



Logistics Company to Create 50 Jobs in Duplin County

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. (EDPNC) announced June 27 that United States Cold Storage, Inc. will create 50 jobs in Duplin County over the next five years as it expands its distribution and warehouse operations there. The company plans to invest \$21.6 million at its facility in Warsaw over that time.

"United States Cold Storage is a leading logistics service provider to our state's consumer foods industry, and this expansion has far-reaching benefits for Duplin County and beyond," said **Governor McCrory**. "The continued growth and success of this 127-year-old company means good jobs for our economy."

Founded in 1889 as the American Ice Company, U.S. Cold Storage is a leader in refrigerated storage and logistics. The New Jersey-based company currently operates 36 facilities across 12 states, employing a total workforce of nearly 2,500.

"Consumer foods and beverage manufacturing is a \$20 billion industry in North Carolina, and logistics providers like United States Cold Storage are critical to our efforts to keep this economic driver growing," said **Commerce Secretary Skvarla**. "About 35 percent of the products this company handles are destined for overseas markets, which helps connect North Carolina-produced foods to hungry consumers around the world."

U.S. Cold Storage's facility in Duplin County, one of three North Carolina locations the company maintains, has been in operation since 1996. "We greatly appreciate the efforts of the state, county and local community," said **Jesse Hooks, regional vice president at U.S. Cold Storage**. "The successful collaboration helps us to maintain and grow our refrigerated warehouse business operations in Duplin County."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based One North Carolina Fund grant of up to \$120,000. A \$300,000 Building Reuse grant will help ready the U.S Cold Storage facility for operation. The Building Reuse program is administered by N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic



Expansion Will Create 35 Jobs in Macon County

TekTone® Sound & Signal Mfg., Inc. will create 35 jobs over the next five years as it expands operations in Macon County. The company plans to invest \$2.9 million in its facility over that time.

"TekTone® Sound & Signal is a key global player in the nurse call system market, doing business on five continents," said **Governor Pat McCrory**. "This company's exciting growth in Macon County provides more evidence that modern manufacturers can thrive in every corner of our state."

Founded in 1973, TekTone® Sound & Signal opened its manufacturing facility in Franklin, N.C. in 1989. TekTone® designs and manufactures wired and wireless nurse call, apartment entry, area of rescue assistance, alert integration and resident wandering systems. The company's world headquarters is in Franklin.

"Nothing compares to the manufacturing talent, access to global markets and competitive costs that companies like TekTone® Sound & Signal find in North Carolina," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "These are among the factors that have made us the Southeast's #1 state for manufacturing jobs."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$90,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

Among the allies working with [EDPNC](#) and [N.C. Commerce](#) on TekTone® Sound & Signal's expansion are the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [Macon County Board of Commissioners](#) and the [Macon County Economic Development Commission](#).

[Read more.](#)

Development team.

Numerous entities partnered with [N.C. Commerce](#) and [EDPNC](#) in supporting United States Cold Storage's expansion. They include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), [Duplin County](#), [Duplin County Economic Development Commission](#), and the [Town of Warsaw](#).

[Read more.](#)

Governor McCrory Announces More Than \$10.4 Million in Infrastructure Funding Supporting 622 New Jobs Statewide

Governor Pat McCrory announced June 23 that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 31 grant and loan requests totaling \$10,433,899. The requests include commitments to create a total of 622 new jobs.

"Job growth favors communities that have ready-to-go sites, buildings and infrastructure," said **Governor McCrory**. "These grants will help provide the assets and amenities companies seek when growing their businesses and creating jobs."

Several categories of grants were used by the RIA to fulfill community requests.

From the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account:

- **Town of Tarboro (Edgecombe County):** A \$949,750 grant to assist with water, sewer and a 500,000-gallon storage tank at Tarboro Commerce Center. The 185-acre industrial park is being developed by the Town of Tarboro and Edgecombe County.
- **Northampton County:** A \$568,769 grant to improve sewer service in support of the retention of West Fraser Timber Company. The county is pursuing the funds in partnership with the Town of Seaboard.
- **City of Laurinburg (Scotland County):** A grant of \$708,000 to assist with providing sewer and industrial access to a new industrial property off Highway 74. The access will open the property up to at least 60 developable acres.

