



Chairman Cliff Brumfield will convene a Centralina Economic Development District Board meeting **on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** The meeting will be in person at Centralina Regional Council, 10735 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte NC, 28262

Time	Item	Presenter
4:00 p.m.	Call to Order	Cliff Brumfield
	Roll Call	
	Amendments to the Agenda (if any)	
Consent Business Items:		
4:05 p.m. Item 1 5 minutes <i>Pages 4-5</i>	Approval of the October 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes The minutes from the October 17, 2024, meeting have been distributed to all members of the Centralina EDD Board for approval. Action/Recommendation: Motion to approve October 17, 2024, meeting minutes.	Cliff Brumfield
Item 2 <i>Pages 7-8</i>	Quarterly Financial Update through December 31, 2024 As required in the by-laws, the Board is presented with a quarterly update on the Economic Development District's financial status. Through the period ending September 30, 2024, there are no budget amendments proposed. Action/Recommendation: Motion to approve the quarterly financial update ending December 31, 2024.	Denise Strosser
Regular Business Items:		
4:10 Item 3 15 minutes <i>Pages 10-13</i>	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update and EDA Partnership Planning Grant The board will receive an update on the progress of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Prosperity for All. This briefing will highlight key updates and an outlook for 2025. In addition, there will be a discussion on the EDA Partnership Planning Grant, which provides funding for the Economic Development District. Action/Recommendation: Receive as information	Geraldine Gardner Anna Lu Wilson
4:25 p.m. Item 4 10 minutes <i>Page 15</i>	Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) Workforce Strategy Recommendations The Centralina EDD team is in the final stages of developing the Workforce Strategy Plan for CICOM, focusing on aligning talent development initiatives with the region's advanced manufacturing sector. Action/Recommendation: Receive as information and provide input on strategies to implement the Workforce Development Plan.	Geraldine Gardner
4:35 p.m. Item 5 20 minutes <i>Pages 17-21</i>	EDA Update Hillary Sherman, North Carolina EDA Representative will share an update on the recent EDA Reauthorization by Congress and current EDA funding opportunities including the Helene Disaster Supplemental. Action/Recommendation:	Hilliary Sherman



Time	Item	Presenter
4:55 p.m. 5 mins	Reflections from Board and Staff	Cliff Brumfield
5:00 p.m.	Comments from the Chair and Adjourn	Cliff Brumfield

Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina EDD will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina EDD's programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodation is necessary for participation, please contact the CED Board Administrator. 10735 David Taylor Drive, Suite 250 Charlotte, NC 28262, phone 704-348-2701 Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: www.centralinaedd.org.



Centralina

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Item 1



**Centralina Economic Development District
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2024**

Officer Present	Board Members Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Cliff Brumfield, Board Chairman Candice Lowder, Vice Chair Dr. Leslie Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer	Jenn Bosser Randy Collins Greg Edds Juan Garzón Ronne Grantham Donny Hicks David Hollars Leslie Johnson Alan Kathman Anna London Patrick Lucitt Bill Thunberg Melanie Underwood Jarvis Woodburn	Anna Lu Wilson Geraldine Gardner Christina Danis Narissa Claiborne

Call to Order

Chairman Cliff Brumfield called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Board Administrator, Narissa Claiborne took the role. A quorum was established.

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the October 17th Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the April 18 and June 20 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Quarterly Financial Update**
- 3. 2025 Centralina Economic Development District meeting schedule**

Chairman Cliff Brumfield called for a motion to approve the October 17, 2024, CEDD consent agenda.

Bill Thunberg motioned to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Regular Agenda

Item 4. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update & EDA Grant CEDS Annual Report

Anna Lu Wilson, Centralina presented an update on the progress of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Prosperity for All. Anna London, Executive Director of Charlotte Works shared an overview of the pathway in partnership with the CELC that will be presented in more detail at the upcoming Centralina CEDD Board Meeting. Anna Lu finished with the CEDS successes.

Chairman Brumfield called for a motion to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update & EDA Grant CEDS Annual Report.

Bill Thunberg made the motion. Alan Kathman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5. District Focus – CICOM Initiative

Centralina EDD Board members received an update on the progress of the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) and engaged in a discussion that further supports CICOM's efforts to position the Charlotte region as a national hub for optics and metrology. Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner asked the Board to think about how to proceed moving forward within the work and scope of the grant.

