[**Appalachian Regional Commission**](https://www.arc.gov/north-carolina/) -- The Appalachian Regional Commission 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
* Ready Workforce
* Critical Infrastructure
* Natural and Cultural Assets
* Leadership and Community Capacity

Olivia Collier, ARC Program Manager- [ocollier@nccommerce.com](mailto:ocollier@nccommerce.com)

[**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C. Foundation**](https://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/) -- The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C. Foundation believes North Carolina has the potential to be one of the healthiest states. This only happens once everyone living here has a fair opportunity for good 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
* Healthy Communities
* Healthy Food
* Oral Health

Shelia Reich, Director of Racial Equity & Healthy Communities- [shelia.reich@bcbsncfoundation.org](mailto:shelia.reich@bcbsncfoundation.org)

[**Cannon Foundation**](https://cannonfoundation.org/) --The Cannon Foundation was established in 1943 by Charles A. Cannon, Chairman and President of the Cannon Mills Company. The Foundation continues his philanthropic legacy by funding primarily capital and infrastructure projects for organizations across the state of North Carolina. To date, the Foundation has awarded grants of more than $316 Million.

Focus Areas:

* Healthcare
* Higher Education
* Human Services
* Community

Suzanne Philemon, Senior Program Officer- [sphilemon@cannonfoundation.org](mailto:sphilemon@cannonfoundation.org)

[**Community Foundation of Henderson County**](https://www.cfhcforever.org/) -- Community Foundation of Henderson County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity, governed by a volunteer board of directors, that has been assisting donors fulfill their philanthropic dreams since 1982. Our mission is to help people who care make lasting contributions to causes that matter. Community Foundation of Henderson County is a highly visible, philanthropic leader directed by an engaged and committed board, staffed by qualified employees, empowering donors at all levels to invest in professionally managed charitable funds that address community needs.

Focus Areas:

* Food Insecurity
* Leadership
* Homelessness and Housing

Katie Allison, Communications Specialist- [kallison@cfhcforever.org](mailto:kallison@cfhcforever.org)

[**Community Foundation of Western North Carolina**](https://cfwnc.org/) -- The Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1978 to build a permanent pool of charitable capital for the 18 counties of Western North Carolina. We work with individuals, families, and corporations to create and manage charitable funds and make grants to nonprofits or public agencies in our region. In partnership with fundholders, the Foundation has awarded more than $276 million in scholarships to students and grants to nonprofit organizations and public institutions across our 18-county region and beyond. We manage $404 million (March 2021) in assets with a long-term investment strategy that permanently protects and grows these funds.

Focus Areas:

* Early Childhood Development
* Food and Farming
* Human Services
* Natural and Cultural Resources

Philip Belcher, VP of Programs- [belcher@cfwnc.org](mailto:belcher@cfwnc.org)

[**Cherokee Preservation Foundation**](http://cherokeepreservation.org/)-- The Cherokee Preservation Foundation’s mission is to preserve our native culture, protect and enhance our natural environment, and create appropriate and diverse economic opportunities in order to improve the quality of life for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) and our neighbors in Western North Carolina.

Focus Areas:

* Cultural Preservation
* Economic & Workforce Development
* Environmental Preservation

Deb Owle, Program Operations Manager- [dowle@cherokeepreservation.org](mailto:dowle@cherokeepreservation.org)

[**Dogwood Health Trust**](https://dogwoodhealthtrust.org/) -- 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, serving 18 counties and the Qualla Boundary in Western North Carolina. Dogwood Health Trust was created from the net proceeds of the sale of Mission Hospital and helps to further enhance the health and well-being of people in Western North Carolina by focusing on programs, initiatives and infrastructure that address all factors influencing health (often referred to as the social determinants of health). We are interested in projects that address our strategic priorities and align with our overarching commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We are also interested in projects related to improving broadband access to support education and healthcare, bridging rural divides, and addressing racial equity issues specifically.

