



Ralph Strayhorn
Chairman of the Board

Scott T. Hamilton
President, Chief Executive Officer

TO: Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources
Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee
c/o Mr. Brian Matteson
Fiscal Research Division
North Carolina General Assembly
Raleigh, NC

FROM: Scott T. Hamilton
President, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: September 16, 2024

RE: Annual Report

In accordance with the requirements of G.S. 143-712, enclosed are the following:

- 1) Grants made in the prior fiscal year, including the amount, term, and purpose of the grant.
- 2) Outcome data collected by the Golden LEAF Foundation, including the number of jobs created.
- 3) Cumulative grant data by program and by county.
- 4) Unaudited actual administrative expenses and grants made in the prior fiscal year.
- 5) Current fiscal year budget, planned activities, and goals for the current fiscal year.

Enclosures as stated:

cc: The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina
Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore, North Carolina Senate
Representative Tim Moore, Speaker of the House, North Carolina House of Representatives
Ralph Strayhorn, Chairman of the Board, Golden LEAF Foundation
David Kyger, Fox Rothschild, LLP

Golden LEAF Foundation

Annual Report of Activities
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Golden LEAF Foundation activities for fiscal year 2023-2024. For more detailed information regarding a project referenced in this report, please contact the Golden LEAF Foundation staff. This report includes action taken this fiscal year on applications received in the prior fiscal year. Award amounts and project descriptions referenced throughout are the current amounts for awards made during fiscal year 2023-2024, reflecting any adjustments.

These amounts do not include funds for projects that were awarded but subsequently rescinded prior to release of funds. These amounts do not include funds for projects in the disaster recovery grant programs, flood mitigation, food distribution assistance program, or the COVID-19 loan program as those programs are subject to separate reporting requirements and frequencies. These amounts do not include funds for projects not reported on the Golden LEAF Foundation's IRS Form 990 or funds awarded that are expected to be returned.

Funds are awarded to governmental entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to support permissible activities that lead to job creation and economic growth in rural, tobacco-dependent or economically distressed areas.

Summary of Awards

The Golden LEAF Foundation receives applications and makes awards through four primary programs. While these programs share similar priority areas, eligibility, maximum award, and required outcomes distinguish each program from the others. Project proposals that do not fit within an established program may be funded as a special initiative.

Open Grants Program	Economic Catalyst Program	SITE Program	Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI)
Available year-round to local governments and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Typically up to \$200,000, awards up to \$500,000 for projects meeting certain characteristics.	Job creation projects at risk without Golden LEAF participation. Job retention projects are also considered. Funding for eligible projects, typically public infrastructure or workforce development, directly linked to outcomes at a specific company.	Available twice a year to local governments and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Focused on identification, due diligence, and development of new sites for industrial development.	Available in one prosperity zone each fiscal year. Awards are limited to three projects per county, totaling no more than \$1,500,000, with a total of \$11 million available in a prosperity zone.

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$50,760,942.00 to support 67 projects across 46 counties to enable implementation of agricultural, workforce preparedness, job creation and economic investment, and community, capacity and competitiveness initiatives. Funds awarded to local government entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations through the Economic Catalyst Program for announced projects are projected to support the creation of at least 2,928 jobs and capital investment of more than \$1.4 billion over the next few years.

Strategic Planning

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors adopted a FY2022-2026 strategic plan in February of 2021. The goal of the strategic planning process was to assess how Golden LEAF can increase the impact of its mission through implementation of programs that support outcomes in key priority areas.

Flood Mitigation

The N.C. General Assembly appropriated \$25 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation to award to local governments for projects to reduce flooding. The Golden LEAF Foundation reports on the status of this program to the N.C. General Assembly through the Office of State Budget and Management.

Food Distribution Assistance Program

The N.C. General Assembly appropriated \$10 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Golden LEAF Foundation to provide grants to nonprofits to enhance food distribution. The program is in early stages of implementation. The Golden LEAF Foundation reports on the status of this program to the N.C. General Assembly through the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Shell Building Pilot Program

The N.C. General Assembly appropriated \$10 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation to implement the Golden LEAF Shell Building Pilot Program (Section 11.7 of S.L. 2023-134). Under the authorizing legislation, governmental and charitable nonprofit entities in Ashe, Bladen, Columbus, Franklin, Halifax, Robeson, and Scotland counties are eligible to apply for funding. The program is intended to provide grants to increase the number of available, publicly-owned industrial buildings suitable for new or expanding businesses, other than retail, entertainment, or sports projects. Information regarding this program is included in this report.

Golden LEAF Foundation Awards

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Priority Area	Number of Projects	Total Awarded*
Job Creation and Economic Investment	33	\$28,044,485.00
Workforce Preparedness	21	\$9,579,115.00
Agriculture	8	\$3,878,333.00
Community Capacity, Competitiveness, and Vitality	1	\$6,000,000.00
Golden LEAF Scholars Program	4	\$5,759,009.00
Total	67	\$50,760,942.00

*Numbers do not include projects that have been awarded and then rescinded with no funds released. Funds awarded for projects in the disaster recovery grant program, flood mitigation, or for the COVID-19 loan program, whether Golden LEAF or CARES Act funding, are not reflected. Numbers do include funds awarded for confidential economic development projects that have not yet been announced. Numbers do not include funds for projects not reported on the Golden LEAF Foundation's IRS Form 990 or funds awarded that are expected to be returned.

Golden LEAF Foundation Impact Data

The Golden LEAF Foundation assesses the success of each project by reviewing outcomes specific to each project. Data is reported by grantees and reviewed by Golden LEAF Foundation staff against established goals. Staff also conduct site visits and use other strategies to determine the success of awarded projects.

Impact Data as Reported by Grantees*	†FY2024
Verified New Positions Filled	1,705
New Payroll	\$124,195,781.95
Capital Investment	\$884,294,154.01

People Trained/Worker Skills Upgraded	6,524
Industry/3rd-Party Credentials Earned	5,266
Degree/Diploma/Certificates Earned	1,553

*Incremental impact for reports reviewed for FYE 6/30/2024

*Includes data from prior fiscal years that was not previously reported.

Golden LEAF Foundation Priority Area Activities

Job Creation and Economic Investment

The Golden LEAF Foundation partners with the N.C. Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, and local governments and economic development organizations to provide gap funding to assist with job creation in rural, economically distressed and/or tobacco-dependent communities.

Through the Economic Catalyst program, Golden LEAF awarded \$15,400,000.00 to support projects that are projected to enable the creation of 2,928 jobs and capital investment of more than \$1.4 billion over the next few years. These economic development projects were at risk of not locating or expanding in North Carolina but for Golden LEAF support. Golden LEAF funds are used to fill a funding gap not addressed by state and local economic development programs. When determining whether to fund a project and at what level, Golden LEAF considers several factors, including the economic distress of the community, the expected capital investment, and the number and quality of jobs to be created.

Grantee	Award Amount	Purpose	Projected New Jobs	Projected Average Annual Wage	County Average Annual Wage	Projected Private Capital Investment
North Carolina Global Transpark Authority	\$6,000,000.00	Hangar Construction	444	\$72,724	\$48,512	n/a
County of Randolph	\$400,000.00	Transportation Improvements	852	\$48,801	\$48,801	\$450 million
County of Brunswick	\$3,000,000.00	Water Storage Tank Construction	500	\$52,264	\$46,464	\$650 million
Greenville Utilities Commission	\$2,000,000.00	Substation Construction	908	\$52,879	\$48,043	\$307 million
North Carolina Global Transpark Authority	\$4,000,000.00	Hangar Construction	224	\$77,817	\$39,839	n/a

