



Golden LEAF Foundation Community-Grants Initiative (CBGI) – County Manager Endorsement Process

> August 4, 2025



Discussion Topics

- Golden LEAF Foundation
- Golden LEAF Community-Based Grant Initiative Overview
- County Manager Endorsement Process
- Questions

Golden LEAF
Foundation Community-
Based Grants
Initiative





Golden LEAF Foundation

- Founded in 1999 by the NC General Assembly
- Manages a portion of North Carolina's disbursement under the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement between States and Tobacco Companies
- Mission is to provide support to economically affected or tobacco-dependent regions of the State
- Activities include grantmaking, collaboration, innovation, and general stewardship of settlement proceeds



Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI)

- Golden LEAF's largest grant program is the Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI), which annually provides grants of up to \$1.5m to public sector organizations in specific NC Department of Commerce Prosperity Zones
 - \$11m in total funding available
- Grants can be awarded to 501(c)(3) nonprofits, county and municipal governments, community colleges, universities, and other governmental entities (e.g., school districts).
- Golden LEAF awards CBGI for projects in three areas:
 - **Job Creation and Economic Investment**
 - **Workforce Development**
 - **Agriculture**



Community-Based Grants Initiative

- Golden LEAF encourages applications for projects that:
 - Meet identified needs in the County
 - Address the three Golden LEAF Priority areas
 - Improve human and/or physical capital to make the County more attractive for economic opportunity
 - Demonstrate immediate need, ability to put funds to work quickly, and built on previous planning processes
- Golden LEAF will not fund projects that:
 - Support tourism, arts, or cultural resources
 - Support emergency services, general social services, general maintenance or operational support
 - Reimbursement of prior expenditures or replacement of existing equipment and infrastructure



CBGI Application Process

Grant applications are due to Golden LEAF on **November 20, 2025.**

- In order to apply, an organization's project must be endorsed by the County Manager of the County within which the organization operates. County Manager endorsements must be provided by the County Manager to Golden LEAF by **September 8, 2025.**
- A County Manager can endorse up to four (4) total projects with a cumulative funding amount of \$2,000,000, but no one endorsed project can exceed \$1,500,000.
- Once endorsements have been made, **organizations will apply directly to Golden LEAF;** the County will have no further role in the process.

Durham County CBIG Endorsement Process





Durham County CBIG Endorsement Process

- To determine projects for endorsement, the County will use a Request for Proposals (RFP) to collect proposals from interested organizations.
- RFP has been published in the County's eBids system – proposals are due to the County on August 19th.
- RFP will not result in the issuance of any contract or grant by the County and selection of proposal for endorsement is not a commitment for funding by Durham County.
- Proposals will be reviewed and scored by a panel with recommendations for endorsement made to the Manager.
- Manager will submit endorsements to Golden LEAF by September 8th deadline.



Durham County CBIG Endorsement Criteria

- County's top priority for selecting projects for endorsement is to select projects that have **highest likelihood of receiving funds from Golden LEAF**.
- County hopes to endorse the maximum number of proposals – 4.
- Criteria for evaluation of proposals include:
 - Alignment with Golden LEAF Organizational Priorities
 - Alignment with Golden LEAF Competitive Criteria
 - Expected Impact on Unincorporated/Rural Residents and Communities
 - Demonstrated Track Record of Organizational Success
 - Use of Evidence-Based Practices
 - Timeline for Implementation
 - Evidence of Community Buy-In
 - Proposed Budget



Durham County CBIG Endorsement Criteria

- Would only serve/benefit residents or communities within urban boundary;
- Include activities or expenditures not permitted by Golden LEAF Foundation;
- Would be contrary to policies or priorities of Durham County Government;
- Exceed allowable cost limits (\$1.5m);
- County is not limiting amount for proposals beyond the \$1.5m maximum established by Golden LEAF but will prioritize projects that allow for the County to submit the maximum number of proposals.
 - County may negotiate with respondents in an effort to lower proposed budgets if necessary to be able to