Focus Areas:

* Housing
* Education
* Economic Opportunity
* Health and Wellness

William Buster, Senior VP of Impact- [w.buster@dht.org](mailto:w.buster@dht.org)

[**EDA (U.S. Economic Development Administration)**](https://www.eda.gov/resources/economic-development-directory/states/nc.htm) -- The United States 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:

* Equity
* Recovery and Resiliency
* Workforce Development
* Manufacturing
* Technology-Based Economic Development
* Environmentally-Sustainable Development
* Exports and FDI

Hillary Sherman, N.C. Economic Development Administration Representative- [HSherman@eda.gov](mailto:HSherman@eda.gov)

[**Great Smokies Health Foundation**](https://www.greatsmokieshealthfoundation.com/) -- Great Smokies Health Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) was created in August 2014 as the legacy organization to West Care Health System (Harris Regional Hospital and Swain County Hospital) with proceeds from their sale to Duke LifePoint, a for-profit entity. The mission of the Great Smokies Health Foundation is to improve the health status of the residents of Jackson, Swain, Macon, and Graham counties through investment and collaboration focused on health, wellness, and prevention. The Foundation is governed by a local board with representatives from the communities being served.

Focus Area:

* Health, Wellness, and Prevention

Michele Garashi-Ellick, Executive Director

[**N.C. Broadband Infrastructure Office**](https://www.ncbroadband.gov/)-- The North Carolina 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

Angie Bailey, Assistant Director- [angie.bailey@nc.gov](mailto:angie.bailey@nc.gov)

[**N.C. Community Foundation**](https://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/) -- The North Carolina Community Foundation is honored to serve the people of our state by connecting our nonprofit partners that are meeting community needs with our fundholders and donors supporting that vital work. Our competitive grantmaking programs demonstrate our fundholders’ commitment to nonprofit causes strengthening our communities across the state.

NCCF is honored to administer nearly 1,300 funds supporting North Carolina. Many of our funds are advised by their donors, based on their philanthropic interests, rather than through an application process. However, we offer a variety of grantmaking programs that do seek applications each year, according to the program’s intentions. These programs each have their own guidelines and criteria. Please see below to learn more about each of these programs.

Focus Areas:

* Community Grantsmaking
* Giving Circles
* NC Healing Communities Fund
* Louise Oriole Burevitch Endowment
* Corporate Grantsmaking Programs
* NC Inclusive Disaster Recovery Network

Tyran Hill, Program Officer- [thill@nccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:thill@nccommunityfoundation.org)

[**N.C. Department of Commerce**](https://www.nccommerce.com/grants-incentives) -- The North Carolina Department of Commerce strives to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for all North Carolinians. To do that, the North Carolina Department of Commerce works closely with local, regional, national and international organizations to propel economic, community and workforce development for the state. The Department connects businesses with the site locations, workforce and infrastructure they need to succeed in one of the nation's top states for business. We also connect local communities with the grants and funding they need to attract new business and ensure future prosperity.

Focus Areas:

* Water and Sewer Infrastructure
* Public Access Roads
* Building Reuse
* Building Demolition
* Broadband

Melody Adams, Rural Grant Programs Director- [melody.adams@nccommerce.com](mailto:melody.adams@nccommerce.com)

[**N.C. Department of Environmental Quality**](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure) -- The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the lead stewardship agency for the protection of North Carolina's environmental resources. The organization, which has offices from the mountains to the coast, administers regulatory programs designed to protect air quality, water quality, and the public's health, and also works to advance an all-of-the-above energy strategy that fits North Carolina’s needs. DEQ also offers technical assistance to businesses, farmers, local governments, and the public and encourages responsible behavior with respect to the environment through education programs provided at DEQ facilities and through the state's school system. DEQ touches the lives of all North Carolinians in many ways to enhance and ensure our quality of life.

