



For more than half a century, the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA) and its over 950 members have led successful efforts to promote North Carolina as an ideal destination for business investment, serving as the voice for North Carolina’s economic development community by providing professional development, networking opportunities, and advocacy to secure the state’s economic future.

The NCEDA Foundation supports the advancement of North Carolina’s economic development profession by funding professional development, research, and educational programs—especially for underserved, distressed, and rural communities and practitioners across the state.



Investing in people *today* to strengthen communities *tomorrow*.

Why Should You Invest?

Leading national media organizations routinely rank North Carolina as a top state for business. While we celebrate our success, we also recognize that not all 100 counties are sharing equally in it. The overwhelming majority of new jobs and investment dollars flow to more populous Tier 2 and Tier 3 counties. If we can sharpen competitiveness in our 40 most distressed, rural Tier 1 counties, we can reverse the erosion of population and tax-base and restore opportunities for economic investment, sustainable jobs and livable wages.

The economic developers representing those communities can rarely afford the professional development opportunities they need to help them effectively recruit companies to their communities. Further exasperating this challenge is the lack of understanding of the field of economic development by elected and community leaders, the absence of scholarly research focused on economic development issues and opportunities in the state, and the shortage of young professionals, especially from diverse backgrounds and rural locations, who are planning a career in economic development.

The NCEDA Foundation responds to these challenges and addresses these important needs with programs that will enhance competitiveness and equitable economic opportunity in every part of North Carolina.

Questions? Contact Us!

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

The Foundation expands access to professional development by offering scholarships—prioritizing underrepresented individuals and those serving underserved or distressed areas. Scholarships are available statewide for a variety of professional development opportunities.

Projected Three-Year Outcomes

- Continue to award at least 25 scholarships totaling \$40,000 each year
- 25% of scholarship recipients will complete economic development certification
- Scholarship recipients will represent a broad range of geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic backgrounds



AWARENESS & TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Foundation works to educate community and elected leaders across North Carolina about the purpose, practices, and needs of economic development programs and practitioners. It also provides NCEDA Fellows from the state's higher education institutions with internship opportunities at economic development organizations, with a focus on placements in rural and underserved areas.

Projected Three-Year Outcomes

- Partner with five or more universities, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HCBUs)
- Fund 16 community and elected leader education sessions
- Fund 12 Fellowships



RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The Foundation supports efforts to review best practices in economic development programs and enhance North Carolina's overall competitiveness. It works to inform state-level economic development policy and produce resources that aid in shaping local city and county strategies. Additionally, the Foundation raises awareness of emerging trends that impact economic development across the state.

Projected Three-Year Outcomes

- Fund three research projects

BENEFITS OF INVESTING

For Investors

- Recognition on NCEDA website
- Recognition at NCEDA's three conferences
- Recognition in NCEDA Foundation's informational materials and at events
- Community Reinvestment Act solutions
- Enhance local economies and business environments across rural NC

For Investors and Communities

- More knowledgeable, engaged community leaders will make wiser economic development-related decisions for their communities and will provide greater support for economic development organizations and activities.
- Greater support for economic development professionals in traditionally underserved and/or rural communities will lead to greater economic development successes in all areas of North Carolina.
- A stronger, more diverse pipeline of young professionals preparing for a career in economic development will benefit the state's efforts to realize long-term, sustainable economic growth.
- Leading-edge, expert research on relevant topics for the economic development community will help professionals remain the most well-informed and best-prepared economic developers anywhere.

... All of which will lead to greater capital investments and job creation in communities across all areas of our state.