

FINAL DEADLINE QUICKLY APPROACHING FOR NC TEACHERS TO APPLY FOR CLASSROOM GRANTS

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including CHEC, have allocated more than \$590,000 for the Bright Ideas education grant program, and interested teachers are encouraged to submit a grant application before the final deadline on September 23rd in order to be eligible for funding.

Grants of up to \$1,500 are available to certified K-12 teachers in North Carolina for innovative, classroom-based projects. Last year, more than 500 grants were awarded to creative teachers in the state.

"North Carolina's electric cooperatives have made education a priority for the last 18 school years," said Laura Heitsenrether, marketing and communications specialist. "The Bright Ideas program is a reflection of the cooperatives' commitment to bettering the communities in which we serve, and we see no better way than by arming teachers with the materials they need to provide stimulating classroom instruction for our youth."

Since the Bright Ideas program began in 1994, the cooperatives have collectively distributed more than \$7.3 million in grant money to North Carolina teachers to sponsor more than 7,000 projects benefiting more than 1.3 million students across our state.

The primary elements of the application process include an explanation of the project and how it will benefit students. The application, grant writing tips and several winning project examples can be found on the Bright Ideas website, www.ncbrightideas.com, as well as contact information for teachers who have questions or need more information.