



# Federal Legislative Priorities



## 2023-2024 Session

Centralina Regional Council seeks to secure support for key issues and opportunities impacting local communities and our region. The Centralina Board has set the following priorities to guide advocacy and engagement with our Congressional Delegation.



### *Regional Funding & Programs*

#### **Reauthorizing the Economic Development Administration**

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is the only federal agency specifically dedicated to economic development and has operated without authorization since 2008, limiting the funding opportunities. Centralina support the **reauthorization of the EDA to better support regional economic development policy, planning and investment.**

#### **Competitive Grants Eligibility**

Regional councils are not always explicitly eligible for competitive grants and funding from federal agencies, restricting their capacity. Centralina advocates for an **amended definition of local governments to include regional councils so that we can apply for and administer grants benefiting the region and member governments.**

#### **Funding Agencies and Programs**

Regional councils of governments and member communities rely on retaining current funding levels for crucial planning, implementation and service delivery activities. Centralina would like to see the **FY24 budget funding levels maintained or increased to continue providing the region with federal programs.**



## Workforce Development

### 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 2020. Centralina supports the **reauthorization of the WIOA for an additional five years to continue investments for low-income, youth and dislocated workers and ensure that Workforce Development Boards are consulted during policy discussions.**



## Older Adults

### Area Agencies on Aging funding and regulatory flexibility

Funding for the aging network has not kept pace with demographic change in North Carolina and the impact of COVID-19. This new demographic reality must inform policy debates and decisions across a spectrum of critical issues. Centralina is advocating for **increased Older Americans Act funding and continuation of regulatory flexibility offered during the COVID-19 national emergency in order to support creative and innovative service delivery.**



## Transportation

### New Guidelines for a New Future

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. Moving forward, it is imperative that new guidelines for discretionary federal grants include regional councils as eligible applicants. Centralina would like to **reauthorize several new funding opportunities to ensure that regional councils are recognized for eligibility.**

**READY TO LEARN MORE?**

Reach out to Geraldine Gardner, Executive Director, [ggardner@centralina.org](mailto:ggardner@centralina.org).



**CENTRALINA**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL