

Program Focus Area

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

Project Averages

Active and Missed

61 Missed Project Over 12 Months



39

JOBS
273



36

THOUSAND
SQUARE FEET
202K



103

ACRES
81



\$7

MILLION
INVESTMENT
\$227M

June Unemployment Rate

4.5% ↑ from 3.9% in May
Regional June Rate is 3.9%
State June Rate is 3.6%

To learn more, visit the link below.
[High Country WDB Overview | LEAD Analytics \(nccommerce.com\)](#)

Project Activity Stats

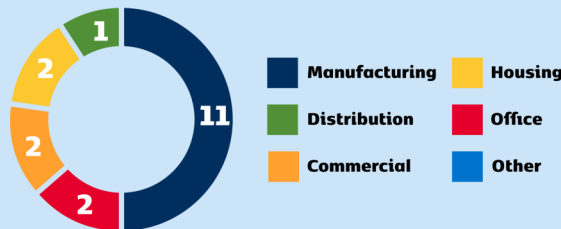


Active Projects

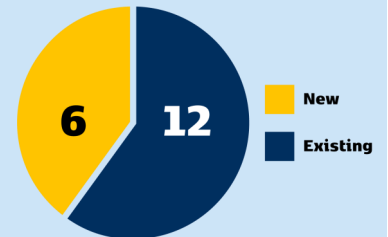
One project was moved from inactive.

18

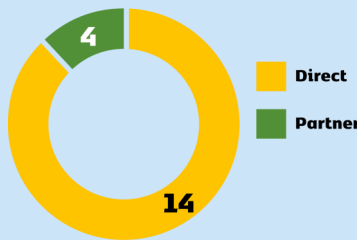
Project Industries



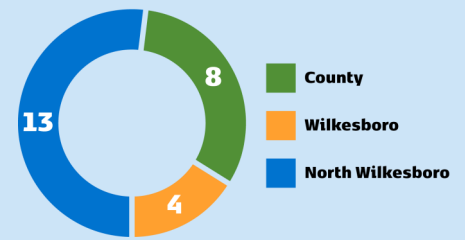
Projects by Type



Projects by Source



Projects by Location



Existing Business

Current and YTD Total
Activity since July 1, 2024



9

UNIQUE VISITS
9



0

FOLLOW UP VISITS
0

9 YTD

Program Stats



9

PARTNER
MEETINGS
9



0

REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT
0



35

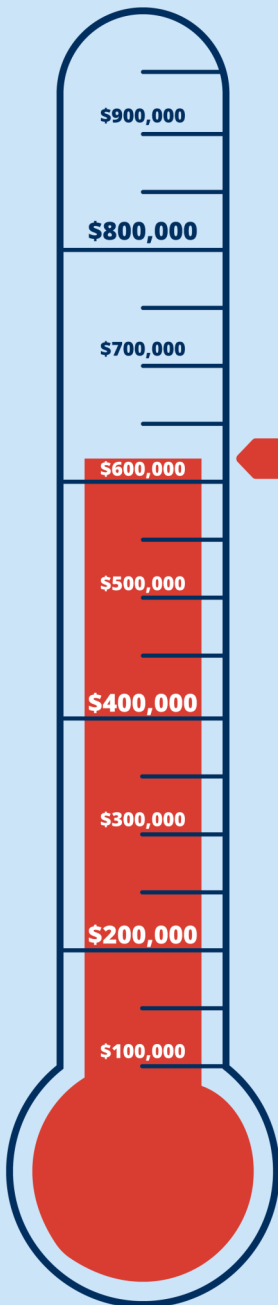
SOLUTIONS
PROVIDED
35

LEAP Forward

Local Expansion & Attraction Program

Together We Can Grow!

\$1,000,000
 Over 5-Years



61.2%
 (\$611,950)

The Wilkes Economic Development Corporation works closely with businesses and the community to find unique solutions to economic challenges. Since 2010, Private LEAP funds have been instrumental to ensure this mission is possible. It is time to request your help replenishing the funds to continue moving Wilkes forward.