Golden LEAF also awards funds for projects with economic development outcomes through programs other than the Economic Catalyst program. Eligible uses of Golden LEAF funds include: construction or improvement of public water, sewer, or road infrastructure.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
Brick Capital Community Development Corporation	\$450,000.00	Open Grants	This award provides funding to Brick Capital Community Development Corporation to support infrastructure needed for a housing development that will include 45 single family homes and a 16 unit apartment complex. The development is needed to provide workforce housing to meet the demand resulting from significant economic development and job growth in the area. The total cost of the project is over \$3 million, and Brick Capital CDC secured funding from Lee County, the City of Sanford, and the Community Development Block Grant Program for most of the cost. Golden LEAF funds would be used for infrastructure.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
City of Hickory	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	This award provides funding to the City of Hickory to construct approximately 1,400 linear feet of industrial access road from Fairgrove Church Road westward to a new cul-de-sac in the Fairgrove Business Park. The access road will serve 107 industrial acres, including a city-owned tract. The city anticipates the project would result in 200 new jobs at an annual wage of \$55,000 and \$33.6 million in private investment.
County of Davidson	\$250,000.00	Open Grants	This award provides funding to Davidson County to support construction of regional sewer infrastructure that will serve Nucor Steel and an affiliated company. The infrastructure will also serve other property that will support additional industrial development in the area.
Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship	\$750,000.00	CBGI	This award provides funding to The Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship (NCFE) to support the redevelopment of an underutilized industrial building adjacent to NCFE known as The Steelhouse. NCFE is the largest small business incubator in North Carolina. It is in an economically distressed area of Greensboro, and houses both small businesses and small business support organizations under one roof. The Steelhouse will address a local need for more small manufacturing and industrial spaces. This \$36 million redevelopment effort will include three phases. Phase 1 renovations will include building shell upgrades to a section of the structure, addition of rollup doors, re-roofing, concrete improvements, and mechanical and electrical systems additions. Seventeen bays of varying sizes will be upfitted to meet the needs of small-scale manufacturers and industrial users. Once Phase 1 is complete, the Steelhouse will house 11 new small businesses, expand 6 small businesses already located on the property, and create 177 new full-time positions. Golden LEAF funds will be used to fund electrical infrastructure upgrades for the site.
The Ocracoke Foundation, Inc.	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	This grant provides funding to The Ocracoke Foundation, Inc. to expand retail and display space in and renovate the employee section of the historic Ocracoke fish house, and to purchase a refrigerated van. The Ocracoke Seafood Company (OSC), a subsidiary of the Ocracoke Foundation, occupies and operates the fish house. Currently there are 19 fishermen with active commercial licenses that sell to OSC. With the expansion of the retail space and increased distribution using the new refrigerated van, OSC can sell more product locally and sell more products wholesale to venues outside of Ocracoke. OSC anticipates that the project will result in adding watermen to the co-op through increased shellfish and mariculture distribution. Revenue is anticipated to increase by 30%. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction-related costs and a refrigerated van.
Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center, Inc.	\$500,000.00	Open Grants	This award provides funding to Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center, Inc. (RCCHC) to support development of an integrated dental clinic in Aulander, NC. Bertie County has only one private dental practice, which is located in Windsor, and one school-based dental program which is operated by ECU School of Dental Medicine. RCCHC is planning a 10,000 square foot facility with eight dental operatories and four medical exam rooms. It plans to open the facility by the end of 2024. At full capacity, Aulander Integrated Dental will employ 11 oral health staff, five medical staff, and one behavioral health professional, with 15 of those 17 positions located full-time in the clinic. The average annual wage for these positions will be \$66,650 as compared to the \$38,098 average private sector wage in Bertie County. Golden LEAF funds will support construction and site work for the clinic.

SITE Program

Golden LEAF recognizes that rural and economically distressed communities must have sites available for development to attract new businesses and create opportunities for existing businesses to expand. To address this need, Golden LEAF created the SITE Program. Through this program, Golden LEAF will provide support to communities to identify potential sites for economic development, enable completion of due diligence on sites

already identified, or to extend public utilities to or conduct grading and clearing of sites for which due diligence has been completed. Golden LEAF will accept applications from organizations in all counties, but prioritizes awards within counties that have been persistently economically distressed (as demonstrated by County Tier status determined by the N.C. Department of Commerce) and in economically distressed, rural, and tobacco-dependent communities.

Communities are able to begin the process at any of the three phases, and a site may progress from identification through to development over time.

Identification	Due Diligence	Development
Support to identify potential industrial sites in communities that do not currently have quality industrial sites to market.	Funding to complete eligible due diligence activities such as environmental assessments, archaeological analyses, and mapping.	Funding for public infrastructure and, for publicly owned sites, clearing and grading, to benefit sites that have completed the due diligence necessary to demonstrate that the site is suitable for development.

The first awards in the SITE Program were made in December 2021. The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors allocated \$12.5 million for the program in FY24.

The following organizations were awarded through the SITE - Identification phase. Funds will provide services, contracted by Golden LEAF, to evaluate and identify site(s) in the identified project area suitable for industrial development.

- County of Greene (Greene County)
- County of Washington (Washington County)

The following organizations were awarded funding through the SITE program to conduct due diligence, to extend public infrastructure, or to complete grading.

Grantee	Award Amount	Purpose & Outcomes
Due Diligence		
County of Nash	\$34,000.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on 48.61 acres within the Whitakers Business and Industry Center.
County of Caldwell	\$50,000.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on approximately 913 acres within the Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park.
County of Northampton	\$49,200.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on the 305-acre Northampton County Commerce Park.
Cherokee County Local Government	\$50,000.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on 27.58 acres along US 19/74.
Edenton-Chowan Partnership Inc.	\$40,400.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on 23.65 acres within the Edenton-Chowan Airport Industrial Park.
County of Warren	\$42,500.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on approximately 66.43 acres within the Hwy 1 Industrial Park.
Burke Partnership for Economic Development, Inc.	\$50,000.00	To conduct due diligence analyses on 560+ acres of the Great Meadows Site.

Grantee	Award Amount	Purpose & Outcomes
Development		
Madison County Economic Development	\$1,500,000.00	For clearing, grubbing, erosion control, and other site preparation in the Phase I section of the 27.5-acre Madison County Industrial Park. The county anticipates that successful industry recruitment to the site would create approximately 140 jobs with average annual wages of \$44,200, and \$22 million in private capital investment.
City of Gastonia	\$1,500,000.00	To install parallel sewer outfall to increase sewer capacity to serve the 30-acre Lot 12 in Apple Creek Corporate Park. The city anticipates that successful industry recruitment to the site would create approximately 180 new full-time jobs with an average annual wage of \$67,000, which is higher than the county average of \$50,746, \$200 million in private capital investment, and \$4,562,248 in public investment.
County of Columbus	\$590,000.00	For clearing and grubbing of 15 acres, and wastewater extension to serve Lot 4 of the Southeast Regional Park. The county anticipates that successful industry recruitment to the site would create approximately 100 new full-time jobs with an average annual wage of \$45,000 which is higher than the county average of \$42,056, \$30 million in private capital investment, and \$590,000 in public investment.
Harnett County Economic Development Partnership	\$547,885.00	For clearing, grubbing, grading, erosion control, and other site preparation activities as well as a title opinion and utility capacity analysis for a 25-acre site in the Edgerton Industrial Park. The county anticipates that successful industry recruitment to the site would create approximately 80 new full-time jobs with an average annual wage of \$51,900, which is higher than the county average of \$41,978, \$10 million in private capital investment, and \$547,885 in public investment.
City of Mount Airy	\$1,500,000.00	For clearing, grading, and other site preparation of a 16-acre lot in the Westwood Industrial Park. The city anticipates that completion of the project would result in 200 jobs over two phases with average annual wages of \$45,000, and \$75 million in private capital investment.
Wilkes Economic Development Corporation	\$1,500,000.00	For clearing, grubbing, grading, and erosion control of 22 acres in the Wilkes Industrial Park. The county anticipates that successful industry recruitment to the site would create approximately 40 new full-time jobs with an average annual wage of \$49,920, which is higher than the county average of \$45,819, \$8 million in private capital investment, and \$1,803,450 in public investment.

Shell Building Pilot Program

In February 2024, the Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$360,500 in funding for eight projects through the first phase of the Shell Building Pilot Program. Funds were used to enable completion of preliminary designs and due diligence for shell buildings.

Award amounts varied due a variety of factors (amount of engineering required, etc.) and reflect amounts requested by grantees necessary to complete the proposed scope of work

Columbus County determined after the award to collaborate with Tabor City on the Tabor City project. Both Tabor City and Columbus County are now anticipated to provide supplemental funding for the Tabor City Shell Building. The original award to Columbus County was rescinded with no dollars released.

County	Grantee	Award Amount	Use of Funds
Ashe	County of Ashe	\$40,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct a 30,000 square-foot shell building at the Ashe County Industrial Park.
Bladen	Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	\$50,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct an approximately 20,000-30,000 square-foot shell building located in the Aviation Park contiguous to the Elizabethtown airport.

