

The Rural Engagement & Investment Program

2025 IMPACT REPORT

The Rural Engagement & Investment (RE&I) Program offers grant resources and technical assistance to local governments that help communities acquire critical resources, advance project implementation, and build local capacity. Grants to local governments support community and economic development projects that include building renovations, public infrastructure, demolition and remediation, as well as downtown revitalization projects.



RE&I Programs

- Rural Building Reuse Grants
- Rural Downtown Economic Development Grants
- Rural Transformation Grants
- Rural Demolition Grants
- Rural Infrastructure Grants
- Disaster Recovery
- Legislatively Directed Grants

Small Business Infrastructure Grant (SmBIZ)

The SmBIZ program offers grants to help local governments and small businesses impacted by Hurricane Helene rebuild and repair critical infrastructure, restore and resume functions and operations, and support economic recovery and sustainability.

\$55
Million
in funds
to award

\$7.3 million awarded in round 1 grants to support projects in the City of Morganton, the towns of Gamewell and Clyde, and in Chimney Rock Village.

**NEW
Program!**

8 SmBIZ Awards
Approved on
June 30th



Project Highlight

Governor Josh Stein (center) poses with the Town of Clyde Mayor Pro Tem Dann Jesse, Alderwoman Diane Fore, Mayor & Board Alderman Jim Trantham, and Town Administrator Joy Garland.

The Town of Clyde received \$737,477 in SmBIZ funds to support the repair and enhancement of sidewalk and curb infrastructure within its downtown commercial business district. As the Town and local business owners continue recovery and rebuilding efforts, this project will play a vital role in improving safety, accessibility, and walkability. Specifically, the upgrades will expand ADA-accessible ingress and egress areas at business and building entrances—supporting a more inclusive, pedestrian-friendly environment that benefits both residents and visitors.

What SmBIZ Does



Provides financial assistance for community recovery and resilience to communities specifically impacted by Hurricane Helene, helping to bring back vital services for small businesses and entrepreneurs.



Restores and repairs critical infrastructure, allowing small businesses to resume function and operations to support economic recovery and sustainability.



Assists in restoring or expanding small businesses' ability to attract customers to business districts to help retain business, expand access, spur private investment to create stability, and leverage resources to create resiliency and economic growth.

Rural Reuse & Development Programs (RDP)

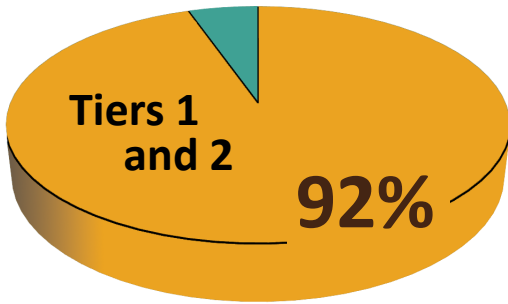
The Rural Reuse & Development Programs administers building reuse, infrastructure, and demolition grants in support of economic development projects that lead to job creation.



41 Projects Awarded

Of those 41 projects awarded, 92% are in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties

Grant Awards



83% of awards were made to existing NC businesses



\$8.3 MILLION in Grant Funds

\$236,724 average grant award amount per project



1,475 New Jobs Committed

average number of jobs committed per project

44

\$5,380

average amount per job committed per project

Rural Downtown Economic Development Grant (RDEDG)

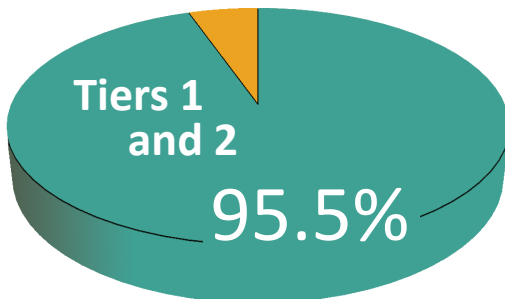
The Rural Downtown Economic Development Grant Program, managed by the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center, administers grants in support of downtown revitalization and economic development initiatives that are intended to help local governments grow and leverage downtown districts as assets for economic growth, development, and prosperity by providing public improvements to help retain businesses and leverage Main Street assets for community-wide use.



18 Projects Awarded

Of those 18 projects awarded, 95.5% are in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties

Grant Awards



\$8.6 MILLION in Grant Funds

\$481,645 average grant award amount per project



1,224 Existing Jobs Supported

CONTACT

Rural Engagement & Investment Program

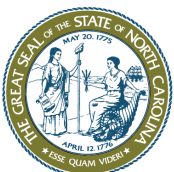
<https://www.commerce.nc.gov/ruralgrants/>

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NC DEPARTMENT
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RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT