



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: Federal Shutdown Averted & State Budget
- In the News: CONNECT Beyond \$1.75M Grant Award & Charlotte Ledger Article, BikeWalk Summit, Transportation NOFO, Member Portal Launched, Brownfields Program, Town of Badin Event

Announcements & Featured Articles

- Centralina's 55th Anniversary Celebration
- Highlights from Centralina Regional Road Trip Visits
- What the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Means for Our Region
- Centralina EDD Supports Gaston College Grant Application Award
- Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning in Anson County
- PEARLS Spotlight on PBS North Carolina
- Cabarrus County Task Force Helps Protect Seniors from Scams
- Celebrating Centralina WDB's FY23 Successes
- Centralina FY23 Annual Report
- 2024 CLT Aviation Academy Accepting Applications

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18	Centralina AAA Webinar Series: DEI: What Aging Service Providers Need to Know
October 24	COORDINATE Our Future: Regional Information Session
October 24	Centralina Learns: Climate & Sustainability Planning
October 26	COORDINATE Our Future: Regional Information Session
November 2-3	Building Better Caregivers Cross Training
November 14	Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting
November 15	Regional Managers Meeting

CAPITOL CORNER



Shutdown Averted: What Happens Next?

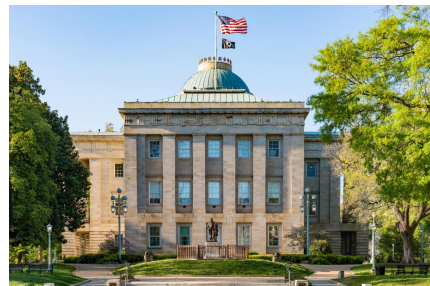
On September 30, the United States House and Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) that the President signed to fund the government at FY23 levels until November 17, 2023. The legislation provides \$16 billion in disaster-relief funding, but no aid for

Ukraine. The bill also reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through December 31, 2023, and contained several other miscellaneous provisions. The CR gave Congress 45 days to pass the 12 appropriation bills that fund the government or to pass another CR. Some of that time on the House side has been consumed by the ouster of the speaker and debates about his replacement.

[Read More](#)

State Enacts Long Awaited Budget

After months of negotiations within the General Assembly, North Carolina has a budget for the 2023-2025 biennium. The budget includes new and expanded funding opportunities for local governments, including:



1. **Great Trails State Program** – This new program allocates \$25 million in non-recurring funding for new trail and existing trail extension projects.
2. **Complete the Trails Fund** – An additional \$5 million has been added to this fund to support the development of trails that will connect communities to state trails.
3. **Regional Economic Development Reserve** – This new fund received an allocation of \$1.25 billion in nonrecurring funds for economic development projects.
4. **Golden LEAF** – The budget increases the state's annual allocation to this economic development funder from \$17 million to \$25 million.

Centralina will continue to track these and other funding opportunities and share additional information with our members as it becomes available.

Celebrating 55 Years

On October 11th, Centralina Regional Council celebrated its 55th anniversary at The Revelry in Charlotte. More than 100 attendees, made up of Board members, Centralina staff, staff of state and federal officials and other supporters of our organization joined us to commemorate this historic milestone and acknowledge all of the hard work and impressive talent that have made Centralina what it is today. Event programming for the evening included Centralina's FY23 annual report presentation, recognitions and celebratory remarks for outstanding staff and projects, virtual and written remarks from North Carolina government officials and a call to action for 2024 Centralina Board nominations. We are so grateful to everyone who attended and helped us recognize this important anniversary and to the wonderful

Centralina staff members who worked hard to make this event special.

Here's to 55 more years of leading the region!



"We are so fortunate to have this amazing organization advocate and champion for our region on issues ranging from aging & health, transportation & mobility, workforce & talent to local government support. It has been a pleasure serving as a delegate and board member this year alongside some great company. I look forward to the continued partnership and work before us." - Mayor Jennifer Teague of Harrisburg

Photo by @mayorjenniferteague, pictured with Commissioners Jarvis Woodburn (Anson County) and Tony Long (Mint Hill)

Remarks from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper



Remarks from United States Senator for North Carolina Thom Tillis



Written Remarks from United States Congressman Jeff Jackson

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3314

October 11, 2023

To the Staff and Members of Centralina Regional Council,

Congratulations to the Centralina Regional Council, and those that contribute to its work, for 55 years of service! I appreciate all that you do and I'm sorry I cannot be with you tonight.

Our problems aren't always easily defined by city and county lines. Centralina knows that shared problems need collaborative solutions and that is what makes this work so vital.

Centralina has shown time and time again that the greater Charlotte region is better when local government and regional leaders work together to strengthen our economy, build a better workforce, expand transportation and put the region's people first.

Whether it is working tirelessly for grant funding on behalf of organizations in our region or facilitating effective and efficient dialogue among leaders, I'm very grateful for the work Centralina has done for our communities.

Thank you to the staff and members of Centralina for knowing the importance of bringing leaders together to solve problems.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress (NC-14)

Written Remarks from United States Congressman Dan Bishop

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Washington, DC 20515-3309

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE,
REGULATORY REFORM & ANTITRUST
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
& LIMITED GOVERNMENT
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
OVERSIGHT, INVESTIGATIONS, & ACCOUNTABILITY
CHAIRMAN
COUNTERTERRORISM, LAW ENFORCEMENT
& INTELLIGENCE

October 13, 2023

Mrs. Geraldine Gardner
Executive Director
10735 David Taylor Drive, Suite 250
Charlotte, NC 28262

Dear Executive Director Gardner:

It is with great pleasure that I write to congratulate the Centralina Regional Council on its 55th anniversary. Since 1968, the Council has tirelessly worked to improve quality of life for 2.25 million North Carolinians across nine counties in the greater Charlotte region.

Guided by its four main goals of leading regional engagement, building local government capacity, growing Centralina's services reach, and achieving organizational excellence, Centralina has established itself as a force for good in greater Charlotte area. By identifying areas for potential growth, Centralina engages the community at the regional, local, and individual level. From consulting with local governments to assisting with writing state and federal grant applications to providing trainings for elected officials, Centralina helps governments in our region function more efficiently in order to manage the various challenges they face. No matter the challenge at hand, Centralina is there to answer the call.

The greater Charlotte region, being one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States, is expected to double its population by 2050. As our region experiences such dynamic development, groups like Centralina provide the much-needed support and vision for this growth. Their emphasis on regional stewardship should serve as an example to growing towns and communities across this country of what can be achieved with communal, forward thinking.

Once again, congratulations on this latest milestone of 55 years of service. God Bless the Centralina Regional Council for all the work it does to support the people and institutions of Charlotte and its surrounding counties.

Sincerely,



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Regional Road Trip

We're halfway through our Regional Road Trip visits to all of our 55 municipal member governments! Here are some recent highlights:



Village of Misenheimer



Town of Badin



Town of Norwood



City of Kings Mountain

FEATURED ARTICLES

What the CPRG Program Means for Our Region



As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing funding through a new initiative called the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. CPRG provides funding to assist state, local and tribal governments in the development of initiatives, plans and programs to reduce the release of greenhouse gases and related co-pollutants. This article

details the two phases of the program's process and how Centralina is working to meet necessary deadlines for grant implementation.

[Learn More about the CPRG](#)

A [Centralina Learns session](#) on CPRG will be held at our office on Tuesday, October 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Centralina EDD Supports Gaston College Grant Application Resulting in \$1.1 Million Award

Gaston College has been awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to further solidify its presence as a leader in textile innovation and technology advancement. The purpose of the grant is to leverage assets and increase the capabilities of the Fiber Innovation Center (FIC) located on the Kimbrell Campus in Belmont, N.C. The FIC is in the final stages of construction and will offer a state-of-the-art facility to develop and test fibers for industries producing advanced materials and textiles. This substantial EDA investment will support the purchase of cutting-edge equipment for the FIC to help industries innovate as they develop and process advanced fibers and textiles. The Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) played a critical role in fostering relations with the EDA and provided support and resources throughout



the grant application process.

[Learn More](#)

Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning in Anson County



September was National Preparedness Month, the perfect time for Centralina Community Economic Development (CED) staff to travel to Anson County to collaborate on pre-disaster recovery planning. Centralina CED, Anson County Emergency Management, staff from various departments within Anson County and subject matter experts from Innovative Emergency Management partnered with critical private-public entities to learn how they may collaboratively inform economic resilience for their communities through the development of Anson County's Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan.

[Learn More About Disaster Planning](#)

PEARLS Spotlight on PBS North Carolina



PBS North Carolina recently sat down with staff from Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to learn more about the Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives (PEARLS). Centralina AAA is piloting this community- and evidence-based program in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Asheville to reduce feelings of isolation and depression amongst older adults in our region. The program was highlighted as a part of ncImpact's Town Hall Series in an episode focused on mental health amongst older adults. [Click here](#) to learn more and watch the full episode.

Cabarrus County Task Force Helps Protect Older Adults From Scams

All too often, we receive news reports about scams and fraudulent schemes that target older adults, at times with devastating results to an individual's financial well-being and quality of life. The Cabarrus County Task Force to Prevent Abuse of Older and Disabled Adults is working to change that, and Centralina AAA has been an integral part of these task force efforts since its inception in 2010. Read the article to learn about recent data on scams involving older adults, the 2023 Cabarrus County Scam Jam and resources to help prevent, identify and report fraud.

