



2019 (FY20) FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

AREA	ISSUE	REQUESTED ACTION	HOW THIS BENEFITS THE CENTRALINA REGION
APPROPRIATIONS – COMPETITIVE GRANTS ELIGIBILITY	Regional councils / councils of governments (COGs) are not always explicitly eligible for competitive grants and direct funding from federal agencies	Amend definitions of local governments to include COGs. Submit request for appropriations report language to the following Appropriations Subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and Rural Development • Commerce, Justice, Science • Energy and Water • Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies • Labor, Health and Human Services • Transportation, Housing and Urban Development 	CCOG can apply for and administer grants benefiting the region and member governments
APPROPRIATIONS – FY20 FUNDING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS	Retain current funding levels for certain federal agency programs that regional councils of governments (COGs) and member communities rely on for crucial planning, implementation and service delivery activities.	Work to protect the following agencies and programs and <i>at least</i> maintain funding levels in FY20 budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging Programs funded by Older Americans Act (HHS) • Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds (DOL, ED, HHS) • Economic Development Administration (Commerce) • BUILD Transportation Grants (DOT) • Clean Cities alternative fuel deployment program (DOE) and the Diesel Emission Reduction Grants Program (EPA) • Rural Development Programs (USDA) • Community Development Block Grants (HUD) • HOME Program (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher Program (HUD) 	Adequate funding for key programs and services directly supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Centralina Area Agencies on Aging -Centralina Workforce Investment Board -Centralina Economic Development District -Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition

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OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA) REAUTHORIZATION	The Older Americans Act (OAA) will expire at the end of 2019 unless reauthorized. OAA provides critical funding for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in NC. As of 2019 there are more adults over the age of 60 in North Carolina, than youth under 18. Investing in individual health and wellness outcomes, as well as systems to support aging is a critical priority.	Work with Centralina Area Agency on Aging (CAAA) to incorporate policy and funding needs and pass timely reauthorization of the OAA before it expires. Ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient and flexible funding to support the needs of NC’s growing aging population • AAAs remain the focal point for providing crucial aging services based on individual needs • OAA avoids imposing new restrictions on AAAs and Title VI service providers that would inhibit or prevent effective service delivery • OAA supports cost effective strategies such as aging in place, and coordinated regional planning 	OAA reauthorization and adequate, flexible funding will enable the CAAA to continue serving the region and provide older adults with crucial health, employment, safety and wellness programs.
FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION	Reauthorization will provide resources for planning and investment in new and existing surface transportation network so that it is safe and efficient. Regional councils play an important planning and coordinating role in the overall transportation system.	The vision and values of local residents are best represented and advanced by shifting decision making to local communities and empowering local and regional planning for guiding investments and engaging citizens. Regional planning is at the heart of the federal transportation planning process. Productive federal policy would build on these regional institutions and support good planning. Reauthorization should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the overall funding levels of federal transportation programs, including support urban and rural transit projects that are greatly needed in growing regions, like Centralina. • Increase funding for regional planning, including support for NC COGs’ role in coordinating regional transportation with housing, economic development and growth. • Recognize COGs as the entities best suited to plan for and coordinate rural transportation needs. • Authorizes Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs), a federal tax code change to allow businesses and individuals to make tax deductible contributions toward a regionally-approved infrastructure project. 	Safe, efficient and multi-modal transportation is essential to the Centralina region’s continued economic competitiveness and attractiveness for investment. With over 50% of the workforce commuting to another county for jobs, regional coordination is essential.

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ALTERNATIVE FUELS TAX INCENTIVES & INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING	Tax credits that support alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure nationwide expired in 2016 and additional funding is needed to support alternative fuel infrastructure throughout major metropolitan regions.	Support the continued investment in alternative fuels (lithium ion batteries, ethanol, biodiesel, propane-powered, and natural gas) as a nationwide economic development and job creation opportunity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Alternative Fueling Infrastructure in federal infrastructure legislation (i.e. to install the charging and fueling stations in the designated corridors and other locations) • Providing a minimum five-year extension of the tax incentives for alternative fuels, vehicles, and infrastructure, most of which expired at the end of 2016 	These efforts will support the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition and its work on clean transportation projects in the region.

Approved by the CCOG Executive Board on March 20, 2019



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