



January, 14 2026
Executive Board
Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 14 2026
 In-person with a virtual option
 Join by computer:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88381303810>

Meeting ID 883 8130 3810
309 205 3325 88381303810#

Chairman Jay McCosh will convene a meeting of the Centralina Executive Board **on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm**. The meeting will be held in person at the Centralina office (located at 10735 David Taylor Dr., Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28262) with a virtual attendance option via Zoom.

Time	Item	Presenter
5:00 p.m.	Call to Order	Jay McCosh
	Roll Call	
	Moment of Silence	
	Amendments to the Agenda (if any)	
Consent Items: <i>Consent agenda items may be considered in one motion and without discussion except for those items removed by a Board Member.</i>		
5:05 p.m. Item 1 5 minutes <i>Pages 5-7</i>	Approval of November 12, 2025 Executive Board Meeting Minutes Approval of November 12, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes. The minutes from the November 12, 2025, meeting have been distributed to all members of the Executive Board and should be approved if correct. Action/Recommendation: <i>Motion to approve November 12, 2025, Executive Board meeting minutes.</i>	Jay McCosh
5:05 p.m. Item 2 <i>Pages 10-17</i>	FY25-26 Budget Amendment The Executive Board will review and approve the FY25-26 budget amendments for the operating and grant pass-through through budgets. Action/Recommendation: Motion to approve the FY25-26 budget amendments for the operating and grant budgets.	Denise Strosser
Regular Agenda Items:		
5:05 p.m. 3 Item 5 minutes <i>Page 19</i>	Centralina Spotlight - Community Economic Development (CED) CED will provide an introduction of the Community Economic Development Department and its services, highlighted by a brief video overview. Action/Recommendation: Receive as information and requested Board feedback.	Christina Danis and Anna Lu Wilson
5:10 p.m. Item 4 10 mins <i>Pages 21-23</i>	FY26-27 Placeholder Budget Proposal The Executive Board will review the placeholder annual operating and pass-through budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2027 and recommend approval by the Board of Delegates at the annual meeting in February.	Denise Strosser

Time	Item	Presenter
	<p>Action/Recommendation Motion to recommend the proposed FY2026 operating and passthrough place holder budget ordinances in the amount of \$9,220,000 and \$15,944,000, respectfully and the membership dues assessment of \$0.26 per capital with no minimal assessment per member to be approved for consideration for adoption by the Board of Delegates.</p>	
<p>5:20 p.m. Item 5 10 minutes <i>Pages 25-31</i></p>	<p>Federal Advocacy Update and 2026 Federal Action Plan Approval Strategics Consulting and staff will provide a progress update on federal engagement activities and propose changes to the 2026 Federal Advocacy Agenda.</p> <p>Action/Recommendation: Motion to approve the 2026 Federal Action Agenda</p>	<p>Strategics Consulting Representative</p>
<p>5:30 p.m. Item 6 15 minutes <i>Page 33</i></p>	<p>In Focus Discussion: The Future of Raleigh Relations with Lumin Strategies Lumin Strategies will present on the strategies and processes they'll use to drive our Raleigh Relations agenda in the coming year. They'll also introduce key areas the Board should consider as it sets guiding principles for the NC General Assembly's 2026 short session.</p> <p>Action/Recommendation: <i>Receive as information and provide requested feedback.</i></p>	<p>Kelly Weston & Sarah Prencipe</p>
<p>5:45 p.m. Item 7 10 minutes <i>Page 35</i></p>	<p>In Focus Discussion: Resilience Programming Updates A focused update on key resilience initiatives, including the Regional Resilience Collaboration, day-to-day resilience strategies, and what implementation looks like in practice.</p> <p>Action/Recommendation: Receive as information and advance toward implementation actions</p>	<p>Christina Danis Megan Upchurch Anna Lu Wilson</p>
<p>5:55 p.m. Item 8 10 mins <i>Page 38</i></p>	<p>Nominating Committee The Nominating Committee will provide an update on its activities in advance of the February Board of Delegates meeting.</p>	<p>2026 Nominating Committee</p>



