

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Grants Update

Background: This report provides an update on the status of current grants and identifies upcoming grant prospects and priorities for NCCCS. The grants listed here include only those for which the System Office is the fiscal agent, which excludes grants and funding being secured with System Office staff support for which the System Foundation or colleges are the fiscal agents. This document is for information and does not require any action from the Board.

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal 5: System Funding and Effectiveness

Redefine System Office support for colleges by implementing strategies that improve functional services based on college size and requirements. Identify services that are most effectively provided statewide, regionally, or at the college level. Strategy 5.3.1

Board Snapshot

Total Active Grants	Total \$ Managed	Delivery Health*	Burn Rate Health**	Pipeline Strength***
18	\$69,884,730			

***Burn Rate Health Rubric (1–5)**

- 5 | Excellent | 90–110% aligned to plan; variance explained; strong forecasts; no risk to delivery.
- 4 | Good | 80–120% aligned; minor variance; adjustments manageable; forecast credible.
- 3 | Moderate | 60–140% aligned; meaningful variance; reforecasting needed; potential delivery impact.
- 2 | Weak | <60% or >140% aligned; structural variance; risk to outcomes or grant close-out.
- 1 | Critical | Severe variance, unplanned interruptions, freeze, clawback, or material compliance issues.

****Pipeline Strength Rubric (1–5)**

- 5 | Very Strong | Pipeline volume exceeds next 12–24 month target; strong strategic fit; balanced stage distribution; high conversion probabilities.
- 4 | Strong | Near targets; balanced distribution; adequate throughput; moderate conversion confidence.
- 3 | Adequate | Meets minimum targets; uneven stage distribution or moderate gaps in alignment or timing.
- 2 | Weak | Under target by stage or total volume; thematic/geographic misalignment; attrition concerns; low conversion

probability.

1 | Critical | No credible pipeline; severe gaps vs. targets; inability to deploy strategically or on schedule.

*****Delivery Health Rubric (1–5)**

5 | Excellent | All milestones on track; no material operational risk; high confidence in delivery of outcomes.

4 | Good | Minor deviation from original goals, but recovery actions in place; acceptable performance; confidence remains high.

3 | Moderate | Notable delays, milestone slippage, or execution complexity; outcomes still achievable but require corrective action.

2 | Weak | Material underperformance; milestones missed with unclear recovery; emerging risk that outcome achievement.

1 | Critical | High likelihood of failure, withdrawal, or restructuring; severe operational or contextual risks; possible non-delivery of outcomes.

Active Grants — Delivery & Burn Rate

Grant Funder/ Grant Name	Grant Award	Remaining Balance as of 11/30/25	% Spent	Award Dates	Owner/Finance Person
Golden LEAF Scholarships	\$3,000,000	\$2,453,687.76	18%	7/1/25 – 6/30/26	Brenda Burgess/ Elizabeth Heath
Partnership to Advance Youth (PAYA) New America	\$100,000	\$99,082.32	0.01%	3/31/25-9/30/26	Chris Harrington/ Janice Goodman-Long
NC Department of Public Instruction/ US Dept of Education	\$16,244,107	\$14,506,288.38	11%	7/1/25 – 9/30/26	Rob Van Dyke/ Elizabeth Heath
DHHS More Than a Job (formally SNAP E&T)	\$3,654,724	\$3,654,724	0%	10/1/25-9/30/26	Michelle Johnson/ Janice Goodman-Long
US Dept of Commerce, EDA, Build Back Better Regional Challenge	\$16,422,220	\$8,236,670.59	50%	9/2/22 – 5/28/27	Rondra McMillan/ Elizabeth Heath
NCCC Foundation MOU – JMBE - Long Term Support	\$3,200,000	\$3,104,911.04	3%	12/1/24–12/31/27	Zach Barricklow/ Elizabeth Heath
Golden LEAF Open Grants Program	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00	0%	8/7/25 – 8/6/28	Lisa Eads/ Elizabeth Heath
NCCC Foundation MOU – Arnold Ventures Boost Award (System Office portion only)	\$2,102,092	\$2,018,995.52	4%	1/1/25 – 7/31/31	Nicole Ditillo/ Elizabeth Heath

Expiring Grants — Risk & Decisions

Grant Funder/ Grant Name	End Date	\$ Remaining as of 11/30/25	Criticality*	Renewal**	Risk***
NC Department of Public Instruction/ US Dept of Education	9/30/25	\$409,338.03	5 – Funding is provided to 58 colleges.	5 – A new DPI grant continues this work (see above).	5 – Major services disrupted.
Belk- Basic Needs Initiative, Rapid Response Team, and Communications Capacity	12/31/25	\$0.00	1 – Always a planned sunset.	5 – A new JMBE grant continues this work (see above).	1 – Clean sunset.
Belk – System Office Staffing & Infrastructure (High-Capacity Grant)	12/31/25	\$0.00	1 – Always a planned sunset.	5 – A new JMBE grant continues this work (see above).	1 – Clean sunset.
SHEEO - SOVA	2/28/26	\$20,000.00	1 – Always a planned sunset.	1 – Intentional sunset	1 – Clean sunset.
Apprenticeship Building America (ABA)	6/30/26	\$1,858,784.28	5 – Loss of funding affects staffing and service delivery	2 – Funding limited to current award	5 – Loss of funding affects staffing and service delivery
Gear Up Apprenticeship	6/30/26	\$142,848.19	5 – Loss of funding affects staffing and service delivery	2 – Funding limited to current award	4 – Loss of funding affects staffing and service delivery
Gear Up Career Coach	6/30/26	\$221,595.27	4 – Funds career coaches at 4 colleges	3 – Uncertainty at the Federal Level	4 – Impacts staffing at 4 colleges
UNC-G – Evaluation of Career & College Promise	6/30/26	\$62,840.45	4 – Provided valuable research about success of program	2 – Funding limited to current award	3 – Evaluation would shift to system office staff

***Criticality Framework:**

Score	Descriptor	Clear Criteria
5 – Mission-Critical	Core system function	Required for statutory compliance, statewide operations, or flagship strategy
4 – High	Strong strategic alignment	Directly advances Strategic Plan goals; difficult to replace funding
3 – Moderate	Valuable but substitutable	Enhances outcomes but could be absorbed, scaled down, or replaced
2 – Low	Peripheral	Discrete project or pilot with limited system-wide impact
1 – Minimal/Planned as Time-Limited	Time-limited Grant/Non-essential	Nice-to-have; limited consequences if sunset; or always a planned sunset

****Renewal Framework:**

Score	Descriptor	Meaning
5 – Highly Likely	Strong candidate	High performance + clear funder appetite
4 – Likely	Good odds	Renewal plausible with refinement
3 – Uncertain	50/50	Depends on strategy shifts or redesign
2 – Unlikely	Weak case	Low funder interest or internal ROI
1 – Not Pursuing	Intentional sunset	No strategic rationale to renew

*****Risk Framework:**

Score	Descriptor	Typical Indicators
5 – High Risk	Severe consequences	Major service disruption, layoffs, public scrutiny
4 – Elevated	Material impact	Program instability, strained partners
3 – Moderate	Manageable	Workarounds exist but with cost
2 – Low	Limited impact	Minor adjustments required
1 – Minimal	Negligible	Clean sunset, no downstream effects

Grants Pipeline — New Opportunities

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Opportunity	Funder	Est. \$	Stage	Due/ Decision Date	Owner
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Special Projects Program (AI-enhanced Instruction)	Department of Education	\$4,000,000	Applied. Not Funded. A record-breaking number of applications were submitted nationwide.	Due: 12/3/25 Decision: 12/31/25	Brian Merritt, Andrea Crowley, Chanell Butler
Supporting the Implementation of Statewide Credit for Prior Learning through an Evidence-Based Community of Practice	The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), in partnership with RAND,	\$40,000	Applied. Awaiting Notification.	Due: 11/21/25 Decision: Spring 2026	Seth Kamen, Chanell Butler
Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Supplemental Grant Program	US Department of Commerce	\$20,000,000	Proposal in Development.	Due: 3/3/26 Decision: TBD	Chanell Butler, John Loyack
The Connecting Talent to Opportunity Challenge: Pre-Phase Award	Sponsored by Department of Education	\$1,000,000	Opportunity Identified. Awaiting application to open January 2026.	Due: April 2026 Decision: May 2026	Chanell Butler, and TBD

Opportunity	Funder	Est. \$	Stage	Due/ Decision Date	Owner
The Connecting Talent to Opportunity Challenge: Phase 1 Award	Sponsored by Department of Education	\$4,000,000	Opportunity Identified. Awaiting application to open.	Due: November 2026 Decision: January 2027	Chanell Butler, and TBD
The Connecting Talent to Opportunity Challenge: Phase 2 Award	Sponsored by Department of Education	\$10,000,000	Opportunity Identified. Awaiting application to open.	Due: January 2027 Decision: March 2028	Chanell Butler, and TBD
National Registered Apprenticeship's (RA) Program Development Support and Artificial Intelligence Integration and Education in RA Support	Department of Labor	TBD	Opportunity Identified. Awaiting application to open January 2026.	Spring 2026	Elizabeth Orion

Contact(s):

Phillip D. Price, Ed.D., CPA
Vice President and CFO

Zach Barricklow, Ed.D.
Interim Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Chanell Butler, Ed.D.
Director of Grants