Item 6.NC Innovation Update

Ms. Mary Lou Bourne, Regional Innovation Network Director for Charlotte of NCInnovation, shared guidance with the Board on their progress, focusing on engagement with industry partners including their approach, benefits, and the work model.

Comments from Staff and Executive Director

Ms. Gardner shared a preview of the upcoming January Board Meeting, including:

- Charlotte Executive Leadership Council and CharlotteWorks Healthcare Workforce Pilot project.
- Planning for upcoming cluster analysis
- Wellness check of Hilary Sherman in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene
 - Hilary will share an EDA Update at the January Meeting.

Comments from the Chair

The next Centralina Economic Development District meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th, 2025. This meeting will be held at the Centralina Office.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Vice ChairCliff Brumfield adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.



Centralina

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Item 2



Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 16, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:	X	Regular:	
Submitting Person:	Denise Strosser	Presentation Time:	n/a			
Presenter at Meeting:	Denise Strosser	Phone Number:	704-348-2704			
		Email:	dstrosser@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Christina Danis	Phone Number:	704-688-6502			
		Email:	cdanis@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CEDD Admin	Department Head Approval:	Christina Danis			
Title:						
Quarterly Financial Update through December 31, 2024						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
As required in the by-laws, the Board is presented with a quarterly update on the Economic Development District's financial status. Through the period ending December 31, 2024, there are no budget amendments proposed.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
Required in the by-laws, for informational purposes.						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Motion to approve the quarterly financial update ending December 31, 2024						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	Quarterly Financial Update					



CEDD Budget Amendment and Financial Statements
As of December 31, 2024

	FY24 Actual 6/30/2024	FY25 Proposed Budget	FY25 Actual 12/31/2024
Assessment			
Anson County	1,133	1,133	1,133
Cabarrus County	8,450	8,450	8,450
Gaston County	6,553	6,553	6,553
Iredell County	7,872	7,872	7,872
Lincoln County	4,919	4,919	4,919
Mecklenburg County	30,150	30,150	30,150
Rowan County	4,878	4,878	4,878
Stanly County	3,407	3,407	3,407
Union County	8,516	8,516	8,516
City of Charlotte	28,822	28,822	28,822
Town of Mooresville	2,678	2,678	2,678
Total Equity Contributions for Matching	107,378	107,378	107,378
Other Income			
Grant Income			
EDA Planning Grant 2022-2024	65,879	36,000	43,070
EDA Planning Grant 2025-2027	0	35,000	0
SCRC LDD Federal Revenue	16,255	10,667	15,745
Total Grant Related Income	82,134	81,667	58,815
Total Income	189,512	189,045	166,193
Expenses			
CEDC/CEDS Administration	166,264	158,378	84,326
Contracted Services	20,386	28,000	16,650
Travel and Training	1,951	1,000	289
Meeting Related Cost	842	200	0
Software & Webhosting	22	1,000	68
Miscellaneous	114	467	0
Total Expenses	189,579	189,045	101,333
Change in Fund Balance	(67)	0	64,860
Less Fund balance allocated	0	0	(64,860)
Less deferred revenue	0	0	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	(67)	0	0
Fund Balance Beginning	44,238	44,238	44,238
Fund Balance Ending	44,171	44,238	44,238



Centralina

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Item 3

Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 16, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Anna Lu Wilson	Presentation Time:	15 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Gerldine Gardner Anna Lu Wilson	Phone Number:	704-385-4790			
		Email:	alwilson@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Christina Danis	Phone Number:	704-688-6502			
		Email:	cdanis@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CEDD Admin	Department Head Approval:	Christina Danis			
Title:						
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS) Update and EDA Partnership Planning Grant						
Description of Agenda Item:						
The board will receive an update on the progress of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS), Prosperity for All. This briefing will highlight key updates and an outlook for 2025. In addition, staff will share an update on the EDA Partnership Planning Grant proposal which provides funding for the Economic Development District.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>The <i>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS), Prosperity for All</i>, serves as a roadmap to guide the region's economic growth and development over a five-year period. It was developed in collaboration with regional stakeholders and reflects the collective priorities for fostering inclusive and sustainable prosperity.</p> <p>The EDA Partnership Planning Grant supports Economic Development Districts (EDDs) in creating and implementing economic development strategies that promote regional growth and resilience. These grants provide funding to assist with the development and execution of the CEDDS. CEDD is invited to submit for the 2025-27 planning grant to support District operations. Staff will present options for key activities under the grant including the opportunity to advance regional economic analysis and strategy development.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Receive as information						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Input at this meeting will inform the Planning Grant proposal due in January.					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	none					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	CEDD Dashboard 01162025.pdf					