The need for investment builds upon the traditional program of work of the EDC: existing business retention and expansion, marketing and new business recruitment, and real estate development. Special Projects focus on Wilkes Commercial Business Center(s), Housing, Childcare, Outdoor Economy, and Talent Retention and Attraction, which are critical for ensuring a strong economy and building Wilkes County capacity.

Will you invest in Wilkes County's future?

Wilkes EDC expresses our gratitude to those who have already committed to the LEAP Forward Campaign and mission of the EDC! Below is a list of our investors to date.

- Alex and Amy Blair
- Andrew Palmer
- Arnold and Becky Lakey
- BGE, inc.
- Blair Properties LLC/Allen Tate
- Blue Ridge Ranch
- Bumgarner Services
- Cam Finley
- Champion Towing
- Dale and Michelle Isom
- Duke Energy
- ECS Southeast, LLC
- Eddie and Anna Holland
- Fortress Management Group, Inc.
- Hampton Inn
- Holiday Inn Express
- Holly Minton
- Jim Smoak
- Joe and Debbie Johnston
- Ken Noland
- Laurie Brintle-Jarvis
- Leonard G. Herring Family Foundation
- Lesa Hensley
- Luke Mathis
- McNeill Chevrolet & Nissan of Wilkesboro
- MECI & Associates, Inc.
- Mountain View Hardware, LLC
- Omega Construction
- Riverstone Land and Equipment, LLC
- Ron Wilcox
- Scott Nafe
- Shelmer Blackburn
- WCC, Small Business Center
- Wilkie Construction Company SE
- *And Additional Anonymous Donors*

Ready to make a pledge? Visit the [link](#) or scan the QR code to invest or call (336) 838-1501.

Investors of our LEAP Forward Campaign will be recognized on our website, monthly Activity Reports, Newsletters, and at our Annual Meeting.



Wilkes EDC 's Board Retreat

Wilkes EDC held its annual Board Retreat for its Board Directors, Ex-officios, and Alternates off-site on July 10th. Arianna Williamson, Director of Employer Engagement at Wilkes Community College, helped co-facilitate the activities with Wilkes EDC President LeeAnn Nixon.

The retreat started with a group activity in which members wrote their vision for Wilkes County in 10 years. They were divided into three groups to develop their top three focus areas. A few include focusing on improving housing, increasing support for Wilkes Community College in growing its workforce, and supporting Wilkes's outdoor economy.

Next, Wilkes EDC reviewed its Action Plan with directors. The Board Retreat is an opportunity to review, update, and receive feedback from members on the Action Plan, a strategic plan assembled by in 2019 and updated yearly. The strategic plan outlines Wilkes EDC's short-term and long-term goals. It is also an excellent tracking tool for the organization's progress, success, and implementation of new goals.

After reviewing the Wilkes EDC Action Plan, the group moved to its last activity, identifying the Rose, Thorn, and Bud of the EDC's focus areas. This activity identifies the positives (rose), negatives (thorn), or potential (bud) of each focus area. The areas included Business Attraction, Retention, & Expansion; Workforce Development & Attraction; Marketing; Entrepreneurship; Real Estate Development; Community Capacity; Childcare; Housing; and Outdoor Economy. Directors offered feedback and suggestions and engaged in thorough conversations surrounding these topics.

Wilkes EDC is thankful to have its Board Directors, Ex-officios, and Alternates participate in this Board Retreat. This engagement helps shape the organization's strategy and economic impact on Wilkes County. Wilkes EDC's Action Plan will be finalized in September and posted to our website.



Don't Miss Our Annual Meeting!

Please join us for an evening of celebrating Wilkes County's economic progress and vision for the future with local leaders, investors, and guests from across North Carolina!

Fussell Estate

Tuesday, August 27th
 Fussell Estate, View 2395

Social 5:15 p.m.
 Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Event Sponsors



Register for Wilkes EDC's Annual Meeting today!

