



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

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

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- Region of Excellence Award Winner Spotlight: Cain Center for the Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| June 14 | Centralina Executive Board Meeting |
| June 29 | Statesville Thrives Housing Symposium |
| July 11 | Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting |
| July 19 | Centralina Regional Managers Meeting |

CAPITOL CORNER



How Raising the Debt Limit Impacts Local Government

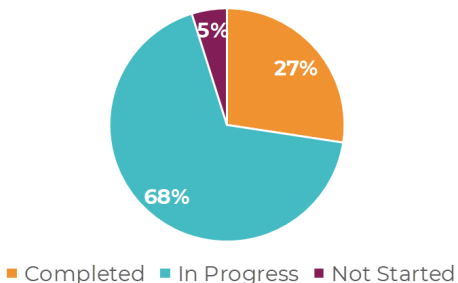
The Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 was signed into law on Saturday, June 3rd. It suspends the debt ceiling allowing the federal government to continue borrowing to fund federal programs through January 1, 2025. The FRA also caps discretionary spending (the money Congress appropriates each year to fund federal agencies and programs, exempting mandatory programs like Medicare and Social Security) for two years. In addition,

the FRA rescinds approximately \$28 billion in unobligated COVID-19 funding, including funds provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and other pandemic-related spending bills. However, ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) and Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) are not affected by this legislation.

[Learn More](#)

Looking Back: FY23 Q3 Progress Report

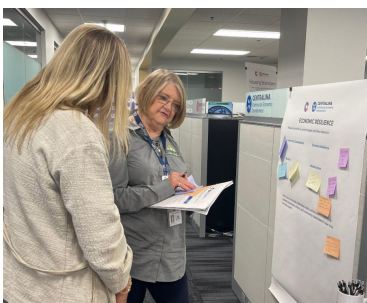
Workplan Implementation Status



The Centralina team has been working diligently on the implementation of the FY2023 work plan, which includes 62 tactics that support the implementation of our strategic plan. With one month to go in the fiscal year, we have either started or completed 95% of our planned activities for the year. [Read the full report here](#)

Looking Ahead: FY24 Workplan

Last month we invited our Board of Delegates to walk through an open house where they had the opportunity to weigh in on our workplan priorities for FY24. The Board will vote to approve our new workplan tomorrow and it will be released for public view in the July newsletter. Stay tuned!



FEATURED ARTICLES

Centralina Wins 2023 NARC Achievement Award: ARPA Fund Implementation Support Program



Each year, the National Association of Regional Councils honors organizations and regional leaders for exceptional programs, service delivery and impact on their respective region. We are pleased to announce that Centralina was honored with the 2023 Major Metro Achievement Award for our work on the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Implementation Support Program**. The initiative included a peer consortium, on-demand technical assistance and informational resources for local government staff and elected officials.

[Learn More About the Award-Winning Program](#)

Centralina EDD Launches New Website & Regional Data Dashboards



The Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) recently launched an updated website that is more user-friendly and offers different data points than our previous site with Tableau-style tables. The robust new data section features more powerful regional dashboards and was designed to be easily navigable by datasets, which allows the data to be explored without getting overwhelmed or lost. Some of this data, ranging from demographics, labor market information and entrepreneurs, will be used to track metrics for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). Cruise through the repository of economic, transportation, workforce and community information to learn how your county stacks up and to make informed, data-driven decisions for your community.

How GetSetUp Helps Older Adults Unlock New Life Experiences

As our world evolves and innovates, seniors struggle to keep up and effectively utilize the newest tools and gadgets on the market. In addition, older adults are more prone to physical limitations of getting around and staying involved in community activities, as well as an increased likelihood to develop feelings of depression and social isolation. In 2019, two entrepreneurs put their heads together to determine how they could elevate these tools to champion what older adults have to offer and empower them to keep learning and thriving. Using their backgrounds in ed-tech, software and product development, they banded together to create GetSetUp, an online community that offers live classes, social hours and special events tailored to benefit and entertain older adults.



[Learn More About GetSetUp](#)

Pride in Care NC: End of Grant Accomplishments



June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month, a time to celebrate the impact of and promote equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ+ people. In April, Centralina Area Agency on Aging concluded its 3.5 year grant project on Pride in Care, a free cultural competency training initiative for North Carolina skilled

nursing facilities on how to work and interact with LGBTQ+ residents. Accomplishments include:

- 17 trainings completed with 167 individuals trained
- 5 awards, including the 2022 SE4A Award & the [2021 NADO Impact Award](#)
- A new leader manual & webpage for 420+ skilled nursing NC facilities to access resources beyond the end of the grant period

We're so grateful to have a hard-working team that helped to ensure the success of this project and appreciate the willing participants who will help to promote inclusivity and understanding when working with older adults in our region.

