

2023 FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

	AREA	ISSUE	REQUESTED ACTION	HOW THIS BENEFITS THE CENTRALINA REGION
1	REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)	<p>EDA is the only federal agency specifically dedicated to economic development. It has operated without authorization since 2008.</p> <p>Limited direct funding to Economic Development Districts.</p> <p>Current formula for match requirements limits accessibility of funds.</p>	<p>EDA is an important agency for supporting regional economic development policy, planning and investment. Specific aspects of the reauthorization can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise EDA's authorization level to \$3 billion. • Increase EDA funding for regional Economic Development Districts to expand local capacity to lead economic development initiatives and support applications for EDA grants. • Reassess and reconstitute EDA's economic distress formula and consider reducing local match requirements permanently. • Amend original Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA) to formally outline and designate EDA's significant role in post-disaster assistance. 	<p>Centralina Economic Development District is the region's conduit to EDA funding and manages the implementation of Prosperity For All, the region's economic development strategy</p> <p>Additional funding to the District will support a full-time staff person to offer technical assistance and support local grant application development, administration</p>
2	AREA AGENCY ON AGING	<p>Funding for the Aging Network has not kept pace with demographic change in North Carolina and the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>This new demographic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Older Americans Act funding that invest in services, build capacity, and provide benefits for our region's older adults, their families and caregivers. • Offer maximum flexibility in regulations in key service areas: nutrition, transportation, housing, and economic stability. 	<p>Our regionwide waiting list for Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) services is 3,038 older and disabled adults. This includes primarily meals and in-home</p>

		reality must inform policy debates and decisions across a spectrum of critical issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support funding to increase the direct care workforce for the care of older and disabled adults. 	aide services but a few of the counties had some waiting for Adult Day Care services and transportation.
3	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and that the recommendations of the National Association of Workforce Boards are followed. 	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.
4	APPROPRIATIONS – COMPETITIVE GRANTS ELIGIBILITY	Regional councils are not always explicitly eligible for competitive grants and direct funding from federal agencies	Amend definitions of local governments to include regional councils. 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 	Centralina can apply for and administer grants benefiting the region and member governments.
5	APPROPRIATIONS – FY24 FUNDING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS	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.	Protect the following agencies and programs and <i>at least</i> maintain funding levels in FY24 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship programs to help cover costs for on the job training Economic Development Administration (Commerce) 	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

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAISE 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) • Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant 	Fuels Coalition
6	TRANSPORTATION	Reauthorization provides a number of new funding opportunities where regional councils should be recognized specifically for eligibility.	With the October 2021 adoption of the CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan, Centralina now has a blueprint for improving transportation choices and connections across a 12-county region. With over 180 recommendations for strategic investments in system design, programming and operations, it is imperative that new guidelines for discretionary federal grants include regional councils as eligible applicants.	Eligibility for funding programs will assist in implementation of regional priorities.

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