



MID-EAST COMMISSION

BEAUFORT-BERTIE-HERTFORD-MARTIN-PITT

NCEDA Foundation 2024 Fellowship Program Proposal Mid-East Commission

Organization Overview

The Mid-East Commission (Commission) was created by the State of North Carolina in May of 1967 as a Regional Council of Governments serving the local governments and residents of Region “Q”, which is comprised of Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt Counties, as well as its forty municipalities. Its mission is to bring people together to enhance the ability of its local governments to successfully improve the quality of life for area citizens through its leadership in technical assistance, planning, program management and development, and public-private partnerships.

Project History & Description

The Mid-East Commission has been highly successful as a host site for interns. In 2024, the Commission hosted four interns from East Carolina University, Golden Leaf Foundation, and UNC AmeriCorps Lead for North Carolina Fellow. These same interns have provided a range of deliverables including a new agency logo and website design, conceptual architectural drawings for building reuse projects and a potential public park, extensive research into the financial capacity challenges of the region’s local governments currently on the unit assistance list, and updated maps for the department’s economic development, transportation, planning, and mitigation and resiliency programs. Also, one of the 2024 interns is now a full-time employee with the Commission in its planning program.

Should the Commission be selected as a host site for the NCEDA Foundation’s Fellowship Program, the Commission would work closely with the NCEDA Fellow to continue the Commission’s work in the following areas:

- (1) Implement recommendations from the 2024 "Understanding Local Government Units of Concern to Enhance Financial Capacity" Phase I and II findings;
- (2) Continue "Communications for Solutions" initiative to promote economic development in region's 40 municipalities utilizing Constant Contact, Airtable and other digital tools; and
- (3) Work directly with local governments to address other needs as identified through 2024 local government surveys.



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Project Objectives

The key objectives of the Foundation's Fellow program would be to enhance local government communications, and to produce a comprehensive report for the Commission's Board consideration with potential implementation of recommendations and findings into the Commission's 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy's annual update. Under the supervision of the Commission's Director for Planning, Economic Development and Community Services, this proposed fellowship would develop and enhance the NCEDA Fellow's skills, knowledge and abilities to:

1. Research and analyze data and information developed by previous intern;
2. Gain better understanding the role, authority and polices of local government;
3. Develop and enhance communications and marketing skills through digital tools (e.g., Constant Contact);
4. Develop a strategy to address identified challenges for local government;
5. Produce a comprehensive written report and present findings and strategy to the Commission's governing board;
6. Develop and enhance team building skills while working alongside the Commission's professional staff; and
7. Develop effective working relationships with others.

Project Deliverables

The NCEDA Fellow's will be responsible for providing support services for process improvement, and producing a comprehensive report and strategy to address the items noted in the previous **Project Objectives** section.

This project will require the NCEDA Fellow to travel and interact with the Commission's local government and partners across the region. Experienced Commission staff will guide and provide the Fellow with the needed resources to develop recommendations and help guide the Fellow to reach his or her goals and objectives.