Columbus	Columbus County	\$50,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct a 50,000 square-foot shell building (expandable to 100,000 square feet) located at the Southeast Regional Park. Grantee chose to request the award be rescinded and \$0 was spent.
Columbus	Town of Tabor City	\$43,500	To develop a preliminary design plan and a geotechnical report to construct a 24,000 square-foot shell building at the Tabor City Industrial Park.
Franklin	County of Franklin	\$50,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct a 30,000-square-foot shell building expandable to 60,000-90,000 square-feet at the Triangle North Franklin Business Park, Lot 5.
Halifax	County of Halifax	\$27,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct a 40,000-50,000 square-foot shell building at the Halifax Corporate Park.
Robeson	County of Robeson	\$50,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct a 140,000 square-foot shell building at the COMtech Business Park.
Scotland	Scotland County Economic Development Corporation	\$50,000	To develop a preliminary design plan to construct a 25,000-30,000 square-foot shell building at the SCEDC Incubator Park.

Stage 2 awards were made at the August 2024 meeting of the Golden LEAF Board and will be included in the FY2025 report. Stage 2 awards were made in all seven eligible counties.

Workforce Preparedness

Golden LEAF supports the development and expansion of workforce development programs at North Carolina Community Colleges and nonprofit organizations. As businesses change, workforce training must keep pace. Therefore, new equipment must be acquired, faculty trained, and facilities renovated. Eligible uses of Golden LEAF funds include: professional development for faculty, equipment and technology, and building renovations. Golden LEAF supports projects to help students graduate with the technical skills necessary to enter work and become productive citizens.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
Appalachian State University	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	To support development of a two-year, entry-level master's program in occupational therapy (OT). A master's degree is required to become licensed to practice as an occupational therapist in North Carolina. This program is intended to help fill some of the 750 openings for OTs in the state, 367 of which are west of Charlotte. ASU anticipates that 24 OT students annually, starting in fall 2026, will complete the program, pass the OT practice certification exam, and achieve employment within six months of passing the exam. Golden LEAF funds will pay for equipment for the OT learning lab.
Davie County Schools	\$1,500,000.00	CBGI	To support the expansion of the Davie County Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advanced Manufacturing Program. The program has outgrown its current classroom space and does not have adequate lab space. Student enrollment in advanced manufacturing and related courses is growing steadily and 77% of the Davie County High School student population has enrolled in at least one CTE course in the past two years. Multiple courses offered at DCHS related to the Advanced Manufacturing Program have met their registration caps and students are now placed on a waiting list. Additionally, the need for the advanced manufacturing lab is supported by industry demand as area companies lack sufficient skilled employees in the areas of automation, skilled maintenance, electrical and mechanical engineering, and machining. DCS will construct an advanced manufacturing lab and classroom facility at the Davie County High School