[Learn How to Protect Seniors](#)

[Celebrating Centralina WDB's FY23 Successes](#)

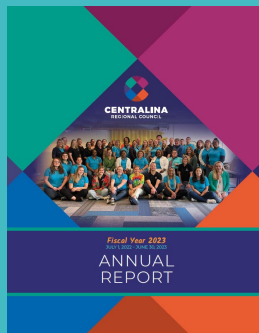
FY23 was an exciting time for Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) as they continued to support their mission of assisting businesses in our region to advance economic competitiveness in our local communities and improve quality of life for career-seeking individuals. Some highlights include the [NC Youth Forum](#), the [launch of Iredell Ready](#) and supporting career seekers by helping them [secure employment and transportation to their new job opportunities](#). Additional milestones include from the last fiscal year include:



- 1,424 employers served with 20,200 services
- 15,236 career seekers served through NCWorks Career Centers
- 14,524 job referrals
- 16,370 career seekers served

[Learn More in the Centralina Annual Report](#)

Centralina FY23 Annual Report



Centralina is excited to share our FY23 annual report on our achievements for the year ending June 30, 2023. As we embark on our 55th year of service to the region, we are committed to the principles of collaboration, connection, service and innovation across the spectrum of our work. FY22-23 marked the first year of activities and investments towards the implementation of our three-year strategic plan. Our workplan included over 62 action items, 95% of which were initiated or completed by the close of the fiscal year.

[Read the Full Report](#)

2024 CLT Aviation Academy Accepting Applications

Each year, the CLT Aviation Academy gives participants a one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the inner workings of Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT). Through a series of weekly interactive sessions, the Academy takes participants on a behind-the-scenes journey of various aspects of CLT's operations and planning efforts. The [2024 class schedule](#) will feature informative presentations from CLT staff, live demonstrations and tours of airport facilities. By the end of the Academy, participants will have gained a greater understanding of CLT's regional economic impact as a general aviation services provider, major employer and a commercial and logistics hub. This opportunity is open to leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as community members from across the Centralina region. The class is limited to 35 participants



who will be selected through a competitive application process.

Applications are due Monday, November 13th. For more information, contact Kelly Weston at kweston@centralina.org.

Apply for the 2024 CLT Aviation Academy

IN THE NEWS

Centralina Receives \$1.75M Transportation Infrastructure Grant

Last Friday, the [US DOT announced](#) the recipients of its Regional Infrastructure Accelerators program, which is designed to inform future work by measuring how different regional models can expedite the development and delivery of transportation projects. This funding will support implementation of the [CONNECT Beyond](#) regional mobility plan.

CONNECT Beyond Featured in Charlotte Ledger Article

The CONNECT Beyond regional mobility plan was recently featured in a Charlotte Ledger article that highlights local stakeholder interest in creating a regional transit authority. Read the [full article](#) to learn more including implications it may have on the Charlotte area at large and how stakeholders like Centralina are preparing for next steps.



BikeWalk Transportation Summit Recap

Several weeks ago, Catawba College hosted BikeWalk NC's 12th Annual Transportation Summit to discuss what circumstances local stakeholders are facing and collaborate to formulate long-term answers that can lead to a more sustainable environment. Reagan Murphy from Centralina Regional Planning led a session with Scott Curry from Kittelson & Associates, Inc. on transportation demand management. Read

more in this [article from the Salisbury Post](#).

NOFO: Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

The US DOT is awarding construction, planning and design grants to help develop plan and implement active transportation networks (facilities that connect between destinations within a community) and transportation spines (facilities that connect communities). [Click here](#) to learn more about the NOFO. You can also find more opportunities like this on our [Member Portal](#).

Centralina's NEW Member Portal is Here!

Our new and improved [member portal](#) is now live! The updated portal has dedicated sections focused on membership benefits, grant support and intergovernmental advocacy. There is also a resource library that can be filtered by topic or by type to help you find essential toolkits, guides and videos. If you are a Centralina member and would like access to the portal, please reach out to your board delegate or regional manager for the password.

You may also contact us at info@centralina.org.

Centralina is Seeking Potential Brownfield Sites

Do you have a potential Brownfield site? We are seeking candidate sites to include in our Brownfields regional program, an initiative to help transform contaminated blights into prime real estate. [Click here](#) to learn more about the program and how your community can get involved.

Historic Badin Hardaway Pow Wow



The Town of Badin will be hosting the Historic Badin Hardaway Pow Wow on October 28th and 29th in their downtown district in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day earlier in the month! Mark your calendars for a fun-filled weekend celebration that showcases music, dancing and craftsmanship from local tribes in the area. Reach out to badinpowwow@gmail.com for details!

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the NEW Member Portal](#)



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