Small Towns Thrive

Centralina is working to uplift and bolster smaller communities within the region by providing them the tools and expertise to secure resources, build local capacity, create connections and address local needs unique to small towns.

The **Small Towns Thrive** initiative seeks to empower small town local governments through a bundle of services offered by Centralina Regional Council. Our program encompasses three key areas of focus, namely education, peer learning and technical services. These areas are designed and tailored specifically for small communities and their unique assets and needs to foster efficient, effective and resilient governance.

Small Towns Thrive Key Training Dates

- **11/30/23 – Small Town Peer-to-Peer: How to Engage Your Community****
- 12/5/23 - Aging Sensitivity & Age-Friendly Planning
- 12/12/23 - Artificial Intelligence & Ethics for Planners
- **1/18/24 – Small Town Peer-to-Peer: Strategic Planning****
- 2/8/24 - Implementing Strategic Plans
- **3/14/24 – Small Town Peer-to-Peer: Communications****
- 5/7/24 - How to Tell Your SMART Story in Grant Applications
- **5/9/24 - Small Town Peer-to-Peer: Personnel and Operation Policies****
- 5/16/24 - Transportation Demand Management II: Workforce & Economic Development

** Peer-to-Peer Session

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?

Education:

The program will provide comprehensive educational resources, workshops and training sessions tailored to the specific needs of small-town local governments. These sessions will cover various essential topics such as policy development, best practices in public administration, financial management, HR strategies and fostering sustainable growth and development. By enhancing the knowledge base of local government officials, we aim to equip them with the tools needed to address challenges effectively.

Peer Learning:

We recognize the value of peer-to-peer learning and networking. Through this element of the program, participating small town governments will have opportunities to engage in collaborative discussions, share experiences and learn from each other's successes and lessons. Our goal is to inspire innovation and creative problem-solving by fostering a supportive community.

Technical Services:

Our technical services component will be a cornerstone of the program. Centralina staff will work closely with local governments to develop and implement policies, processes and ordinances that streamline communications, finance, human resources management, growth and development initiatives and public administration. By leveraging our specialized expertise, small towns can ensure that their governance practices are efficient, transparent and future-oriented.

KEY BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Strengthened Governance:

Small town governments can untap additional efficiency and effectiveness through tailored policies and streamlined processes.

Enhanced Capacity:

Small towns receive relevant training, increasing confidence and applicable resources that can aid communities in tackling complex challenges.

Managed Growth:

With a focus on proactive steps toward responsible development, participating towns can lay the groundwork for thriving communities.

Networking Opportunities:

Building connections with peers will enable knowledge-sharing and foster a sense of camaraderie among participating municipalities.

READY TO GET STARTED?

Reach out to our Deputy Executive Director, Michelle Nance, at (704) 348-2709 or mnance@centralina.org

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