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
			(DCHS) Campus. Post-secondary education and industry partners have committed to provide training equipment for the Advanced Manufacturing Lab. The new facility will include the needed infrastructure to house the advanced manufacturing lab as well as flexible classroom spaces. Approximately 80 students are expected to complete Mechatronics, Robotics, and Technology Engineering and Design pathways and earn advanced industry recognized credentials per year when the project is complete. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction and engineering/design costs.
Alamance Community College	\$1,000,000.00	CBGI	To support development of a Veterinary Medical Technician (VMT) program. With only five public VMT programs in the state, ACC's program will help address a critical workforce need among the rural and agriculture-based communities in and surrounding Alamance County. The program pipeline is also supported by strong demand in the county's animal science Career and Technical Education cluster. This project anticipates 24 students completing the VMT program, 20 completers earning industry certification, and 12 high school students completing related CTE pathways. Golden LEAF funds will be used toward the cost of constructing the barn for the program.
Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	\$250,000.00	Open Grants	To support establishment of a new Practical Nursing (PN) program at Piedmont Community College to prepare graduates for work in hospitals, clinics, physician offices, health departments, and urgent care facilities. Currently there are more than 300 PN job openings within the college's two-county service area of Person and Caswell Counties. Person Memorial Hospital, the sole hospital in the service area, which is located within a mile of the campus, will donate hospital space as a clinical site for the creation of additional simulation/lab areas and may also offer scholarships to students agreeing to practice locally upon program completion. The first cohort of students is expected to start January 2024 with a target class size of 24 students. PCC will request to increase enrollment to 36 students for the second year. This is a one-year diploma program with a new cohort starting every January. Golden LEAF funds may be used for equipment and initial program personnel costs.
Rockingham Community College	\$800,000.00	CBGI	To Rockingham Community College (RCC) to launch LevelUp Rockingham in partnership with Rockingham County Schools and Rockingham County Economic Development. LevelUp Rockingham is an initiative to create a pipeline to address workforce needs by increasing students' exposure to careers and expanding career and technical education pathways that lead to industry-recognized credentials. The initiative is driven by regional data on current and future workforce needs and on feedback from industry partners. These partners have identified advanced manufacturing, health care, and construction as the three local employment sectors that have the greatest need for collaborative solutions. Through this project, key strategies will be developed to address the need in these areas including: creating additional pathways in local high schools for Advanced Manufacturing and Construction Trades; creating Career and College Promise dual enrollment continuing education pathways in Advanced Manufacturing, Health Science, and Construction Trades; enrolling high school students in the college's curriculum Construction Trades programs that lead to certificates and credentials; providing additional work-based learning opportunities for students completing a pathway; and increasing middle and high school students' exposure to careers. Projected outcomes include 50 students completing a continuing education course/program, 300 students earning a 3rd party credential, 250 students completing a CTE pathway, and 200 students participating in work-based learning opportunities, such as internships and apprenticeships. Golden LEAF funds will be used for personnel, equipment/supplies, instructional technology, and participant support.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
Strategic Twin Counties Education Partnership (STEP)	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	To support Strategic Twin-Counties Education Partnership's expansion of a pilot local internship program. STEP is a non-profit organization focused on improving educational opportunities for students in Nash and Edgecombe Counties by facilitating collaboration among school districts, community colleges, community-based organizations, and employers. STEP has recently seen success in piloting a program to connect identified high school students who are not on a college-bound trajectory with an employer in Edgecombe County. Several businesses have expressed interest in participating in this program to address their hiring and staff turnover challenges. STEP will expand this pilot to develop internship programs with at least five additional businesses in Nash and Edgecombe Counties. STEP will support interested businesses in the development of internship policies and practices to meet each company's needs. STEP will increase the number of participating students, with an expectation that the program will link 45 individuals to a work-based learning opportunity over the 2-year grant period. Beyond linking the student with a company, project staff will provide ongoing support to participating students and businesses throughout the internship experience and into employment. Golden LEAF funds will be used for staff salary, program related marketing and outreach, and participant support.
Tri-County Community College Transportation Training Hub	\$480,000.00	Open Grants	To support Tri-County Community College's (TCCC) Transportation Training Hub initiative, which includes constructing a new driving pad on the college's main campus. TCCC's current pad is used by the Truck Driver Training (CDL) program and the Public Safety Program. Due to increased demand for access to the current pad, an additional larger driving pad is required. TCCC will use \$3.1 million from state and federal funding for this new pad which will be dedicated solely to the CDL program and the recently launched Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program. TCCC expects to serve four times as many CDL students (an additional 126 students) and twice as many HEO students (an additional 35 students). Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction of the pad.
Davidson-Davie Community College	\$725,235.00	CBGI	To support Davidson-Davie Community College's new regional training facility for emergency response and public health. The college will use \$17.2 million in State funds to construct the center which will include a fire tower, burn building, and basic law enforcement facility with classrooms and a shooting range. In addition, a driving pad will also support both firefighter and basic law enforcement training. Centrally located in the state, recent data indicates that many fire/rescue departments and law enforcement agencies in the area are suffering staffing shortages. Currently there is a need to hire 22 certified firefighters with an average starting salary range between \$35,000 - \$42,000. Similarly, local police departments in the region have nearly 250 vacancies, with starting salaries around \$55,000. The project anticipates increasing law enforcement by 86 and new firefighters by 100 within two years. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment for the BLET program.
GuilfordWorks / Workforce Development Board	\$384,550.00	CBGI	To GuilfordWorks to support education and training to help meet the demand from new businesses and industries located in the Piedmont Triad that have reached out to GuilfordWorks to help them recruit long-term workers. Areas of focus are advanced manufacturing, industrial technology, biotechnology, and skilled trades. Renewable energy, clean energy, and the electrical vehicle industries are growing in Guilford County and the Piedmont Triad region. Working with partnering institutions, GuilfordWorks will implement this program by providing career awareness, industry sector partnerships, classroom training, and work-based learning. GuilfordWorks will use its mobile unit to reach into neighborhoods, focusing on people who are looking for employment. GuilfordWorks anticipates serving 50 participants with at least 10 successfully completing a curriculum program, 25 completing continuing education courses, and 20 participating in work-based learning. Golden LEAF funds will be used for personnel, work-based learning, support services, equipment, outreach, instruction, and travel costs.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
South Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	To support the expansion of the College's clinical program capacity. To address the current nursing shortage in North Carolina, health systems are working to cultivate resilience and develop the next generation of healthcare professionals. The College works with local healthcare providers to cultivate a reliable, trained and steady healthcare workforce to meet current and future industry demands through its Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Licensed Practical Nursing program and a new LPN to RN program. Simulation is critical to the required clinical experience. High-Fidelity Simulation (HFS) manikins allow students to increase clinical simulation hours without additional faculty; they also diversify opportunities, build clinical judgment, and enhance clinical competencies to ensure practical readiness by immersing students in realistic clinical scenarios. The addition of HFS manikins will support the addition of the LPN to RN program and is expected to increase annual admissions in the ADN and LPN programs, resulting in an expected increase of 40 students annually. Golden LEAF funds would be used to purchase the HFS equipment.
Forsyth Technical Community College	\$309,000.00	CBGI	To support the expansion of the college's emergency medical services programs. FTCC will convert two classrooms into emergency service simulation labs that will include a residential home setting, an ambulance simulation that replicates working in an ambulance while moving, and an emergency department hospital setting. The job opportunities for paramedics and EMTs have increased significantly and include openings at hospitals and private practices. The simulation labs will increase the skills base for emergency medical technicians and paramedics for these expanded healthcare jobs. An estimated 130 students will complete the emergency medical healthcare curriculum and continuing education programs (EMT, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic) annually by Spring 2026. Golden LEAF funds will be used for equipment/supplies, construction, and technology hardware/software.
Southeastern Community College	\$199,100.00	Open Grants	To support the establishment of an innovative workforce preparedness collaborative among Columbus County Schools, Whiteville City Schools, Southeastern Community College, and industry partners. A local labor market assessment identified specific workforce needs for the region over the next 3-5 years. The seven fastest growing local industries with the greatest workforce needs included healthcare, construction, manufacturing, education, information technology, automotive, and agriculture. To help establish a robust pipeline in these fields, this project will offer targeted career guidance in high schools to identify students with interest and aptitude in these fields. Next, accelerated career pathways and pre-apprenticeships that lead to workforce credentials and apprenticeships will be developed in coordination with local business leaders. All of these efforts will lead to students having the skills to go directly into high-demand, local jobs. The project is expected to increase students completing curriculum programs, increase the number of students earning third-party credentials, and increase the number of students participating in work-based learning opportunities. It is projected that 30 students will be placed in pre-apprenticeship settings in the first two years of project implementation. Golden LEAF funds will be used for program staff, student transportation and stipends, credentialing fees and other costs associated with delivery of the program including contracting with Surry Community College staff members, who have established a similar successful program in Surry County.
North Carolina Wesleyan University	\$500,000.00	Open Grants	To North Carolina Wesleyan University to be used for mechanical and electrical services and design fees to prepare an existing building to become its dedicated program facility and simulation laboratory for a new baccalaureate nursing program. The project will help address current and future openings in the region for baccalaureate-level RNs. Wesleyan anticipates the first cohort of 35-45 students will start in fall 2025 or spring 2026 and expects to graduate at least 115 BSN nurses by May 2029.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
Mount Airy City Schools	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	To support the expansion of three high school health science programs by locating them at Northern Regional Hospital. The project involves renovating space at the hospital to create a health science classroom and health science lab and dedicated office space for the program. By locating the program in a hospital, the students will receive real life experiences in their training. This will be a Career and College Promise program serving students from Mt. Airy City, North Surry, and East Surry high schools. Surry Community College will provide the instructor and offer the courses. The three high schools expect to increase their CNA students by a total of 30 each year. In addition, Surry Community College expects to serve 40 adult students through evening programs. Obtaining the CNA credential allows students to meet employer demand and continue their post-secondary education into several allied health programs. Golden LEAF funds will be used for classroom/lab equipment, renovations, instructional equipment (CPR mannequin), and technology for the course lab.
Western Carolina University	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	To assist with the implementation of new simulating learning technologies for its existing prelicensure nursing programs, both traditional BSN and accelerated BSN, as well as for its start-up Master's Entry Prelicensure Nursing (MEPN) nursing program. This project will introduce virtual and augmented simulation to provide remote clinical and learning activities in multiple locations and provide realistic environments without dedicating space and equipment to make the learning activity realistic. WCU anticipates increasing annual nursing enrollment in the BSN program by 30 students by the 2026-2027 school year. It also anticipates annual enrollment in the MEPN program will start with 60 students in the 2024-2025 school year and will increase to 120 annually by the 2026-2027 school year. This increased enrollment is expected to result in 110 additional nursing graduates annually. The project would also provide a path for professional development for clinical partners. Golden LEAF funds will be used for nursing curriculum, fees, and equipment.
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$500,000.00	Open Grants	To support a regional truck driving, heavy equipment, and diesel mechanic training center called the "Regional Supply Chain Transport Complex." The Transport Complex will house Commercial Truck Driver's License (CDL) and Fleet Maintenance Technician programs. It will include a 900' x 600' training pad and a building with classrooms, offices, and a two-bay garage for vehicle maintenance. FTCC is collaborating with Bladen and Robeson community colleges to expand CDL training opportunities in the region. FTCC has secured approximately \$13,000,000 in state funding to construct the driving pad and the building that will house classrooms and lab space. The anticipated enrollment in 16 CDL courses offered annually (seven courses at FTCC, seven courses at Robeson, and two courses at Bladen) is 280 students (96 at FTCC, 168 at Robeson, and 16 at Bladen.) An estimated 90% of students will complete truck driving, heavy equipment, and/or diesel mechanic courses and gain employment. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction-related costs for the driving pad.
Surry County Schools	\$603,230.00	CBGI	To support the start-up of the Surry-Yadkin FLEET (Fostering Learning through Education, Employment, and Trades) Program which is a new component of Surry-Yadkin Works (SYW). FLEET will engage youth who are at risk of dropping out of high school but not eligible for SYW by placing them in education and workplace readiness initiatives designed to lead to employment in rural Surry and Yadkin Counties. The FLEET program unites K-12 education, community college partners, and local advanced manufacturing leaders to train at-risk high school students to help meet the local employment needs. Participating students from Elkin City Schools, Mount Airy City Schools, Surry County Schools, and Yadkin County Schools will attend high school classes at a local manufacturing company for half their school day and will learn a trade through a paid pre-apprenticeship experience at the same company during the second half of the school day.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
			The company will pay the apprentices. In addition to standard high school courses, students will receive basic employability/soft skills training and wraparound support services. It is expected that FLEET will serve 10-15 students in Year 1 and will increase to serving 31-45 students by Year 3. Golden LEAF funds will be used for personnel, equipment/supplies/furniture, renovations, student support, and technology/software costs.
Guilford Technical Community College	\$310,000.00	CBGI	To support the expansion of its short-term construction training programs. GTCC will focus attention on increasing enrollment in HVAC/Refrigeration, construction skills, and electrical programs. Property management companies have expressed the dire need to hire skilled apartment maintenance workers to maintain apartments, shopping centers, and mixed-use commercial buildings in the area. Currently, GTCC does not have sufficient instructors to teach construction courses to train more students. With grant funds, GTCC will increase teaching capacity resulting in an increase of 45 students completing continuing education courses and an additional 30 students receiving third-party credentials by the end of the first year. In addition, this project will leverage other funds to offer a 10-week Construction Bootcamp that will increase the number of students participating in work-based learning. Golden LEAF funds will be used for full-time instructors, equipment, and supplies.
Carteret Community College Foundation, Inc.	\$125,000.00	Open Grants	To support the expansion of Carteret Community College's welding program. The college provides training to students from several high schools, including an on-site welding program at Croatan High School (CHS). By participating in this program at CHS, students can obtain a welding certificate on the high school campus which allows them to enter the workforce. They can also continue their post-secondary education at the college to take classes in advanced welding techniques toward advanced certificates, diplomas, or an Associate Degree in Welding. This is expected to increase enrollment at the college by at least 15 students annually. Additional multi-process equipment at the college is needed to meet the expected enrollment. The college expects to double annual Associate Degree graduates over the next 2-3 years. Golden LEAF funds would be used for seven multi-process welders and an air compressor at the college.
Yadkin County Schools	\$393,000.00	CBGI	To support the establishment of YCS LINKS (Yadkin County Schools Linking Industry Needs with Knowledgeable Students). YCS LINKS is an initiative in partnership with Surry Community College and local businesses that focuses on connecting the most at-risk students with local employers. Students will receive hands-on learning opportunities that lead to industry recognized certifications and credentials, and will develop soft skills such as communication and personal responsibility. YCS is constructing a Career Development and Training Center that is centrally located and will serve as the home base for YCS LINKS. Golden LEAF funds will be used for the salary for a project coordinator, equipment, instructional technology, participant support, and marketing/outreach. Golden LEAF funds will not be used for any costs related to the in-house catering.
Southwestern Community College	\$500,000.00	Open Grants	To support a new dental assistant program. The need for dental assistants has been highlighted by community residents, business partners, and government agencies who work with SCC. SCC plans to open a new dental assisting program in the fall of 2023 with 18 students enrolled in a one-year program leading to certification as a dental assistant. Students will learn about dental hygiene, record keeping, scheduling appointments, and X-ray safety. As part of their training students will work directly with patients at the college's X-ray clinic and with partner clinics, such as the Blue Ridge Free Dental Clinic in Cashiers. Of the 18 students enrolled in the program annually, at least 15 are expected to graduate with two industry credentials. Golden LEAF funds would be used for dental equipment and supplies.

