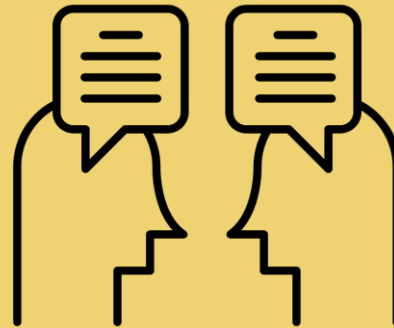




Community-Based Grants Initiative
Agriculture

Golden LEAF Community-Based Grants Initiative Breakout Session

- Overview of Golden LEAF Priority Area
- Outcomes Measured by Golden LEAF
- Example Golden LEAF Projects



Golden LEAF Strategic Priorities FY 2022-2026

- To increase job creation and economic investment in rural, economically distressed, and tobacco-dependent communities
- To improve workforce preparedness in rural, economically distressed, and tobacco-dependent communities
- **To increase the value of North Carolina's agriculture industry**
- To improve the competitiveness and capacity of targeted communities
- To have, and be recognized for, excellence in organizational collaboration, innovation, and impact

Golden LEAF Priority Area Outcomes

Agriculture

- Number of participants at agricultural trainings
- New publications directed towards farmers
- Monthly use of agricultural facilities that benefit farmers

Narrative: Jobs; revenue growth; new agricultural business formations; economic output; changes in agricultural practices; acres in production; new crops/products grown or produced; and, other measures of agriculture projects

Keys to Success

- Agriculture training and/or publications should be relevant, fill a gap, and ultimately lead to improvement in economic position of farmers.
- Important that project participants are willing to share data that Golden LEAF would need to support the outcomes reported by the grantee.
- Applicants must think through what type of data they will provide and what kinds of documentation or evidence of that data they can provide.

Low Priority Agriculture Projects

- Hobby or subsistence farming
- Community farms that target food deserts

Wilkes Economic Development Corporation

Awarded \$63,000 in August 2019 through the Open Grants Program.

Funding to purchase equipment to be rented to farmers in Wilkes and surrounding counties to help young people pursue careers as farmers and improve revenues for existing farmers.

- ✓ Demonstrated **demand** for specific equipment **from farmers**
- ✓ Business plan that demonstrated the ability to **operate and sustain** the program and maintain and replace the equipment
- ✓ Complemented existing operations
- ✓ Ability to **document outcomes**, including use of the equipment, number of farmers participating in the program

Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture

Awarded \$108,000 in April 2021 through CBGI in the Northwest Prosperity Zone.

Funding to develop five satellite locations for an existing hub and for related equipment.

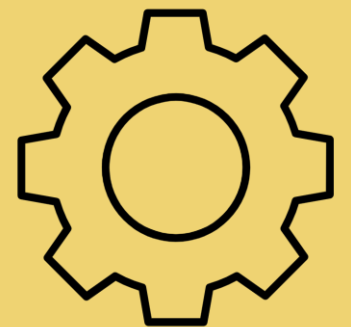
- ✓ Built on an **existing successful** food hub model
- ✓ Response to documented increased **demand**
- ✓ Direct engagement **with farmers**
- ✓ Ability to **document outcomes**, including use of the equipment, number of farmers participating in the program, value of products sold

Agriculture Workforce

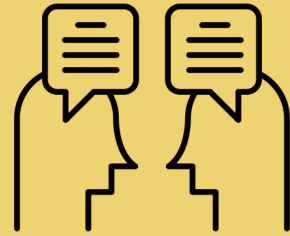
Don't forget the intersection between priority areas, such as ag and workforce preparedness.

- **University of Mount Olive**—Open Grants funding for facilities at a student farm to train students in ag-related courses
- **Blue Ridge Community College**—CBGI funding for facilities and equipment to train workers for greenhouse production

Addresses needs of the ag sector, but evaluated based on workforce-related outcomes.



Questions?



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Characteristics of Low Priority Projects

- Tourism, arts, or cultural resources
- Shell/spec buildings
- Emergency services including fire departments
- General social services
- Reimbursement for prior expenditures
- Capital campaign or endowments
- Housing
- General maintenance and operational support
- Infrastructure not related to economic development
- Repair or replacement of existing equipment and infrastructure

Requirements

- Eligible Applicant
 - ✓ 501(c)(3) nonprofit
 - ✓ Governmental entity
- Eligible Uses of Funds
 - ✓ Must be charitable – no impermissible private benefit
 - ✓ May not be used for purchase of land or buildings
 - ✓ May not be used for grant administration
- Projects are subject to due diligence by Golden LEAF staff, Board, and legal counsel as necessary.
- Golden LEAF Board of Directors makes final funding decisions.
- Funded projects are subject to all reporting requirements of Golden LEAF Foundation, the State Auditor, and Office of Budget and Management as applicable. Grantees must comply with all conditions and requirements in the grantee agreement.
- All correspondence/communications to and from Golden LEAF are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.