



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

Take a peek inside this issue. Here's what's coming up...

In Every Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Capitol Corner Grants Edition: Grant Strategy, Federal Funding Impacts on Our Region, Economic Development Grant Opportunities
- In the News: Statesville Thrives, Brownfields Grant Program, Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Training

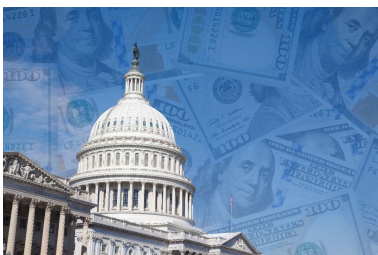
Announcements & Featured Articles

- New Centralina Leadership
- **IMPORTANT READ** - Top 5 Regional Data Trends to Watch
- Centralina Learns Recap: Energy, Mobility & Environmental Justice
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Service Spotlight: Workforce Services
- Advancing Clean Fuels for the Centralina Region
- Centralina 2023 - 2024 Workplan

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 11 [Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting](#)
- July 19 [Centralina Regional Managers Meeting](#)
- July 28 [Centralina Subcommittee: Advancing the Plan Meeting](#)

CAPITOL CORNER: GRANTS SPOTLIGHT



The Importance of a Grants Strategy

Three major pieces of recently passed legislation, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act and the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act, together provided more than \$2 trillion in new federal spending. With so many funding streams available, and some only for a limited time, it is critical to develop a grants strategy. A thoughtful strategy will maximize your ability to apply for relevant grants, while preventing squandering resources on less pertinent programs.

[Learn More About Grant Strategy](#)

Strengthening Economic Growth in the Southeast Region

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, an economic development agency, was established as a partnership between the federal government and seven state governments to promote the continuation of prosperous agriculture subsidies focused on energy, conservation, nutrition and rural development. In 2021 it was officially activated by the U.S. Senate, thus priming the southeast for greater investment in economic opportunities. Centralina local governments are eligible for grant opportunities offered through the commission.

[Learn More](#)

The Impact of Federal Funding in Our Region: ARPA & BIL

The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) distributed a number of grants and program funding to local and state governments throughout the U.S. Centralina assisted several member governments in securing funding and follow-up reporting. Our collaborative work has allowed us to observe and analyze patterns in our region and opportunities to address gaps and discrepancies going forward. Continue reading to learn more about how the \$2.7 billion dollars in federal funding that our region received has been spent and its impact on communities.

[Read the Full Article](#)

Announcing New Centralina Leadership!

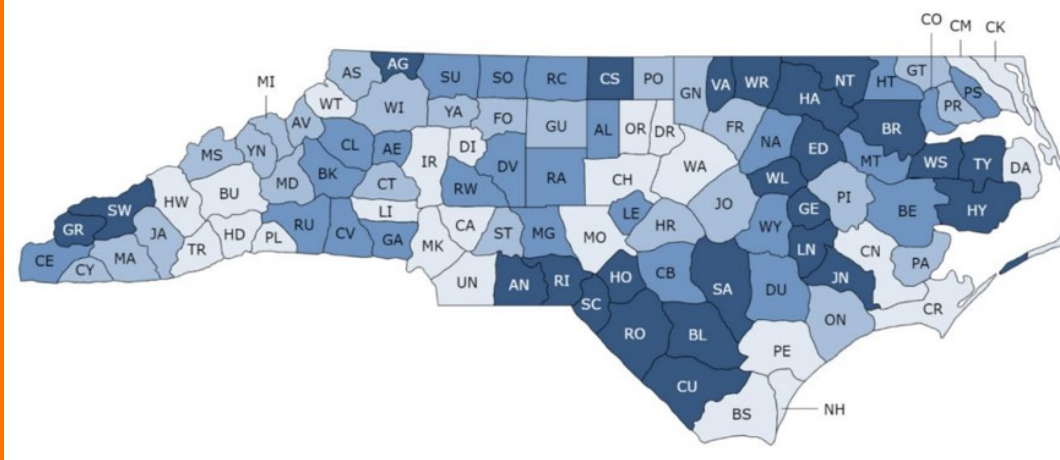


Centralina is delighted to announce important changes to its organizational structure and leadership team, which will enable us to better serve our member governments and our dynamic nine-county region. **Michelle Nance** is being promoted to Centralina's Deputy Executive Director, a newly created position that will provide strategic leadership to Centralina's expanding regional planning, economic development and local government focus areas. Nance previously served as Centralina's Regional Planning Director for 11 years and has deep familiarity with the current needs of our local governments and emerging opportunities for regional collaboration. **Jason Wager** is being promoted to Regional Planning Director and will continue his 27 years of service to the organization and the region in this new capacity. We look forward to supporting both of their successes in these new capacities.



FEATURED ARTICLES

[What's Ahead for the Centralina Region: Top 5 Regional Data Trends](#)



Centralina is a regional organization focused on addressing the needs of member communities in our nine-county area and working collaboratively on issues that impact our region. We examine national, state and local trends impacting our member governments and identify their potential impacts to determine best practices for meeting needs and addressing challenges. This brief dives into current regional trends and how they are currently being addressed by Centralina, as well as how they will continue to be addressed in upcoming years. The top trends identified include:

1. The region's increase in older adult population
2. Diversifying economic sectors and related employment, education patterns
3. Changing mobility patterns and behaviors
4. Escalating unaffordability in the region
5. Widening gaps in health and prosperity

These data trends and their impacts were considered in the development of Centralina Fiscal Year 2024-2025 workplan.

