



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Prevention Measures and Changes at Centralina

As communities across our state prepare for COVID-19/Coronavirus, Centralina continues to monitor the situation. Effective tomorrow, we are moving all operations to a telework status through Friday, April 10. All of our work will continue virtually, although our offices at 9815 David Taylor Dr. will be closed to the public. Please note that there may be slight disruptions or delays in our responsiveness as our team adjusts to the teleworking situation. General calls and emails to our main Centralina numbers/emails will be answered in the order received. All Centralina events through April 10 will be either held virtually or postponed. This week's grant writing workshop and Executive Board meeting will be held virtually.

The hardest hit group by this pandemic is seniors and the Centralina Area Agency on Aging is continuing to work hard to advocate for older adults, support providers and coordinate with state and federal officials on critical services and programs. For questions or concerns, please contact them at 1-800-508-5777.

We know these are uncertain and disruptive times. Centralina is here to support our local governments as they respond and share information about our region's response. Please utilize the local government resources available on the [ICMA COVID-19 resource page](#) for effective planning and visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#) for information on regional response, federal/state guidelines, local government resources and additional updates on our programs.

## Capitol Corner: Working For You From DC to Raleigh

Centralina Executive Director, Geraldine Gardner, and federal relations consultant, Leslie Mazingo, were in Washington DC on February 20th to meet with Congressional offices and federal agencies about Centralina's 2020 Federal Action Agenda. Key points on the agenda were advocacy to House and Senate offices to vote in favor of H.R.4334 - **Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020** which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act that provides critical funding to support programs and services offered by Area Agencies on Aging and local providers. The bill, which runs through 2024, was unanimously passed by the House and now heads to the White House for President Trump's signature. We also expressed the need for Congress to take action to reauthorize the **Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act**, which is set to expire on September 30, 2020. We appreciate the time that the legislative directors and staff spent with us and for the ongoing support from Representatives...[continue reading and see the monthly Grants List](#).

## Census Updates & Key Dates

On February 27, Centralina held a Census Peer Exchange where members of our region's Complete Count Committees attended along with David Cline from the U.S. Census Bureau and Bob Coats, the Governor's Census Liaison. Attendees discussed engagement plans for the general public and hard to reach groups. Please see our [website](#) for new outreach resources and a list of key dates below.

**March 12 - 20:** Households start receiving official Census invitations to respond by mail.

## Region of Excellence Awards

The Region of Excellence Awards are an opportunity to recognize and celebrate how local governments and partners expand opportunity and improve quality of life across our region. We encourage you to nominate a project, program or plan that made a significant and positive community contribution in 2019. Visit our site for [awards criteria and application forms](#). Entry deadline is April 29. Here are the categories:

1. Cross-Community Collaboration
2. Local Government Innovation

**March 30 - April 1:** The Census Bureau will [count people who are experiencing homelessness](#).

**April 1:** Census Day! By this date, every home will have received an invitation to participate.

3. Improving Quality of Life

4. Clean Cities

5. Aging in Action

6. James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership

## Connect Beyond: A Regional Mobility Initiative



On February 24, 2020, representatives from twelve counties across North and South Carolina met to launch this region's first bi-state transit plan, to be called **CONNECT Beyond: A Regional Mobility Initiative**. The project will be developed over the next eighteen months under the Centralina Council of Governments and the Metropolitan Transit Commission, CATS' policy board. The project area includes twelve counties in a geographic area covering over 5,000 square miles, a population of roughly 2.5 million people, with close to twenty separate transit agencies. Coordination of plans and investments are key to our continued economic competitiveness. [Continue](#)

### Congregate Nutrition Plans:

#### *Celebrating National Nutrition Month*

Since 1974, partners and agencies in Centralina's nine-county region have been providing needed nutrition services to adults age 60 and older through Congregate Nutrition Programs. Authorized under the Older Americans Act: Title III, Congregate Nutrition Programs serve more than just a meal at their group (congregate) site. These locally developed, community-based services also provide nutrition screenings, nutrition education and links to other community services that help support the health and wellbeing of older adults. [Continue](#)

### AARP Rural Livability Report

America's demographic future is showing up first in rural areas, where older residents form a greater proportion of the population than in urban or suburban areas. One-quarter of all Americans age 65 or older live in small towns and rural communities. That percentage is growing, since the rural population is aging at a faster rate than the nation's population as a whole. According to the [AARP Home and Community Preferences Survey](#), adults in rural areas are more likely than those in cities and suburbs to say they want to reside in their community and/or current home for as long as possible. Want to learn more? AARP is offering a [free publication](#) exploring how small towns and remote communities can become more livable for older adults and people of all ages.

### Carvana Hires Hundreds With Help from NCWorks in Concord

Carvana recently hosted several day-long hiring events at the NCWorks Career Center in Concord. The company was hiring for numerous positions and NCWorks staff assisted Carvana in the screening and application process for 525 applicants. In the end, Carvana made job offers to 307 area job seekers. "NCWorks has been a dream to work with, they've been very generous with their space and facilities. They've helped to facilitate a lot of great people to come in through the doors, were very grateful for that," said Pedro Claudio, General Manager of the new Carvana Inspection Center in Concord. [Continue](#)

### Charlotte's Green Tariff Solar Deal Could Spark Wider Trend

The Charlotte City Council approved a plan to buy power from a solar project that supporters say will help Charlotte meet its ambitious climate goals, and may act as a model for other cities. Elected officials gave the 35-megawatt project their unanimous approval, signaling the go-ahead for construction of a solar farm in nearby Statesville. The project is expected to produce enough zero-carbon electricity to power the equivalent of 10,000 homes annually, and reach 24% of its goal to power municipal buildings with carbon-free energy by 2030. The deal is expected to create nearly 500 jobs, improve air quality and save the city \$2 million over 20 years in electricity spending. [Continue](#)



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