

# AMERICA'S CAN DO CITY<sup>sm</sup>

## Doing Business in Fayetteville, NC

### Workforce Development

We have a workforce with a median age of 31—far below the national median—and a higher-than-average percentage of workers who have college degrees (Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Computer and Information Sciences, and Mathematics are the most common). Every year, that workforce grows by thousands of military retirees with high levels of technical skills and personal discipline. Additionally, we have a steady supply of well-educated military spouses. Our 21.2% per-capita GDP growth over the past decade is solid proof of our area's productivity and the success of our right-to-work status. Our dedication to hard work and our supply of skilled workers is an ideal combination for our key industries like defense support services, advanced manufacturing, business services, food processing, and logistics.

### Utilities

If the nature of your business demands utility services with large capacity and deep resources, Fayetteville and Cumberland County have the capacity you need. If your new manufacturing or food processing facility will need large quantities of water or extra sewer capacity, we have plenty of both. If you're in the defense or financial services sectors, where connectivity matters most, you'll appreciate our extensive network of fiber and broadband. Not only do our local utility providers have the abundant capacity—they share our area's friendly, cooperative approach to doing business. Within Fayetteville, you can count on friendly electricity, water, and sewer service from PWC, the city's hometown utility. We are also served by MetroNet Fiber and Segra Fiber, Duke Progress Energy, and numerous rural electric cooperatives.

### Taxes & Incentives

Our local leaders recognize that a healthier business community is a critical element in providing the best possible quality of life for residents. That's why we've developed a variety of incentives to encourage companies to locate and expand here to improve the number and quality of local jobs, and strengthening area's overall tax base.

**Local Incentives:** When you move or expand your business to Fayetteville and Cumberland County, you will be presented with an array of local incentives ranging from discounted land, extension of utilities, and customized education and training for your employees.

**Tier 1 Designation:** Cumberland County is classified as Tier 1 under the NC Department of Commerce. Under the state's economic tier system, there are lowered overall costs for doing business in Tier 1 counties.

**Opportunity & HUBZones:** Opportunity zones are designated to encourage job creation, economic activity, housing, and other community investments. HUBZones are historically underutilized business zones where the government limits competition for certain contracts to companies.

**Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs):** With our community being so accessible to a variety of ports and international airports, FTZs are all around our region. These areas allow for the importing of goods while being exempt from duties and payment.

**State Incentives:** Your project may qualify for cash grants and special funding surrounding building reuse, transportation, and job development investment (JDIG). Our team will help you navigate through the state incentives to ensure you are getting the assistance you need.

### Permit Process

Whether you need a permit for grading, clearing, or building, FCEDC is here to help guide you to the finish line of your project in America's Can Do City. We work alongside premier engineers to establish your needs early on, so you can move swiftly through the permit process.

Visit the City of Fayetteville's website at [www.fayettevillenc.gov](http://www.fayettevillenc.gov).

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## Living in Fayetteville, NC

### Community Info

Life in Fayetteville and Cumberland County is a combination of can-do Carolina diligence, familial values, and creative energy. You'll find something for every lifestyle and budget, from quiet countryside mornings to upbeat vibes of Downtown Fayetteville. It's easy to get around and conveniently just a day's drive from two-thirds of the nation's population. Our locals enjoy hundreds of restaurants and craft breweries, shopping, and exciting home-games for the Fayetteville Woodpeckers Baseball (Houston Astros Affiliate) and Marksmen Hockey team. Thousands of people from all over the country come for our historical museums, festivals, and award-winning performing arts. We invite you to experience Fayetteville for yourself!

### Cost of Living

It's not often you come across a city with a thriving quality of life, a convenient location, an outstanding workforce, and a low cost of living, but Fayetteville and Cumberland County are just that. In fact, Fortune named Fayetteville #2 Best Place in the U.S. to Invest in Real Estate During the Pandemic and Niche presented Fayetteville as the 60th city in the country with the lowest cost of living (2024).

### Arts & Culture

With influence from the military families who have lived all over the world and the international industry that chose to locate their operations in Fayetteville and Cumberland County, it's no wonder our community is booming with culture. In our school systems alone, we have 85+ native languages spoken, and various restaurants that offer international cuisine. Fayetteville is also home to the International Folk Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors to our area to share experiences, music, food, and art. See what the arts can do in Fayetteville through The Arts Council, the primary steward of public and private funding for arts, cultural and historical activities in the Cape Fear Region. The Cool Spring Downtown District and Cape Fear Regional Theatre also support local art, adopt international pop-up installations, and attract award-winning performing arts. We celebrate creativity and many of our schools integrate the arts into their curriculum.

### Education & STEM

Not only do some Cumberland County K-12 schools focus on the arts, but they are known for their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concentrations. From a young age, our residents are familiarized with an array of STEM-related subjects to advance them in our local higher education and eventually, the workforce. Much of our skilled workforce is professionally trained from local colleges and universities like Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), Fayetteville State University (FSU), and Methodist University. FTCC and FSU also offer specialized training in the trades, that our industries can take advantage of when hiring. These schools contribute to the success of transitioning soldiers at Fort Liberty. In fact, FTCC was rated #5 Best Career & Technical College for Vets in 2019 by Military Times!

### Military Relations

As home to Fort Liberty, the world's most populated military installation, we have close ties with our military community. The base has more than 57,000 soldiers, and houses the U.S. Army's Special Operations Command and Airborne Unit, making us a prime location for defense contractors to conduct business. In collaboration with Fort Liberty, Fayetteville & Cumberland County created local opportunities while amassing over \$1.95B in prime federal contracts, extending support to 7,000 soldiers transitioning into the workforce each year, and welcoming the over 80,000 veterans and military spouses that call Fayetteville & Cumberland County home. In fact, many of our residents are veterans who chose to stay after their service ended, giving the area a wealth of technical skills related to engineering, aviation, and maintenance. As the Host Community for Global SOF Communities of Excellence (GSCX), Fayetteville & Cumberland County expanded our relations with like-minded communities across the globe. The alliance promotes collaboration and cooperation between international cities that are also home to the largest SOF Units of their respective military. Together, we foster partnerships and increase economic and cultural opportunities. Learn more at [www.gscx-alliance.com](http://www.gscx-alliance.com).