

Reference No.	Organization	Project Title	Disposition	Term (Months)	Award	Program	Priority Area	County of Applicant
FY2021-108	Alamance Community College Foundation, Inc.	Thumb in the Dike: Meeting the Deluge of Demand for Technicians in Alamance County and the Region	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 10/31/2021	7	\$195,000.00	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	Alamance
FY2021-061	Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture	Scaling the High Country Food Hub through Satellite Pick-up Locations	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 6/1/2021 End: 3/31/2022	10	\$108,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Agriculture	Watauga
FY2021-067	Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute	Project RADIUS (Regional and Accessible Diesel Is Uniting Services)	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2023	24	\$1,098,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Caldwell
FY2020-289	Brunswick Christian Recovery Center	Open a 25-Bed Recovery Center for Women Addicted to Drugs and Expand 2 Businesses Intended to Fund Payroll and Assist with Operational Costs	Approved 8/6/2020 Start: 8/10/2020 End: 6/9/2021	10	\$44,866.00	Open Grants	Community Competitiveness, Capacity, and Vitality	Brunswick
FY2021-081	Catawba Valley Community College	Industrial Systems Program Expansion in Alexander County	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2022	12	\$460,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Catawba
FY2021-145	County of Alexander	Alexander Industrial Wastewater Expansion	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 11/30/2021	8	\$193,776.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Alexander

FY2021-008	City of Bessemer City	Bessemer City-TRU Water Interconnection	Approved 10/1/2020 Start: 1/2/2021 End: 3/31/2022	14	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Gaston
FY2020-342	Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.	Regional Leadership and Capacity Building Initiative	Approved 10/1/2020 Start: 10/1/2020 End: 9/30/2021	12	\$150,000.00	Open Grants	Community Competitiveness, Capacity, and Vitality	Wake
FY2021-088	Cleveland Community College	Establishing Heavy Equipment Operator Training in Western NC	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2022	12	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	Cleveland
FY2021-030	Enfield Economic Development & Revitalization Commission (EEDRC)	Historic Designation and Job Creation in Enfield, NC	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 12/3/2020 End: 12/2/2021	12	\$8,500.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Halifax
FY2021-166	Town of Fair Bluff	Fair Bluff Water Supply Well Replacement	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 6/2/2022	12	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Columbus

FY2021-084	East Carolina University	Eastern Region Pharma Center (ERPC)	Approved 2/4/2021 Start: 3/1/2021 End: 3/1/2023	24	\$1,899,350.00	SPI - Special Programs Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Pitt
FY2021-109	Town of Harrellsville	Sandy Land Waterline Extension	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 10/31/2021	7	\$138,656.88	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Hertford
FY2021-056	Town of Holly Ridge	Camp Davis Industrial Park Phase II	Approved 2/4/2021 Start: 9/1/2021 End: 3/31/2022	7	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Onslow
FY2021-071	County of Watauga	High-Country Kill & Chill Processing and Livestock Center (Regional Project)	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 1/2/2023	19	\$1,000,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Agriculture	Watauga
FY2021-132	Freedom Life Ministries	Workforce Training to Improve Employability	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 6/2/2022	12	\$82,064.80	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	McDowell

FY2021-107	James Sprunt Community College	Hyped About Healthcare	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 5/31/2022	14	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	Duplin
FY2021-009	Mayland Community College Foundation	Resource Center for Entrepreneurs Training Classrooms	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 12/3/2020 End: 8/2/2021	8	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Mitchell
FY2021-034	Moore County Partners in Progress	USGA - Building a Unified Vision for Championship Golf in North Carolina (Project Woodpecker)	Approved 10/1/2020 Start: 10/1/2020 End: 9/30/2024	48	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Moore
FY2020-202	Mt. Olive Family Medicine Center, Inc.	Improving Medical Care at Mt Olive Family Medicine Center	Approved 8/6/2020 Start: 11/1/2020 End: 10/31/2021	12	\$100,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Wayne
FY2021-013	Isothermal Community College	Isothermal Covered Riding Ring: Advancing Credentials in Equine and Human Health	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 1/1/2021 End: 12/31/2021	12	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Agriculture	Rutherford

FY2021-031	North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	NCDA&CS Agricultural Sciences Center	Approved 10/1/2020 Start: 10/1/2020 End: 6/30/2022	21	\$2,093,377.00	SPI - Special Programs Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Agriculture	Wake
FY2021-089	Northampton County Schools	Northampton Career & Technical Academy of Innovation	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 5/31/2022	14	\$150,000.00	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	Northampton
FY2021-035	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Local Government Training Initiative	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 12/3/2020 End: 12/2/2022	24	\$493,546.00	SPI - Special Programs Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Community Competitiveness, Capacity, and Vitality	Orange
FY2020-198	Southwestern Community College	Advancing High-Tech Healthcare Education in Southwestern North Carolina	Approved 8/6/2020 Start: 8/6/2020 End: 8/5/2021	12	\$198,400.00	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	Jackson
FY2021-165	County of Wayne	Project Shell	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 10/2/2022	16	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Wayne

FY2020-317	Center for Creative Leadership	Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program	Approved 8/6/2020 Start: 8/6/2020 End: 8/5/2021	12	\$1,800,000.00	Golden LEAF Scholarships (Strategic Initiative)	Scholarships	Guilford
FY2021-161	Center for Creative Leadership	Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program 2021-2022	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 6/2/2022	12	\$1,500,000.00	Golden LEAF Scholarships (Strategic Initiative)	Scholarships	Guilford
FY2021-140	North Carolina Community College System	Golden LEAF Two-Year Scholars Program 2021-2022	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 7/2/2022	13	\$1,750,000.00	Golden LEAF Scholarships (Strategic Initiative)	Scholarships	Wake
FY2021-043	North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority	Golden LEAF Scholarship Program (2021-22)	Approved 10/1/2020 Start: 6/1/2021 End: 6/30/2022	16	\$2,581,584.00	Golden LEAF Scholarships (Strategic Initiative)	Scholarships	Durham
FY2020-278	Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Community Betterment Foundation	Project Ranger - Bridge Infrastructure for Aerospace Manufacturing Employment	Approved 10/22/2020 Start: 10/22/2020 End: 5/21/2022	19	\$12,000,000.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Buncombe
FY2021-090	City of Hendersonville	Garrison Lane Site Improvements: Project Wheel (R6)	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 12/3/2020 End: 12/2/2021	12	\$556,000.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Henderson