The RIA approved eight loans under the state's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program:

- **Town of Denton (Davidson County):** A \$750,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant building by Kaufman Trailers of North Carolina, which is creating 38 new jobs.
- **Town of Denton (Davidson County):** A \$750,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant building by Construction Implements Depot Inc., a manufacturer of skid steer and tractor implements whose expansion is creating 38 new jobs.
- **City of Lexington (Davidson County):** A \$500,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant building by Westport Bay, a bathroom-cabinetry manufacturer whose expansion is creating 25 new jobs.
- **Town of Belhaven (Beaufort County):** A \$500,000 loan to support the redevelopment of two vacant downtown buildings for use by Spoon River Art Works and Market. The loan, which supports a total capital investment of \$910,000, is a collaborative solution between CDBG and the Downtown Redevelopment



One of North Carolina's first visitors to enjoy the state's new Wi-Fi service, here at the I-26 East Welcome Center.

North Carolina Extends a Wi-Fi Welcome to Visitors

Visitors traveling the state over the Fourth of July holiday weekend took advantage of a new free service offered in North Carolina's nine Welcome Centers - wireless internet access. The free service enables visitors to more quickly connect with the many travel options North Carolina offers, as well as to check email and share their experiences with family and friends.

"Broadband connectivity has become vital to our state's economy, in ways both large and small," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "People now expect Wi-Fi connections wherever they are, so it's our pleasure to offer this important service to all travelers who are out exploring our state's many treasures."

"We're pleased to provide this additional service to our visitors, both to welcome them to our state and to provide them with an easy way to get information about North Carolina," said **Bryan Gupton, director of visitor services for N.C. Commerce**. The Welcome Centers have recently installed electronic guest registries as well. "We're using our wireless capabilities to provide services to our visitors, like Wi-Fi and kiosks, but we're also using this technology to help identify and respond to visitor needs," said Gupton.

[Read more.](#)

State's Advances in Unemployment System Draws

- Fund of the North Carolina Main Street Center.
- **The Town of Edenton (Chowan County):** A \$500,000 loan to support the renovation of a 64-room boutique hotel. Hotel Hinton will create 69 jobs. The loan, which supports a total capital investment of \$12 million, is also a collaborative solution between CDBG and the Downtown Redevelopment Fund of the North Carolina Main Street Center.
- **Town of Troy (Montgomery County):** A \$322,830 loan to support the renovation of a vacant building for use as Caroline's Diner, which is creating four new jobs. The business will help serve the community's eco-tourism industry. This loan is another collaborative solution between CDBG and the Downtown Redevelopment Fund of the North Carolina Main Street Center.
- **The City of Elizabeth City (Pasquotank County):** A \$500,000 loan made possible by a CDBG/Main Street collaboration to support the renovation of the vacant New Southern Hotel. The building, which has been unoccupied for the past 30 years, will house a new 50-room hotel that will create 50 new jobs.
- **The City of Wilson (Wilson County):** A \$500,000 loan to support the renovation of a vacant grocery store for use by Thomas Drug Store and Home Medical Supply. The loan is a collaborative solution between CDBG and the Downtown Redevelopment Fund of the North Carolina Main Street Center.

The RIA approved a total of 14 grants under the state's Building Reuse program:

- **Burke County:** A \$500,000 grant to support the renovation of four buildings in Hildebran that will facilitate a 50-job expansion at Peds Legware. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$2,939,932.
- **Caldwell County:** A \$222,450 grant to support the expansion of a building in Granite Falls to support Jordan-Holman Lumber's 23-job expansion.
- **Town of Denton (Davidson County):** A \$90,000 grant to support a nine-job expansion by Thermo Products. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$298,348.
- **Rockingham County:** A \$500,000 grant to expand a building in Reidsville that will house an expansion by Unifi. The manufacturer will be creating 87 new jobs. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$2,701,199.
- **Yadkin County:** A \$190,000 grant to expand a building in Yadkinville that will house a separate expansion by Unifi. Here the manufacturer will be creating 19 new jobs. This grant is part of a total capital investment of \$3,535,000.
- **Bertie County:** A \$100,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Roxobel by Baker's Southern Traditions. The female-owned peanut processing company will create eight new jobs. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$353,895.
- **Burke County:** A \$150,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building near Morganton by Fonta Flora Brewery. The company will create 12 jobs. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$504,500.
- **City of Lenoir (Caldwell County):** A \$49,250 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building by Bella Torte Bistro & Bakery. The female-owned full service restaurant and bakery will create 10 jobs.
- **Franklin County:** A \$125,000 reuse grant for a building in Youngsville that will support a 10-job expansion by Network South. The grant is part of a total capital

