

# Federal Legislative Priorities



## 119th Congress: 2025-2026

Centralina Regional Council seeks to build relationships with federal lawmakers and secure support for key issues impacting local communities and our region. The Centralina Board has set the following priorities to guide advocacy and engagement with our Congressional Delegation during the 119th Session of Congress.



### Major Program & Funding Reauthorization

#### **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 supports the reauthorization of the EDA to better support regional economic development policy, planning and investment.**

#### **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 and advocates for legislation that improves operational efficiencies, strengthens local capacity and improves local flexibility to administer programs.**

#### **Older Americans Act (OAA)**

The Older Americans Act is up for reauthorization in 2024. **Centralina supports the reauthorization of the OAA and advocates for legislation that modernizes the programs, curbs regulatory restrictions and aligns funding levels to match the demographic realities in rapidly growing states such as North Carolina.**



## Regional Funding & Programs

### 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 **FY25 budget funding levels maintained or increased to continue providing the region with federal programs**



## Transportation & Mobility

### 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