FY2021-169	County of Halifax	ROVA Site Demolition Project	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 12/2/2021	6	\$350,000.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Halifax
FY2021-164	County of Robeson	Project Mt. St. Helens	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 10/2/2022	16	\$250,000.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Robeson
FY2021-144	Town of Holly Springs	Project Galaxy	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 4/30/2023	25	\$4,000,000.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Wake
FY2021-167	Town of Mocksville	Project Shed/Liberty Storage Solutions	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 6/2/2023	24	\$250,000.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Davie
FY2021-162	Whitaker Park Development Authority, Inc.	Whitaker Park Parking and Storm Water Project	Approved 6/3/2021 Start: 6/3/2021 End: 6/2/2022	12	\$681,420.00	Economic Catalyst	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Forsyth
FY2021-051	County of Ashe	Industrial Park Project	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 8/31/2022	17	\$500,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Ashe
FY2021-025	North Carolina State University	Building Resilient Local Meat Supply Chains in the Face of COVID-19: Enhancing Processing Services, Farm Viability, and Market Capacity	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 2/1/2021 End: 2/3/2023	24	\$198,843.00	Open Grants	Agriculture	Wake

FY2020-312	Martin Community College	Apprentice Line Technician Academy	Approved 8/6/2020 Start: 8/6/2020 End: 5/31/2021	5	\$82,462.49	Open Grants	Workforce Preparedness	Martin
FY2021-072	County of Catawba	P-3 Revolving Loan Spec Building Program	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 9/30/2023	30	\$400,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Catawba
FY2021-076	County of Catawba	Southeastern Catawba County Business Park Infrastructure	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/19/2021 End: 12/18/2025	56	\$491,257.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Catawba
FY2021-047	Mayland Community College Foundation	HVAC for Education and Training at Three Peaks Enrichment Center	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 12/31/2021	9	\$531,908.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Mitchell
FY2021-075	Town of Drexel	Drexel Site 1 Redevelopment	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2023	24	\$500,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Burke
FY2021-066	City of Hickory	Future Trivium Court Extension Project	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 11/30/2021	8	\$491,257.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Catawba



FY2021-079	McDowell Technical Community College	Post-Secondary Education Improves Employability in Old Fort	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 5/31/2022	14	\$800,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	McDowell
FY2021-093	North Carolina State University	Answering the Call from Rural NC: The Agricultural Institute and the Food Animal Industry	Approved 12/3/2020 Start: 12/3/2020 End: 12/2/2025	60	\$989,418.00	SPI - Special Programs Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Wake
FY2021-068	The Industrial Commons	The Next Generation Textile and Furniture Economy	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2023	24	\$500,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Burke
FY2021-048	Town of Spruce Pine	Hwy 226 Waterline Replacement	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2024	36	\$775,349.50	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Mitchell
FY2020-316	North Carolina State University	Establishment of a Long Term Research Site for Management Studies of the Guava Root-Knot Nematode in North Carolina Agriculture	Approved 8/6/2020 Start: 8/6/2020 End: 12/5/2021	16	\$76,500.00	Open Grants	Agriculture	Wake

FY2021-069	Western Piedmont Community College	Regional Construction Trades Solution Center & Workforce Training	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 3/31/2023	24	\$1,500,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Workforce Preparedness	Burke
FY2021-060	Wilkes Economic Development Corporation	Wilkes Commercial Business Center	Approved 4/1/2021 Start: 4/1/2021 End: 9/30/2022	18	\$1,500,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative (Strategic Initiative)	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Wilkes

Purpose of the grant
<p>This award provides funding to Alamance Community College (ACC) to enhance its biotechnology programs to help meet a growing regional demand for skilled medical and bioscience technicians. As a component of the college’s new Biotechnology Center of Excellence, ACC will add updated bioprocessing equipment like pieces found in the labs of large local employers. In addition to improving student learning, the project will increase the number of program completers in credit and non-credit programs, the number of program participants earning third-party credentials, and the number of program completers entering the local biomanufacturing, biopharma, health, agriculture, and laboratory workforce. These industries have a demand for over 200 positions within the next two to three years. It is expected that 94 incumbent and displaced workers and students will receive training on this equipment over a two-year period. Golden LEAF funds will be used for three bioprocessing machines.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture (BRWIA) to develop five satellite pick-up locations in Watauga and Ashe Counties for BRWIA’s High Country Food Hub online marketplace. This project is designed to retain existing customers and meet increased consumer demand. By making pick-up sites more convenient, BWIA anticipates increasing the number of consumers who make monthly use of the High Country Food Hub by 150. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment, delivery vehicle, and other Food Hub distribution-related expansion costs.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to support the launch of a regional Diesel and Heavy Equipment program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&amp;TI). CCC&amp;TI will offer the program at its main campus and through a mobile learning lab that allows the college to reach high school students and to partner with other community colleges across the nine-county region. The mobile component will eliminate the need to duplicate a high-cost program in the region. This new program will be the only diesel technology program serving Caldwell, Watauga, Burke, Catawba, and Alexander counties. Curriculum and continuing education courses will align with training requirements and certifications through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). CCC&amp;TI expects to train approximately 100 students over the next 2 years. North Carolina employment for bus, truck, and diesel technicians is projected to grow 9% by 2026, with 155 current openings in the region. Golden LEAF funds will be used for classroom and lab renovations and equipment including four sets of hand tools, major shop equipment, a truck and used trailer, and trainers and cutaways.</p>
<p>This grant assists Brunswick Christian Recovery Center (BCRC) with providing 80 individuals with a degree, diploma, or certificate through its Workforce Redevelopment Program. BRCC will expand the Workforce Redevelopment Program which includes its landscaping and commercial cleaning businesses. These businesses provide basic workforce development opportunities for the Center’s residential clients. The Program also offers short-term skills training provided by Brunswick Community College in small engine repair, carpentry, masonry and electrical. BCRC operates a residential recovery center for men and will open a recovery center for women this fall. Expanding the landscaping and commercial cleaning businesses will provide greater workforce development opportunities for the residents and will also provide revenue to support the Center’s operations. Golden LEAF funds will be used supplies and equipment to support the landscaping and cleaning businesses.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) to assist with the expansion of its industrial systems program to its Alexander County campus. Currently, Alexander County high school students do not have access to training in mechatronics/industrial systems and local workers do not have a convenient location to upgrade their skills. CVCC will equip the Alexander Applied Technologies Center with a mechatronics/industrial systems lab to deliver instruction to Alexander County students and to incumbent workers to prepare them for local, high-demand positions in industrial systems and mechatronics. Project objectives include increased availability of curriculum and continuing education course offerings, and an increase in high school students completing relevant pathways and advancing to the community college’s mechatronics and industrial systems program. CVCC will train 70 high school students, traditional college age students, and incumbent workers in related courses during the first two years of implementation. Golden LEAF funds will be used to purchase training equipment and software for the lab.</p>
<p>This award will be used to extend public sewer in Alexander Industrial Park in Alexander County. The sewer will enable the planned addition of ten jobs at Industrial Timber, which is currently limited by the capacity of its septic system. The sewer will also be able to serve additional sites in the park.</p>

<p>This grant provides support for installation of a water booster pump station, piping, and appurtenances to allow Gastonia’s Two Rivers Utilities (TRU) to serve Bessemer City’s water system and South Ridge Industrial Park. Bessemer City’s peak water usage is about 1.5-1.6 million gallons per day and the city’s capacity is 1.7 million gallons per day. The interconnection with TRU will provide up to 2.5 million gallons per day of additional water supply on a consistent basis that will serve the park’s heavy water users, which include a Dole’s salad-bagging plant and Livent, a manufacture of a key component of lithium-ion batteries. In addition to other sites at the park, the project will also serve Dhollandia, a manufacturer of hydraulic lift gates for trucks, which completed construction of a 280,000 square foot North American Headquarters in Bessemer City (130,000 square feet larger than originally planned) in 2019 and is expected to create 150-200 jobs.</p>
<p>This grant provides funding to the Rural Economic Development Center to provide leadership and capacity-building outreach in the Western Prosperity Zone in advance of Golden LEAF’s launching its Community Based Grants Initiative there in 2021. The Rural Center has previously engaged in similar efforts in the Northeast Prosperity Zone in 2018- 2019, the Sandhills Prosperity Zone in 2019-2020, and in the Northwest Prosperity Zone (2020-2021). The primary goal of the program is to ensure that participating counties have an increased readiness to pursue economic development funding opportunities, particularly Golden LEAF’s. The Rural Center will work within the region with county managers, Council of Government staff, community college and university staff, economic development partners, and other key stakeholders to equip them with the knowledge and tools to understand comprehensive rural economic development. Identifying low-hanging fruit and “shovel-ready” projects will be a priority in the capacity-building process. The project will review regional and local strategic plans to inform project ideas and ensure that new projects are supporting a broader vision for the community and region. The Rural Center will also provide coaching to the communities, meeting at least once a month, in person if possible and remotely if necessary, with each team in the region and guiding the teams through an exploration of a variety of state and national best practice models, drawing on sources of innovation from other rural communities around the country.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Cleveland Community College to assist with the development of a Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) training program. Six employers in the area have forecast the need for 140-160 new HEO job openings over the next three to five years, plus demand from turnover and retirements. The average annual wage for heavy equipment operators is \$42,800, which exceeds the county’s average annual wage of \$40,019. HEO training will complement and leverage the college’s CDL program. Students who complete HEO training can also complete requirements to be tested by Cleveland Community College’s commercial truck driver license examiners. Several pieces of this project’s equipment can also be used in the truck driver training program. Training supplies will be used in both programs to maximize efficiency. The program will also incorporate safety and soft skills training already offered at the college. Golden LEAF funding will be used for equipment and a portion of the cost of equipment storage, road tractors, and trailers.</p>
<p>The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to assist the Enfield Economic Development and Revitalization Commission with its initiative to secure a historic designation for the Town of Enfield, as recommended in the Economic Master Plan completed by UNC-Chapel Hill, which was funded by Golden LEAF in 2010. With the historic designation, businesses that locate downtown would be able to receive a historic tax credit, making locating there more attractive. The location of new businesses in downtown is expected to increase investment in privately owned property, create at least 50 new full-time jobs, and also increase average annual wages. Golden LEAF funds will be used to pay the balance of the fee for the NC Preservation writer to complete the application for the historic designation.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Fair Bluff to assist with the replacement water infrastructure that was damaged during Hurricane Matthew and connection of a new water supply well to the town’s water system. After the hurricane damage, the town’s only industry left. Pipeline Plastics is moving into that industry’s former facility and will create 30 new jobs in the first year and up to 60 full-time jobs within the next five years. Wages will be between \$36,000 and \$38,000, which is above the county average of \$34,675. The company expects to make a capital investment of \$4,840,000. State regulations require the town to provide at least two water wells for its system, a requirement it cannot meet without this new water infrastructure. The total investment in public infrastructure exceeds \$1.5 million. Golden LEAF funds will be used for costs related to the installation of a water line.</p>

