



Economic Development Fellowship Program

For Host Economic Development Organizations

About the Fellowship Program

The NCEDA Foundation Economic Development Fellowship Program provides funding for economic development organizations (EDOs), especially in underserved and distressed areas of North Carolina, to host student Fellows from North Carolina universities and colleges for a summer learning and work experience designed to benefit both the Fellow, the EDO, and the North Carolina economic development profession. Fellows will gain invaluable work experience, an expanded network of relevant contacts, and an opportunity to enhance an economic development organization's efforts to benefit its service area residents. EDO Hosts will benefit from the insights and work efforts the Fellow brings to the engagement. The North Carolina economic development community will benefit from the sharing of the Fellows' experiences and projects.

Why Host a Fellow?

Hosting a Fellow provides EDOs with fresh perspectives and additional capacity to tackle projects that benefit their community. Fellows, selected from graduate programs such as Public Administration, Business Administration, City and Regional Planning, and Economics, contribute innovative solutions and dedicated work for 10 to 12 weeks, working approximately 40 hours per week. In addition, Host EDOs have the opportunity to shape the Fellows' project and provide mentorship, fostering the next generation of economic development professionals.

Host Responsibilities

Host EDOs are responsible for developing a meaningful project for the Fellow to work on during the Fellowship period. The EDO will manage and mentor the Fellow, ensuring that the project aligns with the organization's needs while providing the Fellow with valuable learning experiences. The NCEDA Foundation will collaborate with the EDO to facilitate professional development and networking opportunities for the Fellow, including participation in the NCEDA Annual and Fall Conferences.

Support Provided by NCEDA Foundation

The NCEDA Foundation will provide compensation for the Fellow, either in the form of an hourly wage or stipend, for the duration of the Fellowship. Additionally, the Foundation will cover the costs for the Fellow to attend professional development programs and key industry events, such as the Basic Economic Development Course at UNC and NCEDA conferences. This support ensures that the Fellow has the opportunity to develop professionally and network with industry leaders.

Application Process for Hosts

If your organization would benefit from working with a NCEDA Fellow on an impactful project in your service area, we encourage you to apply to host a Fellow for the summer of 2026. The application process involves outlining the proposed project and explaining how the Fellow's work will contribute to your organization's economic development goals. The application period opens on October 3, 2025, and closes on October 31, 2025. Hosts will be selected and announced by December 4, 2025. Fellowships will begin in mid-May and conclude in mid-August.

October 3
Host Application
Opens

October 31
Host Application
Deadline

November 3 - 7
Host Application
Review Process

November 14
Selected Host
Notifications

December 1
Finalize Host
Contracts

December 4
Hosts
Announced