Agriculture

Golden LEAF supports agriculture as an economic engine in rural communities. Projects include education or training opportunities to enable transition to a career in agriculture or technical assistance and research projects to support existing farmers. Eligible uses of Golden LEAF funds include salary, equipment, and other program costs.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
County of Rockingham	\$700,000.00	CBGI	For construction of the Rockingham County Livestock Marketing Complex. The complex will be a facility centrally located in Rockingham County that farmers will be able to use to aggregate and load out truckload groups of calves, improving their profits. The complex will also be used to provide hands-on training for cattle producers on recommended practices. The facility will be open to the public on equal terms and not limited to use by any single group of farmers. The county expects that the facility will be used 24 times/year, with over 100 head of cattle sold during each use. It also expects 200 participants per year for training. Golden LEAF funds will be used to construct a 60'X120' building and to purchase equipment for holding and loading cattle.
County of Alamance	\$300,000.00	CBGI	To Alamance County for Alamance County Cooperative Extension to purchase farm equipment and construct an equipment shed needed to develop a demonstration farm. Will allow Cooperative Extension to conduct small plot research on farms in the county and help farmers make decisions about which crops to produce, and learn how to produce crops more profitably. The project will be implemented by purchasing equipment, creating field crop research plots, and working with local growers, state specialists, and local seed representatives to determine and demonstrate which agricultural practices are most beneficial for the area.
County of Randolph	\$1,000,000.00	CBGI	Randolph County is constructing a new Agricultural Center to address the growing needs of agricultural producers. The center will provide technical assistance, training, and resources on best practices in agriculture, including crop cultivation, livestock management, and sustainable farming techniques. This grant provides funding to Randolph County to purchase a variety of equipment both to support farmer training for farmers and to be leased to farmers.
North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Caswell County Center	\$120,000.00	CBGI	To support Caswell County Cooperative Extension's (CCCE) launch of a technology and rental program designed to help existing and new small to medium agricultural producers adopt agriculture practices to improve their local food production enterprises. CCCE will purchase livestock handling equipment and no till equipment for use in cover cropping and crop production, as well as drone technology for field mapping, monitoring, and real-time, data-informed crop management decisions that can reduce production costs. Golden LEAF funds will be used for outreach and marketing costs, and for equipment to train 250 participants and rent to at least 50 area producers. Equipment rental fees will be used to maintain and repair the equipment.
North Carolina State University	\$500,000.00	Open Grants	To the Poultry Science Department of North Carolina State University (NCSU) to develop an aviary facility at Piedmont Research Station located in Rowan County. The aviary will address industry and market demand for cage-free egg production. The aviary will be used to train more than 300 commercial to back-yard producers annually in how to shift production practices from cage to cage-free egg production, enabling larger producers to meet the industry demand by major grocery store chains transitioning to sale of cage-free eggs, and smaller producers to meet local demand in a safe and cost-effective manner. The new aviary will fill an important gap in the NC Layer Performance and Management Program's outreach and extension training and enable expansion of the layer and egg management training programs through NCSU's collaboration with NCDA&CS and NC A&T. NCSU plans to offer field days, tours, hands-on training, and FFA and 4-H workshops, and develop publications about layer management and cage-free egg production. Golden LEAF funds will be used for construction, equipment, and related items.

Grantee	Award Amount	Golden LEAF Program	Purpose & Outcomes
Farmer Foodshare, Inc.	\$58,333.00	Open Grants	To Farmer Foodshare, Inc., a food aggregator and distributor, to be used to purchase and upfit a sprinter van for cold transportation of produce. The organization's current trucks are at full capacity and are much larger than the van. This smaller vehicle is needed to meet the demand of the organization's growing CSA program for transportation of produce from smaller farms and delivery to consumers, restaurants, and smaller facilities. In 2024, it is expected that this project will add produce from 20 farmers to the CSA program and will increase revenue by \$77,000 for farmers participating in the program. It is expected that an additional 30 farmers would be added by 2025, with an additional \$25,000 in revenue generated for participating farmers .
Town of Spring Hope	\$200,000.00	Open Grants	To construct 3,675 linear feet of 8" water line along US64A to the eastern terminus of the town's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The extension will provide access to public water along the route, including to the Bass Farms Sausage meat packing facility, supporting an expansion projected to create a total of 40 new full-time jobs, 20 jobs each year for two years, paying \$38,400 annually.

NC Ag Leads Strategic Plan

\$1,000,000 to the North Carolina Chamber Foundation to facilitate a stakeholder engagement process to identify priority issues affecting agriculture in North Carolina and to develop a strategic plan to address those issues prioritized during the process. For more information visit: <https://www.ncagricultureleads.com/>

Community Competitiveness and Capacity

Golden LEAF awards funds to invest in improving economic competitiveness and capacity of rural, economically distressed areas through Board-led initiatives.

\$6,000,000 to the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to support the development of new construction of multi-family properties in designated rural and economically distressed counties that have demonstrated needs for workforce.

Golden LEAF Scholarships

Since 2000, Golden LEAF has made 79 scholarship awards totaling \$82,336,546.99 to assist more than 31,500 students from rural counties to attend two- and four-year colleges and universities in North Carolina. Scholarships target students who (1) reside in rural North Carolina counties that are designated economically distressed, (2) who demonstrate financial need, and (3) who show an interest in staying in a rural North Carolina county after graduation. Recipients may attend the participating North Carolina college or university of their choice.

Colleges and Universities

The North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority is the manager of the Golden LEAF scholarship program for colleges and universities. Golden LEAF awarded \$3,105,284.00 to support 215 new and 620 renewal scholarships for students to attend public and private universities and colleges in North Carolina. Each scholarship is valued at \$3,500 per year (half-year renewals are valued at \$1,750).

Golden LEAF Scholarship recipients enrolled in colleges and universities are eligible to participate in the Rural Internship Initiative. These internships provide students with work experience in rural communities. The goal of the program is to prepare the next generation of rural leaders and expose students to career opportunities in rural communities. Golden LEAF administers this program through contracts with the North Carolina Rural

Economic Development Center who oversees application review and evaluation and a payroll processing company.

Community Colleges

The Foundation awarded \$2,100,000.00 to the North Carolina Community College System to support at least 1,950 new scholarships for students from rural counties enrolled in the Curriculum and Continuing Education programs to attend a participating community college. The scholarship provides up to \$2,250 per year to students in curriculum programs and up to \$1,850 per year to students in continuing education programs. Funds can be used for tuition and approved educational subsistence expenses.

Golden LEAF Foundation Annual Report

Planned Activities and Goals

Performance on FY 2023-2024 Goals

1. Provide funding for economic development projects across North Carolina that create jobs and add investment.

✓ The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$50,760,942 to support 67 projects across 46 counties to enable implementation of agricultural, workforce preparedness, job creation and economic investment, and scholarship initiatives. Funds awarded through the Economic Catalyst Program are projected to support the creation of at least 2,928 jobs and capital investment of more than \$1.4 billion over the next few years.

2. Close-out many of the grants awarded to aid local governments and small businesses affected by natural disasters.

✓ Following Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Florence, and Hurricane Dorian, the Disaster Recovery Acts of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 appropriated a total of \$114.5 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation for repair or replacement of equipment and infrastructure damaged or destroyed as a result of one or more of the recent named storms, as well as to provide loans for small business recovery. With the exception of a small amount of funding held to address project modifications, all available funds have been awarded to support 215 projects. As of this report, 184 projects are complete.

