



# 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: Funding the Federal Government in FY24
- In the News: Black History Month Events in the Region, Harrisburg 50th Anniversary, Centralina AAA Area Plan Survey, NC DEQ's Division of Water Infrastructure Spring 2024 Funding Application Training, NCDOT 2024 Multimodal Planning Grant Program

#### **Announcements & Featured Articles**

- Sights in the Centralina Region: Rowan County
- ARPA Reporting Reminder
- Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition Assists Anson County in Leveraging Historic Clean Transportation Funding
- Community First: The Birth of the Clean Cities and Environmental Justice Initiative
- Centralina EDD Observes Progress on EDA Tech Hub
- Fostering Regional Prosperity: Centralina EDD's Commitment to Economic Growth
- Centralina AAA Helps Reduce Falls Through NC Prevention Program
- NCWorks Career Center Helps Local Veteran Find Employment
- Service Spotlight: Grants Services

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 15 | <a href="#">The Role of Childcare in the North Carolina Economy Forum</a>  |
| February 20 | Centralina Learns: <a href="#">Implementing Strategic Plans</a>            |
| February 21 | <a href="#">Centralina Board of Delegates Meeting</a>                      |
| February 21 | <a href="#">Local Needs, Future Resiliency Regional Stakeholder Summit</a> |
| February 22 | <a href="#">Building Better Caregivers</a>                                 |
| February 28 | Centralina AAA Webinar: <a href="#">Sexuality &amp; Older Adults</a>       |
| March 5     | Centralina Learns: <a href="#">Connecting Clean Transportation &amp;</a>   |

[Affordable Housing](#)

March 12 [Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting](#)

March 13 [Centralina Executive Board Meeting](#)

March 14 [Small Towns Thrive: Peer to Peer - Communications](#)

## CAPITOL CORNER



### **Funding the Federal Government in FY24: Appropriations and Continuing Resolutions**

On January 18, 2024, both the U.S. House and Senate passed a third Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government operating while negotiations on FY24 appropriations continue. The new CR

continues the laddered approach enacted in the previous CR by providing two deadlines that apply to different spending bills.

Four bills, comprising approximately 20% of discretionary funding, fall under the March 1, 2024 deadline. The other eight bills, comprising about 80% of discretionary funding, fall under the March 8, 2024 deadline.

As Congress works to finalize FY24 appropriations by these new deadlines, other deadlines imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act, often referred to as the "debt limit deal", add some urgency to the process. If final FY24 appropriations are not in place by April 30, 2024, sequestration may be triggered. These roughly one percent cuts would apply to all non-exempt discretionary funding programs.

[Read More](#)

## Regional Road Trip

During our road trip meetings, we asked "If someone has one day to visit your community, what do you suggest that they see/do?" The following are some of the sites our members suggested so you can plan your own road trip and explore the amazing venues and landmarks our region has to offer!

### *Rowan County*

[Town of Landis](#)

[City of Salisbury](#)



Landis prides itself on offering a quality, hometown experience for residents and visitors alike. If you're looking to get outside on a nice day, drop by [Lake Corriher Wilderness Park](#) for some kayaking, fishing and trail exploring. Make sure to make a pit stop at [Landis Creamery](#) afterward for a delicious scoop of Hershey's ice cream!

There's tons to do in this community that locals call "The Paris of the Piedmont." See a play at one of the various [local theaters](#) or drop by [El Patron](#) for a refreshing Cheerwine Margarita. When the sun's out, grab a blanket and your basket of goodies and enjoy a picnic on the green in downtown's [Belltower Green Park](#).

### [Town of Faith](#)

### [Town of Spencer](#)



This patriotic small town is best known for its annual [Fourth of July celebration](#) that attracts people from all across the state (even former President George H.W. Bush attended in 1992). Be sure to stop in at [The Soda Shop](#) for some home-cooked diner specialties and grab a sweet dessert at [Yosties Bakery & Eatery](#).

Spencer is well known for its strong railroading ties, making it the perfect home for the [North Carolina Transportation Museum](#). Embrace the feelings of childlike wonder as you explore the [NC Museum of Dolls, Toys and Miniatures](#) and enjoy a hike on one of the trails at the [Stanback Educational Forest](#).

