



## OPPORTUNITIES NEWSLETTER

Interested in applying?

Contact us to get started.

[alewis@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:alewis@kerrtarcog.org)

(252) 436-2040, ext. 2005

### Regional Project Manager's Notes:

#### **Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee**

Committee Members: The proposed structure of the Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee will designate *sixteen seats* that promote inclusion from identified voices in the region:

Franklin County

Granville County

Person County

Vance County

Warren County

Healthcare

Farm/Agriculture

Veteran

Information Technology

Education (K-12)

Higher Education (VGCC)

Higher Education (PCC)

Nonprofit

Small Business

Faith Leader

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

If you are passionate about broadband, please fill-out the **Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee interest form** to support the Digital Inclusion project efforts starting in October\*.

\*Moving the first meeting date to October 2024 to align with project implementation.

Thank you,  
Amanda Lewis

Meeting  
Scheduler

## October 2024

### Aquatic Weed Control Program



For **Public Waters**, This Program Can Provide:

- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Operational Support
- Aquatic Plant Identification
- Treatment Recommendations

Financial assistance and operational support are in the form of cost-share arrangements and are available to Counties, Municipalities, Soil & Water Districts, Drainage Districts, Public Utilities, and other government agencies.

Program staff provide a range of fieldwork services including site assessments, aquatic vegetation surveys and aquatic weed management operations. To provide these services, the program utilizes specialized equipment. Staff are trained on this equipment and have aquatic herbicide applicator licenses.

How to Apply for Financial Assistance:

- A telephone call, letter or email may serve as the initial communication. Be prepared to describe the problem in detail.
- Program staff will need to conduct a site visit in most circumstances.
- Submit a grant application. [Download application form.](#)
- Applications must be received no later than October 15 the year before the project begins.
- Applications will be considered for inclusion in the work-plan for the following year.

For **Private Waters**, This Program Can Provide:

- Technical Assistance
- Aquatic Plant Identification
- Recommend Treatments

Private landowners can also contact their county offices of the [Agricultural Extension Service](#) for further assistance.

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## Walmart - Local Community Grants

Local Community grants range from a minimum of \$250 to a maximum of \$5,000. Eligible nonprofit organizations must operate on the local level (or be an affiliate/chapter of a larger organization that operates locally) and directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding.

There are eight (8) areas of funding for which an organization can apply. Please review the areas listed below to ensure your organization's goals fall within one of these areas.



- Community and Economic Development: Improving local communities for the benefit of low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Diversity and Inclusion: Fostering the building of relationships and understanding among diverse groups in the local service area
- Education: Providing after-school enrichment, tutoring or vocational training for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Environmental Sustainability: Preventing waste, increasing recycling, or supporting other programs that work to improve the environment in the local service area
- Health and Human Service: Providing medical screening, treatment, social services, or shelters for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating: Providing Federal or charitable meals/snacks for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Public Safety: Supporting public safety programs through training programs or equipment in the local service area
- Quality of Life: Improving access to recreation, arts or cultural experiences for low-income individuals and families in the local service area

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## FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program—Local Solicitation



With the **FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program** solicitation, the Bureau of Justice Assistance seeks applications for formula funding to provide additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice or civil proceedings, including for any one or more of the following program areas:

1. Law enforcement programs.
2. Prosecution and court programs.
3. Prevention and education programs.

4. Corrections and community corrections programs.
5. Drug treatment and enforcement programs.
6. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.
7. Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).
8. Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.
9. Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including but not limited to mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

### Funding Categories:

Category 1—Applicants with eligible allocation amounts of less than \$25,000

Category 2—Applicants with eligible allocation amounts of \$25,000 or more

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## Build to Scale (B2S)

The **Build to Scale (B2)** program supports organizations that strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems to support entrepreneurs as they build and scale technology-driven businesses—and the employees in the new, good jobs they create—to make and deliver new technology products and services. Build to Scale (B2S) grants fund programs that support innovators, entrepreneurs, and startups transforming ideas into the critical, emerging technologies of the future.



**Deadline:  
October 28th**

The Build to Scale program aims to:

- build capacity for entrepreneurs and innovators to invent, improve, and bring to market new technology products and services;
- accelerate the growth of regional economies focused on industries of the future;
- empower communities to enable technology innovators and entrepreneurs to pilot and test their products and services; and
- equitably and inclusively increase access to capital for technology-enabled entrepreneurs.

Eligible applicants include a state, an Indian Tribe, a city or other political subdivision of a state, and an entity whose application is supported by a state or political subdivision of a state and that is:

- a nonprofit organization;
- an institution of higher education;
- a public-private partnership;
- a science or research park;
- a Federal laboratory;
- a venture development organization;
- an economic development organization or similar entity that is focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, or entrepreneurship; or
- a consortium of any of the aforementioned entities.

