

Rural Engagement & Investment Program

THE RURAL ENGAGEMENT & INVESTMENT 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.



Rural Transformation Grant Fund (RTGF) closing 2026

Our 2026 Impact Report feature, RTGF, is a \$50 million grant program that supports innovative approaches to increasing local capacity, COVID-19 recovery, building partnerships that help small businesses, leveraging the downtown district as an asset, and developing and implementing transformative local projects that will address critical community and economic development needs through its development needs.

4 Grant Categories

1 Community Enhancements for Economic Growth



City of Salisbury—Acquisition for event center

136
Grants
Awarded

\$49.1 Million
in Grants
Awarded

63
Counties
Served

96% Awards
Support Tiers
1 & 2
Counties

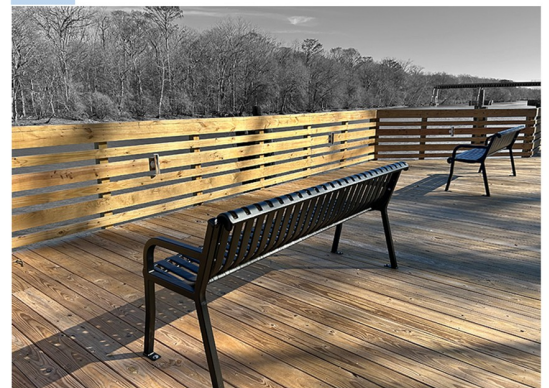
RTGF delivered lasting investments in rural communities by strengthening downtowns, supporting business retention and expansion, creating jobs, and leveraging private investment. Funding enhanced public infrastructure, rehabilitated business properties, revitalized neighborhoods, and improved sites for future economic development opportunities. Investments in training and technical assistance also strengthened local government capacity, helping communities improve service delivery, increase resilience, and build a foundation for sustainable growth.

2 Downtown Revitalization



Alexander County—Two story building renovation for apartments and a commercial business

3 Resilient Neighborhoods



Town of Williamston—Redevelopment of the Waterfront District and recreational trails

4 Rural Community Capacity Building

47 communities graduated from the RC2 training program



Rural Reuse & Development Programs (RDP)

RDP administers building reuse, infrastructure, and demolition grants in support of economic development projects that lead to job creation.



46
Grants
Awarded



\$12.4 Million
in Grants
Awarded

96% Awards
Support Tiers
1 & 2
Counties

70% Awards
Support Existing
NC Businesses

2,175
New Jobs
Committed

Building Reuse, Vacant Building



City of Greensboro - Business for commercial HVAC & hydronics pumping equipment

Renovation and Rehabilitation



Town of Maysville—Restoration of old buildings downtown Main Street

Rural Downtown Economic Development Grant (RDEdG)

The RDEdG 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.

- 9 Grants Awarded
- \$5.2 Million in Grants Awarded
- 788 Existing Jobs Supported
- 89% Awards Support Tiers 1 & 2 Counties

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.



33
Grants
Awarded



\$24.1 Million
in Grants
Awarded

65
NC Businesses
Supported

Hurricane Helene Rebuild & Repair



Town of Hot Springs—Repair of Bridge Street sidewalk and stormwater improvements



**NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE**
RURAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Rural Engagement & Investment Program

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

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