<p>The purpose of this grant is to support East Carolina University’s efforts to enhance its ability to serve students who wish to earn a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology degree “in place.” It will also allow ECU to provide training to incumbent workers in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry to meet the needs of their employers. ECU identified demand for over 400 new employees in just five pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in the bio-pharma crescent of Edgecombe, Johnston, Nash, Pitt, and Wilson counties. Subsequently, Thermo Fischer Scientific announced a major expansion in Pitt County that will result in the creation of over 500 new positions. Most of the new jobs in these pharmaceutical manufacturing companies require a bachelor's degree. This program will allow ECU to reach students and existing manufacturing employees in the pharmaceutical industry who need to retrain and expand their skills. ECU will be able to give them access to coursework and virtual skills training without requiring that they attend classes on the ECU campus. Community colleges and industry partners will participate by sharing complementary resources to allow access to training on their campuses. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment at ECU and participating community colleges and for personnel to develop courses and manage the programs over two years.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Harrellsville to extend a waterline that provide additional capacity to support expansion at Sandy Land Peanut Company, improve water flow and pressure in the town’s water system, and provide redundant service to properties in the area. Sandy Land Peanuts cannot expand its facility because existing water service does not meet the associated fire protection requirements. Sandy Land Peanut Company plans to invest over \$5 million in the expansion and add at least 15 full-time jobs over three years and additional seasonal workers. The project will also provide new opportunities to local peanut farmers as the expansion will increase Sandy Land’s production capabilities from 30 million to 50 million pounds. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction-related costs of the new water infrastructure.</p>
<p>The purpose of this grant is to construct public stormwater infrastructure that will support development of Phase II of the Camp Davis Industrial Park, located in the Town of Holly Ridge. Holly Ridge plans to acquire 60 acres of land and complete the \$1.8 million development of Phase II of the park. Of the 11 lots in Phase I, which opened in October 2018, only two remain available. Also, in Phase I of the park, companies have created or are creating more than 250 above-average wage jobs and have invested tens of millions of dollars in private development and equipment. A rapidly growing community, Holly Ridge anticipates similar success for Phase II, which is adjacent to Phase I, and is Duke Energy certified. Golden LEAF funds will be used for stormwater construction and will complement an Industrial Development Fund grant which will be used for water, sewer, and roads within the park.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Watauga County to support efforts to construct a livestock slaughter and processing center located in Watauga County that will serve producers from several western North Carolina counties, including Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Caldwell, Mitchell, and Watauga. The livestock processing center (primarily for beef and pork) is critically needed due to a shortage of local slaughter and processing capacity, with the nearest USDA-inspected slaughter facility a 1-to-2-hour drive from the Watauga County site. Widespread shortages of meat during the COVID-19 shutdown revealed how fragile the meat production system is, even without disruptions to energy and transportation systems. Watauga County will lease the facility to Watauga Butchery which will operate the facility under USDA inspection. The slaughter facility will serve an estimated 500 producers. Watauga County has committed a two-acre site and will provide support for site development. Golden LEAF dollars will be used for building construction and publicly owned infrastructure.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Freedom Life Ministries to support a workforce training program that is part of an overall strategy to respond to the needs of regional manufacturers in the McDowell County area. Manufacturing companies project the need for 800 new employees over the next five years. Freedom Life will partner with McDowell Technical Community College which will provide training that would enable 96 participants annually to earn a Career Readiness Certificate and/or Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety certificate. In addition, Freedom Life will provide work-based learning through its social enterprise, Freedom Life Pressure Washing (FLPW), to 24 individuals entering the workforce after incarceration and/or addiction recovery. Employers have indicated that this work-based learning provides employees the practical skills they need to maintain employment. FLPW will expand from its land-based business to one that also includes pressure washing in the marine industry. This expansion is expected to sustain the program’s growth after the first year. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment, work-based learning, and course certifications.</p>

<p>This award provides funding to James Sprunt Community College to purchase simulation and technology equipment for its renovated nursing facility and nursing programs. The college received an EDA grant of \$2,031,000 to relocate its nursing programs on campus. Connect NC Bond funds provided an additional \$2,449,065 for the renovation/construction project. Prior to these awards, the college did not have adequate space or equipment to outfit the instructional labs to maximize learning opportunities that will prepare students for work in today’s clinical settings. The project will assist the college with improving its nursing program completion rates and first-time pass rate for licensure exams, and ultimately better address the need for nurses in rural North Carolina counties. Golden LEAF funds will be used for simulation equipment and related technology.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Mayland Community College (MCC) to assist with establishing a Resource Center for Entrepreneurs (RCE) in Spruce Pine in the Three Peaks Enrichment Center. The RCE results from collaboration of local economic development directors, public officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and MCC. The RCE will support new and emerging businesses in Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey counties, serving as a technological hub for entrepreneurs and providing a range of business services including enhanced product development, prototyping, and marketing. It is anticipated that the project will result in the addition of 70 new businesses and 200 new jobs in the three-county area. Golden LEAF funds will be used for design, renovations, and furnishings.</p>
<p>This grant provides support to Moore County Partners in Progress (PIP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit economic development entity, to assist with the relocation of some of the United States Golf Association’s (USGA) operations from New Jersey to Pinehurst. Relocated operations will include USGA’s golf equipment Research and Test Center, a Museum and Visitors Center, and several USGA departments, including its Championship Operations. In addition to relocated operations, USGA will bring five U.S. Men’s Open Championships to the Pinehurst area, one every five to seven years, including one previously announced for 2024. Pinehurst will also be the host of two U.S. Women’s Open Championships in the next 20 years, and North Carolina will host 13 other championship events within the next 25 years. USGA will employ 50 full-time employees at the facilities in North Carolina, including 35 new positions and 15 retained positions. Golden LEAF funds will be used to purchase testing equipment for the Research and Test Center, which supports USGA’s role in establishing equipment standards for the game of golf. The total cost of the testing equipment is over \$4 million. The testing center will be the site of 18 of the 35 new positions. The average wage of the 50 positions will be \$80,000. Additionally, PIP projects a direct capital investment by the USGA of at least \$25,000,000. PIP anticipates that the location of the Research and Testing Center and the relocation of some USGA operations to Pinehurst will encourage the location of other golf-related businesses to the area resulting in significant economic benefit to the region. The State has indicated it intends to provide \$18 million for this project through special legislation, the first installment of which was \$3.6 million approved in September.</p>
<p>This grant provides funding to support an expansion of the Mt. Olive Family Medicine Center (MOFMC) facility. The expansion will allow MOFMC to increase staff, services, and service hours to help meet demand for medical care in the area. MOFMC will add a full-time provider, behavioral health provider, and medical assistant, and two half-time nurses. Mt. Olive residents currently travelling to Goldsboro for substance abuse and nutrition management services will now be able to access those services locally. The additional capacity will also allow providers to see at least 100 walk-in patients per day, doubling the Center’s current capacity, and reducing wait times for the walk-in clinic from two hours to less than one hour. Golden LEAF will be used for furniture and medical equipment.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to support construction of a covered riding arena at Isothermal Community College (ICC) to accommodate growth in its Agribusiness: Equine Business, and Human Services Technology: Animal Assisted Interaction programs. The new ring will also allow students to be trained on-site instead of traveling up to one hour to other horse facilities or farms that volunteer their covered arenas and horses for training conducted by ICC. The arena will serve as a training area for programs, students, and individuals. Users in addition to ICC include, Therapeutic Riding of Tryon, and Rutherford and Polk County Schools. Enrollment in the college’s agribusiness and equine-related curriculum programs has increased by over 63% from 55 in fall 2019 to 90 in fall 2020, and the college has added new sections of equine related courses in response to enrollment growth in continuing education. Programs will provide training and workforce development to prepare more than 175 students for full-time jobs in the growing local and regional equine and agribusiness industries. Those students who complete therapeutic horsemanship courses will be prepared to earn industry-recognized certifications from Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International that will make them eligible for over 345 full-time certified equine therapeutic instructor positions across North Carolina.</p>