National Attention

Jeffrey Smith, the Chief Appeals Referee for N.C. Commerce's Division of Employment Security, was a featured presenter at the 2016 National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) training conference in Hartford, Connecticut. Smith spoke to the large assembly June 22 and represented North Carolina on a panel with appeals managers from Michigan, Idaho and New Mexico.

North Carolina was invited to participate in the presentation, at least in part, due to recent improvements in meeting U.S. Department of Labor timeliness standards. While the state has consistently excelled in quality measurements for Unemployment Insurance appeals, meeting timeliness goals has been more of a challenge historically. For the first time in many years, North Carolina now exceeds the federal standard.

In his talk, Smith discussed initiatives the North Carolina team has taken to improve efficiency and customer service, with best practices for eliminating duplicate or obsolete processes and making it easier for customers to reach the person who can best help with an issue or question.



Carolina Beach Apparel owner Mark Sblendorio (right) offers Commerce Secretary John Skvarla a tour of one of his business entities, Seaside Silk Screening.

Skvarla Visits Wilmington to Salute Small-Business Hiring

Six years ago, **Mark Sblendorio** launched Carolina Beach Apparel LLC in the spare room of his home. Today, the Wilmington company sprawls across 11,000 square feet of production space. Its workforce has also grown dramatically, with the business adding about one employee per month during the past year.

Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, visited the company on June 28th as part of a series of 'small business spotlights' around

investment of \$806,074.

- **Hyde County:** A \$50,000 reuse grant for a building in Swan Quarter that will support a five-job expansion by Courthouse Cafe, a full-service restaurant. The building was constructed in 1954 and has been vacant for 13 years.
- **City of Greenville (Pitt County):** A \$60,000 reuse grant for a building that will support Uptown Brewing Company, a full-production brewery and tap house that is creating 12 jobs. The building was constructed in 1930 and has been vacant for 30 years.
- **Rowan County:** A \$180,935 reuse grant for a building in Salisbury that will support the 15-job expansion of Aldo Products. The grant supports a total capital investment of \$1,511,074.
- **Sampson County:** A \$180,000 reuse grant for a vacant building in Clinton that will support a 36-job expansion by Farm Fresh Produce Distribution. The grant supports a total capital investment of \$3,983,000.
- **Vance County:** A \$150,000 reuse grant for a vacant building in Henderson that will support a 12-job expansion by Hoyle's Tire & Axle. The grant supports a total capital investment of \$1,235,392.

The RIA approved a total of six grants under the state's Economic Infrastructure program:

- **City of Kings Mountain (Cleveland County):** A grant of \$297,600 for water and sewer service to support the arrival of A&A Transfer. It is creating 24 new jobs and the grant supports a total capital investment of \$3.85 million.
- **Town of Clayton and Johnston County:** A \$250,000 grant for water service and a \$250,000 grant for sewer service in support of Novo Nordisk's current expansion. The two grants support a total capital investment of \$1.23 billion.
- **City of Marion (McDowell County):** A \$150,000 grant to support the demolition and clean-up of an abandoned industrial building. The project enables local leaders to redevelop and market an amenity-rich 15.3-acre site for new businesses, facilitating job creation. The grant supports a total capital investment of \$900,000.
- **Town of Nashville (Nash County):** A \$292,425 grant for sewer service to support the start-up of Carolina Innovative Food Ingredients. The company is creating 36 new jobs. The grant, which increases a \$157,575 infrastructure award made in November 2014, supports a total capital investment of \$20.9 million.
- **Town of Rutherfordton (Rutherford County):** A grant of \$96,890 to support sewer service to Tryon Fairways, LLC - Cleghorn Inn and Restaurant. The grant supports a total capital investment of \$9 million.

