

MOORE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Building More Than The Economy



QUARTERLY REPORT

June 30, 2026

moorecountyedp.org | 910.246.0311



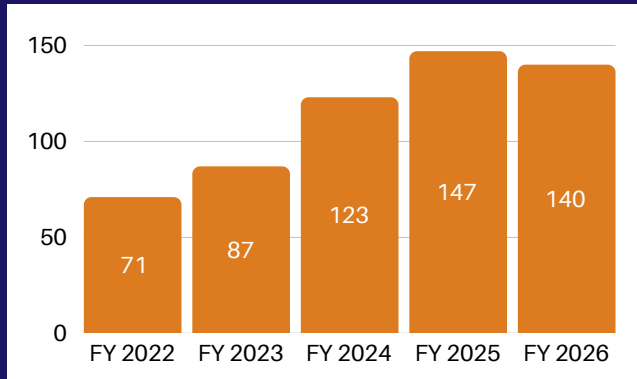
BUSINESS RECRUITMENT, EXPANSION, & SUPPORT

From direct industry engagement to strengthening strategic partnerships that advance workforce development and business expansion, this quarter reflected MCEDP's commitment to supporting local businesses. Activity highlights include:

- Conducted **5 industry visits** to local businesses, finishing FY 2026 with **33** total visits, exceeding our annual goal of 20. A training need expressed by a manufacturer during a visit led to Sandhills Community College's plans to offer an introductory course on **SolidWorks**, the 3-D CAD & engineering software, in the near future.
- Worked closely with the Town of Robbins and Moore County to help secure incentives to support the operations & expansion of **OA Defense**, a manufacturer of premium firearms in Robbins.
- Coordinated a VIP tour of **Amazon's** 60,000 square-foot last-mile distribution facility ("WNC8-QPI8") in the Southern Pines Corporate Park.

BUSINESS LEADS

From April to June, MCEDP responded to **31** NEW business leads, bringing the total leads received to **140** in fiscal year (FY) 2026. This was a decrease of only 7 leads from FY 2025. MCEDP was able to submit a property for **23**, or **16.4%**, of the projects.



Some notable statistics about the FY 2026 leads:

- **85%** were manufacturing projects
- **51%** of the companies were looking for an existing building; **29%** were looking for a site; and **20%** were seeking a building or site
- Of the companies looking for a building, **350,000 square feet** was the average size needed
- Of the companies looking for a site, **130 acres** was the average acreage needed
- **78** projects needed or preferred access to natural gas, and **40** projects needed or preferred access to rail service

As of June 30th, MCEDP is actively working **25** projects representing more than **450** new jobs and more than **\$160** million in capital investment.

- Coordinated a **Moore Manufacturers Meetup** hosted by Scribner, a manufacturer of advanced electrochemical testing equipment, in Southern Pines.
- Participated in the groundbreaking for (2) new corporate hangars for defense contractors **Titan Echelon** and **AVA Technologies** at Moore County Airport that will add more than 100 jobs.
- Co-hosted NC State University's (NCSU) **Rural Works Intern Day** in partnership with Lee & Chatham Counties. MCEDP helped secured three (3) NCSU engineering interns to work at OA Defense in Robbins, and one (1) at Hamilton Beach Brands in Southern Pines this summer.
- Joined the **First in Defense Coalition**, an initiative of the NC Chamber & the North Carolina Critical Technologies Alliance to position NC as a top state for defense manufacturing & innovation recruitment through accelerating entrepreneurial innovation and growing NC's defense industry presence.



PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Duke Energy Site Readiness Program

This quarter, MCEDP hosted consultants, engineers, utility service providers, and other officials to tour a **107-acre site** in southern Moore County selected for a comprehensive evaluation through **Duke Energy's Site Readiness Program**.

Duke Energy's consultants reported **the site does have development potential as an industrial or business park site** if significant investments are made to improve its competitive profile. Recommended infrastructure improvements included increasing electrical capacity and extending water, sewer, and natural gas service to the site, in addition to other recommendations. With improvements, the site could likely suit smaller industries employing up to 100 workers, and needing 5 to 30 acres, 50,000 to 400,000 square feet of building space, and lower utility capacities.

MCEDP has ordered an appraisal on the site and will work closely with local government officials and other stakeholders to evaluate the property further.

Opportunity Zones 2.0

After evaluating the three census tracts eligible for nomination in Moore County, MCEDP, with endorsement from Moore County and the Town of Robbins, submitted **census tract 9502.01** to the NC Department of Commerce for the **Opportunity Zones 2.0** initiative effective January 1, 2027. Opportunity Zones are federally designated, economically distressed census tracts offering federal tax incentives for investment in these zones. Tract 9502.01, located in northwestern Moore County, encompasses the Town of Robbins.

"Commercial air service at Moore County Airport aligns with the Airport's goals to serve as an engine of economic growth and opportunity for Moore County and the Sandhills region."

– Adam Kiker, MCEDP Board Chairman & Airport Authority Board Chairman



ENTREPRENEURSHIP & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This quarter, MCEDP hosted monthly **Moore Entrepreneurs Meetups**, an entrepreneurial networking and support initiative started in January. "Our commitment was to host the Meetups for six (6) months," said MCEDP President Natalie Hawkins. "We know firsthand that several valuable connections were made resulting in relationships and collaborations that have strengthened local small businesses and Moore County's entrepreneurial community."

This quarter, MCEDP began collecting signed agreements from local businesses and individuals to solidify their verbal pledges of funds for the minimum revenue guarantee (MRG) needed to **restore commercial air service** at Moore County Airport. To date, **\$1.2 million** in pledge agreements have been formalized.

Moore County Economic Development Partnership

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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 100 Members Meeting

August 19, 2026 (4:00 PM)
Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst

Moore 100 Members Meetup

September 2, 2026 (5:30 PM)
Wisco Taco Foxtrot, Whispering Pines

Moore Manufacturers Meetup

September 11, 2026 (8:00 AM)
Meridian, Southern Pines

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Indicator	Dec 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2025
# of new businesses (net)	219	209
# of new jobs (net)	919	2,702
Avg annual wages	\$59,176	\$61,048
# of private sector jobs	35,726	38,318
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.1%

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