<p>This grant provides funding to North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&amp;CS) to add new and expanded testing services at its newly constructed 225,000 square foot Agricultural Sciences Center (ASC). The total cost of the facility is \$107 million, supported by \$94 million in Connect NC bond funds and a \$13 million appropriation from the General Assembly. The General Assembly provided an additional \$10 million for costs of relocating labs to the ASC and for the outfitting and start-up of the center. NCDA&amp;CS will consolidate five laboratories from four divisions in the ASC: Food and Drug Protection Division, Veterinary Diagnosis Laboratory Services, Standards Division, and Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment for the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Standards Lab, Motor Fuels Lab, and the Food and Drug Protection Lab. All of the equipment purchased with Golden LEAF funding will allow NCDA&amp;CS to provide new testing services or expand testing services currently available. The equipment will result in outcomes important to the agricultural industry in the state, including savings of between \$1-\$4 million for farmers by reducing the amount they spend on out-of-state lab services; testing of stored diesel and of hydraulic fluid and motor oil for farmers, reducing potential damage to farm equipment; increased testing of grain moisture meters at buying stations, ensuring farmers receive a fair price for their crop; increased diagnostic testing capacity of the veterinary lab; reduced turnaround time for analyses of feed and forage and of fertilizer; and, others.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Northampton County Schools (NCS) to establish the Northampton Career &amp; Technical Academy of Innovation (Academy) to provide students with technical skills in fields in demand in the county and surrounding areas. The Academy will be housed in a renovated section of a former high school. Students who enroll in the Academy will attend their traditional high school three days per week and will be transported to the Academy the other two days. NCS will partner with Roanoke-Chowan Community College to offer five College and Career Promise (CCP) Pathways including HVAC, Welding, Nursing, Cosmetology, and EMT. NCS will also offer Career and Technical Education pathways including Automotive Technology/Diesel Mechanic, health careers, Agriculture Science/Agribusiness, and Industrial Systems Technology. Golden LEAF funds will be used for some upfit of the old high school, transportation, certifications, supplies and materials, and outreach.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Center for Public Leadership and Governance (CPLG) at the UNC School of Government to offer financial support to assist mid- and entry-level professionals (department director and below) and local elected officials from municipalities with a mayor-council form of government. All recipients will be from Tier 1 counties. The training will provide the fundamental skills needed to help communities operate efficiently and effectively. The program supports attendance in the following programs: 1) Fundamental and Advanced Supervisory Practices courses, which provide basic management and supervisory competencies to professionals; 2) continuing education courses in core competencies for local government professionals, and skills in basic legal and fiduciary obligations, service management, and planning and administration for elected officials; and 3) organizational scholarships for customized advising and training to allow small jurisdictions to address specific capacity development priorities. The Center expects that funding will support 144 participants in the Fundamental and Advanced Supervisory Practices programs, 840 scholarships for public professionals, 150 scholarships for elected officials, and 210 participants in customized advising and training programs. Golden LEAF funds will be used for sponsorship of supervisory practices courses, scholarships, customized advising and training, and outreach, management, and administration.</p>
<p>This grant assists with the purchase of simulation training equipment that will support the expansion of Southwestern Community College’s (SCC) health sciences programs. SCC is constructing a new health science building that is expected to open in August 2021. The expanded program will increase capacity from 440 to 638 students by 2023 and the college projects that it will produce 508 highly trained regional health care employees over ten years to meet demand and employer needs. The simulation training equipment, which was selected by instructors, local business leaders, and medical experts, will support SCC’s nursing, physical therapy assistant, and medical sonography curriculum programs. Golden LEAF funds will be used for this simulation training equipment.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Wayne County for Project Shell, which is Hosokawa Micron Systems, a manufacturer of machines and systems for powder processing and a contract manufacturer. The company is expanding its contract manufacturing business to the ParkEast Industrial Park in Goldsboro. The company expects to create 16 new jobs paying, on average, nearly \$51,000, plus benefits, compared to the county average wage of \$38,401. It also will make capital investments of approximately \$4.5 million. The company will acquire a shell building completed by Wayne County and Wayne County will use proceeds from the shell building to build another for future economic development. The company requires additional water pressure for its fire suppression system. Golden LEAF funds will be used to install a publicly owned 120,000-gallon water tank adjacent to the site that would serve the site and other sites in the park as well. The City of Goldsboro will own the tank.</p>

