



# Community Based Grantsmaking Initiative

Dan Gerlach, President



## **Community Based Grants Initiative (CBGI) FY 2017**

### **THE GOALS STAY THE SAME**

- Providing for clearly identified priorities/solving needs at local level
- For those with competitive projects, awarding significant grants per county (up to \$1.5 million)
- Targeting counties that are the most in need
- Promoting economic growth and development in long term
- Doing the most good for the most people



## Community Based Grants Initiative FY 2017

### THE PROCESS CHANGES

- It is competitive to any county within a region. Counties may submit between 1-3 *Letters of Inquiry* for project ideas that total no more than \$1.5 million.
- Only project ideas that are endorsed by county manager will receive consideration.
- Not all counties, nor all project ideas, will receive funding.
- It is an abbreviated process to identify those projects that are ready to move the needle quickly, more similar to other Golden LEAF grant programs.
- It is a focused process with grants targeted toward investments in the building blocks of economic growth. Grants are limited to projects that address economic development, education, workforce development, infrastructure, health care infrastructure and agriculture.
- Grant awards would be typically limited to 1-3 projects per county.
- A 20% cash match helps to make a project competitive.
- All counties will be able to apply when it is their region's turn. We are currently implementing this process in the Western and Southeastern Prosperity Zones.





## Community Based Grants Initiative FY 2017 Characteristics of Competitive Projects...

- Clearly meet identified issue/need in county, Golden LEAF priorities and are aligned with investments in the building blocks of economic growth. Will help improve human/physical capital that makes the county more attractive as a place to create, grow or locate a business. **Grants are limited to projects that address economic development, education, workforce development, physical infrastructure (including health care infrastructure), and agriculture**
- Will “do the most good for the most people”
- Demonstrate a timeliness of need and an ability to put grant funds to work quickly
- Focused on action, not planning
- Leverage additional funds/investment and community buy-in - 20% local CASH match preferred
- Will leverage previous community planning processes and build on their results/findings
- Are sustainable
- Have strong support from variety of county citizens/organizations (involvement, letters, process)
- **Low priorities include proposals related to: tourism/arts/cultural resources, shell/spec buildings, emergency services, social services**
- **Past performance and track record with Golden LEAF grants is considered**



## MAJOR POINTS

- The **County Manager** serves as the key contact of the process, in terms of responsibility for submitting a slate of projects that are ready to go. Projects do not have to be administered by county government
- To be competitive, a 20% CASH match for the project must be secured or pending
- The CBGI only accounts for just over one-third of Golden LEAF's grantsmaking this year, and projects fitting under other programs can feel free to submit proposals under those funding cycles. HOWEVER, to be considered under another Golden LEAF funding cycle (Open Grants, Economic Catalyst) you must follow those processes to apply
- 3 Step Review and Decision Process: County Manager Selects and Submits Project Letters of Inquiry (LOI), Golden LEAF Board invites or declines to invite full proposal based on LOI, Golden LEAF Board approves or declines full proposal applications



## Community Based Grants Initiative FY 2017 Piedmont Triad Projected Process

- **August 1 and 2, 2016** : Briefings on CBGI process for the Piedmont Triad Prosperity Zone
- **September 30, 2016: Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form for 1-3 projects are due from County Manager.** County Manager must endorse the Letter of Inquiry with a signature and provide a cover letter explaining how the LOIs were selected and how the project will address economic transition.. Letter of Inquiry (LOI) forms are distributed at this meeting and available on the Golden LEAF website at [www.goldenleaf.org](http://www.goldenleaf.org). *NOTE: LOI forms received by Golden LEAF without an endorsement signature from the County Manager will not be considered for funding in this initiative. To be considered under Golden LEAF's other funding cycle – you must apply through those processes.*
- **October 19, 2016 (location will be announced): Golden LEAF staff completes review of LOIs and President will provide feedback on submissions.** There will be a brief window of opportunity to strengthen the case for a project and provide clarifying information. (Deadline for revisions and updates will be October 28, 2016)
- **December 1, 2016: Golden LEAF Board of Directors votes on LOIs.** The vote is whether or not to invite a full proposal based on the LOI.
- **January 20, 2017: For those invited – FULL grant proposal packages are due**
- **Late January - February 2017 (dates will be announced):** Golden LEAF conducts **site visits** with proposal applicants
- **April 6, 2017: Golden LEAF Board votes on full proposals from Piedmont Triad**



## Community Based Grants Initiative FY 2017 Southwestern Zone Projected Process

- **September 15-16, 2016:** Briefings on CBGI process for the Southwestern Prosperity Zone
- **November 4, 2016: Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form for 1-3 projects are due from County Manager.** County Manager must endorse the Letter of Inquiry with a signature and provide a cover letter explaining how the LOIs were selected and how the project will address economic transition.. Letter of Inquiry (LOI) forms are distributed at this meeting and available on the Golden LEAF website at [www.goldenleaf.org](http://www.goldenleaf.org). *NOTE: LOI forms received by Golden LEAF without an endorsement signature from the County Manager will not be considered for funding in this initiative. To be considered under Golden LEAF's other funding cycle – you must apply through those processes.*
- **December 6, 2016 (location will be announced): Golden LEAF staff completes review of LOIs and President will provide feedback on submissions.** There will be a brief window of opportunity to strengthen the case for a project and provide clarifying information. (Deadline for revisions and updates will be December 13, 2016)
- **February 2, 2017: Golden LEAF Board of Directors votes on LOIs.** The vote is whether or not to invite a full proposal based on the LOI.
- **March 10, 2017: For those invited – FULL grant proposal packages are due**
- **April 2017 (dates will be announced):** Golden LEAF conducts **site visits** with proposal applicants
- **June 1, 2017: Golden LEAF Board votes on full proposals from Southwestern Zone**



County Managers will submit from 1 to 3 LOI forms for projects that total no more than \$1.5 million. The LOIs must be accompanied by a cover letter that describes the following:

- Description of need in the county
- Description of the process for selecting the LOI projects
- Priority order of the submitted projects
- Description of past planning processes and/or SWOT analyses that inform the selection of priority projects
- The potential and capacity of project organizations to carry out the work, achieve results, maintain sustainability and manage reporting/documentation requirements
- Description of the base of community support for projects across sectors
- If applicable, an assessment of the impact and success of past Golden LEAF funded projects
- Description of local match and leverage
- Description of impact, outcome measures and population served by the proposed slate of projects