Funder Descriptions and Contacts

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a unique federal-state partnership providing social and economic support for a 13-state region stretching along the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi. Established by the United States Congress in 1965, when Appalachia was considered "a region apart" from the rest of the nation, ARC has worked to bring Appalachia's 22 million people into America's economic mainstream. ARC supports economic development activities in 29 North Carolina counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey counties. Each year ARC provides funding for projects throughout the Appalachian Region of North Carolina. Projects approved for ARC assistance must support one of the five general goals.

Focus Areas:

- Economic Opportunities: Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.
- Ready Workforce: Improve the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.
- Critical Infrastructure: Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.
- Natural and Cultural Assets: Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets.
- Leadership and Community Capacity: Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development. Eligible applicants are public entities (cities, towns, counties, regions, public service districts) and nonprofit organizations.

Program information can be found online at https://www.nccommerce.com/about-us/divisions-programs/rural-economic-development/appalachian-regional-commission
For more information contact Olivia Collier at ocollier@nccommerce.com.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC Foundation

Grants are investments – in organizations, in people, in health. The grants we make are a commitment to further the work of organizations, collaborations, and communities across the state. We invite applications based on specific strategic objectives or announce broader
opportunities to apply for funding on a periodic basis. Grants can range from targeted small-dollar amounts to large, multi-year partnerships.

Overall, we invest in clearly-defined and results-oriented initiatives that are aligned with our grantmaking priorities and further a shared mission of improving the health and well-being of everyone in North Carolina.

Focus Areas:

- Early Childhood, so that every child in North Carolina from birth to age five has the opportunity and resources to be healthy and well-prepared for success in school, work, and life
- Healthy Communities, so that every community has the conditions for good health
- Healthy Food, so that everyone in North Carolina has access to healthy food
- Oral Health, so that everyone in North Carolina has access to quality, affordable oral health services

For more information visit [www.bcbsncfoundation.org](http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org) or contact Valerie Stewart at [Valerie.Stewart@bcbsncfoundation.org](mailto:Valerie.Stewart@bcbsncfoundation.org).

**Dogwood Health Trust**

Dogwood Health Trust is a North Carolina nonprofit corporation with the sole purpose of dramatically improving the health and well-being of all people and communities of Western North Carolina. Dogwood Health Trust was created from the net proceeds of the sale of Mission Hospital and focuses on innovative ways to address the many factors that contribute to overall health and wellness. To learn more, please visit [www.dht.org](http://www.dht.org).

Focus Areas:

- Immediate Opportunities and Needs Grants
- Leverage Fund
- Healthy Opportunities

For additional questions you may contact Brian Myers at [b.myers@dht.org](mailto:b.myers@dht.org) or Mike Yeaton at [m.yeaton@dht.org](mailto:m.yeaton@dht.org).

**NC Broadband Infrastructure Office**

The N.C. Department of Information Technology's Broadband Infrastructure Office serves as a statewide resource for broadband access, first-responder communications and classroom connectivity initiatives led by the state of North Carolina. Federal government agencies as well as national and state nonprofit organizations have historically provided grants for broadband
providers and counties and municipalities working toward broadband access for unserved and underserved populations. Loans for broadband deployment projects have also been made available. Community leaders can contact the Broadband Infrastructure Office’s Technical Assistance team for information on funding possibilities.

Focus Area:

- Broadband Access

For more information visit https://www.ncbroadband.gov/ or contact Angie Bailey at angie.bailey@nc.gov.

NC Department of Commerce

The NC Department of Commerce's targeted, performance-based incentive programs help companies and communities grow and thrive in our state.

Focus Area:

- Grant programs

For more information contact Nichole Gross at nichole.gross@nccommerce.com.

SECU Foundation

The State Employees’ Credit Union Board of Directors chartered the SECU Foundation in 2004 to help identify and address community issues that are beyond the normal scope of State Employees’ Credit Union. Members of the credit union support the Foundation with a $1 per month contribution from their checking accounts. Having the individual member make the contribution enforces the core concept of State Employees’ Credit Union as a member-owned cooperative. SECU Foundation seeks to fund projects through partnerships with other foundations and nonprofit organizations that improve the social and economic condition of public employees in North Carolina. All funding decisions are made by the SECU Foundation Board of Directors. SECU Foundation promotes community development by primarily funding high impact project areas.

Focus Areas:

- Housing,
- Education,
- Healthcare and
- Human services.
U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides grant assistance to support construction, technical assistance, planning, and capacity building projects that support business start-up and expansion in towns and cities all across the country to build strong, durable and resilient local economies that produce good wages for American workers. EDA partners with regional economic development partners to advance locally-developed projects that link to the region’s longer-term, sustainable economic development strategies. Applications for EDA assistance must support a project region that meets distress based on per capita income, unemployment rate, or special need. Generally, the amount of an EDA award may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

Focus Areas:

- Public Works
- Economic Adjustment
- Planning
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms
- Research and National Technical Assistance
- Local Technical Assistance

To learn more visit [https://www.eda.gov/](https://www.eda.gov/) or to discuss projects and alignment with EDA grant programs, please contact Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov.

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation (ZSR) is a statewide, private, family foundation that has been a catalyst for positive change in North Carolina for more than 80 years. Headquartered in Winston-Salem, NC, the Foundation has invested $608 million into North Carolina since 1936. In June 2018, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation launched All For NC: Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation's Framework for Grantmaking and Learning, which aligns with ZSR’s mission and core values.

Focus Areas:

- State-Level Systemic Change Strategy;
- Community-Based Strategy (this includes a Community Progress Fund, which has an upcoming grant cycle, and a Collaborative Problem-Solving approach);
- Exploratory, Visionary Ideas Strategy (this includes an Inclusive Public Art initiative and an All For NC Fellowship).

For more information about ZSR’s strategies, commitments and other programs, visit www.zsr.org or contact Caitlin Burke caitlinb@zsr.org.