



Strengthening Rural Communities

Broadband Access

- Provides \$20 million to establish grants to secure broadband internet service in areas without service, or where service is below the minimum threshold speed set by the North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office.
 - \$17.5 million is dedicated to lowering capital expenditures for existing or new providers to incentive investment by private companies.
 - \$2.5 million will be used to establish a Homework Gap Grants program to provide mobile hotspots or other devices to students without home internet access

Rural Economic Development and Community Innovation Grants

- Supports economic development in rural communities through an additional \$12.2 million in grants by the Rural Building Reuse, Rural Infrastructure, and Main Street Solutions programs. These programs help rural communities finance renovation of vacant and underutilized buildings, infrastructure projects that lead to the creation of new jobs, and downtown revitalization projects.
- Provides \$3.5 million in competitive grant funds to assist rural communities' transition to a knowledge and innovation based economy.
- Directs \$2.9 million of deed stamp revenues to the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. These funds will be used to protect working family farms, sustain military buffers, and as match for federal grant programs.

Business Recruitment and Development

- Provides \$3 million to offer early-stage technology development grants for small businesses that receive federal awards from the federal Small Business Innovation Research program or Small Business Technology Transfer program.
- Invests \$10 million to assist with the site development costs of the Triangle Tyre Co, Ltd facility in Edgecombe County. The company will create 800 jobs and invest nearly \$580 million at the 1,449-acre advanced manufacturing Kingsboro megasite, contributing an estimated \$2.4 billion to North Carolina's economy.
- Provides \$250,000 to the Carolina Small Business Development Fund, a non-profit that provides small business loans and financial training to start-ups and existing businesses, and lending services to community-based organizations.
- Provides \$100,000 to improve research and data collection on rural economic development best practices, interconnected markets, identification of target sectors, and asset inventory.