

## 2021 FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

	<b>AREA</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>REQUESTED ACTION</b>	<b>HOW THIS BENEFITS THE CENTRALINA REGION</b>
1	CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY	Local governments are facing dramatic losses in revenue on top of extreme shortfalls in funding not budgeted for to protect citizens and first responders during the coronavirus pandemic.	<p>Ongoing federal financial assistance and program flexibility is critical for local government ability to meet the demands related to coronavirus response. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coronavirus Relief Fund should provide direct funding assistance to communities of all sizes and allow past and future funds to be used for revenue shortfalls.</li> <li>• Local governments should be included in the payroll tax credits allowed for private employers.</li> <li>• More funding is needed, along with maximum flexibility, to support the Aging Network. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Especially for nutrition, transportation, caregiving issues and housing</li> <li>○ Increase Older Americans Act funding for pandemic response</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Funding to address impact on mental health for the general public, front-line workers, teachers, etc., as well as rising dropout rates.</li> </ul>	Centralina region has the highest number of coronavirus cases in the State of North Carolina, and therefore will suffer through the most extreme financial challenges related to virus response efforts.

2	<p>APPROPRIATIONS – COMPETITIVE GRANTS ELIGIBILITY</p>	<p>Regional councils are not always explicitly eligible for competitive grants and direct funding from federal agencies</p>	<p>Amend definitions of local governments to include regional councils. Submit request for appropriations report language to the following Appropriations Subcommittees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>• Commerce, Justice, Science</li> <li>• Energy and Water</li> <li>• Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</li> <li>• Labor, Health and Human Services</li> <li>• Transportation, Housing and Urban Development</li> </ul>	<p>Centralina can apply for and administer grants benefiting the region and member governments</p>
3	<p>APPROPRIATIONS – FY22 FUNDING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS</p>	<p>Retain current funding levels for certain federal agency programs that regional councils of governments and member communities rely on for crucial planning, implementation and service delivery activities.</p>	<p>Work to protect the following agencies and programs and <i>at least</i> maintain funding levels in FY22 budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging Programs funded by Older Americans Act (HHS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Senior Community Service Employment Program as authorized by the Older Americans Act</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds (DOL, ED, HHS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Apprenticeship programs to help cover costs for on the job training</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Economic Development Administration (Commerce)</li> <li>• BUILD Transportation Grants (DOT)</li> <li>• Clean Cities alternative fuel deployment program (DOE) and the Diesel Emission Reduction Grants Program (EPA)</li> <li>• Rural Development Programs (USDA)</li> <li>• Community Development Block Grants (HUD)</li> <li>• HOME Program (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher Program (HUD)</li> </ul>	<p>Adequate funding for key programs and services directly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Centralina Area Agencies on Aging</li> <li>-Centralina Workforce Investment Board</li> <li>-Centralina Economic Development District</li> <li>-Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition</li> </ul>

4	FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION	<p>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.</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Increase funding for regional planning, including support for the role regional councils have in coordinating regional transportation with housing, economic development and growth.</li> <li>• Recognize regional councils as the entities best suited to plan for and coordinate rural transportation needs.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Support the continued investment in safer, clean, alternative fuels (lithium ion batteries, ethanol, biodiesel, propane-powered, and natural gas) as a nationwide economic development and job creation opportunity.</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p>
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5	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS AND REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)	The WIOA was signed into law in 2014, reauthorizing federal funding for workforce development activities through September 30, 2020.	Enact five-year reauthorization with continued investments in for low-income, youth and dislocated workers. Ensure that Workforce Development Boards are consulted during policy discussion and any potential changes to the Act.	Centralina's Workforce Development Board partners with economic development, education and business interests to ensure the region competes well in a global economy with an exceptional workforce.
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