<p>This grant provides funding to the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) to support funding for the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program. CCL plans to recruit 120 freshman scholars from the pool of 215 new Golden LEAF scholars and retain 237 scholars from the current program year. The leadership training program begins with a two-day leadership development conference in January, includes a paid summer internship in a rural county, and a final two-day conference in September. Freshmen and sophomores also receive individualized coaching for eight months of the year and juniors participate in online peer coaching. Student stipends are the largest single expense and account for nearly half of the grant amount.</p>
<p>This contract provides funding to the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) to implement the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program. CCL will offer an online training program for up to 200 first-year Golden LEAF scholars and will continue to implement the existing program for the approximately 208 continuing sophomores, juniors, and seniors already enrolled.</p>
<p>This contract provides funding to the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) for continued support of the Golden LEAF Scholars – Two-Year Colleges program (the “Program”). The Golden LEAF scholarship program assists students and their families with the costs associated with curriculum and continuing education programs at community colleges. Eligible students must reside in a rural county that is economically distressed or tobacco dependent and must demonstrate financial need. Golden LEAF dollars will pay for up to \$50,000 for administrative costs and \$1,700,000 for scholarships to support awards of up to \$2,250 annually for curriculum students and up to \$1,850 annually for workforce continuing education students. The funds will serve students enrolled in fall, spring, and summer semesters of the 2021-2022 year. Scholarship funds can be used to cover the cost of attendance which includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, and childcare. NCCCS will monitor the program to ensure funds are used for permissible purposes and to provide updates regarding outcomes of the program. System office staff will work with colleges and with Golden LEAF to market the scholarship and promote student success stories.</p>
<p>This contract provides funding to NCSEAA to continue the Golden LEAF Scholars program. It will support annual scholarships of \$3,000 (\$12,000 over four years) to 215 new recipients and approximately 576 renewal scholars, and renewal scholarships of \$1,500 to approximately 21 half-year renewal scholars enrolled for no more than one semester during the 2021-22 academic year and to scholars enrolled in the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses program (RIBN) or similar bridge programs in which the student jointly enrolls in a community college and a four-year college or university. Scholarships may also provide up to four years of support for students enrolled in combined degree programs in which a student receives both a baccalaureate degree and a graduate degree. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate financial need and be from a rural county that is economically distressed or tobacco dependent. NCSEAA advertises the program, receives and reviews the applications, selects the scholars, verifies eligibility and enrollment, and makes payment to schools. Recipients can be high school seniors or community college transfer students. The scholarship application process assesses the scholars' connection to rural North Carolina with the hope of identifying students that are more likely to return to rural areas of the state after graduation. Scholars may use the funds to attend an eligible public or private non-profit four-year school in North Carolina.</p>
<p>This grant will be used for the construction of a public bridge across the French Broad River that will allow Project Ranger to create a new manufacturing facility. Project Ranger expects to create 800 new jobs paying an average wage of \$68,000, and to make a capital investment of as much as \$650 million. The project is expected to attract workers from a 22-county labor shed.</p>
<p>This grant provides funding to the City of Hendersonville to extend public water to a new 41-acre industrial site located in East Flat Rock. A partnership comprised of the City, Henderson County, and the Economic Investment Fund of Henderson County (EIF) will acquire the property and sell a parcel to Project Wheel. Project Wheel is Jabil Inc., a global manufacturer with more than \$25 billion in revenue in FY2019. At this site, Jabil will manufacture injection molded components that are used in the healthcare industry. It will create 150 new jobs over five years paying an average annual wage of \$39,867, which is slightly more than the county average of \$39,512. The company will also invest \$17 million in real property and \$21 million in personal property at the site. Hendersonville will extend sewer to the site and the EIF will construct a road through the industrial park at a cost of \$400,000.</p>