3. Complete Piedmont-Triad Prosperity Zone capacity building and grantmaking through the Community-Based Grants Initiative.

✓ Capacity building efforts concluded in the fall of 2023 with grantees submitting applications for projects. Applications were reviewed and grants awarded by the Golden LEAF Foundation Board at its February 2024 meeting.

4. Continue implementation of FY2022-2026 strategic plan, including celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Golden LEAF Foundation.

✓ The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors adopted a FY2022-2026 strategic plan in February of 2021. The goal of the strategic planning process was to assess how Golden LEAF can increase the impact of its mission through implementation of programs that support outcomes in key priority areas. As a result of the strategic plan, the SITE Program was launched in FY22. In FY24, the Board continued development of new programs responsive to issues identified in the strategic plan including NC Ag Leads, a strategic plan for agriculture in North Carolina.

Planned Activities and Goals for FY 2024-2025

1. Provide funding for economic development projects across North Carolina that create jobs and add investment.
2. Close-out many of the grants awarded to aid local governments and small businesses affected by natural disasters.
3. Complete Southwest Prosperity Zone capacity building and grantmaking through the Community-Based Grants Initiative.
4. Continue implementation of FY2022-2026 strategic plan, including celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Golden LEAF Foundation
Annual Report of Foundation Activities
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Appendix

Funds Received by Golden LEAF
Prior Five Years

(in millions)	MSA Payments	Investment Income	Total Income
FY 2020	\$17.5	\$2	\$45*
FY 2021	\$17.5	\$290	\$385*
FY 2022	\$17.5	<\$159>	<\$116>*
FY 2023	\$17.5	\$108	\$138
FY 2024	\$25	\$160	\$200*
Cumulative	\$1,264	\$1,141	\$2,657

*Includes state general fund appropriations for disaster recovery, COVID-19 recovery, flood mitigation, shell building pilot program, and food distribution assistance program.

Active Golden LEAF Foundation Programs

Overview

Open Grants Program

Up to \$500,000 in funding available year-round to local governments and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Program places priority on agriculture, job creation and retention and workforce preparedness. (In FY2024, requests were generally limited to \$200,000 though applicants could request funding in excess of \$200,000 through a consultation process with Golden LEAF staff.)

Economic Catalyst

Focuses on job creation and retention projects associated with business locations or expansions that are at risk without Golden LEAF participation. Specific criteria include urgent need, eligible use of funds, and economic impact of the project (jobs and capital investment).

SITE Program

Golden LEAF recognizes that rural and economically distressed communities must have sites available for development to attract new businesses and create opportunities for existing businesses to expand. Through this program, Golden LEAF will provide support to communities to identify potential sites for economic development, enable completion of due diligence on sites already identified, or to extend public utilities to or conduct rough grading and clearing of sites for which due diligence has been completed.

Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI)

Golden LEAF invites participation from counties in one prosperity zone each year. CBGI awards are limited to three projects per county, totaling no more than \$1,500,000 per county. This program is a competitive process and not all counties in a region receive funds in support of their projects.

Scholarships

Colleges and Universities Scholarship Program

The Golden LEAF Scholarship Program assists current high school seniors and North Carolina community college transfer students. Recipients must be from certain rural counties, demonstrate both financial need and merit, and plan to attend participating North Carolina colleges and universities. Scholarships for students attending colleges and universities of \$3,500 each are funded through a grant to the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. Students awarded Golden LEAF Scholarships attending colleges and universities are also eligible to participate in the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative. The initiative provides Golden LEAF Scholars a paid internship in rural communities.

Community College Scholarship Program

The Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship Program supports students from certain rural counties to attend a participating community college. The scholarship provides students with up to \$2,250 per year to students in curriculum programs and up to \$1,850 per year to students in continuing education programs. Funds can be used for tuition and other components of the total cost of attendance.

Active Golden LEAF Foundation Programs

Priority Goals and Outcomes Tracked

Job Creation and Economic Investment

Collaborate with EDPNC, N.C. Department of Commerce, and local governments and organizations to provide gap funding to assist with job creation. Support healthcare as an economic development engine in rural and economically distressed areas of North Carolina.

- Investment in publicly owned infrastructure
- Investment in privately owned property, plant, and equipment
- New full-time jobs created
- Average annual wage of new full-time jobs

Golden LEAF will also collect information regarding jobs retained that were at risk without Golden LEAF support; comparison to county wages; etc.

Workforce Preparedness

Increase the number of qualified individuals with skills aligned with current and future needs of North Carolina businesses. Prepare students with the technical and life skills necessary to enter work.

- Increase in students earning at least one academic credential (curriculum diploma, certificate, or associate degree/con ed certificate) in the area funded.
- Increase in students earning at least one industry/third party certification, license, or other credential (nonacademic) in the area funded.
- Increase in high school students completing CTE pathways in the area funded.
- Increase in secondary or post-secondary students participating in work-based learning.
- Increase in secondary students receiving meaningful exposure and opportunities to explore local career opportunities.

Golden LEAF will also collect information regarding students employed; incumbent workers trained; employer input and feedback; survey results; etc.

Agriculture

Support agriculture as a means of promoting economic development.

- Number of participants at agricultural training
- Publication of research outcomes directed towards benefit of farmers
- Monthly use of agricultural facilities that benefit farmers

Golden LEAF will also collect information regarding increased revenues; acres in production; new crops/products grown or produced; etc

Community Capacity, Competitiveness, and Vitality

Golden LEAF awards funds to invest in improving economic competitiveness. Outcomes for these projects are set by the Board of Directors and may be unique to each project.

Golden LEAF Foundation Awards

Program (years active)	Number	Amount
Open Grants (2000 - present)	942	\$158,061,989.09
Community-Based Grants Initiative (2013 - present)	195	\$121,759,252.14
Economic Catalyst (2005- present)	150	\$306,435,340.44
Scholarships (2000 - present)	79	\$82,336,546.99
SITE Program (2021 - present)	58	\$27,958,471.69
Special Initiatives (2000 - present)	445	\$436,401,300.39
Total	1,869	\$1,132,952,900.74

*Numbers do not include awards made and then rescinded with no funds released. Funds awarded for projects in the disaster recovery grant program or for the COVID-19 loan program, whether Golden LEAF or CARES Act funding, are not reflected.

*Numbers do not include awards made and then rescinded with no funds released.

Golden LEAF Foundation Awards

FY2000 - 2024 by County

County	Number of Projects FY2000 - 2024	Amount Awarded FY 2000 - 2024
Alamance	14	\$5,232,855.96
Alexander	6	\$2,952,560.54
Alleghany	8	\$2,757,572.55
Anson	13	\$4,017,850.50
Ashe	11	\$3,774,074.84
Avery	1	\$739,581.67
Beaufort	29	\$7,926,443.22
Bertie	10	\$2,263,025.00
Bladen	22	\$8,504,002.36
Brunswick	10	\$5,227,922.58
Buncombe	43	\$19,401,187.57
Burke	18	\$6,574,394.87
Cabarrus	5	\$967,179.75
Caldwell	13	\$4,457,695.86
Camden	3	\$2,239,100.00
Carteret	12	\$2,702,324.58
Caswell	9	\$3,501,245.21
Catawba	29	\$7,541,819.52
Chatham	16	\$17,706,197.55
Cherokee	16	\$6,455,594.18
Chowan	6	\$1,400,748.02
Clay	6	\$2,105,571.00

County	Number of Projects FY2000 - 2024	Amount Awarded FY 2000 - 2024
Cleveland	19	\$11,042,118.21
Columbus	21	\$6,455,962.77
Craven	13	\$6,523,270.04
Cumberland	20	\$6,839,833.94
Currituck	0	\$0
Dare	11	\$2,376,157.92
Davidson	15	\$6,612,457.53
Davie	7	\$6,255,362.13
Duplin	24	\$8,389,027.69
Durham	61	\$61,053,832.46
Edgecombe	44	\$18,866,189.68
Forsyth	34	\$11,489,064.83
Franklin	6	\$2,020,072.49
Gaston	7	\$3,908,011.65
Gates	3	\$1,040,424.03
Graham	10	\$3,141,480.81
Granville	10	\$1,930,332.85
Greene	16	\$3,856,427.65
Guilford	38	\$29,815,024.86
Halifax	28	\$5,433,505.01
Harnett	12	\$5,149,802.78
Haywood	14	\$5,450,341.08
Henderson	14	\$5,656,199.86
Hertford	12	\$3,962,900.01
Hoke	5	\$3,178,518.65
Hyde	9	\$2,728,464.84
Iredell	5	\$1,647,243.41
Jackson	25	\$8,159,195.08
Johnston	28	\$9,279,510.88
Jones	20	\$9,705,601.98
Lee	15	\$115,358,172.61
Lenoir	30	\$115,760,507.21
Lincoln	1	\$200,000.00
Macon	2	\$564,556.49
Madison	16	\$5,333,656.48
Martin	19	\$4,628,748.67

