

New Grant Program to Transform Rural Communities

Program to offer expanded resources for rural economic development

The Rural Transformation Grant Fund, a new source of support for rural economic development in North Carolina, is now accepting applications from local governments seeking to overcome challenges that limit their economic competitiveness. The North Carolina Department of Commerce and its Rural Economic Development Division will administer the \$48 million grant fund.

"As we emerge from the pandemic, we must help our rural communities become stronger, vibrant, and resilient places to live and work," said Governor Roy Cooper. "This new fund will supply both grants and expertise to help transform and expand our rural economies."

The new grant fund, the centerpiece of a broader Rural Engagement and Investment Program from Commerce, will address a wide variety of needs, from revitalizing downtown districts, building the capacity of local government staffs, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering small business recovery, and generally supporting economic growth initiatives.

The Rural Transformation Grant Fund will award grants in four categories:

- The Downtown Revitalization category will support downtown development initiatives that help grow and leverage a community's commercial core into an asset for economic growth and prosperity.
- The Resilient Neighborhoods category will offer grants focused on community development and quality of life improvements, such as eliminating food deserts, creating healthy living initiatives, and increasing access to affordable housing options, among other initiatives.
- The Community Enhancements for Economic Growth category will provide grants to local governments to smooth the way for economic development opportunities, such as the acquisition of land and buildings, the preparation of business sites, and the removal of structural and physical barriers that may be limiting development.
- The Rural Community Capacity (RC2) category will provide educational programming, technical assistance, and focused guidance to local government staff in rural and distressed communities. RC2 will begin as a pilot initiative in partnership with Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business.

"Commerce's rural team has focused for many years on helping communities make the necessary preparations that lead to economic growth," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "Now, with the Rural Transformation Grant Fund in place, we can tap additional resources to turbocharge the approaches we know work well and that can take rural North Carolina to the next level of prosperity."

More information about the Rural Transformation Grant Fund, including access to the online application, is available at nccommerce.com/transform.

NCDHHS Launches Spring/Summer Community Campaign to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has launched Spring into Summer, a community campaign focused on increasing rates of COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters for adults and children.

"As we transition into spring and summer, we are also transitioning to a new phase in our COVID-19 response," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Get vaccinated if you haven't already, and get your booster shot as soon as you are eligible. It's the best way to protect yourself from severe COVID-19 illness and still do all of the things you love."

While 76% of North Carolinians ages 18 and older have received at least one vaccine dose, vaccination rates among children and teens are much lower. Only 27% of children ages 5-11 and 48% of adolescents ages 12-17 have received their first vaccine dose.

Spring into Summer offers a fun, flexible, and community-centered way for health care providers, businesses, faith leaders, community organizations and individuals to encourage people to stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters — and to get the health visits, check-ups or other vaccinations they might have delayed because of the pandemic.

Spring into Summer will build off the successes of last year's Bringing Summer Back vaccination campaign. More than 330 organizations across the state helped to increase awareness of the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination. The campaign reached nearly 1.5 million North Carolinians.

In addition to encouraging vaccines and boosters, Spring into Summer will celebrate small businesses, health care providers and community organizations that promote public health and safety.

NCDHHS encourages organizations and individuals to get involved to help save lives. The list of ways to participate include:

- Passing out NCDHHS information about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.
- Offering discounts, coupons, or services to reward people who are up to date on their vaccinations.
- Partnering with event organizers to promote vaccinations at summer camps, local parks or community pools.
- Developing your own creative ideas to reach people in your community.

Organizations that wish to get involved can register to participate and access toolkit materials at:

SpringIntoSummer.nc.gov or email socialmedia@dhhs.nc.gov.

The toolkit offers easy-to-use promotional materials such as a flyer, social media posts and graphics, a newsletter template and more to aid participating partners in their outreach.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines in North Carolina or to make an appointment, visit MySpot.nc.gov or call the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center at 888-675-4567.

April Information

The month of April gets its name from the Latin word *aperio*, meaning "to open [bud]," because plants really begin to grow now.

April Calendar

- April 1 April Fool's Day
- April 10 is Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter and the last Sunday of Lent.
- April 15 is Good Friday
- April 15 is the start of Passover, which begins at sundown on this day.
- April 16 Full Pink Moon, Paschal Full Moon
- April 17 is Easter Sunday
- April 22 is Earth Day.
- April 29 is National Arbor Day.
- April birthstone: Diamond.
- April birth flowers: Daisy and Sweet Pea

Lions Club Brooms...

THE BEST Broom You Can Buy!

The Wadesboro Lions Club sells brooms to help meet humanitarian needs worldwide, and help local causes right here in Anson County.

In support of that mission the Lions Club sells brooms, and the brooms are of excellent quality. The Original Soft Sweep Magnetic Action Broom features a unique magnetic cleaning action that picks up lint and dust, especially human and pet hair. It will not scratch any floor, and rinses clean and dries quickly. The kitten soft bristle is approximately 12" long and comes with a metal handle.

Pick up yours at Allen's Restaurant in Peachland or Lacy's and Martin Furniture in Wadesboro for only \$12. The Lions Club's purple handled straw broom is also available.

For information about the different projects of the Wadesboro Lions Club, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

Anson County Homes of Hope's
First Annual Community
EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday April 9th
10:00 AM
Calvary Episcopal Church
308 East Wade Street
Uptown Wadesboro
Prizes & Raffle
Raffle Tickets \$2 Each or 3 for \$5
ALL ARE WELCOME

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS

Open Registration Tuesday, April 19
9AM to 2PM

Location

Beside Burger King
Highway 74 in Wadesboro

JUMP START YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE WITH HEAD START



Making a Difference...Building Futures



CENTRAL CENTER

351 White Store Road • Wadesboro, NC 28170
704-694-2884 Extensions: 2222, 2223, 2224

Darlene Burns 980-278-1790 • Evonne Rorie 980-278-1186 • Courtney Wall 980-278-6000

EARLY HEAD START (HOME BASE) Call Leslie Smith 704-690-3919

BRING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Insurance or Medicaid Card
- Proof of family income for the last calendar year, or the last 12 months. (Tax form, W-2, SSI, child support, Work First, etc.)



The Anson Middle School PTO

Presents The

BEARCAT PRIDE 5K

In Uptown Wadesboro, NC

Saturday April 30th at 9:00 AM

Course Information: The 5k Run/Walk will begin and end in front of Wadesboro Police Department located on South Rutherford Street.

The Bearcat Pride 5k run/walk will help support the AMS PTO by raising funds to support students & staff. The AMS PTO gives parents and teachers the opportunity to work together to supplement and enrich the educational experience. The PTO builds an effective partnership of home and school. It provides financial assistance where needs are identified within the school, it fosters a community atmosphere, and supports the mission and vision of the school and school district.

We are offering a special registration price of \$10 for students who are ages 5-18.
* Special pricing will show once you check out.

Register by April 15 and you will receive a FREE t-shirt.

Online Registration Deadline ends Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

Race Day Registration will be \$25.

Please register online at the link below:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Wadesboro/BearcatPride5kRunWalk>

Course map can be found at the link below:

<https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/4905431194>

Professional Timing will be done by Vac and Dash Timing Team!