CEDS Implementation

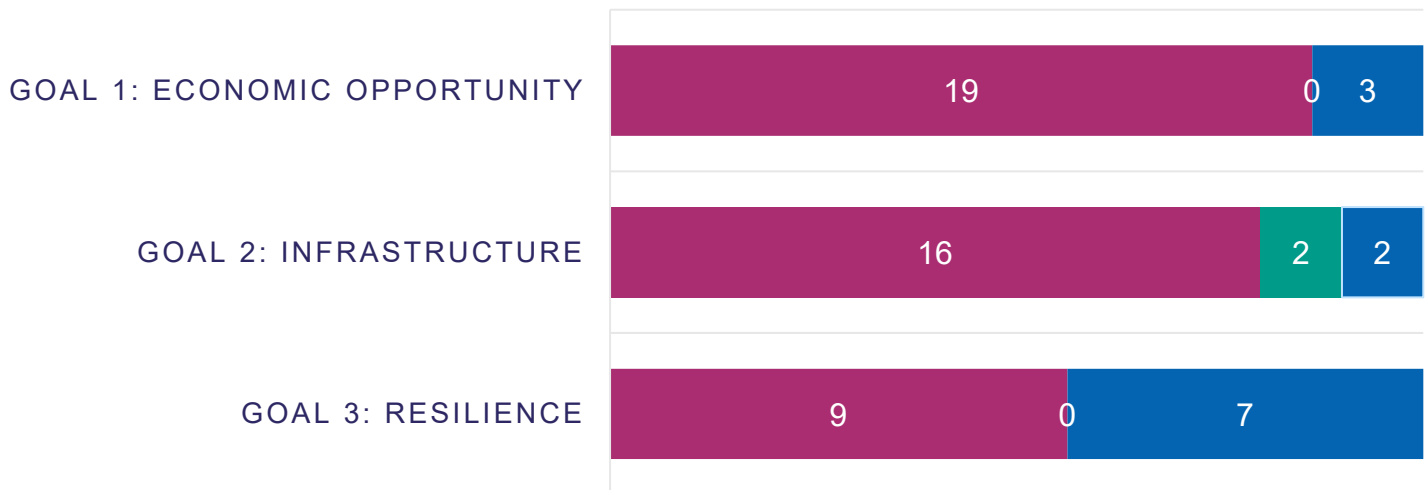
Quarterly Progress Report



January 2025

CEDS ACTION ITEMS DASHBOARD

■ Advancing ■ Initiated ■ Not Started



The CEDDD dashboard chart (Oct-Dec 2024) shows continued progress in implementing the CEDS action items, with updates on a number of Advancing, Initiated and Not Started tasks across three priority categories: Urgent, Critical, and Moderate.

The data reveals that **Advancing tasks remain the majority across all goals**, demonstrating significant progress and meaningful strides toward achieving impactful outcomes in these area.

- **Goal 1** - Economic Opportunity: The highest number of tasks in the Advancing phase at 19 out of 22 total.
 - **Goal 2** - Infrastructure: Has steady progress with 16 of 20 tasks advancing
 - **Goal 3** - Resilience: 9 tasks have advanced, while 7 remain Not Started, highlighting areas where additional attention is needed to move tasks forward.
- In summary, this continued progress reflects ongoing efforts and alignment with the CEDS goals to drive regional economic development effectively.

