NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect
Federal Funds for NC: Sources, Uses, and Opportunities for Collaboration
Relevant Resources

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) May 2023 Monthly Connect: Federal Funds for NC: Sources, Uses, and Opportunities for Collaboration ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after the Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual "chat." This is not intended to be a comprehensive list. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:

Joe Edney, Director, Corporate Strategy, RTI International
Steven Hulsey, Manager, Programs Management, Division of Planning and Programming, NC Department of Transportation
Jonathan Meyer, Federal Funds Budget Analyst, NC Office of State Budget and Management ([slide deck](#))
Jenni Owen (moderator), Director, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships
Christy Sandy, Proposal Development Manager, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NC State University

Resources
Descriptions are in alphabetical order and paraphrased from active links as of May 30, 2023.

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL)
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), allocates $1.2 trillion for infrastructure efforts nationwide. Projects range from repaving roads and water system upgrades funded through formula grants to states to competitive funding for bridge and transit projects. North Carolina expects to receive an estimated $11 billion minimum through formula funding.

[Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act](#)
The CHIPS Act provides $280 billion in funding to bolster the domestic production of semiconductors, boost science and technology research, and authorize other relevant programs and activities of federal science agencies. Most of the funding is pending appropriation.

[Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA)
The IRA includes approximately half a trillion dollars in new investments and spending to address rising healthcare costs and the climate crisis. The IRA funds tax credits, loans, grant programs, and subsidies for a range of categories, including but not limited to energy, infrastructure, rural development, and transportation. New grant opportunities are published each month.

[Federal Register](#)
The Federal Register provides legal notice of administrative rules and notices and Presidential documents (e.g., Executive Orders, Proclamations).

[Grants.gov](#)
The Grants.gov system houses information on over 1,000 grant programs and vets grant applications for [federal grant-making agencies](#). Managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, Grants.gov is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget.

[Higher Education to NC Government Careers](#) **(Ed2NC)**
Ed2NC is a collaborative effort between the NC Office of State Human Resources and the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships. The effort convenes representatives from state government and NC's colleges and universities to help create a pipeline of talent by connecting students and recent graduates with careers in state government.

[North Carolina Department of Transportation](#) **(NCDOT)**
NCDOT connects people, products, and places safely and efficiently by making transportation safer, maintaining infrastructure, and improving the reliability and connectivity of the transportation system.
- Federal grants awarded to NCDOT that were mentioned during the Monthly Connect:
  - [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant](#): RAISE funds multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) programs.
  - [Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant](#): TIGER is aimed at road, rail, transit, and port projects that traditional USDOT programs do not fund and is a previous iteration of the RAISE grant (above).
  - [Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants Program](#): Updated by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand eligibility and alter programming, INFRA funds projects that improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, and increase freight efficiency.

[North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management](#) **(OSBM)**
OSBM serves North Carolinians by providing objective information and analysis to ensure a balanced budget and effective stewardship of public resources.

[North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) **(OSP)**
OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state agencies and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. As part of this work, OSP develops resources about cross-sector partnerships. Examples include:
- [Agency Contacts for Partnerships and Research:](#) A list of state agency representatives who are available as an initial point of contact for partnerships such as research projects, grant proposals, and other collaborative opportunities.
- [Highlights e-news and resources](#): A monthly communication that includes information on events, partnership opportunities, resources, internship opportunities, and more. [Subscribe](#) to Highlights.
- [Philanthropy Liaison:](#) The philanthropy liaison works to build, strengthen, and institutionalize relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in North Carolina.
- [North Carolina Project Portal](#): A tool for sharing state agency research needs and for people to express interest in partnering on those opportunities.

[RTI International](#) **(RTI)**
RTI is an independent nonprofit research institute headquartered in the Research Triangle. RTI is a frequent recipient of federal grants and is open to collaboration with universities, research institutions, foundations, associations, businesses, governments, and NGOs. [Partner with RTI](#).

College and University Contacts for External Engagement
North Carolina public and private two- and four- year colleges and universities have offices and/or points of contact that can assist with identifying opportunities for partnership and engagement. During this Monthly Connect, participants shared the following information and resources. This list is not comprehensive; there are many similar offices and points of contact across NC's institutions of higher learning.

- [College and University Contacts for Partnerships and Research](#) – For contacts at colleges and universities not listed below, click the link above to the OSP site and scroll down to "College and University Contacts for Partnerships and Research."
- Duke University [Office for External Partnerships](#)
- Durham Technical Community College
  - Dr. Christine Kelly-Kleese, Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, oversees institutional research and special projects at Durham Tech (kleesec@durhamtech.edu)
- East Carolina University [Office of Research, Economic Development and Engagement (REDE)](#) and [Office of Engaged Research](#)
- Fayetteville State University [Research and Technology Transfer Office](#)
- North Carolina Community College System
  - Dr. Patrick Crane, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives (cranep@nccommunitycolleges.edu)
- North Carolina State University [Office of Partnerships](#), [Office of Research and Innovation](#), and [Partnership Portal](#)
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte [Division of Research](#) and [Office of Research Partnerships](#)
- University of North Carolina System Office
  - Dr. Jennifer Gerz-Escandón, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Research (jlgerzescandon@northcarolina.edu)
  - The [UNC System Chief Research Officers](#) list is also a resource for people interested in partnering with UNC System institutions.

Comments and Questions

The following is paraphrased from participants' comments.

- A participant stated that match requirements for competitive/discretionary grants can be a challenge for local governments and asked if OSBM has identified a possible solution. A panelist noted C's Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve, funded by the General Assembly, and noted that session law specifies that only state agencies are eligible for this funding. The 2023 state budget is not yet final; Governor Cooper included a $225 million investment into the reserve in his [FY2023-25 budget recommendations](#).
- Panelists and participants shared tips for grant applications, including:
  - Check whether match requirements differentiate in-kind and cash matches. Philanthropy and nonprofit organizations may be sources for matching funds and/or in-kind contributions (e.g., volunteer hours, cost of living adjustments/fringe benefits for employees, venue rentals, etc.).
  - Connect with foundation program officers; they can be a resource for questions and clarifications about grant guidelines, application instructions, etc.
  - If your proposal is not funded, requesting feedback from the funder could help strengthen your future applications.
- Panelists and participants shared ideas for identifying and connecting with potential research partners, including:
  - Consider asking junior faculty, as they may be looking for a "first partnership."
  - Contact the President's Office at any of the 58 NC community colleges. They may have input about college faculty and staff who would be interested in partnerships with government.
  - Search college and university websites for "faculty + [keywords]" related to the research expertise needed.