"The Rural Infrastructure Authority and our Commerce team are dedicated to customizing job-growth solutions around the unique challenges and opportunities faced by communities in every region of our diverse state," said **Commerce Secretary Skvarla**. "From upgraded water and sewer service for expanding manufacturers to the renovation of downtown hotels, today's list of grant awards underscores how the Carolina Comeback is bringing exciting possibilities to less populated towns and counties."



The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic

North Carolina. "We could not be more proud of your success," Skvarla told company owners and employees.

Carolina Beach Apparel designs and produces branded t-shirts and promotional items. Helping simplify its hiring has been the NCWorks Career Center in Wilmington. The center has partnered with the company in finding and training its new employees. In contrast to the "unemployment offices" of the past, NCWorks is a client-focused portal serving workers and businesses. "This is the culmination of that transformation," said **Skvarla**.

Sharese Robertson was among Carolina Beach Apparel's recent hires. A former U.S. Army medic and Reservist, Robertson arrived at the company last December. After extensive on-the-job training partially paid with federal workforce grants, Robertson now manages its pre-press production shop.

Robertson is one of three veterans Carolina Beach Apparel has hired through NCWorks. "We have a sweet spot in our hearts for veterans," said Sblendorio, who praised the assistance of NCWorks in scaling up his staff. "The Career Center and its workforce programs have been structured to support small-business growth," said Sblendorio.

In 2015, NCWorks served nearly 35,500 veterans - 10,500 of whom found jobs after being assisted by their career centers.



N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla (right), North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) Executive Director Scott Dorney (second from right, rear) and team members from NCMBC's Fayetteville office.

Skvarla Stops By NCMBC

N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla visited the North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) in Fayetteville June 21.

NCMBC is a business development entity of the North Carolina Community College System, headquartered at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). The mission of the NCMBC is to leverage military and other federal business opportunities to expand the economy, grow jobs and improve quality of life in North Carolina.

Development Division at N.C. Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. For more information on how your community can benefit from these funds, visit our website at nccommerce.com/rd.

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla delivers opening remarks at the NC Competes for Jobs event in Shelby May 17.

More than 2,000 People Attend 21-Stop NC Competes for Jobs Tour

N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla and his economic development and workforce team wrapped up the NC Competes for Jobs Tour last week with a stop June 27 in Boone.

The educational sessions, held in 21 locations across the state, highlighted the tools and resources N.C. Commerce offers local communities to meet the needs of business, which in turn drive local economic growth.

The NC Competes for Jobs Tour event locations included:

- Wilkes Community College, Wilkesboro - February 11
- Louisburg College - February 24
- Wilson Community College - March 3
- Davidson Community College, Thomasville - March 10
- Ellerbe Middle School - March 14
- Brunswick Community College, Bolivia - March 23
- Surry Community College, Dobson - March 29
- Western Piedmont CC, Morganton - March 30
- Rockingham Community College, Reidsville - April 4
- Onslow County Government Complex - April 6
- New Bern Convention Center - April 13
- College of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City - April 14
- Liston B. Ramsey Activity Center, Cullowhee - May 3
- Regional High Technology Center, Waynesville - May 4
- N.C. General Assembly - May 9
- Cleveland Community College, Shelby - May 17
- Robeson Community College, Lumberton - May 18
- Mitchell Community College, Statesville - June 2
- Stanly Community College, Albemarle - June 9
- Sen. Martin Eastern Ag Center, Williamston - June 22
- Appalachian State University, Boone - June 27

For further information about any of the tools and programs featured on the Tour, contact [Kim Genardo](#) or [David Rhoades](#) in Commerce's Communications office.

During his visit, Skvarla met with NCMBC Executive Director Scott Dorney and his staff. Information about the center and its current initiatives can be found at the [organization's website](#).



Mount Fuji, the iconic symbol of Japan.

Save the Date for SEUS/Japan Conference in September

The 39th Annual Joint Meeting between the Southeast U.S./Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations will be held at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan September 20-22, 2016.

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

- [Commerce chief brings good numbers to Martin Center](#) (*Daily Reflector* - June 24)
- [Many Eastern NC cities benefit as state announces grants](#) (*WNCN-TV* - June 23)
- [Roundtable discusses entrepreneurial opportunities](#) (*Fayetteville Observer* - June 23)
- [North Carolina plans for more local businesses in rural areas](#) (*WNCT-TV* - June 22)
- [State chamber chief urges local business to take the lead](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - June 22)

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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