Highlights & Accomplishments October - December 2024

Regional Engagement

- **Centralina Learns Webinar - Bridging Childcare and Business:** Collaborated with the NC Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions and the Economic Development Partnership of NC to host a webinar addressing the critical shortage of high-quality, affordable childcare in North Carolina. The session highlighted innovative public-private partnerships and creative solutions to support working families and strengthen workforce participation. **Goal 1 – 3.1**
- **Presentation on Child Care Solutions:** Centralina presented at the Gaston County Association of Manufacturers on "Child Care Solutions for Business Growth and Workforce Stability," highlighting strategies to address childcare challenges and their impact on workforce participation and business success. **Goal 1 – 3.1**
- **Centralina Learns Webinar: Developing Winning Federal Transportation Grant Applications:** Centralina Planning Team members hosted a webinar providing insights and strategies for crafting competitive federal transportation grant applications to support regional infrastructure and mobility projects. (30 attendees) **Goal 2 – 2.2**
- **FEMA Recovery Webinar:** Centralina and High Street Consulting hosted a webinar on FEMA public assistance recovery processes, hazard mitigation, and disaster preparedness, featuring the Centralina Digital Opportunity Plan & Regional Resilience Collaborative resources. (7 attendees) **Goal 2-3.3**
- **Webinar on Hazard Mitigation and Grant Alignment:** Centralina hosted a webinar on aligning hazard mitigation plans with FEMA and NCDPS grant programs, emphasizing strategies to strengthen community resilience, enhance preparedness, and advance the Digital Opportunity Plan. (9 attendees) **Goal 2 - 3.3**
- **October Regional Brownfields Summit: Eyesores to Assets:** Centralina, in collaboration with the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Program, hosted a day-long immersive event that provided an opportunity to learn about brownfields, explore available funding and technical resources, and discover strategies for transforming these sites into community assets. **Goal 2 – 4.3**
- **Digital Opportunity Plan & Toolkit:** Completed each county's draft plan and shared with them on December 31, 2024, there is a review period open until January 10, 2025. The plan will be released to the public for feedback on January 15, 2025. **Goal 2 – 5.2**

Highlights & Accomplishments October – December 2024

Grant Support

- **Joules Accelerator – CHARGE (Carolina Hub for Advanced Resilient Grid Engineering Project):** Provided a CEDS consistency letter of support for the EDA Build to Scale Grant Program, intending to accelerate the development and deployment of advanced grid technologies to enhance energy infrastructure, drive economic and technological innovation, and build a sustainable, resilient energy system in the Carolinas. **Goal 3 – 4.2**
- **CReST Project:** Provided a letter of support for NC State University's proposal to establish the Consortium for Reactor Safety Training (CReST), aligning with the region's goals for economic opportunity, workforce development, and resilience as outlined in the 2023-2028 CEDS. The initiative addresses critical industry needs by developing a qualified workforce for current and future nuclear reactors, addressing attrition and projected talent demands. **Goal 3 – 4.2**





Centralina

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Item 4

Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 16, 2025	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Anna Lu Wilson	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Anna Lu Wilson	Phone Number:	704-385-4790			
		Email:	alwilson@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CEDD Admin	Department Head Approval:	Christina Danis			
Title: Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) Workforce Strategy Recommendations						
Description of Agenda Item: Centralina EDD team is in the final stages of developing the Workforce Strategy Plan for CICOM, focusing on aligning talent development initiatives with the region advanced manufacturing sector.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
CICOM Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant seeks to enhance U.S. competitiveness in optics, photonics, imaging and lasers (OPIL) by building a regional hub in Charlotte. The optics and photonics industries hold significant potential for advanced manufacturing and technological innovation, and Centralina EDD's role is critical in addressing the workforce development needs.						
This project aligns with CEDS Goal 3 – 4.1 Support the development of new and expansion of existing centers of excellence that support commercialization activities within the region's industry clusters and niche sectors such as energy, materials, defense, IT/cyber and life sciences						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Receive as information and provide input on strategies to implement the Workforce Development Plan.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Input at this meeting will inform the final deliverable due to UNC Charlotte at the end of January					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachment Titles: <i>(none or list)</i>	None.					