---

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### ARPA Reporting Deadline Reminder

All local governments that received State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), must submit reports to the U.S. Treasury by **April 30, 2024**. For many local governments, this ARPA reporting period will cover activity from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Here are a few tips and reminders to consider as you prepare to submit this report:

- Local governments must file a report even if they did not expend ARPA funds during the reporting period or have no further expenditures to report.

- All ARPA funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and fully expended by December 31, 2026.
- Ensure you have an active [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration by logging in to your SAM.gov account. If your registration needs updating, begin the process as early as possible as this update can take several weeks to complete.
- If you have experienced staff turnover, make sure you have retained your local government's U.S. Treasury portal login credentials and take a moment to log into the portal. Retain a hard copy of the login credentials in your records.
- Retain hard copies of your previously submitted ARPA reports for your records.

If you have questions about ARPA or the report to US Treasury, Centralina can help. Please contact [info@centralina.org](mailto:info@centralina.org) for assistance.

## CCFC Assists Anson County in Leveraging Historic Clean Transportation Funding



As part of a settlement for violations of the U.S. Clean Air Act, Volkswagen (VW) was required to establish a \$2 million fund to support zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption and installation of charging infrastructure. The state of North Carolina received funding through the settlement program to fund projects across the state that will expand ZEV charging infrastructure, with preference given to identified historically under-resourced counties.

Anson County was interested in seeking funding through this program to replace an older electric vehicle (EV) charging station along US-74 in Wadesboro that was no longer functional. The county had to act quickly to capitalize on this unique opportunity to fund EV infrastructure upgrades. In need of technical assistance to meet the funding application deadline and ensure their grant was competitive, Anson County staff reached out to the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC) for help.

[Learn How They Did It](#)

## Community First: The Birth of the Clean Cities and Environmental Justice Initiative

An important part of the work Clean Cities Coalitions do includes collaboration with the Department of Energy and its national laboratories to work towards the goal established Justice40 Initiative, which aspires to put 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments towards disadvantaged communities. The Clean Cities Energy and Environmental Justice Initiative was created to provide Clean Cities Coalitions with training and resources on how to take a community-first approach to developing transportation projects that align with the goals of this initiative. The Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition recently received federal funds to develop a two-year community needs transportation pilot program.

[Read More](#)

## Centralina EDD Observes Progress on Tech Hub



In October of 2023, UNC Charlotte was awarded a strategy development grant from the EDA. The funding, provided as part of a federal inaugural tech hubs initiative, will be put towards launching the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology Consortium. As part of the EDA Tech Hub launch, UNC Charlotte recently hosted Centralina EDD's Board Members on campus for a discussion on the importance of optics and metrology and a tour of the metrology lab. The group received presentations from university representatives Greg Needham, Executive Director of the Office of Research

Partnerships, Dr. Edward Morse, Director of the Center for Precision Metrology, and Dr. Glenn Boreman, Director of the Department of Physics and Optical Science.

[Learn More About the Tech Hub Progress](#)

## Fostering Regional Prosperity: Centralina EDD's Commitment to Economic Growth

The Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) has released its annual update for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. This strategic plan, developed in collaboration with stakeholders across the greater Charlotte region, focuses on three core themes—people, place and economy. Additionally, there are corresponding goals to expand economic opportunity, build supportive infrastructure and strengthen regional resilience and global competitiveness. Read this article to learn more about the significant progress our Centralina EDD team have made in advancing the CEDS.

[Read the Full Article](#)

## Centralina AAA Helps Reduce Falls Through NC Prevention Program

For most people, falls aren't something they think about preventing until they themselves or someone they know experiences a fall. For some older adults, making necessary modifications to increase accessibility in the home are great ways to prevent falls and promote mobility, but are often financially inaccessible. Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) recently participated as a



pilot provider for the NC Fall Prevention Program, which helped to provide applicable participants in the greater Charlotte area with low-level fall prevention home modifications and education.

