

The Rural Economic Development Division

FY2025 PROGRAM RESULTS

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

The **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** works to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth for the people in the thirteen-state Appalachian region. Thirty-one counties in North Carolina are eligible to receive ARC funds for economic development activities. ARC counties are: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

\$33,479,331

Amount Granted

37

Grants Approved

497

*Students/Workers
Improved*

1,694

Businesses Improved

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The **State of North Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** Program is administered by the Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) within the Department of Commerce. The CDBG Infrastructure Program is administered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. CDBG funding is available to local units of government to spur job creation, job retention, infrastructure, and housing activities. The CDBG Program prioritizes low to moderate income households and is available to non-entitlement communities in our state.

\$390,863,665

Open Grants

\$14,443,975

Infrastructure

\$40,580,602

*Neighborhood
Revitalization*

\$222,375

Economic Development

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The **Industrial Development Fund (IDF)** Utility Account provides grants to support economic development in the 80 most distressed counties in North Carolina. Grants support publicly owned infrastructure projects that are reasonably expected to result in the creation of jobs. Utility Account projects include water, sewer, industrial access, natural gas, and rail. The Utility Account allows the Department of Commerce to consistently invest in rural communities and build a stronger grid of infrastructure across our state. The Utility Account is funded by the Jobs Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program.

\$8.4 M

Funds Granted

7

Grants Approved

57%

*Awarded in Tier 1
Counties*

NC MAIN STREET & RURAL PLANNING CENTER

The **NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center (MS&RP Center)** works in regions, counties, cities, towns, downtown districts, and in designated North Carolina Main Street communities, to inspire placemaking through building asset-based economic development strategies that achieve measurable results such as investment, business growth, and jobs.

\$46,286,637

Open Downtown Grants

225

Communities Served

29

*Strategic Economic
Development Plans*

212

Economic Data Reports

1,925

New Downtown Jobs

288

*New Downtown
Businesses*

1,629

Individuals Trained

\$518,729,406

Downtown Investment

The Rural Economic Development Division

FY2025 PROGRAM RESULTS

NORTH CAROLINA OUTDOOR ECONOMY OFFICE

The **NC Outdoor Economy Office (OEO)**, within the NC Department of Commerce, works to grow the state's outdoor recreation economy and serves as a central contact to coordinate efforts across state agencies, local governments, and the outdoor industry. The Office identifies opportunities for growth, connects communities to the benefits of time outside, and promotes responsible recreation in NC's most treasured places.

\$16.2B

Economic Impact

145,433

Jobs in NC

2.8%

Employees in NC

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

The **Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)** is an economic development partnership between the federal government and seven state governments, including North Carolina. The SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across the SCRC region. The SCRC supports economic development activities in the 69 North Carolina counties not included within the Appalachian Regional Commission.

\$4,035,620

Amount Granted

10

Grants Approved

56

Businesses Served

1,430

Households Served

330

Students/Workers Trained

RURAL ENGAGEMENT & INVESTMENT

The **Rural Engagement & Investment (RE&I)** program provides grants and technical assistance to help local governments strengthen communities through building renovations, infrastructure, demolition, remediation, and downtown revitalization.

Programs include:

- Rural Reuse and Development Grants
- Rural Downtown Economic Development Grants (managed by the Main Street & Rural Planning Center)
- Small Business Infrastructure Grants

\$8,388,000

Amount Granted

1,475

Jobs Committed

92%

Funds to Tier 1 and Tier 2 Counties

62%

Manufacturing Projects

Note: Statistics reflect Rural Reuse and Development projects only

Right: Downtown Marshall, Madison County, North Carolina — one of the areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. While recovery efforts continue, businesses are steadily reopening and welcoming visitors back.

