In 2011, the Golden LEAF Foundation awarded over $46.4 million in grants to support projects across North Carolina for the long-term economic advancement of tobacco-dependent, rural and economically distressed areas.

We have heard from employers, educators and community leaders that there is a deep need to provide access to hands-on science and mathematics education, with a primary goal of encouraging Algebra I attainment by 8th grade. So we created a special science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) funding cycle to address that gap. There is considerable interest. We received more than 90 applications for our STEM Initiative seeking $50 million in grant funding. In the end, we awarded 14 grants totaling $5 million to school systems that had the most innovative, most proven, and most industry-supported strategies for improving STEM skills. The Foundation has also funded an evaluation of these grants, so that we may learn what works and what does not.

Our Economic Catalyst grants helped 11 manufacturing companies locate and expand in North Carolina, bringing tens of millions in potential capital investment and the potential for hundreds of high-wage jobs. Eight of the 11 grants were in Tier 1 counties, those counties with the greatest challenges for economic growth and development. It is our belief that just as agriculture and manufacturing have been the core of rural North Carolina’s economy, so they will be in the future, albeit in a different form.

The Community Assistance Initiative was completed in 7 counties, providing almost $14 million for schools, infrastructure, community college, agriculture, health care, tourism and economic development. Golden LEAF plans to complete the first round of this Initiative in 2013. This 6-year program will have invested more than $90 million in economically distressed counties based on the participation of local citizens in determining and recommending priority projects.

We also provided new opportunities through our Golden LEAF Scholars program. Approximately 1,300 students received assistance for four-year and community college tuition and expenses. More than 180 freshmen and sophomore scholars participated in leadership development and internships funded by Golden LEAF.

Grantsmaking also continued for agricultural development, health care job creation, workforce training, and economic development in our
Open Grants Program.
Our ability to continue to award meaningful grants to help tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and rural communities at this level depends on two things: the returns on our investments and the ongoing payments from the Master Settlement Agreement. We continue to be good stewards of the resources and use the MSA payments wisely to ensure that the Golden LEAF money gets to where it should go—communities like yours.

We are grateful for a successful 2011, and look forward to the years to come.

### About Golden LEAF

**2011 Grant Awards**

In 2011, the Golden LEAF Foundation awarded 126 grants totaling $46,382,100.98* to a diverse set of projects for agriculture, workforce training, job creation and retention, rural healthcare, scholarships, and educational initiatives.

[Click here to see the list of calendar year 2011 awards.](#)

The grant awards are broken down according to the following Golden LEAF grant programs/initiatives. Grant awards included, but were not limited to:

- more than $13.5 million to projects in Tier 1 counties through the Community Assistance Initiative,
- more than $12 million to support job creation projects that were at risk without Golden LEAF support through the Foundation’s Economic Catalyst program,
- more than $6 million through the Foundation’s Open Grants Program for projects related to agriculture, job creation and retention and workforce preparedness,
- more than $4.6 million for scholarship aid to help students from rural, distressed communities attend college through Golden LEAF Scholarships,
- more than $5 million to support a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Initiative to support STEM to assist districts with establishing programs in grades 4-9.
- more than $1.7 million to support Rural Health Care efforts across the state.

[Click here to search Golden LEAF’s grant awards, since inception.](#)

### Our Purpose

Established in 1999, the Golden LEAF Foundation was created to manage one-half of North Carolina’s share of funds from the Master Settlement Agreement with tobacco companies. Golden LEAF supports tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and rural communities in North Carolina working to transition to more prosperous and stable economies.

### Applying for a Grant

Golden LEAF focuses grantsmaking in areas that show the most promise for assisting targeted communities with economic transition or diversification. Priority areas include agriculture, job creation and retention, and workforce preparedness. Golden LEAF makes grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofits and governmental entities. At Golden LEAF, we have an open door policy and encourage you to contact us to discuss project ideas or other issues before submitting an application.

### Grant Programs and Initiatives

The Golden LEAF Foundation is committed to using the funds entrusted to it for projects that show the most potential for strengthening North Carolina’s long-term economy, especially in tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, and/or rural communities. Golden LEAF’s grant programs and initiatives are only available to 501(c)(3) nonprofits and governmental entities.

### Open Door Policy

Golden LEAF welcomes eligible entities to request funding for projects that are consistent with Golden LEAF’s priorities. The Foundation encourages potential applicants to visit our website to read more about program priorities and to contact programs staff to discuss project ideas or other issues before submitting a grant application or letter of inquiry. Call 888-684-8404 or [click here for a list of programs staff.](#)

### Open Grants Program

In the Open Grants Program, Golden LEAF’s grantsmaking is focused in the areas of agriculture, job creation and retention and workforce preparedness. The Open Grants process makes funding opportunities available throughout the year. [Click here for more information about applying for an Open Grants Program grant.](#)