Centralina

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Item 5



Economic Development District Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	July 20, 2023	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Anna Lu Wilson	Presentation Time:	20 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Hillary Sherman	Phone Number:	828-707-2748			
		Email:	hsherman@eda.gov			
Alternate Contact:	Anna Lu Wilson	Phone Number:	704-385-4790			
		Email:	alwilson@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CEDD Admin	Department Head Approval:	Christina Danis			
Title: EDA Update						
Description of Agenda Item: Hillary Sherman, North Carolina EDA Representative will share an update on the recent EDA Reauthorization by Congress and current EDA funding opportunities including the Helene Disaster Supplemental.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: Hillary Sherman is the North Carolina Economic Development Representative for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. Hillary works with communities across our state to develop and implement economic development projects and helps us develop EDA grant applications. <i>Note: Presentation slides will only be available just prior to the meeting so as to reflect the most current information available.</i>						
Requested Action / Recommendation: <i>Receive as information.</i>						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	EDA: Advancing Long-Term Disaster Recovery in NC					

Economic Development Administration:

Advancing Long-Term Disaster Recovery in NC

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is a federal agency within the US Department of Commerce that provides grant assistance and technical support to foster long-term economic recovery and resilience.

Following disasters, EDA's portfolio of programs is often expanded to include supplemental resources to support long-term economic recovery. This work is in addition to the agency's overall portfolio, and provides additional resources for investment in projects that can enhance resilience and foster long-term economic development, competitiveness, and diversification.

Through disaster supplemental funds EDA invests in projects that will be owned and managed by the public or nonprofit sector and that advance construction, renovation, technical assistance, planning and capitalization of revolving loan funds to spur competitive business environments for economic recovery. EDA disaster supplemental funds may be not awarded directly to individuals or businesses. Typically, grant award amounts are established by the applicable Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and generally require 20% match that is available (not previously spent), unrestricted (for the same scope of work) and committed (dedicated to the proposed project).

EDA has a long history of supporting long-term disaster recovery in North Carolina, including some of the examples cited below:

EDA resources harden critical infrastructure.

- Hurricane Florence's impact on Pender County NC economy was significant: the storm flooded parts of the county's wastewater and water treatment facilities that served the Pender Commerce Park, disrupting service to firms within the park. In 2021, EDA funded a \$1.575 million grant to help Pender County build a permanent, natural-gas fueled generator at its water treatment plant and establish a berm around the adjoining county's wastewater treatment plant to mitigate the impact of significant flooding on the operation of both facilities.
- Hurricane Florence's impact in Robeson County was augmented by existing infrastructure: when the Lumber River rose it rushed between abutments of I 95 bridge, causing flooding to the business and residential districts. In 2021, EDA invested \$3.1 million in the City of Lumberton to fund the construction of floodgates to mitigate future flooding of the city and to ensure critical infrastructure needed for businesses remain viable.

EDA grants expanded redundancy and system enhancements to keep businesses running

- The Town of Clayton serves as an employment center in eastern North Carolina, an area hard-hit from Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. In 2020, EDA was able to make a \$6.0 million grant to the Town of Clayton to make sewer infrastructure upgrades to support business recovery within the East Clayton Industrial Area, which is home to leading regional biomanufacturers which employ workers from across the disaster impacted area of eastern North Carolina.
- Flooding following Hurricane Florence was devastating for the Town of Pembroke. In 2020 EDA invested \$6.4 million to support wastewater facility improvements, thereby enhancing resilience and reducing risk for future business disruption firms like SRO Originals experienced following Florence.
- Gaps in infrastructure have a real and consequential impact on businesses: just ask West Fraiser in the Town of Seaboard. Due to a myriad of sewer infrastructure challenges that were augmented by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, the company was having to pump and haul waste. In 2020, EDA invested \$992,576 to support critical infrastructure improvements for this major community employer, and to ensure available capacity for future business development.

EDA funded new small business centers for dislocated businesses to reopen

- Parts of the business district of Bladenboro, North Carolina have experienced localized flooding for years, but Hurricane Florence brought a level of devastation that significantly impacted the community: with so many business facilities flooded there were limited options for business to re-open outside the floodway after the storm. In 2020, EDA invested \$900,000 to help construct two new business centers owned and operated by the Bladen County economic development organization Bladen Bloomin, where businesses can lease space in what is becoming the hub for the downtown. The facility is elevated, with some parts at about 18 inches above, and other parts close to 40 inches above ground level, thereby reducing future risk of businesses to flooding.
- When Hurricane Florence left, the town of Fair Bluff was inundated with floodwaters. This massive flood occurred on the heels of extensive flooding from Hurricane Matthew, and presented significant challenges to businesses in the area. To help facilitate long-term recovery, in 2020 EDA provided \$4.8 million to support the construction of a new small business district outside the floodplain. The Town received a donation of land from R.J. Corman Railroad which was outside the floodplain, and developed a plan to create space owned and leased by the Town to small businesses to facilitate long-term economic recovery.

