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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority Announces \$200,000 Grant**

**GOLDSBORO, N.C.** – Governor Pat McCrory announced Thursday, August 18 that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 19 grant and loan requests totaling \$5,153,475. The requests include commitments to create a total of 195 new jobs. “Quality buildings, sites and infrastructure remain fundamental for every business, and these grants and loans enable North Carolina communities to attract, grow and retain companies and jobs,” said Governor McCrory. “RIA programs move the needle for our smaller towns and counties when opportunities for economic development arise.”

The RIA reviews and approves funding requests for grant and loan programs. The programs are operated by the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce, which is led by Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and Assistant Secretary Dr. Patricia Mitchell. Grants support infrastructure development, building renovation and site improvements. Since its creation by Governor McCrory and the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013, the Authority has approved more than \$111 million in awards.

Of the 19 grants, the City of Goldsboro received a \$200,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building at 300 S. Center Street by Goldsboro Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, a start-up practice that will create a minimum of 20 jobs. The building was constructed in 1979 for Carolina Power & Lines, now Duke Energy, and has been vacant for 10+ years. The new owners purchased the property in June 2016 with plans on completing the office renovation in two phases due to lack of funding. Now, with the additional funding from the Department of Commerce, they plan to complete both phases of construction back-to-back, allowing them to hire at full capacity of 20 full time jobs upon opening. Renovations will include flooring, plumbing and electrical, and the grant will support a total capital investment of \$1,478,000. Completion of construction is expected in early 2017.

“We’re excited about additional funding that will aid the private sector.” said Julie Metz, director of the DGDC. “These funds will provide immediate and long-term economic impacts to downtown and our community by spurring private investment, creating and retaining jobs and filling a void in a vacant property.”

In addition to \$200,000, Goldsboro Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics will receive a 5% match from the City of Goldsboro through the Downtown Revolving Loan program. The DGDC received a \$200,000 grant in April 2011 from NC Department of Commerce’s Main Street Solutions Fund to help secure the Arts Council of Wayne County’s move to downtown. This funding was developed into a revolving loan program in order to continue serving the community, future businesses and future jobs in downtown.

