

MOORE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Building More Than The Economy



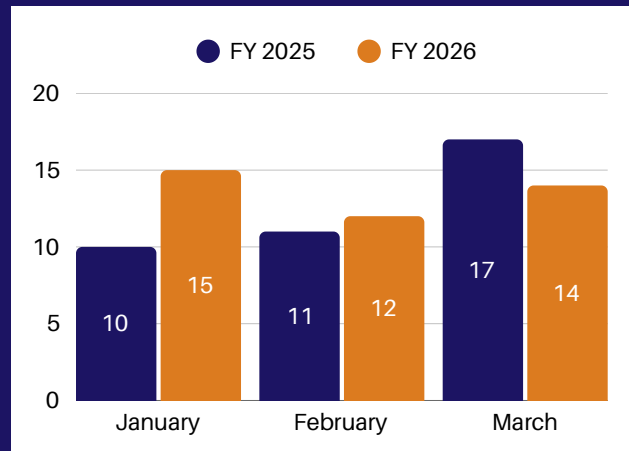
QUARTERLY REPORT

March 31, 2026

moorecountyedp.org | 910.246.0311

BUSINESS LEADS

From October to December, MCEDP responded to **41** NEW business leads. We submitted a property or are actively looking for a suitable property for **8**, or almost **20%**, of the leads. MCEDP received **109** leads this fiscal year through March 31st.



As of March 31st, MCEDP is actively working **29** projects representing more than **1,225** new jobs and more than **\$595.5** million in capital investment.



BUSINESS RECRUITMENT, EXPANSION, & SUPPORT

In February, MCEDP was awarded a **\$75,000 Rural Business Development Grant** from the U.S Department of Agriculture to obtain a Biofuel Development Opportunity (BDO) Rating to support efforts to recruit biobased businesses to Moore County.

To obtain the rating, MCEDP has contracted with Ecostrat, a leading biomass development and supply chain assessment firm. This will be the first BDO rating achieved in North Carolina and will be valid for two (2) years.

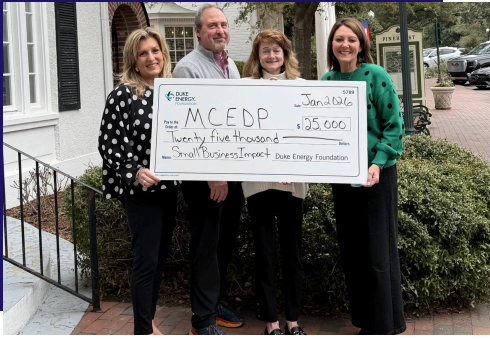
Moore County possesses significant woody biomass resources, particularly in the northern part of the county, along with infrastructure advantages that position it well for biomanufacturing development. The 12-month project will focus on a 25-mile radius – the BDO Zone – from the Town of Robbins.

Ecostrat will also collaborate with MCEDP on a strategic marketing campaign to promote Moore County globally to attract bioeconomy investment to the area.

COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In March, Moore County community and business leaders gathered at Pinehurst Resort to kick off **"Fly Local"** - a campaign to rally community support and raise funds for daily air service between Moore County and Washington Dulles International Airport on a major airline, with a target start date of Spring 2027.

To meet the service start date of next spring, the minimum revenue guarantee (MRG) funds required by the airline must be secured by this summer. To date, over one-half, or **\$1.7 million**, of the funds have been pledged. Visit [FlyMooreCounty.com](https://www.flymoorecounty.com) to support the effort and/or to pledge funds.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In January, MCEDP was awarded a **\$25,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation** to support Moore County's small businesses and subsequently launched the **Moore County Small Business Impact Grant Program**. Retail, restaurant, and service-based small businesses with a storefront presence in Moore County were eligible to apply for grants ranging from **\$500 to \$5,000** that can be used for a variety of strategic improvements to help the businesses thrive and grow.

In late March, MCEDP awarded **six (6) grants:**

1. **Eliza Quinn Creates – Carthage (\$5,000)** to purchase equipment & expand product offerings
2. **James Creek Cider House – Cameron (\$5,000)** to purchase equipment and offer food service in its tasting room
3. **Carolina Pine Inn Bar & Grill – Pinebluff (\$5,000)** to refresh its dining room interior to expand capacity and strengthen ADA compliance
4. **Jerry's Homestead Provisions/Misty Morning Ranch – Robbins (\$5,000)** to improve Jerry's storefront and purchase equipment to expand sales of locally grown & sourced products
5. **Sandhills Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic – Vass (\$2,500)** to increase affordability of core dog & cat vaccination packages for lower-income pet owners
6. **Rec Room Arcade and Bar – Southern Pines (\$2,500)** to purchase equipment and offer in-house food service

Awardees must complete their projects by December 1, 2026.

“These awards are a direct investment in the vitality of Moore County’s economy. MCEDP is incredibly grateful to the Duke Energy Foundation for making the Small Business Impact Grant Program possible.”

– Natalie Hawkins, MCEDP President



PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

In addition to our ongoing efforts to prepare the **Iron Horse Industrial Park** in Aberdeen for development, MCEDP continues to look for other properties throughout Moore County that may have potential for development as industrial or business park sites. This quarter, MCEDP communicated with owners of **two (2) sites** to evaluate further: 1) a **107-acre site** near Pinebluff; and 2) a **324-acre site** near Vass.

The owner of the Pinebluff property expressed a willingness to sell, and the site was selected for **Duke Energy's Site Readiness Program**. Consultants will visit the site in April and conduct a comprehensive evaluation to determine the site's viability for industrial development.

ABOUT US

Moore County Economic Development Partnership (MCEDP) is a 501c(3) not-for-profit economic development organization and public-private partnership serving all of Moore County, NC. We work collaboratively with our partners and local governments to attract new businesses and support existing businesses.

OUR MISSION

To increase economic prosperity and improve the quality of life for Moore County's citizens through the creation of quality jobs and capital investment in our communities.

OUR STAFF



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Moore Manufacturers Meetup

May 8, 2026 (8:00 AM)
Scribner, Southern Pines

Progress Cup Golf Tournament

May 12, 2026 (9:00 AM)
Southern Pines Golf Club

Moore Entrepreneurs Meetup

May 13, 2026 (5:30 PM)
Moore County Chamber of Commerce

Moore 100 Members Meeting

June 11, 2026 (4:00 PM)
Pinehurst Resort Clubhouse

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator	Sep 30, 2024	Sep 30, 2025
# of new businesses (net)	240	143
# of new jobs (net)	1,373	2,664
Avg annual wages	\$52,416	\$55,640
# of private sector jobs	35,401	38,127
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.5%

Interested in supporting economic development in Moore County?
Email info@moorecountyedp.org to learn about our Moore 100 group.



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