



# Economic Development Fellowship Program

## About the Fellowship Program

The NCEDA Foundation Economic Development Fellowship Program provides funding for economic development organizations (EDOs), especially in underserved and distressed areas of North Carolina, to host student Fellows from North Carolina universities and colleges for a summer learning and work experience designed to benefit both the Fellow, the EDO, and the North Carolina economic development profession. Fellows will gain invaluable work experience, an expanded network of relevant contacts, and an opportunity to enhance an economic development organization's efforts to benefit its service area residents. EDO Hosts will benefit from the insights and work efforts the Fellow brings to the engagement. The North Carolina economic development community will benefit from the sharing of the Fellows' experiences and projects.

## Fellowship Guidelines and Expectations

Fellows will be graduate students currently enrolled at a North Carolina university or college, preferably in programs related to economic development, such as Public Administration, Business Administration, City and Regional Planning, Economics, etc. Fellows will complete a project developed by the Host EDO and participate in learning and networking experiences. After the Fellowship concludes, the Fellow will be expected to present an overview of their Fellowship experience and outcomes at the NCEDA Fall Conference in October. Fellows are also expected to attend professional development and networking programs. The NCEDA Foundation will cover the expenses for these events as detailed under the "Additional Fellow Benefits".

## Economic Development Organization Hosts

EDO Hosts will be responsible for contracting with and managing the Fellow and developing a Fellowship project. In collaboration with the EDO and Fellow, the NCEDA Foundation will manage the Fellowship program engagement activities, such as professional development and networking opportunities.

## Compensation

Fellows will be paid an hourly wage and/or stipend for approximately 40 hours per week during the contract period of 10-12 weeks between May and August 2026

## Additional Fellow Benefits

1. Complimentary registration and lodging to attend the NCEDA Annual Conference (June 2026) and NCEDA Fall Conference (October 2026), during the calendar year of their Fellowship.
2. Professional development opportunities, such as the ECU Economic Development Training Academy, the IEDC Basic Economic Development Course at UNC Chapel Hill, or other similar professional development programs pertinent to the Fellowship project and/or Fellow's interest.

*For more information about the Foundation, visit:*

[www.nceda.org/nceda-foundation](http://www.nceda.org/nceda-foundation)

**December 4, 2025**

Application  
Period Begins

**January 30, 2026**

Application  
Deadline

**February 27, 2026**

Fellows  
Announced

**Mid-May 2026**

Fellowships  
Begin

**Mid-August 2026**

Fellowships  
End

## Application Information

Applicants must complete and submit the application form no later than January 30, 2026. The form includes background information, relevant experience, computer skills and proficiency, and brief essay questions related to the Fellow's interest in economic development and proposed engagement.