

Financing

Duplin County is an excellent place to do business in North Carolina. Companies considering Duplin County for location or expansion may qualify for incentives and grant assistance. Incentives are based on the number of jobs created and the amount of taxable investment generated. Typical local incentives are property tax driven but we can be creative and provide assistance with other programs such as the following:

Duplin County Revolving Loan Fund
North Carolina Rural Development Center
Small Business Administration
Self-Help Credit Union
Neuse River Development Authority

Duplin County Revolving Loan Fund

The purposes of the Revolving Loan Fund are as follows:

1. The creation of new job opportunities and the retention of existing jobs within the County principally for persons of low and moderate income (LMI)
2. To further new business development and/or existing business expansion within the County, and
3. To enable private business development to occur within the County that would not occur without loan assistance from the RLF program.

Requirements to be an eligible applicant are as follows:

1. The project must be located within Duplin County
2. The project must be a private development project creating at least three new permanent full-time jobs
3. At least 51% of the new permanent jobs created or existing jobs retained by the project must be provided to low and moderate income persons. A LMI person is defined as a person who is a member of a family whose total family gross income does not exceed 80% of the median family income for the respective family size as established from time to time by HUD for Duplin County.
4. Jobs retention projects will only be considered if the applicant clearly demonstrates that jobs will be lost without participation in the RLF program and the applicant has set a schedule of layoffs
5. RLF participation must be needed. Applicant must clearly demonstrate that the project cannot and will not take place within the RLF eligible area without RLF

You cannot use the RLF to finance existing debt but loans can be made for land, buildings, and improvements to buildings, capital equipment and related development costs. The loan can also be used for working capital.

North Carolina Rural Center

The North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program has received approximately \$57 million in appropriation funds through FY07 - 08. Eligible applicants are units of local government in North Carolina. The Program will assist a unit of local government by funding up to \$10,000 per job created, for up to one half of water and sewer infrastructure costs, or a maximum of \$1,000,000, in projects that result in the creation of private sector jobs. Jobs must be full time, and must pay at least minimum wage. A local match of 5% of the total cost of the infrastructure is required.

Applications are taken on a rolling basis, first-come, first-serve. An applicant must first submit a pre-application . This will be reviewed by staff and the applicant will be contacted to attend a face-to-face meeting with Rural Center staff, the business creating the jobs, and the unit of local government. The requirements of the Performance Agreement between the local government and the business are discussed in the meeting. If the project appears to be a viable one, with a solid commitment of jobs, Rural Center staff will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to invite the applicant to submit a full application and an executed Performance Agreement.

Once the full application and Performance Agreement are received, reviewed, and approved by Rural Center staff, a recommendation is made to fully fund the project. Funds may be accessed after all local funds and all private funds are expended.

The Building Reuse and Restoration Program assists communities in transforming the potential these buildings represent into economic reality. Grants help local governments prepare the buildings for reuse by new and expanding businesses. The Rural Center oversees the program on behalf of the N.C. General Assembly.

Two types of grants were created. Predevelopment grants of \$25,000 help cover the cost of an initial study or other activity necessary to secure commitments from a business or investors. Development grants of up to \$400,000 are awarded to projects ready for renovation and must be matched by at least an equal amount of private and public funds. Awards are limited to local governments in rural counties or the most economically distressed urban areas, with priority given to towns with fewer than 5,000 people.

Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. We recognize that small business is critical to our economic recovery and strength, to building America's future, and to helping the United States compete in today's global marketplace. Although SBA has grown and evolved in the years since it was established in 1953, the bottom line mission remains the same. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses. SBA can offer financial assistance such as loans, grants, security bonds and equity capital.

Self Help Credit Union

Self-Help is a community development lender and real estate developer that works with individuals, organizations and communities traditionally underserved by conventional markets. The funds that support our work come from deposits, grants, and other investments made by individuals and institutions across the U.S.

Neuse River Development Authority

Neuse River Development Authority, Inc. (NRDA) is a non-profit small business lender serving a 10-county region in eastern North Carolina. Offering seven different loan programs, NRDA's goals are job creation coupled with sustainable economic growth. Since its beginning in 1979, NRDA has loaned over \$30mm to business owners throughout eastern North Carolina. NRDA makes small business loans to new and expanding businesses that have been unable to obtain conventional financing or that need to leverage conventional financing. Their goals are to enhance economic development, create jobs and entice lending institutions to lend more money to small businesses by providing subordinate long-term financing. Lending institutions may earn CRA credits by using any of NRDA's loan programs.

NRDA has over \$4.3 million available for direct lending. They also participate in the SBA 504 loan program. Their in-house loans range in size from \$1,500 to \$150,000. The SBA 504 loans start at \$50,000 and most loans have a maximum of \$1.5 million however, public policy loans can go as high as \$2 million and loans for manufacturing facilities have a maximum of \$4 million.