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## November 2024

### The Great Trails State Program



The **Great Trails State Program** provides funding for new trail development and extension of existing trails anywhere in the state of North Carolina.

This includes paved trails or greenways, natural surface trails, biking trails, equestrian trails, and any other type of trail recognized by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

There will be one grant cycle distributing the full \$25 million dollars in non-recurring funding. The Great Trails State Coalition ([Join Here](#)) successfully advocated for the Great Trails State Program for all types of trails. Our goal is to make this one-time funding recurring. Thanks to our members who have made this success possible. If you aren't on the list, consider joining, to help advance trails across North Carolina.

#### Project Minimums:

- \$100,000 minimum for planning and design, acquisition (all types), construction of natural surface trails, and maintenance of natural surface trails
- \$250,000 minimum for maintenance of paved trails
- \$300,000 minimum for construction of paved trails

#### Match Requirements:

Eligible applicants receiving a grant under this program shall provide matching funds based on the tier ranking of the county where the project is located. If trail projects is located in more than one county, the match is based on lowest county tier. The match may include:

- cash,
- fee waivers,
- in-kind services,
- donation of assets,
- provision of infrastructure, or
- any combination of the above.

Non-cash matches must be quantifiable and documented.

- Tier 1 Counties: \$1 non-state matching funds for every \$4 of state funds
- Tier 2 Counties: \$1 non-state matching funds for every \$2 of state funds
- Tier 3 Counties: \$1 non-state matching funds for every \$1 of state funds

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### Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

The [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant](#)

**program (Community Change Grants)**, created by the Inflation Reduction Act, offers an unprecedented \$2 billion in grants under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Community Change Grants will fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation. This historic level of support will enable communities and their partners to overcome longstanding environmental challenges and implement meaningful solutions to meet community needs now and for generations to come. There will be two tracks of funding under this opportunity. Track I will fund approximately 150 large, transformational community-driven investment grants of \$10 million - \$20 million. Track II will fund approximately 20 meaningful engagement grants of \$1 million - \$3 million. Grants cannot exceed 3-years in duration. Please review the NOFO for further information about the exciting opportunities under the Community Change Grants program and details about the application process.



[Learn More](#)

## December 2024

### Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth



This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) supports an intensive, supervised (mentored) career development experience in violence prevention research leading to research independence. NCIPC supports K01 grants to help ensure the availability of an adequate number of trained scientists to address critical public health research questions to prevent violence and injury.

Applicants must propose a research project that addresses at least one of the research priorities in the interpersonal violence prevention section of the **NCIPC Research Priorities** as they relate to **violence impacting children or youth (from birth through age 17)**. These research priorities include: Cross-cutting violence prevention; Adverse childhood experiences; Child abuse and neglect; Youth violence; Intimate partner violence (including teen dating violence); and Sexual violence. Applicants are also encouraged to address the following: (1) Multiple forms of violence impacting children or youth; (2) Firearm-related behavior, crime, injuries, and deaths among children and youth; (3) The social or structural conditions that contribute to a greater risk for violence and health inequities across population groups; and (4) How the proposed research study has practical relevance to inform prevention and intervention activities. Applicants should explicitly state the research priorities their application addresses.

**Award Max: \$150,000**

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## Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Research is accepting applications for the **Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence** program. The purpose of this program is to support the establishment of new collaborative humanities research centers focused on the legal, ethical, or societal implications of developing AI technologies. A Center is a sustained collaboration among multiple scholars focused on exploring the humanities implications of AI through two or more related scholarly activities. You may submit an optional prospectus. You must use the prospectus template found under Application Instructions, Step 1 Review your application package, "Program Resources." To receive feedback, you must submit the prospectus by Oct 2, 2024 to aicenters@neh.gov. Put "AI Center Prospectus" in the subject line of the message. NEH staff will only comment on one prospectus per institution per competition deadline.



**Maximum award amount:** Up to \$750,000 (\$500,000 in outright funds plus \$250,000 in Federal Matching Funds)

**Expected output** Curriculum Project; Digital Infrastructure (Software, Website, etc.); Conference; Workshop; Other Scholarly Resource

**Period of performance** Up to three years

**Expected notification date** August 31, 2025

**Project start date** October 1, 2025 - September 1, 2026

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## January 2025

## Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants in North Carolina



This program assists rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA).

### How may funds be used?

The assistance must be provided to agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Rural small businesses must be located in **eligible rural areas**. This restriction does not apply to agricultural producers.

Assistance provided must consist of:

- Energy audits.
- Renewable energy technical assistance.
- Renewable energy site assessments.



