N	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan Flagler Business School & Institute of Government seeks funds to implement the Tarheel Business Academy 2.0, a week-long entrepreneurship bootcamp program at Chowan University. The project will recruit 40 rising juniors and seniors from eight high schools in Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, and Northampton counties. Students will be trained to launch community centric ventures in trades, health care, human and family services, IT, and transportation. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, travel, and other incidentals to support participants and program faculty.
34		Yancey County Public Library	Yancey Workforce Readiness Center	N	Yancey County Public Library seeks funding to establish a workforce readiness center at the Burnsville public library. The center will address the limited training access and workforce preparedness in a rural, economically distressed, tobacco-dependent region by removing transportation and access barriers and aligning training with local employer needs. The center will deliver VR headsets, computers, career simulation software, staff training, and regular hands-on workshops in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades. Golden LEAF funds would be used for personnel, construction, equipment, professional development, and outreach.

SITE Programs Proposals						
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendation	Comments Special Conditions	Summary
Development						
35	LL, BW	Caldwell, County of	Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park Sewer Extension Project	\$1,500,000.00		- Extend sewer to Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park to create opportunity for industrial development. - Enable job creation and private investment at 1,000 acre park by addressing a critical infrastructure gap. - Funding for construction and related costs of sewer main, pump station, and force main.
36		Cleveland, County of	Farmville Road Development	\$1,500,000.00		- Prepare Farmville Road site to attract industrial users - Reduce infrastructure barriers to make publicly owned acreage market-ready - Funding for waterline extension, construction, grading, and related site preparation
37		Surry County Economic Development Foundation, Inc.	Twin Oaks Business Park	Defer		- Pad-ready industrial site to attract plastics, metal, electrical, and transportation manufacturers - Improves marketability, accelerates private investment, and expands quality jobs - Funds requested for site clearing, grading, stubbed access road, erosion controls, engineering and design

Scholarships					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
38		Spiron Solutions	Rural Internship Initiative	\$110,587	- Continued program management of the Rural Internship Initiative to strengthen rural talent pipelines. - Enhanced intern readiness through training, exploratory internships, and improved scholar-site matching. - Funding for Spiron Solutions' administration: applications, guidance, site recruitment, reviews, orientations, visits, evaluation, training.
39		KellyOCG Services	Rural Internship Initiative	Extend existing contract with KellyOCG. Kelly receives a fee of 21% of the wages of the interns, so the cost varies year to year. Budgeted amount is \$600,000	- Extension of KellyOCG as employer-of-record to ensure compliant, streamlined internship experience. - Cost-effective payroll administration versus alternatives, increasing program efficiency and consistency. - Funding for employer-of-record, payroll, onboarding, and offboarding services for RII interns.

Grant Modification Requests					
#	Board Abs.	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
40		City of Boiling Spring Lakes	Holly, Walnut, and Redwood Stormwater Project	Approve	
41		Town of Lillington	Harnett Street Stormwater Improvements	Defer	Recommend the Board indicate support for a future award for up to the program maximum of \$2m.
42		City of New Bern	Elizabeth Avenue Drainage Improvements	Approve	
43		The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Impacting Rural Communities Through Anchor Institutions Across North Carolina	Decline	Decline the budget modification and extension requests, which will end the grant.

Strategic Planning				
#	Board Abs.	Topic	Programs Cmte Recommendations	Comments Special Conditions
44		Golden LEAF Schools Update	Update only	Staff will provide an update regarding Golden LEAF Schools, including information from recent reports submitted by DPI.
45		NC IDEA Rural Entrepreneurship Constellation Program	\$10,000,000	Release of funds is conditioned on: 1) Approval of criteria for Regional Champions and Constellation Partners, including characteristics of eligible regions and of Regional Champions and Constellation Partners and minimum services to be offered by each constellation. 2) Approval of outcomes that will be tracked, including definitions. 3) Approval of reporting requirements for Regional Champions and Constellation Partners. 4) Approval of parameters on use of funds awarded by Golden LEAF to make payments to businesses or individuals. 5) Approval of projected outcomes and activities to be accomplished by the time at which the second cohort would begin to apply to participate. Requirements that must be satisfied before release of funds for the second cohort: 6) Accomplishment of the outcomes and activities identified in item 5, above, and evidence of interest in participating in the initiative by qualified Regional Champions and Constellation Partners that serve Golden LEAF priority communities. (If funds are not released for the second cohort, Golden LEAF will release sufficient funds to NC IDEA to complete implementation of the first cohort.)
46		North Carolina Chamber Foundation NC Ag Leads Extension	\$456,000	Extend the NC Chamber Foundation NC Ag Leads contract for one year to provide continued oversight for implementation of the three funded projects (GroundTruth NC, the land-use assessment, the workforce assessment, and the Farmer Innovation Bridge) and any other funded NC Ag Leads projects, to continue engagement with stakeholders through Imagine Ag Day and the HARVEST Series, and to conduct a rescan to identify potential revisions of the plan. The requested amount for the extension is \$456,000, which includes staffing, contractors, events and communications, and meetings and other expenses. (This is a decrease of \$56,000 from the prior year. Please see the materials in BoardEffect for more information.)

Other Business			
#	Board Abs.	Topic	Comments Special Conditions
47		Digital Ag Hubs Request from N.C. State	At the meeting, staff will provide an update on the status of this request and seek feedback from the Committee on next steps. Please see materials in BoardEffect for more information.
48		N.C. Housing Finance Agency Update	At the meeting, staff will provide an update on two projects supported by Golden LEAF funds administered by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.
49		Golden LEAF Community Colleges Scholarship	Recommend that eligibility for the workforce continuing education scholarships include the same citizenship requirements for students that receive curriculum support.

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.