

The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission is accepting applications for its 2023 grant cycle, which will be awarded in the fall. The deadline to apply is March 3.

The goals of the grants are to support the agricultural industry, impact rural communities and stimulate economic development.

Application information is now online at www.tobaccotrustfund.org for qualifying organizations.

"Applications will be accepted online for innovative projects within North Carolina. Selected projects should expect to start in November," said William H. "Bill" Teague, NCTTFC Chairman.

The NCTTFC was established in 2000 by the N.C. General Assembly to help members of the tobacco community including farmers, tobacco workers and related businesses. Its original funding was established through tobacco industry annual payments as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement. Funding is now appropriated to the NCTTFC which then reviews, selects and disperses the funds to grant projects.

Past NCTTFC projects includes fair and farmers market improvements, cost-share grant programs for farmers, commodity marketing, researching alternative crops and support of agricultural education programs.

More information can be found at the NCTTFC's website at <https://tobaccotrustfund.org/>, or by calling Jeff Camden at 919-733-2160, ext. 1.