

Funding Opportunities from the NC State Refugee Office

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This presentation will be recorded and available in the PD Archives at nctitle2.org.





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P. Scott Phillips, PhD

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North Carolina State Refugee Office (NCSRO)

- Based in NC Department of Health & Human Services
- Promotes the health, wellbeing, self-sufficiency, stability and integration of refugee and other eligible populations across the state.
- 100% of its funding from the US Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- The NC SRO delivers a range of benefits, services & works, promoting collaboration and coordination amongst all the relevant stakeholders.
- In addition, the NC SRO works with many partners to promote the growth of *welcoming infrastructure* in communities around the state.

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NCSRO/Office of Refugee Resettlement

Resettlement involves the process of relocating a refugee from a country of first asylum to another country when it is clear that a refugee will not be able to return to his/her home and cannot be integrated into the country to which s/he has fled.

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SOURCE: <https://www.state.gov/refugee-admissions/>

Office of Refugee Resettlement Eligibility

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban & Haitian Entrants
- Certain Amerasians from Vietnam
- Victims of Human Trafficking
- Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP)
- Non-Ukrainian Individuals displaced from Ukraine



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Office of Refugee Resettlement Eligibility

- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Holders for Iraq & Afghanistan
- Afghan Special Immigrant Parole (SI/SQ)
- Afghan Individuals with Special Immigrant (SI) Conditional Permanent Residence (CPR)
- Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP) - arrived prior to 10/1/23

NC State Refugee Office Services

- The Refugee Support Services Program (RSS) (base) supports refugees & other ORR-eligible populations to gain economic independence by helping them find & maintain employment, preferably within a year of being enrolled in the program.
- Furthermore, this program provides services that address barriers to employment, such as social adjustment, English language acquisition, interpretation & translation, day care for children, and citizenship/naturalization.
- Lastly, these core services also build community partnerships with organizations & businesses, helping refugees successfully integrate into local communities.
- The RSS program focuses on holistic service delivery for refugees & their family members enrolled in RSS to achieve economic self-sufficiency & longer-term integration.

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NC SRO Service Areas of Impact

- Primary Education
- Child Care
- Physical Health
- Wellness
- Behavioral Health
- Sustainable Fiscal and Social Self Sufficiency
- Employment
- Vocational Training
- Cultural Orientation/ Adjustment
- Transportation
- Public Safety-Law Enforcement
- Public Safety- Fire/ emergency services
- Citizenship/Naturalization
- Integration
- Domestic Violence
- Child Welfare
- Housing
- Life/ Household Stability
- Capacity Building
- Community Engagement/ Bridge Building
- Language Access Support
- Immigration Legal Services
- Employment Authorizations
- Recertification
- Digital Literacy
- English as Second Language
- Information sharing
- Resource Identification & Coordination
- Awareness and Training
- Disaster Preparation, Response and Recovery
- Accessing Benefits
- Identifying and Accessing Opportunities
- Civic Engagement
- Social Adjustment
- Advocacy
- Belonging (Beyond Access alone)
- Elder services
- Community mapping
- Empowerment/ Voice
- Higher Education

Local Coordination & Collaboration

- How does your agency collaborate with local organizations, coalitions, and/or partners that focus on employment, family well-being, and integration including your County Department of Social Services?
- How will your agency conduct community outreach, recruitment and consultation?
- How does your agency solicit, process, serve and track external referrals?

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NC SRO Application Key Elements

- Clear/concise description & purpose of the proposed program & how it fits into federal program goals.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of current situation, research & policy, & the impact of goals & outcomes of proposed program.

NC SRO Application Key Elements

- Summarize the major points including:
 - region/county to be served,
 - estimated number of individuals who will be served for the entire contract period,
 - activities proposed (intensity, duration, & content)

NC SRO Application Key Elements

- Describe the goals of the proposed program, identify objectives & outcomes.
- Explain how you will accomplish proposed outcomes.
- Describe plans for continuing the project beyond the awarded period

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Key Details: Request for Application

- Grant cycle for one year
- July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028
- Option to extend for one year dependent on:
 - Funding
 - Performance

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NC SRO Contact Information

P. Scott Phillips, PhD

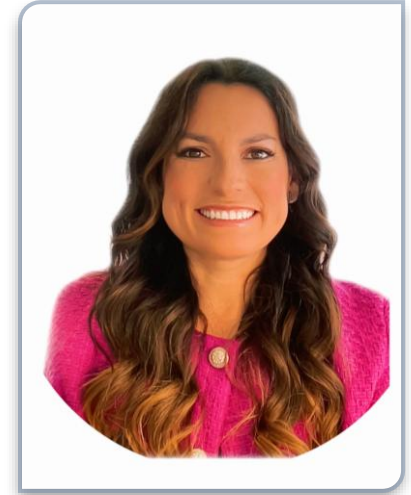
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Tips for Successful Grant Applications

Chanell Butler, EdD

Director of Grants

North Carolina Community College System Office

About Dr. Butler

- January 2012 relocated from South Florida to begin service at Catawba Valley Community College.
 - Joined NCCCS State Office July of 2024 as inaugural Director of Grants.
 - Expertise includes:
 - Higher Education Leadership,
 - Competitive grants,
 - Inclusive excellence,
 - Organizational transformation
 - Project management.
- Passionate about empowering others, the golden rule, & making a difference.