### Economic Catalyst

The Foundation’s Economic Catalyst Program awards job creation assistance grants to eligible entities who help industry locate or expand through eligible activities in tobacco-dependent or economically distressed areas of the state. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Golden LEAF staff to discuss the potential projects and conditions that may be applicable prior to submitting an application. [Click here for more information about applying for an Economic Catalyst grant.](#)

### Community Assistance Initiative

The Community Assistance Initiative is a facilitated grant process targeting the needs of communities designated “Tier 1” by the NC Department of Commerce. [Click here to read more about the Community Assistance Initiative.](#)

### Scholarships

Golden LEAF awards scholarships for students from qualifying counties to attend participating North Carolina colleges and universities. As of December 2011, Golden LEAF has awarded 33 grants totaling more than $24 million to provide scholarships to 7,859 individuals from rural North Carolina attend two- and four-year N.C. colleges and universities. [Click here for more information about Golden LEAF Scholarship opportunities.](#)

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*Grant amounts reported throughout reflect the current grant amounts for calendar year 2011 grants as of February 13, 2012, unless otherwise indicated, and do not include grants that have been rescinded prior to release of funds.*
The Foundation’s financial statements undergo an annual audit, which was conducted by BDO USA, LLP. BDO USA, LLP audited our financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2011. The Foundation’s financial statements are presented in conformity with the accounting principles and reporting guidelines established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). BDO USA, LLP expressed an unqualified opinion on these financial statements. A copy of BDO USA, LLP’s audit report dated September 30, 2011 may be viewed on the Golden LEAF web site, www.goldenleaf.org.

Statement of Net Assets and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet June 30, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Reclassifications and Eliminations</th>
<th>Statement of Net Assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$492,750</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$492,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax refund and other receivables</td>
<td>1,223</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid items</td>
<td>84,651</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>793,006,758</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>793,006,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets-nondepreciable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>904,481</td>
<td>904,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets-depreciable, net</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,996,019</td>
<td>2,996,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$793,585,382</td>
<td>$3,900,500</td>
<td>$797,485,882</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Reclassifications and Eliminations</th>
<th>Statement of Net Assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$111,855</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$111,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>54,443</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>92,784,105</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92,784,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>92,950,403</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92,950,403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUND</th>
<th>Nonspendable prepaid items</th>
<th>Invested in capital assets</th>
<th>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances/Net Assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE/</td>
<td>84,651</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,900,500</td>
<td>3,900,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fund balance/net assets</td>
<td>700,634,979</td>
<td>3,900,500</td>
<td>704,535,479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance June 30, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Reclassifications and Eliminations</th>
<th>Statement of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from state settlement</td>
<td>$69,128,105</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$69,128,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income, net</td>
<td>121,885,046</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>121,885,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>8,686</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>191,021,837</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>191,021,837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Reclassifications and Eliminations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant distributions</td>
<td>43,092,615</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative costs</td>
<td>2,323,204</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital outlays</td>
<td>9,408</td>
<td>(9,408)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on fixed assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation expense</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>107,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures/Expenses</td>
<td>45,425,227</td>
<td>100,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Revenues Over (Under) Expenses</td>
<td>145,596,610</td>
<td>(100,834)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Financing Sources</td>
<td>Proceeds from sale of fixed assets</td>
<td>20,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Fund Balance/Net Assets</td>
<td>145,617,572</td>
<td>(121,796)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance/Net Assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>555,017,407</td>
<td>4,022,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance/Net Assets, end of year</td>
<td>$700,634,979</td>
<td>$3,900,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Board of Directors

Golden LEAF’s 15-member board is appointed by the North Carolina Governor, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

William Clarke
Board chairman
Asheville
Appointed by the President Pro Tempore

Billy Ray Hall
Angier
Appointed by the Governor

James H. Johnson
Pittsboro
Appointed by the Speaker

Michael A. Almond
Piney Creek
Appointed by the Speaker

James J. Johnson
Greensboro
Appointed by the Governor

Wade Barber
Pittsboro
Appointed by the Speaker

Rev. Lacy Joyner
Oxford
Appointed by the President Pro Tempore

Dale C. Bone
Wilson
Appointed by the President Pro Tempore

James Arthur “Art” Pope
Raleigh
Appointed by the President Pro Tempore

Paul Brooks
Pembroke
Appointed by the Governor

Edgar M. Roach, Jr.
Chapel Hill
Appointed by the Governor

J. Thomas Bunn
Raleigh
Appointed by the Speaker

David Stephenson, III
Lumberton
Appointed by the President Pro Tempore

S. Lawrence Davenport
Greenville
Appointed by the Speaker

Tom Taft
Greenville
Appointed by the Governor

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Beth Edmondson
Controller
bedmondson@goldenleaf.org

Our News

To keep up with Golden LEAF’s latest news, grant program opportunities and grantee accomplishments, click here to sign up for our e-newsletter (LEAF Lines) and our media mentions throughout the state (Golden LEAF News).

Click here to view past editions of LEAF Lines and here for Golden LEAF News.