

sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Pet supply retailer Chewy selects North Carolina.

Governor Cooper Announces 1,200 Jobs in Rowan County

Chewy, an online pet supply retailer, has selected Rowan County for its new fulfillment center, creating 1,200 new jobs and investing \$55 million, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced April 17. The company will locate in Salisbury, N.C.

"Chewy selected North Carolina because from our infrastructure to our workforce, we have everything businesses need to succeed," **Gov. Cooper** said. "These new jobs will make a positive impact on Rowan County and the surrounding area."

Founded in 2011, Chewy is a leading online retailer of pet food and supplies in the U.S. The e-commerce company offers customers the expertise and service of a local pet store with the convenience of online shopping. The company is dedicated to 24/7 customer service, the development of cutting-edge technology to enhance the user experience, and commitment to sourcing high quality products. Chewy is dually headquartered in Dania Beach, Florida and Boston, Massachusetts, with customer service centers in Dallas, Texas and Hollywood, Florida and eight fulfillment centers around the country.

"We're excited to expand Chewy's fulfillment operations to North Carolina, our first in the state and ninth in the country," said **Pete Krilles, Vice President, Corporate Real Estate and Facilities for Chewy, Inc.** "We greatly appreciate the partnership with the City of Salisbury, Rowan County, the



Plastics Manufacturer Expands in Richmond County with \$5.3 Million Investment

Superior Plastics Extrusion Company, Inc., known as Impact Plastics, will expand its manufacturing operations in Richmond County and create 13 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced April 18. The company will invest \$5.3 million in Hamlet.

"This announcement is just the latest example of a manufacturer finding success in North Carolina and deciding to expand their footprint here," **Governor Cooper** said. "Impact Plastics' decision proves our strong workforce makes our state one of the best places to do business."

Impact Plastics is a privately held, family-owned and operated custom sheet extruder, with plants in Hamlet and Putnam, CT. The company specializes in high efficiency, tight tolerance, thin gauge extruded sheet and roll stock. Impact Plastics' diverse product offerings include commodity thermoplastic resin materials, which are highly customizable and suitable for a variety of end-use applications, including food, cosmetic and medical packaging. The company's customers include custom and proprietary thermoformers.

"When faced with the decision about where to implement our expansion, North Carolina became the obvious choice," said **Bill J. Burke, Jr., General Manager for Impact Plastics.** "During the last 14 years of manufacturing at our Hamlet plant, the business environment fostered by both the state of North Carolina and Richmond County has always supported our growth initiatives. Their focus on supporting economic development within the state, combined with an excellent local workforce, has greatly contributed to our growth. With this continued support, we're moving forward with this exciting project."

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission, North Carolina Department of Commerce, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. We look forward to making a positive economic contribution to the region with the creation of 1,200 new jobs. In addition to job creation, our new fulfillment center will enhance our delivery network across the southeastern United States, allowing us to better service Chewy customers with even faster delivery times."

"Companies like Chewy will find success in North Carolina because we have a strong workforce and desirable business climate," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "Pair that with our location and quality of life and you've got a winning formula."

A performance-based grant of \$166,650 from the One North Carolina Fund will support the creation of 150 of the new jobs, facilitating Chewy's establishment of its new facility in North Carolina.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Rowan County Commissioners](#), [Rowan EDC](#), [Centralina Workforce Development Board](#), [Piedmont Natural Gas](#), and [Duke Energy](#).

[Read more.](#)



24 Small Technology Companies Win Grants to Fund Innovation

Twenty-four innovative small companies across North Carolina will get grants to develop new products, hire more employees, and purchase needed materials, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced April 25. A total of \$1.1 million from the [One North Carolina Small Business Program](#) will go to the selected technology-oriented businesses in 14 communities across the state.

"These innovative companies have the ideas to succeed but need help with seed money to create new technologies and bring them to market," said **Governor Cooper**. "These grants can help spur new products and industries, increase the number of high-paying jobs across the state, and improve our quality of life."

The One NC Small Business Program, one of the first of its kind in the nation, provides state grants to match federal funds awarded through the highly competitive Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, which help small companies develop new and innovative technologies that have high potential for commercialization.

"North Carolina is the top state for manufacturing in the Southeast," said **North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "From our excellent, low-cost business environment to the 'can-do' attitude of our workers, North Carolina attracts the best manufacturers and I welcome Impact Plastics' decision to expand in Richmond County."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but the average annual wage will be \$76,412. The average annual wage in Richmond County today is \$34,008.

A performance-based grant of \$38,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will facilitate Impact Plastics' expansion in North Carolina.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Richmond County](#), and [Richmond County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)

Rural Communities Receive \$7 Million in Grants, Attracting 246 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 17 requests totaling \$7,068,625 at its April 18 board meeting. The requests include commitments to create a total of 869 jobs, 623 of which were previously announced. The public investment in these projects will attract more than \$96.8 million in private investment.

"Bringing opportunity and prosperity to all parts of North Carolina requires that we make smart investments in infrastructure in order to put rural communities in position to succeed," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Rural Infrastructure Authority grants continue to be essential tools for economic development and the creation of good jobs."

The Authority authorized Building Reuse grants in Brunswick, Robeson, Surry, Burke, Granville, McDowell, and Richmond counties as well as the cities of Greensboro, Statesville, and Archdale. Grants were also awarded from the Utility Account, the Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development program and the state's Demolition program.

Complete details on each of the [RIA awarded projects is available online.](#)

North Carolina Communities Achieve 2019 National Main

This year's cohort of grantees is the most geographically diverse in the program's history. Criteria were established for this grant cycle to prioritize new companies and companies outside the state's most prosperous counties, resulting in an increased number of grants going to companies in the state's 80 most economically distressed counties.