How can I help you?

- Focus: lead, develop, &/or write successful competitive grant proposals for NCCCS
- Support & empower each institution in pursuit of grant funding to increase funding to the System overall.
- Share opportunities for grant funding.
- Resource & connector for you to other resources around the state.
- Develop consortia
- NCCCS Office is in Raleigh, but I am stationed in Hickory. ***My virtual door is always open to you!***



Changes to Federal Grants: How to Respond



- Federal Grants are currently in an unprecedented & unpredictable state.
- Fed Grant opportunities have decreased significantly.
- More competition and faster deadlines.
- Putting the best proposal forward in a timely manner is each organization's best bet!



Getting Started: Assemble the Team



- ***Communicate, communicate, communicate***
- make your needs & your intentions known



- ***Build relationships*** throughout your college, & with your community organizations



- ***Identify key players*** for the application process, & clarify the responsibilities of each



- ***Create a centralized*** grants office or coordinator if feasible



Getting Started: Assemble the Team (continued)



- Maintain files *of successful proposals*, templates, and boilerplate language



- Offer *training for faculty & staff* on grant writing & project management



- *Track funding metrics*: number of submissions, awards, success rate, etc.



Writing a Competitive Proposal

- ***Tell a compelling story*** - make them WANT to fund you!
- Make it ***data driven***
- ***Follow instructions exactly*** - font, margins, page limits, formatting
- Tell a ***clear, cohesive story***: problem → solution → outcomes → impact
- Remember ***sometimes less is more*** – keeping word counts in mind
- Use ***data & evidence to show the need*** & past performance to show capacity.
- ***Avoid fluff***, especially when using AI to help you.
- ***SMART*** objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).
- ***Budget must match the narrative***

Writing a Competitive Proposal (cont.)

Evaluation & Sustainability Matter

- Include a ***clear evaluation plan***— qualitative and/or quantitative metrics.
- Show how you'll ***track progress & use data***
- Funders like to see a ***sustainability plan*** that includes how the project will continue after the grant ends
- ***Make your project sound exciting & unique but do NOT overpromise.*** You will regret that later!



Avoiding Common Pitfalls



- ***Lack of communication*** to other areas of the organization -- can result in multiple applications to one funder
- ***Trouble obtaining signatures*** -- communicate with as much notice as possible!
- ***Overselling/overpromising*** then not being able to deliver -- risks the loss of current funds, &/or destroying rapport with funder for future funds

Avoiding Common Pitfalls (cont.)

- ***Over-relying on AI*** –watch for obviously robotic applications full of “fluff”
- ***Mismatch of budget to narrative*** -- can cost points &/or your entire award.
- ***Submitting non-tailored proposals*** – recycling is okay but be sure to customize
- ***Vague objectives***
- ***Underbudgeting***





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NC SRO Big Picture Opportunities

- NCCCS can help the NC SRO expand ESL services across the state.
- Can help provide funding to serve the ORR-eligible population (where resettlement populations exist).
- NC SRO may provide funds for specific things, but CCs should leverage existing institutional supports.
- What exists at your organization that you can augment/dovetail into what is already in place?
- What are existing programs, barriers to overcome, opportunities?