<p>This award provides funding to the County of Halifax for Project Big Rock, which is Roseburg Forest Products, a manufacturer of traditional wood products, specialty panels, and engineered products. The company is locating a new manufacturing facility at the ROVA site in Weldon in Halifax County. The project will create 169 new jobs paying average wages of \$50,707, compared to the county average wage of \$34,225. The company will also make a capital investment of \$200 million. The ROVA site is a former power generation facility, and the company requires that the existing buildings be demolished before it takes control of the property. Halifax County plans for an existing 501(c)(3) economic development entity to purchase the site, demolish the buildings and relocate a sewer line, and sell the site to the company. The total cost of demolition is expected to be \$500,000, and Golden LEAF funds will pay for a part of that cost.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Robeson County for Project Mt. St. Helens, which is Elkay Corporation. The company will make a capital investment of \$33.75 million to construct and equip a new distribution facility which will create 20 additional jobs that will pay an average annual wage of \$48,960, compared to the county average of \$33,454. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction of publicly owned water infrastructure. The project will locate in a new 215-acre industrial park that the county is working to develop, and the infrastructure will also benefit the future development of the park. The company also considered a site in South Carolina and would have relocated some existing positions from Robeson County to South Carolina if it chose that site.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Holly Springs to improve public sewer capacity necessary to serve the planned location of Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies. The company plans to construct a new facility in Holly Springs, making a capital investment of approximately \$1.5 billion and creating 725 new jobs paying, on average, nearly \$100,000 annually. The site is located approximately one mile from the Harnett County line. Existing companies in the area draw employees from a 13-county region, and the town expects the company will draw workers from a similar range.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Mocksville for Project Shed, which is Liberty Storage Solutions. The company will expand its operations in Mocksville onto twenty acres adjacent to its current location making an investment of \$8 million. The company will create 50 new jobs with average annual wages of \$47,500, plus benefits, compared to the Davie County average of \$39,600. Golden LEAF funds will be used for part of the cost to extend a public road to serve the company’s new location. Other funders of the road include the NCDOT and the Town of Mocksville.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to WPDA, Inc. for Project Health, which is Nature’s Value, a contract manufacturer of nutraceuticals. The company is relocating its headquarters and manufacturing operations to Whitaker Park, the former R.J. Reynolds cigarette manufacturing complex in Winston-Salem. The company has its headquarters in New York and existing operations in North Carolina at which it has 57 employees. At Whitaker Park, the company will create 160 new jobs paying an average wage of \$54,642 and make a capital investment of over \$29 million. The average annual wage in Forsyth County is \$54,914. The site at Whitaker Park the company is considering does not have adequate parking and associated stormwater. WPDA is constructing the necessary improvements, the total cost of which will be nearly \$2.275 million. Golden LEAF dollars will be used toward the costs of stormwater improvements. The company will pay WPDA for the stormwater improvements in an amount equal to or greater than the value of Golden LEAF’s contribution.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Ashe County to support establishment of a 41.7-acre industrial park. The county currently has no vacant industrial sites to market to prospective companies, which has constrained industrial growth in the area. The county will address this issue through the creation of a new industrial park containing five sites ranging in size from 2.2 to 13 acres each. The county has already purchased land for the project and completed an engineering report for the property. This land sits 1.25 miles away from a four-lane divided highway and across the street from several other large industrial buildings. It is expected that the project will generate 108 new jobs and attract \$12,350,000 in private investment in the near term. Other funders on this project include Appalachian Regional Commission and Blue Ridge Electric (USDA REDLG). Golden LEAF funds will be used for site preparation- and infrastructure-related costs.</p>
<p>This grant provides funding that will leverage \$10 million in COVID-19 relief funds directed to North Carolina livestock processors by providing assistance to help them use those funds effectively. It will also support livestock producers who sell bulk meat into the direct-to-consumer market by offering technical assistance and expanding their options for processing. Because some existing processors are operating at full capacity without the ability to schedule producers for services for a year, this project will also address some of the pressures faced by those producers in getting their products to market. Golden LEAF funds will be used for contract personnel, travel, marketing, supplies, and meetings.</p>

<p>This grant will assist Martin Community College with the launch of its Apprentice Line Technician Academy which is a training program that will provide students with the skills necessary to become entry-level technicians qualified for employment with electric utility companies, co-ops, and private cable and power companies. The college intends to enroll 10 students in the first academy and grow to 20 per class. The electrical operations pathway, which will be offered in the area high schools in Fall 2020, will help with recruiting for the program. Key industry partners (Dominion Power, Edgecombe/Martin Electric, Halifax Electric, Electric Cities, and Roanoke Electric) have provided input in curriculum development, some equipment for the program, and/or job opportunities for which program participants/completers may interview. These partners project their demand to be 240 to 450 workers over the next 3 to 5 years. Golden LEAF funds will be used for supplies, student materials/equipment and training equipment. The College expects State funding based on student enrollment to sustain the program in future years.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Catawba County to establish a county-wide, self-perpetuating, revolving loan program to support public-private partnerships in developing speculative buildings within the county. The program centers around a model of shared risk in which both private (landowners and developers) and public sector (county and municipality) partners maintain some investment in the project as a way of discouraging stranded investment, differentiating it from conventional spec building programs driven by the public sector. The county has used this model to develop spec buildings in the past with all of those buildings being sold. Initially, two speculative buildings will be constructed in five years through this project and are expected to result in \$14 million invested in private property, plant, and equipment, and 50 new full-time jobs with an average salary of \$48,000. Golden LEAF funding will provide funding for loans to local government entities, if needed, to assist with the interest carrying cost, general insurance, and utilities until the building is sold but for no longer than 36 months.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Catawba County to install a sewer line to support establishment of a 55-acre business park in the fast-growing, southeastern sector of the county. The county also has an option to purchase 23 acres nearby. A Duke Energy Site Readiness assessment of the 55-acre parcel identified potential end users in the light manufacturing, office, or mixed-use sectors but highlighted lack of sewer as a critical deficit. Catawba County’s initial goals for the business park include \$1.753 million invested in public infrastructure, \$18 million in private investment, and creation of at least 125 jobs with salaries averaging \$48,000 annually. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction of sewer infrastructure.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to Mayland Community College (MCC) to assist with the renovation of a former coliseum in Spruce Pine to create the Three Peaks Enrichment Center. The renovation is a multimillion-dollar project in Spruce Pine that has received significant state support. The overall project also includes renovation of a hotel that MCC will operate and an improved physical between the center and the Town. MCC will offer education and workforce training at the center. The college is also relocating its small business services to the center, supporting the growth of entrepreneurs and small businesses which are a major industry sector in the region. Golden LEAF previously awarded funding for MCC’s Resource Center for Entrepreneurs which will be housed at Three Peaks. The college expects the renovated center will result in increase of 29 students completing curriculum programs annually, as well as an increase in the number of students enrolled in continuing education programs. Golden LEAF funding for this project will be used for the purchase and installation of an HVAC system and chill tower to support the portions of the building that will be dedicated to education and workforce programs.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Drexel to redevelop the former site of a Drexel Heritage furniture plant, demolished about 10 years ago by a company that salvaged valuable materials from the building and then abandoned the site. Drexel has received Appalachian Regional Commission and NC Department of Commerce grants totaling nearly \$1 million to fund most of the needed infrastructure work. The town also has additional grants from NC Department of Commerce and local matching funds committed to the critical clean-up of demolition rubble, but additional funding is needed. The town estimates a total cost of \$1,757,000 to clear the debris. Because this is a relatively flat, rail-served site, the town anticipates it will attract significant interest from businesses. The Town of Drexel expects the project to result in creation of 200 full-time jobs and \$500 million in private investment at the site. Golden LEAF funds will be used for sewer and demolition/clearance costs.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the City of Hickory to extend a road within Trivium Corporate Center business park that will improve access to one site and enable access to additional acreage that could support 750,000 square feet of new building space. Since its groundbreaking in May 2018, Trivium has secured commitments for \$171 million in private investment and 499 jobs from four companies (Corning Inc., ITM, Cataler North America Corporation, and American Fuji Seal, Inc.), and has a \$10 million spec building currently under construction in the park. Golden LEAF funds will be used to extend an access road within the park.</p>