NC Manufacturing Institute: A Local Collaboration to Solve the Manufacturing Skills Gap

Studies conducted by the National Association of Manufacturing show that nearly 2.1 million jobs could remain

unfilled by 2030 due to the lack of skills within the manufacturing industry. Leaders in Rowan and Cabarrus County took note of these skill gap discrepancies and recognized a need to address recruitment issues head-on in order to keep the industry growing and competitive with the community. In response, both counties banded together to develop The North Carolina Manufacturing Institute, an eight-week training program that teaches individuals essential skills to work in a full-time manufacturing industry job. The program is specially designed to link and leverage the existing assets of Rowan, Cabarrus, and Iredell counties to solve a growing gap between regional job seekers and available positions.



[Read the Full Article](#)

Service Spotlight: Grants Support



Last month, Centralina staff presented another Service Spotlight during our Board of Delegates meeting and open house. This video focused on grant support services and resources offered by our Government Affairs and Member Engagement (GAME) team. Click the video to learn how GAME staff have provided support

to several member governments in our region and how they can assist your community in successfully securing funding opportunities.

CENTRALINA *Region of Excellence Awards*

Our final spotlight on this past year's Region of Excellence Award winners focuses on our dual recipients of the Quality of Life Award. This year, we decided to honor two communities of various sizes whose projects helped residents easily access amenities, services and opportunities so the community and surrounding region could continue to thrive and prosper.

Small Community: Town of Spencer Yadkin River Trailhead



Though Spencer's roots are aligned with connectivity, town officials noticed that there wasn't easy access to recreational amenities that were desired by members of the community. Spencer sits right in between the Yadkin River Park and the Grants Creek Greenway, two popular attractions in the area.

In response to this unmet need, stakeholders worked together to plan and begin executing a trailhead

initiative that would offer seamless connection to surrounding amenities.

[Read More about the Trailhead](#)

Large Community: Town of Cornelius Cain Center for the Arts

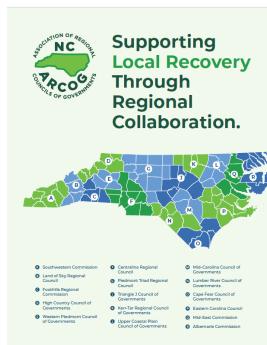
Studies have shown that engaging in the arts can positively impact stress levels, enhance self-confidence and even improve academic performance among children and young adults. Communities that incorporate arts in their events, program offerings and gathering spaces provide a competitive economic edge and help to foster neighborhood vitality. The Town of Cornelius was honored this year with one of the two awards given in the improving quality of life category for its development of the Cain Center of the Arts, a community hub for visual arts, performing arts and social experiences.



[Learn More About the New Arts Center](#)

IN THE NEWS

NCARCOG Impact Report



The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government (NCARCOG) released its impact report highlighting its members' efforts to implement federal ARPA funding. The report provides details and insights of the 16 NC regional councils of governments' progress with implementing its ARPA funding in three key areas: planning, capacity building and regional collaboration. Learn how councils assist local governments in planning for disaster recovery and funding opportunities, help build capacity to guide successful implementation of ARPA-funded investments and convene

members to collaborate and share resources. [View the report](#)

NC Rural Center: Homegrown Leaders Program, July 18-20

Homegrown Leaders is a three-day, regional leadership and community economic development training in Asheboro that equips existing and emerging leaders with the skills they need to plan for and lead in addressing long-term and sustainable economic advancement in their community and region. Gain an understanding of the importance of a regional lens for building long-term solutions to common problems and innovative opportunities for growth. Learn and apply skills needed to address current and emerging critical issues and economic trends that will impact the future of their communities and regions. Application deadline extended to Friday, June 16th. [More info here](#)

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

This funding opportunity, issued by the US Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs, provides \$8.8 million for small-to-medium sized local governments and state-recognized tribes to use for a wide variety of projects to lower energy costs, reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and reduce overall energy use in their respective communities. [Click here to learn more and apply](#)

Statesville Thrives Housing Symposium

This event, facilitated by Centralina and sponsored by the Iredell Statesville Community Enrichment Corporation, will serve as a community-based conversation with the goal to share ideas, gather community input and bring together the community for a common cause on increasing housing affordability. The agenda will include an education component with UNC School of Government, a moderated panel discussion with local experts, networking and interactive conversations where attendees will discuss how to support a prosperous Statesville and region. [Learn more and register to attend](#)

Juneteenth and Fourth of July: Centralina Office Closure

Centralina's offices will be closed on June 19th and July 4th for Juneteenth and Independence Day, respectively. Our team will be offline in observance of these important days celebrating freedom. Click on the links to learn more about the significance of [Juneteenth](#) and the [Fourth of July](#).

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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