[Learn More About These Trends & What It Means for Your Community](#)

Centralina Learns Event Recap: Mobility, Energy and Environmental Justice

As innovations in transportation and energy advance, it is important to ensure all communities can benefit from these new developments. Historically, discriminatory zoning and lending practices have forced residents of color and low-income residents to live closer to sources of toxic pollution, such as highways and industrial sites. The impacts of systematically excluding communities of color and low-income communities from planning and decision-making around transportation and energy are still seen and felt. This final Centralina Learns session of the past fiscal year focused on how planners can incorporate principles of environmental justice and collaborate with communities on projects focused on mobility and energy.

[Learn More About This Session](#)

[Family Caregiver Support Program](#)

Older adults and people with disabilities often require around-the-clock care to complete daily tasks and maintain a healthy lifestyle. While there are numerous long-term options available, these solutions are often costly and not covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. As a result, family members often have to step in on a part-time or even full-time basis to provide care for their loved one, which can be physically, emotionally, mentally and financially taxing as they try to balance their own responsibilities while acting as an unpaid caregiver. In 2000, Centralina Area Agency on Aging created the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) to assist caregivers in looking after their loved one so they can remain healthy and in their homes for as long as possible. Download our brochure to learn more about eligibility and how the FCSP can help you or someone you know that acts as an unpaid caregiver.



[Download the Brochure](#)

Service Spotlight: Workforce Services



Last month's Centralina Service Spotlight, presented at the Executive Board Meeting on June 14th, focused on Workforce Development Board services for local governments, particularly work done through several NCWorks Career Centers throughout our region. Click the link to watch the full video and learn more

about recent success stories and how this team can help your community.

Advancing Clean Fuels in the Centralina Region

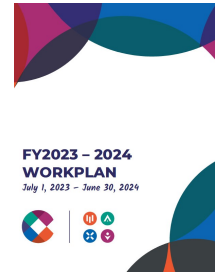


2023 marks 30 years since the establishment of the Clean Cities Program through the Department of Energy (DOE). The Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC) is one of over 75 coalitions nationwide that work at the local level to advance clean, affordable transportation fuel technologies and systems along with energy-efficient mobility systems. This past month, our CCFC team was out and about in our region and beyond, championing issues surrounding clean energy and enhanced mobility.

[Learn More About the CCFC](#)

Our 2023 - 2024 Workplan

Our 2023 - 2024 workplan continues to focus on the four goals established the previous year during our strategic review. We updated the strategies and action items to reflect our accomplishments from last year and incorporate new initiatives. To learn more about our commitment to organization excellence, person-centered services, leading regional collaboration and building local government capacity, please read our latest [workplan](#).



IN THE NEWS



Statesville Thrives Housing Symposium Recap

Statesville Thrives, a community forum sponsored by Iredell Statesville Community Enrichment Corporation (ISCEC) and Statesville Housing Authority (SHA) in partnership with the City of Statesville, was successfully facilitated by Centralina on June

29th. The symposium included an education component with UNC School of Government, a moderated peer-to-peer panel made up of local experts, an interview with SHA and Winston-Salem Housing Authority representatives, networking and service connection opportunities and interactive facilitated conversations that allowed attendees to discuss how they could best support a "thriving" Statesville and the surrounding region. This event aimed to share ideas, gather community input and determine actionable items to bolster a prosperous community. The findings from the event will be prepared and shared with all participants and posted on the SHA/ISCEC, City of Statesville and Centralina websites to support a continued conversation about actionable outcomes. We are honored to have been a part of this important discussion.



Centralina Brownfields Grant Program

"Brownfield" sites are defined as locations that have high potential for impact within a community but are abandoned, idled or under-used and are complicated by their environmental contamination. Centralina is working to build a Brownfields Program that members can participate in and get common questions answered about identifying hazards and how properties can be

revamped to boost economic development in your community. The ultimate goal is for Centralina to apply for this grant program so that funds can be allocated to improve applicable properties throughout our region. Keep an eye out for communication from our team on potential interest in forming a committee and partnering with us to develop this program. Any questions, concerns or expressions of interest should be sent to Lenessa Hawkins at lhawkins@centralina.org.



Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Care Training Spotlight

Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) offers a variety of leader training opportunities for professionals in our region. The Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Care Training, a requirement for

those seeking certification as a Dementia Care Practitioner, has been offered for over nine years by our team and has helped more than 80 participants improve their skills and knowledge in order to provide quality care to individuals with dementia. Training leaders like Cindy Kincaid teach attendees about communicating effectively with those with dementia, diversity and cultural competency elements, friendly activities and environments for this population and more. Several Centralina AAA staff have also taken the course to help them better serve those they work with on a daily basis. If have questions or are interested in participating in or hosting a future training, please reach out to Cindy Kincaid at ckincaid@centrlaina.org.

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)

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