

Governor Cooper's Budget vs. NCGA Budget

| Governor's Budget | Conference Budget |
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| Health Care | |
| Expands Medicaid coverage to 500,000+ North Carolinians at no cost to taxpayers. | Does not expand Medicaid coverage. |
| Fully funds Medicaid Rebase, Hospital "glide path" and assessment for managed care. | Underfunds the Medicaid Rebase by \$48 million and includes an additional \$15 million flex cut. |
| Education | |
| <p>Raises salaries for every teacher an average 9.1%.</p> <p>Total investment: \$204.7 million in '19-20 and \$374.2 million in '20-21.</p> | <p>Provides an average increase of 3.8% over the biennium. Total Investment in recurring compensation increases:</p> <p>\$48.0 million in '19-20 and \$75.9 million in '20-21.</p> |
| Invests \$30 million in FY 2020-21 to create NC GROW to pay tuition at Community Colleges for students pursuing in-demand degrees. | No similar provision. |
| \$15 million in Finish Line Grants to help community college and university students finish school and enter the workforce. | No similar provision. |
| \$15 million in '19-20 for K-12 building improvements related to school safety and security . | Provides \$6.1 million in FY2019-20 for K-12 school safety equipment grants. |

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| Education (continued) | |
| <p>\$40 million in both years for schools to hire more nurses, counselors, psychologists, social workers, and school resource officers to promote student mental health and school safety.</p> | <p>\$32 million in FY 2019-20 and \$29 million in FY 2020-21 for school districts to hire personnel and to promote student mental health and school safety.</p> |
| <p>\$6.8 Million to restore Master's Degree pay for educators.</p> | <p>No similar provision.</p> |
| Water Quality | |
| <p>\$6 million at DEQ to continue work combatting emerging compounds like Gen-X and keep North Carolina's water safe and clean.</p> <p>Creates 37 FTEs.</p> | <p>Provides just over \$1 million at DEQ over two years for emerging compounds. Total investment is \$600,665 recurring to create 5 FTEs and provides \$194,641 NR for scientific equipment and supplies.</p> |
| Bond Referendum | |
| <p>Budget plans for "Invest NC Bond" which would issue \$3.9 billion GO bond allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$2 billion for public schools ● \$800 million for water and sewer ● \$500 million for the UNC System ● \$500 million for the Community Colleges System ● \$100 million for the Museum of History and the NC Zoo | <p>Does not provide a bond. State Capital and Infrastructure Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funds \$831.1 million for public schools over six years with the intent to reach \$1.5 billion over an indeterminate time. ● Funds \$191.1 million for Community Colleges over six years with the intent to reach \$400 million over an indeterminate time. ● Funds the Museum of History and partially funds the NC Zoo project over a period of three years. ● Funds \$629.6 million in UNC System Projects over six years <p>Funds \$9 million recurring for water and sewer viability projects through the Department of Environmental Quality's budget.</p> |

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| Rural Investments | |
| <p>\$15 million to the new Rural Investments Strengthening Economies (RISE) Program, specifically designed to assist the state's 80 most economically-distressed counties. RISE's investment of \$5 million in FY 2019-20 and \$10 million in FY 2020-21 will offer competitive grants for rural communities to recruit new businesses or help offset the costs associated with relocating businesses.</p> | <p>Does not provide a flexible economic development rural-focused program.</p> <p>In the Conference Budget, there are direct appropriations to Economic Development organizations, towns, and cities in economically distressed counties, but there this funding is ad hoc, and lacks the systematic policy solution that the RISE program presents.</p> <p>Economic development direct appropriations mentioned above are captured in the cell below, and are more akin to the Governor's NR funding for "Locally Identified Projects."</p> |
| <p>\$30 million for rural broadband (GREAT Grants).</p> <p>\$5 million to close the homework gap.</p> | <p>\$15 million recurring for GREAT grants, funded by State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (note: the Governor proposed \$30 million in non-recurring funds, FY 2019-20 only).</p> <p>\$0 for Homework Gap.</p> |
| <p>\$26 million for locally identified rural economic development projects. Funds will be used to rehabilitate historic buildings, for streetscape and beautification projects, and other public infrastructure improvements.</p> | <p>Provides \$6 million NR to the Department of Commerce to provide direct appropriations for economic development projects. This amount includes \$280,000 for the Bath High school Preservation in Department of Natural and Cultural Resources section.</p> |
| Affordable Housing | |
| <p>\$22 million to assist with developing more safe and affordable housing units for low and moderate-income citizens.</p> | <p>\$20 million for safe and affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income citizens.</p> |