

sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Grants for Recovery Projects Awarded to North Carolina Communities

A new series of state grants will help improve drainage, repair sewer systems, and replace waterlines in several communities hit hard by Hurricane Matthew. The grant awards were announced June 7 by the Department.

The grants are part of \$10.25 million in funding provided by the state legislature to N.C. Commerce to address rural economic development and small business needs following the storm and its historic floods. These recovery grants are a small part of a larger effort to help hurricane-affected communities recover and rebuild.

"Many North Carolinians are still on the road to recovery from Hurricane Matthew, and these grants will help communities with key efforts to rebuild," **Governor Roy Cooper** said.

The following communities will receive hurricane recovery grants:

- Bladenboro in Bladen County will receive \$126,720 to support the removal of trees, storm debris and sediment clogging the main drainage system in the town.
- Snow Hill in Greene County will receive \$244,310 to relocate and replace the existing pump station #6 with a pump station constructed outside the adjacent floodplain.
- Greene County will receive \$52,863 to replace part of a water line and place it below the drainage system and Contentnea Creek tributary crossing.
- Elizabeth City in Pasquotank County will receive \$475,532 to replace sewer infrastructure for the Parkview Interceptor project.
- Farmville in Pitt County will receive \$75,000 to replace



N.C. Commerce Deputy Secretary Will Miller (center) on the dais at the SEUS-CP conference in Toronto.

Canadian Business Conference Strengthens Ties to N.C. and the Southeast U.S.

The 10th annual Southeastern U.S. - Canadian Provinces Alliance conference brought together business and government leaders from six southeastern states and seven Canadian provinces to discuss trade and investment ties between the two regions. The international meeting was held June 4-6 in Toronto.

N.C. Commerce Deputy Secretary Will Miller led the state's delegation to the conference.

Canada is one of the state's most important business partners. Since 2012, North Carolina has seen \$680 million in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Canada alone, supporting 2000 jobs in the state. As a top trading partner, Canada accounts for 21 percent of the state's total exports, with more than \$6.4 billion in merchandise shipped to Canada in 2016. This is more than double the amount of exports to North Carolina's second largest trade market, Mexico.

collapsed storm drainage piping and catch basins on Wallace Street that failed and caused localized flooding during Hurricane Matthew.

- Ayden in Pitt County will receive \$187,100 to replace and redirect collapsed and failing storm sewer piping that caused localized flooding and sink holes during Hurricane Matthew.
- Winterville in Pitt County will receive \$270,000 to elevate and rebuild the control system for a local sewer lift station, as well as \$1,094,000 to replace an inadequate stormwater culvert that caused flooding during Hurricane Matthew.

The N.C. Commerce grants are part of \$200 million allocated by the N.C. General Assembly for Hurricane Matthew and wildfire relief through the North Carolina Disaster Recovery Act of 2016. An earlier round of N.C. Commerce grants was announced on April 4. State budget proposals put forward by Governor Cooper, the Senate and the House for 2017 all include additional funds for hurricane recovery.

Among other organizations tapped to facilitate grant funding provided by the Disaster Recovery Act, the Golden LEAF Foundation received \$25 million and the N.C. Housing Finance Agency received \$20 million to make similar grants to help communities recovering from Hurricane Matthew. Recently, the Golden LEAF Foundation awarded a second round of grants totaling \$11 million to help local communities rebuild damaged infrastructure, and Housing Finance awarded \$750,000 for recovery efforts in Cumberland and Wayne counties.

Additional Hurricane Matthew recovery grants are expected to be awarded in the coming months.

New Tool to Help Communities Increase Innovation Released

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) announced the release of the *InnovateNC Community Innovation Asset Map* on June 8, a unique mapping tool for local communities. The tool is designed to help communities inventory existing assets for enhancing their local innovation economies.

"The next twenty years are going to be a period where every place - and every person - needs to be ready to relentlessly reinvent themselves," said **IEI Director Leslie Boney**. "Communities need to build on their competitive assets, and this guide lays out the process to do that."

N.C. Commerce's Office of Science, Technology, & Innovation (OSTI) served as a partner in the project to offer the mapping tool, along with RTI International. "All communities have assets they can use to build and grow a vibrant economy," said **Dr. John Hardin, executive director of OSTI**. "But knowing which assets are most valuable isn't easy. This is an essential tool that will help any community - large or small, urban or rural - make the smart, well-informed decisions that are necessary to prosper in today's innovation-driven economy."

For more information and to download the Asset Map



The logo for the 2017 SEUS/Japan Conference makes reference to the 40th anniversary milestone of the upcoming event.

Save The Date for the 2017 Southeast U.S./Japan Conference

The 40th Annual Joint Meeting between the Southeast U.S./Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Greenville, South Carolina October 22-24, 2017.

North Carolina is a founding member of SEUS/Japan, an association of seven southeastern states created in 1976. The state's participation aims to encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) from Japanese companies, as well as strengthen export ties for North Carolina companies selling goods in Japan.

North Carolinians interested in joining the state's delegation to the conference may contact David Rhoades, State Coordinator for the conference at (919) 814-4611 or [by email](#). Formal registration packets will be available later this month.

N.C. in the News

- [Retiring EDC president gets plaque. key to city](#) (*Courier-Tribune* - Asheboro - June 9)
- [Chinese delegation tours Charlotte with at least \\$20M in foreign direct investment in mind](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - June 6)
- [Larger cargo ships are coming to East Coast ports. Can North Carolina keep up?](#) (*Charlotte Observer* - June 2)
- [Roanoke Rapids gets certified as a retirement community](#) (*The Daily Herald* - Roanoke Rapids - May 31)
- [Town appoints new economic development manager](#) (*Fauquier Times* - Warrenton - May 30)
- [Why global interest is rising in the Charlotte region](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - May 26)
- [What's in the cards? National, state, regional partners play a role in local economic development](#) (*Smoky Mountain News* - Waynesville - May 24)

materials, visit [IEI's InnovateNC website.](#)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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