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Time	Item	Presenter
	Action/Recommendation <i>Receive as information.</i>	
6:05 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff	Board Members and Staff
6:10 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Executive Director	Geraldine Gardner
6:15 p.m. 5 minutes	Comments from the Chair	Jay McCosh
6:20 p.m.	Adjournment	Jay McCosh

Centralina Regional Council complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina Regional Council will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina Regional Council's programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodation is necessary for participation, please, contact the Board Administrator, 10735 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262, or email: Narissa Claiborne (nclaiborne@centralina.org). Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: www.centralina.org for more information.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 1



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2025**

Officers Present	Board Members Present	Board Members Not Present	Centralina Staff and Guests Present
Jay McCosh, Chairman Tony Long, Secretary Jarvis Woodburn, Treasurer David Scholl, Vice Chair	Martha Sue Hall Wes Hartsel Alex Patton Shawn Rush Jennifer Stepp Jennifer Teague Gene Houpe Kenny Wortman	Mike Barbee Ed Driggs Ed Hatley Bob Hovis Melissa Merrell Elaine Powell Kenny Godwin	David Hollars Denise Strosser Jason Wager Kelly Weston Linda Miller Narissa Claiborne Venecia Rock Hillary Keller Geraldine Gardner Guests Daniel Gougherty Bryan Frances Debra Conrad

Call to Order

Chairman Jay McCosh (McAdenville) called the meeting to order.

Narissa Claiborne, Board Administrator, called roll and noted a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman McCosh called for the Executive Board to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments to the Agenda.

None.

Consent Agenda

Item 1: Approval of September 10, 2025, Executive Board Meeting Minutes.
Action

Item 2: Approval of 2026 Centralina Board Meeting Schedule. Action

Item 3: Centralina Budget Amendment (FY25–26 operating and grant budgets).

Item 4: Centralina Economic Development District Appointments.

Approval: Mayor Pro Tem Hall (Albemarle), made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Tony Long (Mint Hill) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda Items

Item 5. Centralina Executive Director Update

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner provided updates on FY26 quarter-one priorities and upcoming engagement opportunities.

Item 6: FY2024 Annual Audit Report

Denise Strosser, Centralina's Finance Director, and Cherry Bekaert's representative Daniel Gougherty presented the annual financial statements and audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Approval: Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn (Anson County) made a motion to approve the Centralina Regional Council Annual Financial Report as of and for the Year Ended June 30, 2025, and the Audit Report of Independent contractor Cherry Bekaert. Mayor Pro Tem Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. Item 10: Raleigh Relations Update

The Executive Board heard brief presentations from the finalists selected from the request for proposals (RFP) for state government relations services and advised Staff on their preferred firm.

Items 8: Federal Relations: 119th Congress FAP Updates

Strategics Consulting and staff provided the Executive Board with the Strategics Consulting Report (September – October 2025).

Approval: Council Member Jennifer Stepp, (City of Gastonia) made a motion to approve the September - October 2025 Strategics Consulting Performance Report. Mayor Pro Tem Hall seconded the motion.

Item 9: Primer on Long-Term Care Facilities

Centralina staff member and Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman, Hillary Kaylor shared with the Board the role of a Centralina Ombudsman. Ms. Kaylor explained how the partnership with other state and local agencies provides support to residents and their loved ones in both assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Ms. Kaylor shared contact information with the Board and answered questions.

Item 9: Nomination Committee Formation

Narissa Claiborne, Centralina’s Board Administrator, outlined the 2026 nomination process for selecting Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Delegates will vote on these positions at the annual meeting on February 11, 2026.

Comments from the Executive Board and Centralina Staff

None.

