

Raleigh/Wake Interlocal Funds

2025-2026 Competitive Process

Wake County and City of Raleigh

Michael James, Assistant County Manager

August 11, 2025



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wake.gov

Stakeholder Principles

- Prioritize return on investment
- Support existing facilities
- Comply w/ enabling law
- Back investments with financial/operational plans
- Fiscal accountability
- Support equitable economic development and quality of life
- Leverage partnerships and community investments
- Support a mix of projects including location and type
- Engage variety of stakeholders
- Support long-term vision
- Fund projects that require smaller scale investments
- Support emerging, unmet needs

ILA Requirements: 23rd Amendment

- Requires next competitive process be held by late 2025
- Sets total available funding amount of **\$23.5 million**
- Allows for joint award of all \$23.5 million by vote of the Commissioners and City Council, OR split process whereby:
 - **\$15.5 million** is awarded by vote of Commissioners **AND** City Council
 - **\$8 million** is awarded by vote of the **Commissioners only**
- **City and County manager agreed to a split award process**

Proposed Process Summary

- **There will be a single Request for Proposals (RFP) application process**
 - \$23.5 million available
 - \$5.5 million is the anticipated maximum award*
 - All proposals will be reviewed and scored by the full evaluation panel
- **Decisions about the *source* of funds (joint \$15.5M or County's \$8M) for recommended projects will be addressed in the final staff recommendations to the elected boards.**
- **GOAL: Simplify the process for applicants, and place the focus on submitting quality projects**

Minimum Project Requirements

- Fully located in Wake County
- Within permitted use (arts, convention, sports, or cultural)
- Capital in nature (min. value of at least \$100,000)
- Interlocal funds must be less than 50% of the total project cost
 - Applicants must demonstrate commitment of at least half of the non-interlocal funding at time of submittal
- Funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis
- No restrictions on organization type

Submittal Requirements

- Executive Summary
- Project Scope and Objectives
- Project Budget
- Project Timeline
- Operating Plan including maintenance, operations, marketing
- Projected Visitor and Spending Estimates
- Organizational Information
 - Project Team, Organizational Finances, Leadership, etc.

Project Evaluation Criteria

- Responsiveness and Quality of the Proposal
- Return on Investment
- Facility Demand
- Project Feasibility/Viability
- Project Delivery Timeline (Readiness)
- Alignment with Stakeholder Principles

Evaluation Team

Wake County

- County Manager's Office
- Budget & Mgmt. services
- Facilities, Design, & Construction

City of Raleigh

- City Manager's Office
- Finance
- Convention Center

Community

- Great Raleigh Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- United Arts
- Municipal Representatives
- Wake County Hospitality Alliance

Proposed Timeline

Date

August 11

August 19

September

September

November

November – January 2026

Early 2026

February 2026

Milestone

Present process to Board of Commissioners

Present process to City Council

Publish Request for Proposals (RFP)

Pre-Submittal Meeting

Proposals Due

Applicant Interviews and Team Scoring/Evaluation

Staff Recommendations to Commissioners, City Council

Commissioners and City Council Vote on Awards

Contact During Process

Between RFP publication and release of staff recommendations:

- Applicants (including their staff, agents, and representatives) **may not lobby, contact, or otherwise attempt to influence** the Board of Commissioners, City Council, City employees, County employees, or evaluation committee members regarding their grant application or its review.

Contact Information and Questions

- Questions should be directed to the City and County contacts below
- More detailed guidance for applicants about submitting questions will be included in the RFP

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City of Raleigh

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