<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Old Fort for the renovation of a building which the town will lease to McDowell Technical Community College (MTCC) for use as a satellite campus. MTCC will provide training to meet the need of business and industry for workers trained in manufacturing, construction, and trail design. MTCC expects 70 students will enroll in a National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) Core Curriculum course, 40 students will enroll in a trail development, maintenance, and sustainability course, and 50 NCCER students and 25 trail development students will successfully complete their coursework and earn a certificate or third-party credential. Golden LEAF funds will be used to renovate a 4,000 square foot building to house at least two classrooms, a computer lab, and up to three offices.</p>
<p>The Agricultural Institute (AGI) is a two-year degree program based at NCSU that provides training for careers in agriculture and related fields. AGI has identified several challenges and opportunities for North Carolina agriculture, many of which directly affect rural and economically distressed communities and livestock producers and processors. This grant will support new programs to address those challenges, including creation of an Agricultural Operations Certificate and of a Food Animal and Poultry Processing Curriculum based on needs of industry in rural Tier 1 and 2 counties. It will also support a peer mentorship collaborative that connects AGI students and high school students with faculty and graduate students at NCSU to help with the recruitment of AGI students from Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, and creation of an internship support program that will make it easier for students to participate in internships provided by agricultural businesses in Tier 1 and 2 counties. Golden LEAF funds will be used over the five-year term of the grant for personnel, travel, recruiting costs, mentoring team participant stipends, internship scholarships, and other costs of the program.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to The Industrial Commons (TIC) to provide training opportunities for workers in the furniture and textile industries and to support the development and growth of an innovative closed loop production system. TIC will partner with Western Piedmont Community College to provide programs to meet the workforce demand of the network of 40 textiles companies that make up the Carolina Textile District (CTD). Additionally, Material Return, a company controlled by TIC, will work with local manufacturers to convert post-production textile waste into new yarn creating a closed loop of production system, and adding value to these materials that are currently used for low-value purposes such as insulation. Companies in the CTD have identified demand for 80 employees in the next two years. These jobs are expected to start near \$33,000 and to average \$45,000. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment, project management and trainers, leased space, and supplies.</p>
<p>This award provides funding to the Town of Spruce Pine to construct a mile-long, 8” waterline that will run adjacent to NC Hwy 226, south from Spruce Pine Town Hall to connect to an existing 8” waterline in a business and industrial district. This infrastructure improvement will provide higher water pressure and volume to serve existing business and industry along the NC Hwy 226 corridor and will enable industries, like Buck Stove, to meet fire suppression requirements for expansion needs. The line will also serve a 90-acre tract on this corridor, one of the few industrial sites available for development in the county. The waterline project is written in the county’s current Economic Development Strategic Plan and coincides with NCDOT’s scheduled widening of NC Hwy 226. Golden LEAF funds will be used for waterline-related construction costs.</p>
<p>The guava root-knot nematode (GRKN), is an invasive and aggressive soilborne pathogen. GRKN overcomes all known crop resistance genes that are effective in controlling other RKN species. The threat of GRKN to North Carolina’s sweet potato industry is estimated at 95,000 harvested acres valued at \$342 million. A significant hindrance to research to investigate solutions for this threat is identifying field locations with sufficient GRKN populations to perform the work. This project will establish a contained research farm site infested with GRKN at the Border Belt Tobacco Research Station. The site will allow for management studies and the ability to screen sweet potato, soybean, tobacco, and vegetable cultivars for resistance to GRKN under field conditions. Success will be demonstrated through research and management trials and sharing findings with stakeholders through field days and other communications. Golden LEAF funding will be used for costs including site preparation, construction, and equipment.</p>

This award provides funding to Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC) to assist in the construction of a 30,000 square foot Construction Trades Solution Center with labs and classroom space to house the construction trades program. The Center will offer training in carpentry, masonry, electrical technologies, HVAC, plumbing, and green construction principles. WPCC will offer the programs through continuing education and curriculum programs, allowing students to earn stackable certificates in specific skill areas. Caldwell Community College and Catawba Valley Community College will be project collaborators. In addition, WPCC is developing Career and College Promise pathways in construction trades/heavy equipment and estimates 85 high school Career and Technical Education students from the Alexander, Burke, and Catawba county school districts will participate in the program. The Center will also serve new traditional post-secondary students, new job seekers, and incumbent workers. Five-year projections for regional workforce need in construction trades are at a critical point, with 3,734 openings for the period. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction-related costs.

This award provides funding to the Wilkes Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to construct multi-tenant building space. The EDC seeks to meet the need of companies looking for building space of 20,000 square feet or less by building a 31,200 square foot flex multi-tenant building for commercial or light industrial use on a 4.8-acre site it owns. The EDC has documented demand from businesses interested in spaces of that size in the county. In addition to renting space in the building, the EDC will offer ongoing business support, including mentoring, and professional legal, accounting, and marketing consultations to tenants of the center. Anticipated outcomes for the project include two new businesses locating in the building, 25 new jobs created, and a capital investment of \$2,250,000 in public infrastructure. Golden LEAF funds will be used for design work, site work, and construction cost.