"The North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation recognized the growing split between urban and rural parts of the state," said **Michael Cunningham, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Red Hat, Inc. and Board Chair**. "In an effort to bridge this divide, the Board was able to provide more grants to rural parts of the state in this cohort of grantees, thus supporting greater innovation statewide."

Since 2006, the One North Carolina Small Business Program has helped more than 270 companies in 45 cities across North Carolina develop and bring to market hundreds of high-tech products. North Carolina is among a handful of innovative states that have chosen to bolster their economy this way. A 2017 evaluation of the program's results found it has created or supported more than 900 high paying jobs, attracted more than \$500 million in external investment, and generated \$125 million in total commercial sales directly from the technology developed with the program's funding.

The program's grants support companies at a critical stage of their growth, shortening the time needed from takeoff to the point where they become large, successful companies. Many recipients have said the grants were the vital injection of capital they needed to put their companies on a successful trajectory.

The Office of Science, Technology, & Innovation, a division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, administers the program on behalf of the Board. [Profiles of each of the 24 companies and details about their grants is available online.](#)



The Kota Pekarang.

North Carolina Ports Makes History, Welcomes First 12,000 TEU Vessel

North Carolina Ports made history last week by welcoming its first-ever 12,000 TEU vessel to the Port of Wilmington. The ship, Kota Pekarang, is the largest capacity-wise to call the port. The Kota Pekarang is operated by ZIM in partnership with the 2M Alliance which links Asia to Wilmington.

TEU is an acronym for 'twenty-foot equivalent unit,' a common measure of volume in the shipping industry.

"This is a monumental milestone for North Carolina Ports and the Port of Wilmington," said **Paul J. Cozza, Executive**

Street Accreditation

The National Main Street Center has designated [46 North Carolina communities](#) as accredited Main Street America programs for 2019, the North Carolina Department of Commerce announced April 25. Each year, the national group and N.C. Commerce's Main Street & Rural Planning Center recognize communities demonstrating exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach.

"The Main Street & Rural Planning Center builds capacity in our rural and small-town communities," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "These nationally-accredited communities work closely with the community development experts in the Department of Commerce to create vibrant downtowns that attract investment and create jobs all across our state."

"We are proud to acknowledge this year's nationally accredited Main Street America programs that have worked tirelessly to strengthen their communities," said **Patrice Frey, President & CEO of the National Main Street Center**. "These programs deserve recognition for generating impressive economic returns, preserving community character, and celebrating local history. Main Street America Accredited communities are part of a powerful movement of changemakers, and their dedication to improving quality of life in the places they call home is inspiring."

Each community's performance is annually evaluated by the North Carolina Main Street staff in partnership with the National Main Street Center. The staff identifies the local programs that meet ten national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determine the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting programmatic progress and actively preserving historic buildings.

In fiscal year 2018, North Carolina Main Street programs generated \$222 million in local public and private reinvestment, helped open 247 net new businesses, generated 1,288 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 255 buildings and 372 façade improvements.

"These communities have established a strong foundation that supports transformational downtown economic development initiatives and they are committed to the principles of the Main Street program," said **Liz Parham, Director of the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center**.

[Review the entire list of communities awarded](#)

Director, North Carolina Ports. "This is proof of concept that we are big ship ready and capable of handling some of the largest container vessels calling East Coast ports today."

"The arrival of a ship of this magnitude to the Port of Wilmington signals to our customers that we are ready and capable of handling their growing business needs," echoed **North Carolina Ports Chief Commercial Officer Greg Fennell.**

The ship's visit to Wilmington comes on the heels of the arrival of North Carolina Ports' third neo-Panamax crane. The third crane arrived in early April as part of the organization's \$200 million capital improvements plan aimed at expanding the Port of Wilmington's infrastructure to accommodate a 14,000 TEU vessel – the largest ships currently calling the United States East Coast.

[Website: NC Ports](#)

[2019 accreditation.](#)

On Our Radar

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity: 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development \(BUILD\) Transportation Grants](#) (U.S. Department of Transportation) - Application Deadline July 15, 2019
- [Rural hospital CEOs call for Medicaid expansion](#) (North Carolina Health News - April 29)
- [Lord Corp. CEO: Why we agreed to the Parker-Hannifin buyout](#) (Triangle Business Journal - April 29)
- [Why America Might Miss The Next Global Tech Revolution](#) (WUNC - April 24)
- [Which NJ Ports Could Be Offshore-Wind Industry Hubs? Edge for Paulsboro?](#) (NJ Spotlight/WNET - April 24)

N.C. in the News

- [Rural community revs up plan for business incubator, coworking space](#) Charlotte Business Journal - April 29)
- [Opinion: A groundswell of good news to benefit Robeson](#) The Robesonian - April 26)
- [Copeland gives update on rural economic development](#) Laurinburg Exchange - April 26)
- [24 emerging startups land \\$1.1M in NC grants to match federal awards](#) WRAL TechWire - April 25)
- [Wilmington Tech Company Wins State Grant](#) WilmingtonBiz.com - April 25)
- [NC industrial corridor co-branded with 'Carolina Core' movement](#) North State Journal - April 24)
- [Ceremonial ground breaking held to kick off start of Rocky Mount cargo hub](#) WRAL.com - April 11)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

Building Location:

(919) 814-4600

301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

[For Business](#) | [Grants & Incentives](#)
[Data, Tools & Reports](#) | [Jobs & Training](#) | [Programs & Services](#)
[Directory](#)

Mailing Address:
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

[Email the Editor](#) [SYNC archive](#)

© 2019 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC® is a registered trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.
