



## CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

# THE CENTRAL LINES

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14	Centralina Executive Board Meeting
September 27	Centralina Learns Planning Series: <a href="#">Advanced Code Enforcement Workshop</a>
October 4	Centralina Learns: <a href="#">Crafting Grant Language to Increase Funding Success</a>
October 7	<a href="#">Centralina Annual Aging Conference</a>

## CAPITOL CORNER



### The Inflation Reduction Act

Earlier this summer, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden. The legislation provides federal action in three main areas: taxes, healthcare and climate. To deliver approximately \$370 billion in climate and clean energy funding, the Act makes reforms to the tax and healthcare systems,

including a new minimum corporate tax, an extension of ACA health insurance subsidies and authorizing Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices. Local governments will have the opportunity to pursue clean energy

initiatives, to strengthen their communities' resiliency and to reduce emissions through competitive grants programs, local investments and clean energy tax credits provided for in the IRA's climate provisions. To accomplish this, the Act reinvigorates some existing programs while creating several new ones.

[Learn More & Get the Resources](#)

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Planning a New, Bold Vision for Centralina

Over the last year, we developed a three-year strategic plan that will serve as a roadmap for organizational growth and fiscal stability in service of our mission. The plan was informed by robust engagement with our staff, Board and regional stakeholders, including the 2021 Regional Dialogue Series that aimed to understand changes in Centralina communities since the pandemic and explore opportunities for regional collaboration.

Through this strategic planning process, we imagined a vision for Centralina that is rooted in regional trust, collaboration and hope for a thriving, prosperous future. Our vision anchors the goals, strategies and annual actions that we will undertake over the next three years. The plan is flexible, but demonstrates our firm commitment to organizational excellence, fiscal responsibility and service. Our Board of Delegates and Executive Board actively shaped the direction of final plan that was recently adopted. Our team begins the new fiscal year on a clear path to leading change in the region and within our organization.

#### *Vision Statement*

Centralina is a collaborative organization and a trusted partner leading the region, communities and individuals towards a thriving future.

#### *Our Goals*

1. Lead regional engagement to prepare, plan and act on issues that respond to today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities.
2. Equip local governments with information, resources and technical assistance that enable them to do their best work.
3. Offer person-centered services and assistance that enhance an individuals' ability to thrive.
4. Strive for organizational excellence by investing in our employees, promoting our work and building efficient systems.

[Strategic Plan](#)

[FY23 Workplan](#)

### Centralina Learns: Managing ARPA Allocations Under \$10 Million

Centralina Regional Council held a Centralina Learns session on Wednesday, August 17 about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending for allocations under \$10 million. We had a great turnout and participation as our session provided an overview of the updated guidance the U.S. Treasury released on July 27 as well as considerations for spending approaches and following good governance. If you missed the session, here are six points that you need to know.

1. The updated guidance released from the U.S. Treasury on July 27 is only relevant if your community elected "Revenue Loss" as your

ARPA spending category. This includes if you are spending the funds on salaries and benefits and/or other general government services. This guidance is also relevant if your community is planning on spending the funds on equipment/infrastructure under the revenue loss category.

2. Under this new guidance recipients may update their Revenue Loss election, in future reporting cycles through the April 2023 reporting period (US Treasury Final Rule FAQ 3.1)

**Want to Know the Other Four Tips? Continue Reading**

## 2023 CLT Aviation Academy



*Photo: The 2022 CLT Aviation Academy class visit to the Charlotte Fire Department Live Burn training site*

The 2023 CLT Aviation Academy will provide a one-of-a-kind opportunity to better understand the inner workings of Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) and its contributions and impacts on our economy, transportation system, and community. The CLT Aviation Academy is open to public sector, non-profit, private sector, and community leaders from across the greater Charlotte region. The application period for the 2023 CLT Aviation Academy will open in early October and will close before Thanksgiving. The class will be limited to 25 participants selected through a competitive admissions process. Contact Emily Parker at [eparker@centralina.org](mailto:eparker@centralina.org) to learn more.

## City of Albemarle: Strategic Planning for the Future

From 2020 to 2022, Centralina Regional Council supported the City of Albemarle's Council, Administration and staff in developing a three-year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Planning process was a natural next step in the City of Albemarle's organizational growth and development. **City Manager Michael Ferris** commented that, "The City of Albemarle is a complex operation and like any governmental unit we have more needs than we can address at once. Over several years, our process had grown to incorporate capital improvement programming, the use of a financial advisor, the development of long-term financial strategies and goals, and increased collaboration in the planning and budgeting processes. The next logical step to tie all this together was to develop a Strategic Plan, which was adopted in May of this year."