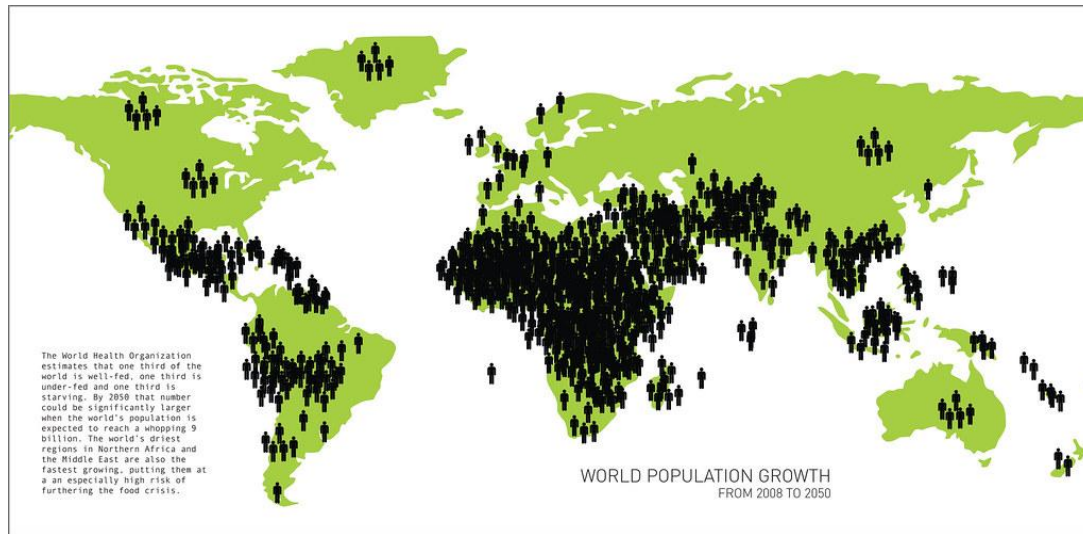
Preparation for NC SRO Application

- Lay the groundwork NOW
- Assess different levels of potential support:
 - large v. small population,
 - designated/percentage of existing staff,
 - integrated into current classes/systems or set apart
- Collect data from your region/population
- Be ready to jump into the process – the more information compiled up front, the better



Assessing Current/Future Population

Who do you serve or anticipate serving?



- number of students,
- demographics,
- refugee population,
- projections

Budget Preparation

What funding is needed to do the work?

- Services
- Staff
- Textbooks
- Software
- Computers
- PD/Conference Travel

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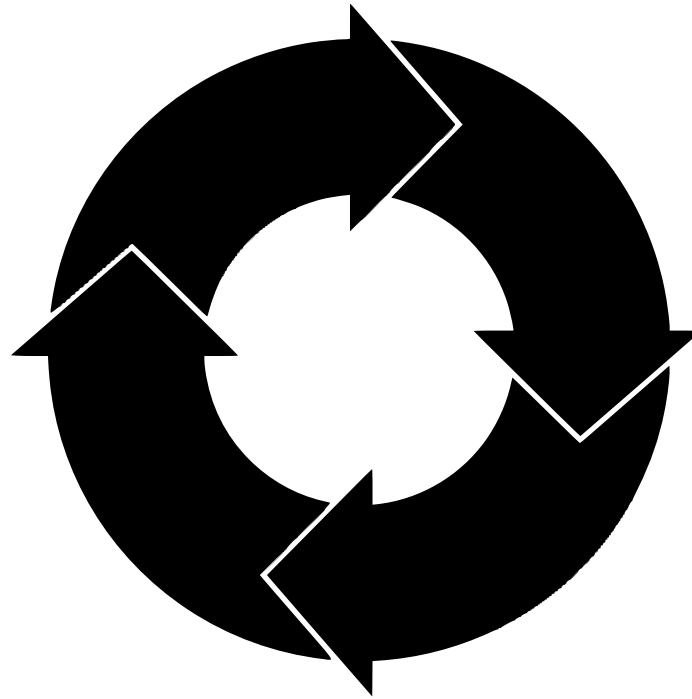
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Application Cycle

- Early Fall 2026 Request for Application (RFA) Released
- Submit letter of intent w/in two weeks
- NC SRO will provide training before submissions are due
- Submissions due late 2026



- Two months for NC SRO to evaluate & award
- Contracting process begins early 2027.
- NC SRO & colleges will prepare all required documents, & input in the NC contracting system.

Considerations for Applicants: Signature

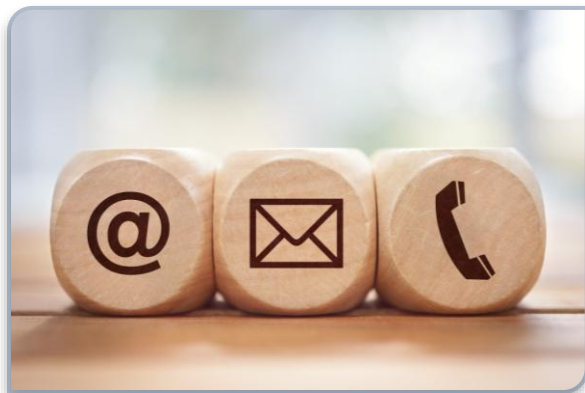
- College Presidents
- Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)
- Financial staff
- County commissioners
- Board of trustees



Considerations for Applicants: Post-Award

- Service Provision - provide what was proposed
- Monthly SRO Reporting
 - Data input to Refugee Information System (RIS)
 - Performance Reporting
 - Monthly Outcomes Report
 - Invoicing/Backup Documentation
- Individual Internal College Reporting





NCCCS Director of Grants Contact

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Questions