

| 2025 Policy Recommendations (Total: ~\$37.35 Million + Partner Support Items) | |
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| NC WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS | Funding—\$350K R + 2 FTE—for NC Workforce Credentials, to strengthen alignment between the NC Workforce Credentials Advisory Council's efforts, NC Commerce, NCWorks, education sectors, & employer needs |
| Total: \$10.35 Million | Funding—\$10M R—to support students pursuing industry-valued credentials & outreach to boost enrollment in such programs |
| | Support (+ possibly funding—\$[TBD]) to improve tracking of certification/licensure completions aligned with industry-valued credentials |
| PERSISTENCE & COMPLETION | Targeted student assistance for completion, including extending financial supports to 4-year institutions: - \$8.5M R to the UNC System for Completion Assistance Programs - \$6M R to support NCICU student completion |
| Total: \$21.5+ Million | Funding—\$[TBD]—to support & expand replication of Trace + Pace programs which help students stay on track & graduate by providing financial, academic, & personal support |
| | Support for augmenting NC's new common digital transcript and improving credit mobility, which could cost ~\$5M-\$7M , to include the following: - Develop capabilities to provide seamless postsecondary transfer & reverse transfer - Include NCICU in the common digital transcript, at the appropriate time |
| LOCAL/REGIONAL | Funding—\$5M R—for technical assistance grants to support local or regional cross-sector collaborations pursuing innovative approaches to improve attainment |
| ASSISTANCE Total: \$5.5M | Funding—\$500K—to support a dedicated project manager & ensure primary outreach/recruitment tools are optimized to support the goals of AdvanceNC , a collaborative of major employers working alongside multiple community colleges, 4-year institutions, & workforce development boards across 19 counties in order to streamline pathways into advanced manufacturing |
| PARTNER SUPPORT ITEMS | Early foundations for success, including NC Pre-K, support for the Science of Reading, & high-quality implementation of career development plans with connectivity to ncCareers.org |
| | Implementation of Propel NC in alignment with NC Workforce Credentials, & incentivizing regional collaboration & credit for prior learning |
| | Support for FAFSA outreach + continuation/expansion of direct admission initiatives |
| | Support for additional NCCCS items: ERP modernization, recurring state support for <u>ApprenticeshipNC</u> , apprenticeship tuition waiver expansion |
| | Placeholder for potential items related to Hurricane Helene relief |

