

How To: Application 101

2021

Increasing Economic
Opportunity in North Carolina
since 1999.

www.goldenleaf.org

Step 1. Determine which grant program is best suited for your proposed project.

Open Grants Program

The Open Grants Program process is open to all governmental entities and 501(c)(3) organizations that propose projects in Golden LEAF's priority areas. Letters of Inquiry are received throughout the year. The Open Grants Program grants making is focused in the areas of Economic Investment and Job Creation, Workforce Preparedness and Education, Agriculture, and Community Vitality.

Learn more about our Open Grants Program at goldenleaf.org.

Economic Catalyst Program

The Economic Catalyst process is open to governmental entities and 501(c)(3) organizations with projects that will create jobs at risk without Golden LEAF funding. Grants awarded under the Economic Catalyst Program include: funds for public infrastructure, job training, upfit for buildings owned by governmental or nonprofit entities, or equipment acquisition where the building or equipment will be leased or sold at fair-market value to a company creating jobs.

Learn more about our Open Grants Program at goldenleaf.org.



Step 2. Make your proposal competitive.

Golden LEAF awards grants for projects that the Foundation's Board of Directors believes have extraordinary merit and address Golden LEAF's mission. In evaluating proposals, the Foundation looks for projects that will bring about tangible results for the targeted beneficiaries.

Golden LEAF asks applicants to consider the following questions in thinking through their proposals:

Who benefits from the project?

How do they benefit?

What difference does the project make in the community it serves?

How will the difference and benefit be measured and proven?



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Characteristics of a Competitive Proposal



Step 3. Take these factors into consideration.

- ☉ Golden LEAF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. Grantees must be governmental entities or 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Funds are to be used exclusively for charitable, scientific, educational, or other tax-exempt public purposes.
- ☉ Determine the proposed plan of action.
- ☉ Golden LEAF places priority over funding projects that do the most good for the most people.
- ☉ Explain the difference the project make and how success will be measured. Prepare a budget.
- ☉ All information submitted to Golden LEAF is subject to the Public Records Act.
- ☉ Projects should be outcome-driven.



Tips for a More Successful Application

- Find the right funding fit for your project. Follow the instructions and guidelines for the grant program you are applying for.
- Do your research.
- Take advantage of our open-door policy. We're happy to discuss your project before you apply.
- Don't pad your budgets or expected outcomes.
- Provide letters of support.
- If your project is declined, seek feedback from the staff.
- Ask for recommendations for other potential funding sources.



65,318

New Positions Filled



\$695,583,305

New Payroll



85,849

Workers trained across N.C.

Our Impact

Since its inception in 1999, Golden LEAF has provided lasting impact to tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and rural areas of the state helping build both human and physical infrastructure.

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