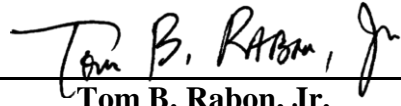
	<b>NCWorks Commission</b>
	<b>NCWorks Commission Policy Statement Number: CPS 02-2023</b>
	<b>Date: February 8, 2023</b>
	<b>Subject: Program Year (PY) 2023 NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Grants</b>
	<b>From:</b>  <b>Tom B. Rabon, Jr.</b> <b>Chair, NCWorks Commission</b>

**Purpose:** To announce the availability of NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Grants.

**Background:** As part of Governor Roy Cooper's NC Job Ready initiative, the \$450,000 Local Innovation Fund will finance grants in communities to pilot innovative programs or adapt and replicate successful program models that address local and/or regional workforce issues.

The fund will support projects that do one or more of the following:

- Address an underserved community or population currently disconnected from the education and workforce system;
- Bring together diverse community organizations;
- Increase educational attainment;
- Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our workforce; and/or
- Develop talent pipelines for in-demand and/or high-wage occupations.

The innovation grants may last for a period of two years and be awarded up to \$225,000 to assist communities that already have a collaborative team and an innovative idea ready for implementation and have built the local support needed to be successful.

**Action:** Applicants for the NCWorks Local Innovation Fund must consist of partnerships of multiple organizations that will actively support the work of the grant. Each partnership must include the local area Workforce Development Board (WDB) as the lead agency, as well as education, community, labor, and business leaders.

The WDB, which will receive the funds for the partnership, will serve as the financial administrator and be responsible for the appropriate use of the funds.

Fund expenditures must follow Financial Management Policy PS 20-2017, Change 1 and CPS 02-2022 Procurement and Contracting Policy.

Project participants must be enrolled in a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program and entered into NCWorks Online. All participants will be included in State performance measures as identified by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL).

The NCWorks Innovation Grant program is supported by the U.S. Department of Labor and is fully financed with federal funds.

Applications must be completed and submitted by April 12, 2023.

**Effective Date:** Immediately

**Expiration:** June 30, 2025

**Contact:** NCWorks Commission Staff

**Attachments:**

1. NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Grant Guidelines and Application
2. NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Signature Page
3. NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Partnership Chart
4. NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Budget Summary
5. NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Goals, Outcomes, and Measures