Comments from the Executive Director

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner shared upcoming events with the Board:

- November 13, 2025, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Clear & Compliant: Mandatory Accessibility Guidelines for Government Communicators

- December 10, 2025, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Centralina Regional Managers’ Group in-person meeting

- December 11, 2025, 10-11:30 a.m. - HR Affinity Group Virtual Meeting

Comments from Chair

- Next Executive Board meeting: January 14, 2026
- First Board of Delegates meeting: (Annual Meeting) February 11, 2026

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman McCosh adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 2



Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:	X	Regular:	
Submitting Person:	Denise Strosser	Presentation Time:	NA			
Presenter at Meeting:	Denise Strosser	Phone Number:	(704) 348-2704			
		Email:	dstrosser@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	(704) 248-2703			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Finance	Department Head Approval:	Denise Strosser			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: FY25-26 Budget Amendment						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
<p>The Executive Board will review and approve the FY25-26 budget amendments for the operating and grant pass through budgets.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>A placeholder budget was approved by the Executive Council on January 8, 2025 and adopted by the Board of Delegates on February 12, 2025 as required by Centralina Regional Council's Charter. This initial "placeholder" budget is developed prior to receiving information from various state and federal agencies. This 1st amendment represents changes to reflect Federal and State grant allocations as of November 30, 2025 as well as other contracts received and confirmed since the adoption of the budget. We will continue to update the budget as new funds are received from new business contracts or grants from state and federal agencies. The attached amendments are to replace the placeholder budget and any prior amendments with current and up to date fundings and expenditures.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
<p>Motion to approve the FY25-26 budget amendments for the operating and grant budgets.</p>						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Before June 30, 2026					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Operating budget of \$21,020,265 increase of \$6,516,860 and grant pass-through budget of \$15,870,768 decrease of \$378,132.					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	FY25-26 Operating and Grant Budget Amendment					

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Operating Budget Amendment

ANTICIPATED REVENUES	FY2026 Placeholder Budget	FY2026 11/30/2025 Amendment	Increase (Decrease)
Program Revenues			
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	11,195,554	18,069,911	6,874,357 (1)
Technical Assistance Projects	724,096	770,829	46,733
Other Program Revenue	307,378	618,875	311,497 (2)
Fund Balance Appropriated	1,205,976	-	(1,205,976)
Total Program Revenue	13,433,004	19,459,615	6,026,611
Other Revenues			
Member Dues Support	980,401	1,020,650	40,249
Interest and Other Revenue	90,000	540,000	450,000 (1)
Total Other Revenues	1,070,401	1,560,650	490,249
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES	14,503,405	21,020,265	6,516,860
EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS			
Member services, Board and committees	6,169,057	12,523,726	6,354,669 (1)
Management and Business Operations	2,350,473	1,894,481	(455,992) (3)
Information Technology	385,000	434,951	49,951
Foundation	3,500	236,883	233,383 (2)
Community and Economic Development Depart.	1,825,856	953,784	(872,072) (4)
Planning Department	1,437,054	2,607,561	1,170,507 (5), (6)
Integrated Mobility Management	408,624	-	(408,624) (5)
Area Agency on Aging Department	3,309,591	3,435,037	125,446
Workforce Development Department	989,239	929,859	(59,380)
Indirect Costs Representation	(2,374,989)	(1,996,017)	378,972
TOTAL EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS	14,503,405	21,020,265	6,516,860
Revenues over expenditures	-	-	-

(1) The NC OSBM awarded a grant under the Operations Appropriations Act (Session Law 2023-134) in April 2024. Contractor

spending originally anticipated in FY25 was delayed and will carry over into FY26. Additionally, interest income generated from the award is expected to be expended in FY26.

- (2) The Dogwood Foundation awarded \$1 million in FY25. Unspent funds from prior periods will carry over and be utilized in FY26.
- (3) Cost-saving initiatives and placeholder budgets were overstated in prior projections, resulting in adjustments to align with actual expenditures.
- (4) Several anticipated grant applications were not awarded, reducing expected revenue and impacting planned program funding.
- (5) Departmental responsibilities have been reclassified under Planning, affecting budget allocations and reporting structure.
- (6) The EPA grant suspended in FY25 has been reinstated and is active in FY26, increasing available funding for related projects.