EDA provide infrastructure to support greater economic diversification and long-term economic resilience

- After Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, the need for additional local capacity to help support the recovery process became acute. To respond, EDA invested in several Economic Development Districts (EDDs) to help build capacity for communities to navigate the recovery process. These funds supported personnel and contract support that helped local governments navigate the scoping, application, and management of awards and reimbursement post-disaster and helped support a myriad of local and regional disaster recovery activities.
- Hurricane Florence's high winds and heavy rain spurred damage to the hangars at the Carteret County-Beaufort Airport Authority. The airport is used by small business leaders and a key asset for prospective economic development; in 2020, EDA provided \$3,287,800 to facilitate of larger, enhanced hangars better able to accommodate diverse business interests.
- Access to available property for small and mid-sized manufacturers was challenging in Scotland County before Florence, and the storm augmented this gap. In 2020, EDA was able to invest \$2.0 million to help construct a manufacturing landing building. The building was designed as the initial structure of a series of similarly purposed structures that the Scotland County Economic Development Commission is working to develop to foster greater economic diversification and economic impact for citizens.

EDA provides funds to expand workforce development opportunities to foster long-term economic resilience and diversification.

- Allied healthcare professions are critically important – especially in rural communities where these high-wage jobs provide economic stability for families and communities. After Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, the need for pathways to good-paying jobs increased in rural eastern North Carolina. As health facilities within Lenoir County assessed their existing workforce, the need for additional skilled workers to meet new demands and to backfill aging out workers grew. In 2020, EDA funded Lenoir Community College with \$2.0 million to facilitate renovation for expansion of their health science programs.

Importantly, EDA's disaster supplemental program is complementary to investments that have been made through the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. These programs facilitate construction or renovation of public or nonprofit owned infrastructure that advanced economic development and job creation.

Below is an illustrative list of the diverse array of projects EDA has previously supported across North Carolina. Please remember this list is not comprehensive and EDA's North Carolina Economic Development Representative Hillary Sherman is happy to discuss any proposed project to explore alignment and considerations for EDA programs (please feel to reach Hillary Sherman directly at hsherman@eda.gov).

- **EDA can support improvements to publicly owned utilities to advance economic development.** In 2020, EDA invested \$4.5 million to help Greenville Utilities Commission in Greenville, NC make wastewater system infrastructure improvements to support the growth of the region's healthcare sector.
- **EDA can capitalize Revolving Loan Funds.** In 2020, EDA helped capitalize a Revolving Loan Fund (RLFs) for western North Carolina managed by Mt. Bizworks. This investment compliments other RLFs across the state.
- **EDA can fund workforce training centers.** EDA has a strong history of supporting workforce development in North Carolina, from helping support the construction of a new Health Science building at Southwestern Community College, thereby allowing additional space for 144 additional students to be trained for in-demand, high-paying jobs each year compared to previously available space. In 2020, EDA provided a \$2.589 million grant to Sampson Community College to facilitate the construction of new transportation course space (truck driving pad and instructional facility).
- **EDA can publicly-owned natural gas projects.** EDA supported a \$1.3 million grant to the City of Lexington to upgrade the natural gas capacity for Nucor and other regional businesses.
- **EDA funds technical assistance to help businesses succeed.** EDA provided a \$172,115 grant to the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association Foundation to foster consultation to help businesses navigate changing regulations and assess options for remaining open and viable following the pandemic.
- **EDA funds supply chain and asset mapping analysis to inform economic development decision-making.** EDA provided a \$1,398,438 grant to E4 Carolinas, Inc., to support a research and planning project designed to promote the nuclear technology industry and its economic benefits in North Carolina and throughout the Southeast.
- **EDA funds can support publicly owned broadband expansion.** In 2021, EDA invested \$1,200,000 to support deployment of broadband to fully serve business areas in the City of Wilson. Fiber deployed is owned by Wilson as an electricity.