County	Number of Projects FY2000 - 2024	Amount Awarded FY 2000 - 2024
McDowell	10	\$6,040,282.21
Mecklenburg	1	\$93,906.52
Mitchell	18	\$4,917,043.60
Montgomery	18	\$7,319,175.00
Moore	10	\$2,438,420.82
Nash	29	\$9,027,156.51
New Hanover	10	\$2,120,573.96
Northampton	13	\$3,258,605.53
Onslow	9	\$3,187,624.57
Orange	64	\$19,423,104.52
Out of State	2	\$1,079,036.00
Pamlico	4	\$1,811,651.34
Pasquotank	21	\$7,823,599.53
Pender	8	\$3,431,640.40
Perquimans	5	\$2,530,709.72
Person	9	\$3,088,140.55
Pitt	64	\$31,698,703.40
Polk	1	\$400,000.00
Randolph	17	\$5,648,140.07
Richmond	13	\$5,949,452.35
Robeson	36	\$11,540,293.25
Rockingham	26	\$11,790,070.34
Rowan	7	\$2,640,988.05
Rutherford	14	\$7,237,083.50
Sampson	14	\$4,369,527.41
Scotland	13	\$8,046,507.00
Stanly	16	\$5,762,132.93
Stokes	6	\$2,713,882.50
Surry	35	\$10,533,022.30
Swain	5	\$3,446,820.53
Transylvania	7	\$3,298,343.04
Tyrrell	7	\$2,719,430.90
Union	1	\$280,000.00
Vance	21	\$5,107,476.62
Wake	294	\$277,928,198.37
Warren	8	\$2,387,527.59

County	Number of Projects FY2000 - 2024	Amount Awarded FY 2000 - 2024
Washington	16	\$3,910,825.14
Watauga	19	\$4,270,075.88
Wayne	20	\$7,519,803.95
Wilkes	25	\$9,797,112.64
Wilson	27	\$8,575,826.66
Yadkin	9	\$1,460,321.50
Yancey	10	\$2,901,398.79

1. Awards reflect the county where the applicant is based which may not be where the project is located.
2. Awards to entities based in Durham, Orange or Wake to support projects throughout the state are included.
3. Awards to entities based in Durham, Guilford, Wake and Orange for administration of the Golden LEAF Scholarships and Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program are included.
4. Lenoir County includes \$97,441,121 awarded to the N.C. Global TransPark Authority for Project "Marco Polo" involving Spirit AeroSystems.
5. Disaster relief, disaster recovery, and flood mitigation projects are not reflected.
6. Funding for the N.C. COVID-19 Loan Program is not reflected.

Golden LEAF Foundation Financial Information

The Golden LEAF, Inc.
FY2025 Budget

	Budget FY 2025
Budget Sources:	
MSA Payment (Appropriated) (with rem. \$7.5 million to corpus)	\$ 17,500,000
Flood Mitigation (Appropriated in FY22 - carryover to FY25)	194,296
Food Distribution (Appropriated in FY23 - carryover to FY25)	712,768
Shell Building (Appropriated in FY24 - carryover to FY25)	9,653,785
Budget Carryforward	6,000,000 **
Corpus	47,778,999
Total Budget Sources	<u>\$ 81,839,848</u>
Administration/Capital	\$ 5,180,879
Interest Expense and Fees (LOC)	150,000
Grants/Programs:	
Open Grants Program	8,500,000
Economic Catalyst	10,000,000
Community Based Grantsmaking	11,000,000
Site Development Program	12,500,000
Scholarships	7,000,000
Other Initiatives:	
SPARC Projects	3,000,000
NC Ag Leads Implementation	1,500,000
Golden LEAF Schools Follow On	750,000
Healthcare Leverage	2,500,000
Rural Workforce Housing	2,500,000
Other	6,269,169 **
Disaster Recovery Grant Program	428,951
Flood Mitigation (State Appropriated in FY22)	194,296
Food Distribution (State Appropriated in FY23)	712,768
Shell Building (State Appropriated in FY24)	9,653,785
Total Grants	<u>76,508,969</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$ 81,839,848</u>
Corpus as a % of 3-yr rolling avg. of Net Assets	<u>4.35%</u>
Admin/Capital as % of Total Budget*	<u>6.84%</u>
Admin/Capital + Interest Exp as % of Total Budget*	<u>7.03%</u>

*Excludes Food Distribution grant as legislation includes an administrative allotment for administration of the Program

** Note: anticipated budget modification in October 2024 to carryforward \$25 million to FY25 budget from FY24 (due to accounting rules)

The Golden LEAF, Inc.
FY2025 Administrative Expenses/Capital Budget

	Budget FY2025
Administrative Expense	
Board of Directors Expenses	\$ 78,722
Depreciation Expense	117,912
Insurance	32,055
Miscellaneous & Bank Charges	6,000
Occupancy Expenses	85,229
Office Operations Expenses	40,152
Personnel Expenses	3,819,202
Professional Fees	779,993
Technology	192,214
Total Administrative Expense	\$ 5,151,479
Total Capital Budget	\$ 29,400
	\$ 5,180,879

**The Golden L.E.A.F.
(Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc.**

**Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues,
Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**

<i>Year ended June 30, 2024</i>	General Fund	Reclassifications and Eliminations	Statement of Activities
Revenues			
Net investment income	\$ 159,632,831	\$ -	\$ 159,632,831
Proceeds from state appropriation	11,502,210	-	11,502,210
Proceeds from state settlement	25,000,000	-	25,000,000
Capital allocation revenue	3,607,998		3,607,998
Other income	5,003	-	5,003
Total Revenues	199,748,042	-	199,748,042
Expenditures/Expenses			
Grant distributions	114,194,436	-	114,194,436
Administrative costs	4,687,092	-	4,687,092
Line of credit expense	119,880	-	119,880
Capital outlays	39,238	(39,238)	-
Loss on capital assets	-	1,729	1,729
Depreciation expense	-	113,435	113,435
Unrelated business income tax	4,908	-	4,908
Total Expenditures/Expenses	119,045,554	75,926	119,121,480
Revenues Over (Under)			
Expenditures/Expenses	80,702,488	(75,926)	80,626,562
Change in Fund Balance/Net Position	80,702,488	(75,926)	80,626,562
Fund Balance/Net Position, beginning of year	1,077,663,909	3,011,089	1,080,674,998
Fund Balance/Net Position, end of year	\$ 1,158,366,397	\$ 2,935,163	\$ 1,161,301,560

Grant ID	Organization	Project Title	Grant Amount	Program Area	Priority Funding Area	County of Applicant	Award Date	End Term
G-202409-08377	County of Rockingham	Rockingham County Livestock Marketing and Education Complex	\$700,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Agriculture	Rockingham	2/1/2024	12/1/2025
G-202409-08384	County of Alamance	Field Crop Sustainability Initiative	\$300,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Agriculture	Alamance	2/1/2024	8/1/2026
G-202409-08379	County of Randolph	Food, Farm, and Family Agricultural Center	\$1,000,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Agriculture	Randolph	2/1/2024	10/1/2025
G-202409-08369	North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Caswell County Center	Ag Technology and Rental Innovation Program	\$120,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Agriculture	Caswell	2/1/2024	12/1/2025
G-202306-08002	North Carolina State University	Aviary Facility for Pullet And Layer Research and Extension	\$500,000.00	Open Grants Program	Agriculture	Wake	10/5/2023	6/5/2025
G-202304-07640	FARMER FOODSHARE	Farmer Foodshare: Post-Pandemic Food Hub Program Revitalization, Diversification & Expansion Project	\$58,333.00	Open Grants Program	Agriculture	Durham	8/3/2023	8/2/2024
G-202304-07633	Town of Spring Hope	US 64A Water Line Extension	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Agriculture	Nash	8/3/2023	12/20/2024
G-202401-08957	North Carolina Global Transpark Authority	C130	\$6,000,000.00	Economic Catalyst Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Lenoir	6/6/2024	12/6/2026
G-202409-08423	Madison County Economic Development	Madison County Industrial Site	\$1,500,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Madison	12/7/2023	12/6/2024
G-202407-08177	County of Greene	Greene County SITE Identification	\$15,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Greene	12/7/2023	6/6/2024