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Operating Budget Amendment

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Foundation	3,500	236,883	233,383 (2)
Community and Economic Development Depart.	1,825,856	953,784	(872,072) (4)
Planning Department	1,437,054	2,607,561	1,170,507 (5), (6)
Integrated Mobility Management	408,624	-	(408,624) (5)
Area Agency on Aging Department	3,309,591	3,435,037	125,446
Workforce Development Department	989,239	929,859	(59,380)
Indirect Costs Representation	(2,374,989)	(1,996,017)	378,972
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Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Grant Pass Through Budgets Ordinance

<u>Program</u>	<u>FY2026 Placeholder Budget</u>	<u>FY2026 11/30/2025 Amendment</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Area Agency on Aging			
HCC Block Grant	12,000,000	12,000,000	-
USDA Supplement	608,000 (1)	608,000	-
Title III-B Legal	150,000	150,000	-
Family Caregiver	560,000	560,000	-
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion	45,000	45,000	-
State Senior Center General Purpose	116,500	116,500	-
Heat Fan Relief	14,400	14,400	-
ARPA Support Services	-	-	-
ARPA Congregate Nutrition	-	-	-
ARPA Home Delivered Meals	-	-	-
	<u>13,493,900</u>	<u>13,493,900</u>	<u>-</u>
Workforce Development			
WIOA XX-4020 Adult Services	1,029,000	910,679	(118,321)
WIOA XX-4030 Dislocated Worker	726,000	560,973	(165,027)
WIOA XX-4040 Youth Initiative	1,000,000	903,341	(96,659)
	<u>2,755,000</u>	<u>2,376,868</u>	<u>(378,132)</u>
Total Grant	<u>16,248,900</u>	<u>15,870,768</u>	<u>(378,132)</u>

(1) This program does not have a lump sum authorization currently. It is authorized at .75 per meal. Current Authorization is an estimate.

WIOA funding decreased due to federal formula shifts based on unemployment rates and economic indicators.

Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Proposed Annual Operating Budget Ordinance

ANTICIPATED REVENUES	FY2024		Audited YE Actuals	FY2025 Estimated CY Budget	FY2026 Placeholder Budget	FY2026 Pending Budget	FY2026 Potential Budget
	Original	Budgeted Final					
Program Revenues							
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	4,990,353	6,616,711	5,659,910	11,936,392	11,195,554	1,000,000	12,195,554
Technical Assistance Projects	1,240,777	1,530,026	1,322,488	1,026,596	724,096	210,000	934,096
Other Program Revenue	790,831	470,932	601,998	1,385,738	307,378	-	307,378
Fund Balance Appropriated	-	-	-	-	1,205,976	(1,291,700)	(85,724)
Total Program Revenue	7,021,961	8,617,669	7,584,396	14,348,726	13,433,004	(81,700)	13,351,304
Other Revenues							
Member Dues Support	937,503	940,000	938,972	940,000	980,401	81,700	1,062,101
Interest and Other Revenue	24,000	225,853	68,533	427,401	90,000	-	90,000
Total Other Revenues	961,503	1,165,853	1,007,505	1,367,401	1,070,401	81,700	1,152,101
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES	7,983,464	9,783,522	8,591,901	15,716,127	14,503,405	-	14,503,405
EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS							
Member services, Board and committees	720,000	1,072,966	875,232	6,389,552	6,169,057	-	6,169,057
Management and Business Operations	1,922,500	2,005,705	1,720,796	2,021,230	2,350,473	-	2,350,473
Information Technology	215,000	367,247	338,896	382,378	385,000	-	385,000
Foundation	-	-	-	1,003,500	3,500	-	3,500
Community and Economic Development Depart.	1,200,000	1,377,974	1,244,000	1,058,155	1,825,856	-	1,825,856
Planning Department	805,000	1,728,961	1,573,700	1,803,491	1,437,054	-	1,437,054
Integrated Mobility Management	-	154,631	104,506	466,072	408,624	-	408,624
Area Agency on Aging Department	3,863,622	4,026,898	3,576,732	3,851,192	3,309,591	-	3,309,591
Workforce Development Department	1,064,000	946,591	914,417	888,802	989,239	-	989,239
Indirect Costs Representation	(1,806,658)	(1,897,451)	(1,804,578)	(2,148,245)	(2,374,989)	-	(2,374,989)
TOTAL EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS	7,983,464	9,783,522	8,543,701	15,716,127	14,503,405	-	14,503,405
Revenues over expenditures	-	-	48,200	-	-	-	-