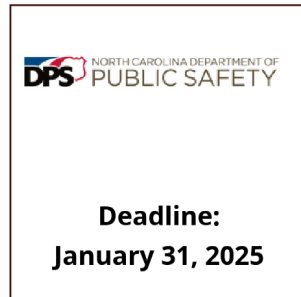
Applicants must submit separate applications, limited to one energy audit and one Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA) per fiscal year. The maximum aggregate amount of an energy audit and REDA grant in a Federal fiscal year is \$100,000.

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## State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

DHS/FEMA currently estimates that they will publish the FY24 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) sometime in August 2024, all dates subject to change. We anticipate soliciting subrecipients for FY24 SLCGP funding in North Carolina sometime after the NOFO is published by DHS/FEMA, all dates subject to change. This website will be updated as more details become available. **Estimated match: 20%**



### How may funds be used, looking at the 2023 NOFO?

1. Manage, monitor, and track information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state, and the information technology deployed on those information systems, including legacy information systems and information technology that are no longer supported by the manufacturer of the systems or technology.
2. Monitor, audit, and track network traffic and activity transiting or traveling to or from information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state.
3. Enhance the preparation, response, and resilience of information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state, against cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats.
4. Implement a process of continuous cybersecurity vulnerability assessments and threat mitigation practices prioritized by degree of risk to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats on information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by, or on behalf of, the state or local governments within the state.
5. Ensure that the state or local governments within the state, adopt and use best practices and methodologies to enhance cybersecurity, discussed further below.
  - Implement multi-factor authentication
  - Implement enhanced logging
  - Data encryption for data at rest and in transit
  - End use of unsupported/end of life software and hardware that are accessible from the internet
  - Prohibit use of known/fixed/default passwords and credentials
  - Ensure the ability to reconstitute systems (backups); and
  - Migration to the .gov internet domain

Additional best practices that the Cybersecurity Plan can address include:

- The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework



- NIST’s cyber chain supply chain risk management best practices; and
  - Knowledge bases of adversary tools and tactics
1. Promote the delivery of safe, recognizable, and trustworthy online services by the state or local governments within the state, including through the use of the .gov internet domain.
  2. Ensure continuity of operations of the state or local governments within the state, in the event of a cybersecurity incident, including by conducting exercises to practice responding to a cybersecurity incident.
  3. Use the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity developed by NIST to identify and mitigate any gaps in the cybersecurity workforces of the state or local governments within the state, enhance recruitment and retention efforts for those workforces, and bolster the knowledge, skills, and abilities of personnel of the state or local governments within the state, to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats, such as through cybersecurity hygiene training.
  4. Ensures continuity of communication and data networks within the jurisdiction of the state between the state and local governments within the state in the event of an incident involving those communications or data networks.
  5. Assess and mitigate, to the greatest degree possible, cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats relating to critical infrastructure and key resources, the degradation of which may impact the performance of information systems within the jurisdiction of the state.
  6. Enhance capabilities to share cyber threat indicators and related information between the state, local governments within the state, and CISA.
  7. Leverage cybersecurity services offered by the Department (See Appendix G for additional information on CISA resources and required services and membership).
  8. Implement an information technology and operational technology modernization cybersecurity review process that ensures alignment between information technology and operational technology cybersecurity objectives.
  9. Develop and coordinate strategies to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats. Local governments and associations of local governments within the state should be consulted. Cybersecurity Planning Committees should also consider consulting neighboring entities, including adjacent states and countries.
  10. Ensure adequate access to, and participation in, the services and programs described in this subparagraph by rural areas within the state.
  11. Distribute funds, items, services, capabilities, or activities to local governments.

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## Training & Resources



### Benton Institute for Broadband

High-speed, affordable broadband is the infrastructure of opportunity. Our goal is to bring open, affordable, high-performance broadband to all people in the U.S. to ensure a thriving democracy. Benton believes that communications policy—rooted in the values of access, equity, and diversity—has the power to deliver new opportunities and strengthen communities.

[YouTube Channel: Benton Institute for Broadband](#)



## CSEN: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network

The National Cybersecurity Alliance excited to partner with Greatest Training Ever to bring you CSEN: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network! Led by renown newsman and on-air personality Chet Barkley, CSEN features an an ensemble cast that delivers fun, relevant, and timely cyber security tips and advice.

[YouTube Playlist: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network](#)

StaySafeOnlineNCA is the official YouTube channel of the National Cybersecurity Alliance. NCA's mission is to educate and therefore empower a digital society to use the Internet safely and securely at home, work, and school, protecting the technology individuals use, the networks they connect to, and our shared digital assets. For more information, visit [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org).

Connect with us!



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