**Learn How  
Albemarle Did It**

## Land Use Planning in Dallas, Stanley and Wingate

In 2019, the North Carolina General Assembly completed a comprehensive update and modernization of the state's planning regulations for the first



time since 1905. As part of this update, any community wishing to enforce local zoning was required to adopt a current land use plan by July 1, 2022. A land use plan captures a community's vision, values and goals for the future by translating community feedback into actionable policy

recommendations and includes a future land use map to guide development. Land use planning provides an opportunity to integrate land use practices with other local priorities, such as transportation connectivity, healthy living, infrastructure investment and economic development. However, developing a land use plan is a significant undertaking that requires extensive research, data analysis, community engagement and plan design to provide the community with an effective tool to guide future decisions. Many communities throughout North Carolina had to rapidly identify a path toward developing a plan or risk challenges to their zoning ordinances if they did not have plans in place before the deadline.

[Learn the Four Strategies for a Successful Plan](#)

## Director Spotlight: Christina Danis



Centralina Community Economic Development Fellow Kate Fersinger sat down with Christina Danis, Ph.D, AICP, who was promoted to Director of Community Economic Development (CED), to get her thoughts on leadership and her goals for the Centralina CED department.

**Q:** You have quite a few degrees under your belt! You have a Bachelors in Science, Masters in Environmental Science, Masters in Land Use and Regional Planning and a Ph.D in Public Policy. What inspired you to achieve all these degrees?

**A:** I am a lifelong learner! I have been fortunate enough to have many great mentors who found academic pathways that intertwined my professional goals with academia.

**Q:** What resources do you utilize to stay informed of economic development trends/news in our region?

**A:** The Charlotte Business Journal, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Economic Development Corporation, McKenzie & Company, EDA's Economic Impact Reports, New York Times, American Planning Association, Area Development Newsletter, NC Impact, International Economic Development Corporation, municipal websites and talking to people in our region.

[Continue Reading the Interview](#)

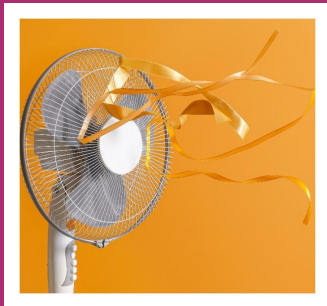
[Centralina Participates in Blue Cross NC's](#)

## Pilot Program: Safe At Home

Fall risks impact everyone from infancy into older age. From the moment babies take their first steps to running errands as an older adult, fall risks exist. However, older and disabled adults are affected more by the potential effects of falls. A fall can be a gateway to other problems, leading to a decline in health. BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) recognized this risk and is piloting a program called Safe At Home, which focuses on fall prevention education and home modifications for adults aged 55-65 with a history of falls or fractures, visual impairment or use of medications which may cause impairment. Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director, Linda Miller, shares, "Blue Cross NC's Safe At Home pilot program and Centralina AAA are a natural fit as they both share fall prevention and wellness goals. Centralina is excited to be a part of this program."

[Continue Reading](#)

## The Power of Partnerships: Helping Older and Disabled Adults Beat the Heat of Summer



As individuals age and develop chronic medical conditions, they are less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature and they may also be taking medications that can worsen the impact of extreme heat. Operation Fan Heat Relief helps vulnerable adults at risk for heat-related illnesses stay safe during the summer. Individuals who are 60 and older, as well as adults with disabilities, are eligible to sign up for assistance. To support this important program, Centralina Area Agency on Aging partners with the State Division of Aging and Adult Services and utilizes its network of local service providers throughout our nine-county region to administer supplies.

[Continue Reading](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Welcome New Member Communities!

Centralina welcomes our two newest members, the **Town of Norwood** and the **Town of Stanfield**. We're excited to have these communities join us and look forward to working with them in service to their constituents.

### Qnotes Carolinas: Living & Dying with Grace

There are approximately 2.7 million LGBT older adults living in the United States and that number is expected to double by 2030. Despite advances in rights such as marriage equality and non-discrimination ordinances, LGBTQ individuals still fear and often face discrimination from care providers. Centralina AAA's Assistant Director Katie Kutcher and Aging Specialist Austin Caton-Isham were asked to weigh in. Read what they had to say [HERE](#).

### ICMA Brownfields Workshop

ICMA is organizing a Brownfields Workshop Sept. 22-23 in Charlotte for new grantees and those wanting general information. Learn about grant management/writing, community engagement, hiring contractors, best



practices, planning and more. Register [HERE](#).

### **Rural Transformation Grant Program**

The NC Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division is accepting applications for the [Rural Transformation Grant](#). The state has appropriated \$50 million of its ARPA allocation for this funding opportunity. Open to local governments in Tier 1 & 2 Counties and Rural Census Tracts in Tier 3 Counties. The program will provide grant resources, training, technical assistance and education programs to help acquire resources, advance project implementation, build capacity and respond to issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. The grant will support projects in four categories:

- Downtown Revitalization
- Resilient Neighborhoods
- Community Enhancement for Economic Growth
- Rural Community Capacity Building

### **Annual Grants Forecast and Monthly Alert**

Plan for future funding opportunities with the FY22-FY23 forecast of federal grants, available on our member portal. Also check out the monthly grants alert that is updated every couple of weeks due to the volume of new opportunities coming in. Access both [HERE](#). Forgot your password? Email [info@centralina.org](mailto:info@centralina.org).

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)

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