

# **Alexander County EDC** *News Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local industry awarded entrepreneurial grant**

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has awarded nearly \$1 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant funds to four communities under the Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance (SBEA) program. Alexander County was awarded \$250,000 to assist Piedmont Wood Products in a business venture that will create ten new jobs in Alexander County.

"With the help of Representative Warren, Senator Goss, Alexander County Commissioners, and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, we were able to secure this grant which will assist Piedmont Wood Products in their efforts to develop a new product line," said Alexander County Assistant Economic Development Director Jason Williams. "This state grant program was specifically targeted at small businesses with less than 100 employees, and it does not require the use of any local tax funds. I am very pleased that the N.C. Department of Commerce choose to make this grant award in Alexander County and this is another example of our efforts to assist local companies.

Other grant awardees include the Town of Hudson, City of Kings Mountain and Hyde County. The state funds will finance renovations and expansions of eight companies, leading to the creation of 40 new jobs. The SBEA program, now in its third year, is part of an ongoing state-wide effort to assist small businesses and encourage place-based economic development.

Eligible applicants include all non-entitlement local governments with a preference given to Tier 1 and 21st Century communities. Additional information on the SBEA program can be found on the NC Department of Commerce website at [www.nccommerce.com](http://www.nccommerce.com) [www.nccommerce.com](http://www.nccommerce.com).