Focus Areas:

* Water Infrastructure
* Sewer Infrastructure
* Asset Inventory and Assessment
* Merger/Regionalization Feasibility

Susan Kubacki, Division of Water Infrastructure- [susan.kubacki@ncdenr.gov](mailto:susan.kubacki@ncdenr.gov)

[**Polk County Community Foundation**](https://www.polkccf.org/) -- The Polk County Community Foundation has been dedicated to advancing philanthropy and improving the quality of life for all citizens in the community centered in and around Polk County. The Foundation receives charitable donations of all sizes from community members and then distributes grants to area nonprofits, awards scholarships to local students, manages endowment funds for local nonprofits, and administers other funds tailored to the specific charitable wishes of individual donors.

Focus Areas:

* Competitive Grants
* Kirby Endowment Fund Non-Competitive Grants
* Endowment Fund Grants
* Donor Advised Fund Grants
* Designated Fund Grants

Elizabeth Nager, President & CEO- [foundation@polkccf.org](mailto:foundation@polkccf.org)

[**RHI Legacy Foundation**](https://www.rhilegacyfoundation.com/) -- RHI Legacy, Inc. and RHI Legacy Foundation were formed as a result of the June, 2014 joint venture between Rutherford Hospital, Inc. and Duke LifePoint Healthcare. RHI Legacy, Inc. (formerly Rutherford Hospital, Inc.) entered into a joint venture with Duke LifePoint Healthcare and retained 20 percent ownership of Rutherford Regional Health System after the affiliation. The contractual relationship created by Legacy and DLP is dedicated to ensuring the continuation of quality healthcare at Rutherford Regional Health System, accessible to all members of our community. The creation of this joint venture allowed RHI Legacy, Inc. to retain cash assets after the affiliation with Duke LifePoint. The Board of Trustees elected to use those funds to impact health and wellness in Rutherford County.

Focus Areas:

* Chronic Disease
* Health Eating
* Active Living

Jill Miracle, Executive Director- [jill.miracle@rhilegacy.com](mailto:jill.miracle@rhilegacy.com)

[**SECU (State Employees’ Credit Union Foundation)**](https://www.ncsecufoundation.org/) -- 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
* Human services

Scott Southern, Program Officer- [scott.southern@ncsecu.org](mailto:scott.southern@ncsecu.org)

[**USDA Rural Development**](https://www.rd.usda.gov/)-- The United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways. We offer loans, grants, and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure. We promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. We provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs. We help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.

Focus Areas:

* Business
* Community Facilities
* Cooperative Services
* Electric
* Energy
* Multi-Family
* Single Family Housing
* Telecommunications
* Water & Environmental

Pam Hysong, Area Director- [pam.hysong@usda.gov](mailto:pam.hysong@usda.gov)

[**WNC Bridge Foundation**](https://www.wncbridge.org/) -- WNC Bridge Foundation has been proudly serving the people of Western North Carolina for over 17 years. We are a community-based charity providing direct support to individuals and grants to carefully selected non-profits throughout the region who are working every day to eliminate the barriers in our communities that prevent our neighbors from reaching their full potential.

Our goal is simple: to be a catalyst for positive change throughout the 18 counties of Western North Carolina. We believe the greatest way we can accomplish this is by empowering nonprofits throughout the region to eliminate barriers that prevent any person from reaching their full potential. Through these strong community partnerships, we can connect caring people with experienced non-profits, to have the strongest impact in Western North Carolina and create real and lasting change.

Focus Areas:

* Wellness Support
* Elder Care
* Youth Development

Meg White, Senior Program Officer- [mwhite@wncbridge.org](mailto:mwhite@wncbridge.org)

[**Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation**](https://www.zsr.org/) -- 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, 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
* Community-Based
* Exploratory, Visionary Ideas

James Gore, Senior Program Officer- [jamesg@zsr.org](mailto:jamesg@zsr.org)

[Southwestern Commission Virtual Funders Forum 2020](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI1VfQMeZrQ)