[Read the Full Success Story](#)

## NCWorks Career Center Helps Local Veteran Find Employment



As job seekers enter the workforce for the first time, or re-enter after losing an opportunity, they often find it can be tough to navigate the steps of the job search process and find the right position for their needs and skillsets. Veterans in particular may struggle transitioning from service or deployment into a different field in the workforce. Local veteran Omar Abdelgawad visited the NCWorks Career Center-Union in Monroe seeking help to find employment after recently losing his job in the B2B

marketing and sales field. Though he had a bachelor's degree in marketing and was interested in continuing working in this field, he was struggling to find opportunities suited to his skillset or get responses to any of his applications. Read our recent success story to learn how the NCWorks team helped get Omar's name in front of reputable employers for competitive opportunities in his preferred field.

[Read the Full Story](#)

## Grant Support Services



Public and private grant programs provide local governments with resources to advance key initiatives, but the preparation and administration process can be understandably daunting. As a partner to local governments, Centralina offers a comprehensive menu of services to support our members in grant-seeking efforts, including funding resources, technical assistance, training opportunities and more.

## Grant Writing Services



In addition to grant support services, Centralina offers grant writing assistance to member governments to help increase your community's grant-seeking capacity and potential for successfully securing funding. In partnership with DH Leonard Consulting, our team can help streamline your grant writing process through grant application review services and full-service grant application preparation.

## IN THE NEWS

### Black History Months: Events Around the Region

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and recognize the role they've played in shaping our nation's history. Various special events, programs and exhibits are available that commemorate the accomplishments this community has made in arts, literature, science and more. Here are some activities you and your family and friends can partake in throughout our region this February and beyond!

- Take a trip to Lincolnton on February 18th for music, comedy and art at the [Black History Month Celebration and Concert](#)
  - Learn more about local history through an afternoon stroll on Salisbury's [African American Heritage Trail](#)
  - Explore a visual art gallery and bid in a silent auction at the Kannapolis [KAA-MaCC Black History Month Celebration](#)
  - Charlotte locals can enjoy special speakers at performances at [Charlotte Museum of History's African American Heritage Festival](#) or view the new [Black History on Canvas](#) event at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture
  - Explore local artifacts, visual art and even story quilts at Gastonia's [African American Museum of History & Culture](#)
- 



### City of Harrisburg 50th Anniversary Celebration

We're lucky to be celebrating several community anniversaries throughout our region this year. Centralina's Deputy Executive Director, Michelle Nance, and Centralina Regional Planning Director, Jason Wager, recently traveled to the Town of Harrisburg to the City of Harrisburg commemorate 50 years of community excellence. Thank you to Mayor Teague for inviting our team and for your continued leadership and service to your community and our region at large!

---

### LAST CALL: Centralina AAA 2024-2028 Area Plan Survey

Centralina Area Agency on Aging is gathering public feedback to help shape its 2024-2028 Area Aging Plan. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to [provide feedback](#). The AAA team will work this spring to incorporate input into the final plan. **This survey closes on February 29th.** Paper copies can be requested by emailing [aging@centralina.org](mailto:aging@centralina.org).

---

### NC DEQ's Division of Water Infrastructure Funding Application Training

NC DEQ's Division of Water Infrastructure Spring 2024 Funding Application Training is being offered in five locations throughout the state from February 27th through March 8th. Training will cover information on funding programs, application package completion, priority rating systems, funding timelines, etc.

and will include instructions on how to apply for lead service line replacement/inventory funding. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend training. There is no cost to register. [Learn more and register for an upcoming session.](#)

---

## NCDOT Multimodal Planning Grant Program

The N.C. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2024 Multimodal Planning Grant Program, which provides state planning funds for identifying bike and walking paths and transit connections. Applications should outline comprehensive strategies for expanding bicycles and pedestrian opportunities in their community, which can address facilities, programs, policies and design guidelines that encourage safe walking and bicycling. [Learn more about the program and how to apply.](#)

---

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



[www.centralina.org](http://www.centralina.org) | 704-372-2416



Centralina Regional Council | 10735 David Taylor Drive Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28262

[Unsubscribe info@centralina.org](mailto:info@centralina.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@centralina.org](mailto:info@centralina.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!