The NC Ready Sites Program (the “Program”) been created to attract employers to rural, economically distressed areas of North Carolina that are identified as tier one or tier two areas under G.S. 143B-437.08. In order to accomplish this goal, it is important to have sites on which those employers can locate. To be as competitive as possible, those sites must be served by public infrastructure, such as water and sewer, to reduce the time it will take for the employer to complete site development and begin operations. The Program shall assist local government units to fund improvement of public infrastructure that serves publicly owned or publicly controlled industrial sites that have the potential to attract employers that can create jobs and have a significant positive effect on the local, regional, and State economies. Agreements entered into by local governments and the Rural Infrastructure Authority for the program shall be administered by the Rural Economic Development Division. To participate in the Program, a project must meet the following criteria:

* The applicant shall be a unit of local government located in a development tier one or tier two area, pursuant to G.S. 143B-437.08.
* The site to be served by the public infrastructure shall be publicly owned or publicly controlled.
* The site shall have a minimum size of 50 contiguous acres.
* There shall be evidence of appropriate local financial support for site development, which includes, but is not limited to, site acquisition, development costs, or infrastructure improvements.
* There shall be evidence of recent private sector interest in developing an industrial project on the site.
* There shall be evidence of a well-thought-out strategy to identify and market the site to appropriate private sector businesses.
* Improvements that would be funded shall result in a site that is ready for development; funds are to be used to eliminate or reduce the infrastructure gap and time needed to make the site development ready.
* Funds shall only be utilized for public infrastructure improvements including new or existing water, sewer, gas, telecommunications, high-speed broadband, electrical utility distribution lines or equipment, or transportation infrastructure.

Department of Commerce funds will only be used to support projects in rural or economically distressed communities, and to construct public infrastructure. Department of Commerce funds may not be used for improvements on private property that is not publicly controlled, or for acquisition of interests in real property.

**Process Overview**

An interested party will submit a pre-application to Mark Poole at mpoole@nccommerce.com. Based on those submissions, projects will be reviewed and recommendations will be forwarded to the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) for discussion and approval at the June meeting. Communities that have projects the RIA votes to support will then be invited to submit a full application for funding. Once those applications have been reviewed to insure they are complete and represent a similar project to that represented in the pre-application, grant documents will be generated and sent for execution. If the project does not receive a favorable outcome, the applicant will be informed of the reason or reasons why.

**For more information, contact:**

**Mark N. Poole**

**Commerce Finance Center**

**(919) 814-4616**

**mpoole@nccommerce.com**

## **The Public Records Act**

**Proposals submitted to the** DOC are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act and thus subject to inspection by the public. Other information in this application and accompanying attachments may become a public record following its submission unless otherwise protected by the confidentiality provisions of the state public records act, which include protections for confidentiality and proprietary information that constitutes a trade secret (N.C.G.S. 132-1). Any such information should be clearly marked as “confidential" and an explanation of the reasons why the information should not be disclosed should be provided.