Grant ID	Organization	Project Title	Grant Amount	Program Area	Priority Funding Area	County of Applicant	Award Date	End Term
G-202410-08561	Brick Capital Community Development Corporation	Washington Avenue Workforce Housing	\$450,000.00	Open Grants Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Lee	12/7/2023	4/6/2025
G-202407-08141	City of Hickory	Fairgrove Business Park Access Road	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Catawba	8/3/2023	8/2/2025
G-202402-09164	City of Gastonia	Apple Creek Corporate Park Sewer Improvements	\$1,500,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Gaston	6/6/2024	5/6/2025
G-202402-09181	County of Nash	WBIC Phase II Funding	\$34,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Nash	6/6/2024	12/6/2024
G-202403-09276	County of Caldwell	Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park Due Diligence	\$50,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Caldwell	6/6/2024	6/5/2026
G-202403-09306	County of Northampton	Northampton County Commerce Park	\$49,200.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Northampton	6/6/2024	5/6/2025
G-202403-09304	County of Columbus	Southeast Regional Park Site Development	\$590,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Columbus	6/6/2024	6/6/2026
G-202403-09307	Cherokee County Local Government	Industrial Park - Due Diligence	\$50,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Cherokee	6/6/2024	11/6/2024
G-202402-09061	Edenton-Chowan Partnership Inc	Edenton Chowan Airport Industrial Park	\$40,400.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Chowan	6/6/2024	5/6/2025
G-202403-09238	Harnett County Economic Development Partnership	Edgerton Industrial Park SITE Development – Harnett County, North Carolina	\$547,885.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Harnett	6/6/2024	9/5/2025

Grant ID	Organization	Project Title	Grant Amount	Program Area	Priority Funding Area	County of Applicant	Award Date	End Term
G-202409-08401	Washington, County of	SITE Program Identification	\$15,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Washington	12/7/2023	6/6/2024
G-202405-09476	County of Randolph	JK88-Road Improvements	\$400,000.00	Economic Catalyst Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Randolph	6/6/2024	7/6/2026
G-202408-08288	County of Brunswick	Hwy 74/76 Industrial Parks Water Tank Project	\$3,000,000.00	Economic Catalyst Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Brunswick	10/5/2023	12/5/2025
G-202408-08312	City of Mount Airy	Westwood Industrial Park Site Development	\$1,500,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Surry	12/7/2023	6/6/2025
G-202402-09136	Wilkes Economic Development Corporation	Wilkes Industrial Park - Lanes Drive	\$1,500,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Wilkes	6/6/2024	6/5/2026
G-202402-09215	County of Davidson	Project Next	\$250,000.00	Open Grants Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Davidson	4/4/2024	12/4/2024
G-202410-08596	Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC)	Project Gen Substation	\$2,000,000.00	Economic Catalyst Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Pitt	12/7/2023	8/7/2025
G-202412-08880	Town of Tabor City	Tabor City Shell Building	\$43,500.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Columbus	2/1/2024	7/31/2024
G-202402-09211	County of Warren	Hwy 1 Industrial Parcels Due Diligence	\$42,500.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Warren	6/6/2024	12/6/2024
G-202412-08791	Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	BBAI Aviation Incubator 2	\$50,000.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Bladen	2/1/2024	7/31/2024

Grant ID	Organization	Project Title	Grant Amount	Program Area	Priority Funding Area	County of Applicant	Award Date	End Term
G-202409-08363	Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship	Steelhouse	\$750,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Guilford	2/1/2024	11/1/2024
G-202409-08525	The Ocracoke Foundation, Inc.	Ocracoke Seafood Company Business Expansion	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Hyde	2/1/2024	1/31/2025
G-202306-08022	Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center, Inc.	Aulander Dental Integrated Clinic	\$500,000.00	Open Grants Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Hertford	10/5/2023	12/31/2024
G-202408-08308	Burke Partnership for Economic Development, Inc.	Great Meadows Site	\$50,000.00	SITE Program	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Burke	12/7/2023	9/6/2024
G-202412-08857	County of Franklin	Franklin County, Triangle North Franklin, Shell Building	\$50,000.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Franklin	2/1/2024	7/31/2024
G-202412-08911	County of Halifax	Halifax County Industrial Shell Building	\$27,000.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Halifax	2/1/2024	6/3/2024
G-202412-08936	County of Robeson	Robeson County Shell Project	\$50,000.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Robeson	2/1/2024	6/3/2024
G-202412-08882	County of Ashe	Ashe County - Shell Building	\$40,000.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Ashe	2/1/2024	7/31/2024
G-202412-08774	Scotland County Economic Development Corporation	Building 3	\$50,000.00	Shell Building	Job Creation and Economic Investment	Scotland	2/1/2024	7/31/2024
G-202410-08554	Appalachian State University	Start-Up Support for a New Occupational Therapy Training Program	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Watauga	2/1/2024	1/30/2025

Grant ID	Organization	Project Title	Grant Amount	Program Area	Priority Funding Area	County of Applicant	Award Date	End Term
G-202409-08367	Davie County Schools	DCHS Advanced Manufacturing Lab	\$1,500,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Davie	2/1/2024	12/1/2025
G-202409-08359	Alamance Community College	ACC Veterinary Medical Technician Program	\$1,000,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Alamance	2/1/2024	5/1/2026
G-202306-07989	Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	Piedmont Community College – PN Program	\$250,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Person	10/5/2023	10/4/2025
G-202409-08378	Rockingham Community College	LevelUp Rockingham (formerly RoCo Works)	\$800,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Rockingham	2/1/2024	2/1/2027
G-202401-09039	Strategic Twin Counties Education Partnership (STEP)	Students@Work:Twin-Counties	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Nash	6/6/2024	6/5/2025
G-202402-09161	Tri-County Community College	Tri-County Community College Transportation Training Hub	\$480,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Cherokee	6/6/2024	12/8/2025
G-202409-08368	Davidson-Davie Community College	Regional Training and Distribution Center for Emergency Response and Public Health	\$725,235.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Davidson	2/1/2024	10/1/2025
G-202409-08404	GuilfordWorks / Workforce Development Board	Pipeline Building in Advanced Manufacturing Certifications	\$384,550.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Guilford	4/4/2024	4/3/2026
G-202408-08273	South Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	High-Fidelity Simulation Manikins to Enhance Nursing Capacity	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Anson	12/7/2023	12/6/2024
G-202409-08364	Forsyth Technical Community College	Emergency Services Simulation Lab and Software	\$309,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Forsyth	2/1/2024	2/1/2025
G-202306-08000	Southeastern Community College	Accelerating the Future of Columbus County	\$199,100.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Columbus	10/5/2023	5/31/2026

Grant ID	Organization	Project Title	Grant Amount	Program Area	Priority Funding Area	County of Applicant	Award Date	End Term
G-202407-08194	North Carolina Wesleyan University	Improved Access to Nursing Education in Rural Communities	\$500,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Nash	2/1/2024	10/1/2024
G-202410-08626	Mount Airy City Schools	School to Healthcare Workforce Pipeline	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Surry	2/1/2024	4/30/2025
G-202304-07673	Western Carolina University	Advancing Simulation through Virtual and Augmented Reality	\$200,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Jackson	8/3/2023	6/30/2024
G-202306-08018	Fayetteville Technical Community College	Regional Supply Chain Transport Complex	\$500,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Cumberland	10/5/2023	10/4/2024
G-202409-08375	Surry County Schools	Surry-Yadkin FLEET	\$603,230.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Surry	2/1/2024	8/2/2027
G-202409-08361	Guilford Technical Community College	Workforce Continuing Education (WCE)	\$310,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Guilford	2/1/2024	10/1/2025
G-202408-08277	Carteret Community College Foundation, Inc.	Pilot Expanding the Welding Pathways at Croatan High School	\$125,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Carteret	2/1/2024	6/30/2024
G-202409-08373	Yadkin County Schools	YCS LINKS	\$393,000.00	CBGI - Community-Based Grants Initiative	Workforce Preparedness	Yadkin	2/1/2024	2/1/2027
G-202303-07511	Southwestern Community College	Expanding Dental Access in Western NC Through Dental Assistant Education	\$500,000.00	Open Grants Program	Workforce Preparedness	Jackson	8/3/2023	8/1/2025

*End Term reflects current anticipated end of grant term unless Golden LEAF approves an extension.