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Placeholder Grant Pass Through Budgets Ordinance

<u>Program</u>	FY2024		Audited YE Actuals	FY2025 Estimated CY Budget	FY2026 Placeholder Budget
	Budgeted Original	Final			
Area Agency on Aging					
HCC Block Grant	11,500,000	12,100,000	11,778,455	12,000,000	12,000,000
USDA Supplement	650,000	750,000	519,798	608,000	608,000 (1)
Title III-B Legal	103,000	203,000	110,178	150,000	150,000
Family Caregiver	573,000	623,000	574,114	571,228	560,000
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion	52,300	72,300	30,285	45,000	45,000
State Senior Center General Purpose	117,000	137,000	114,073	116,500	116,500
Heat Fan Relief	15,000	15,100	14,387	14,400	14,400
ARPA Support Services	209,000	309,000	987,854	250,267	-
ARPA Congregate Nutrition	1,727,801	1,827,801	552,799	385,172	-
ARPA Home Delivered Meals	1,170,000	1,270,000	497,761	60,000	-
	<u>16,117,101</u>	<u>17,307,201</u>	<u>15,179,704</u>	<u>14,200,567</u>	<u>13,493,900</u>
<i>(1) This program does not have a lump sum authorization currently. It is authorized at .75 per meal. Current Authorization is an estimate.</i>					
Workforce Development					
WIOA - XX-4010 Administrative Cost Pool	80,000	-	-	-	-
WIOA XX-4020 Adult Services	1,200,000	1,044,304	966,223	1,028,744	1,029,000
WIOA XX-4030 Dislocated Worker	950,000	644,056	391,105	725,630	726,000
WIOA XX-4040 Youth Services	1,250,000	855,041	736,020	1,000,224	1,000,000
WIOA XX-4040 Youth Initiative	65,000	42,657	26,610	-	-
WIOA XX-4050 Finish Line Grant	105,000	-	-	-	-
WIOA XX- XXXX Infrastructure Cost	85,000	85,000	77,244	62	-
WIOA XX-4050 State Employer Services	-	35,000	-	15,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>3,735,000</u>	<u>2,706,058</u>	<u>2,197,202</u>	<u>2,769,660</u>	<u>2,755,000</u>
Total Grant	<u>19,852,101</u>	<u>20,013,259</u>	<u>17,376,906</u>	<u>16,970,227</u>	<u>16,248,900</u>



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 3

Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Anna Lu Wilson	Presentation Time:	20 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Christina Danis Anna Lu Wilson Anggie Fernandez	Phone Number:	704-385-4790			
		Email:	alwilson@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Christina Danis	Phone Number:	704-688-6502			
		Email:	cdanis@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CED Admin	Department Head Approval:	<i>Christina Danis</i>			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda:						
Department Spotlight: Community Economic Development						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.</i>						
CEDD will provide a high-level overview of the Community Economic Development Department's role, core services, recent accomplishments and upcoming priorities in support of member communities.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: The Community Economic Development (CED) Department supports member communities by advancing projects and partnerships that strengthen local capacity and improve economic conditions across the region. This spotlight is provided to ensure the Board has a shared understanding of CED's role, the services the team delivers, and how current work aligns with organizational priorities, member needs and external funding opportunities. Staff will highlight key activities and outcomes to date and outline upcoming focus areas so the Board can stay informed and provide strategic guidance as needed.						
Requested Action / Recommendation: Receive information and provide feedback as needed.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	None					



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 4



Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Denise Strosser	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Denise Strosser	Phone Number:	(704) 348-2704			
		Email:	dstrosser@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	(704) 248-2703			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Finance	Department Head Approval:	Denise Strosser			
Title of documents as shown in the agenda: FY26-27 Place Holder Budget Proposal						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.</i>						
<p>The Executive Board will review the placeholder's annual operating and pass-through budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2027 prior to approval by the Board of Delegates at the annual meeting in February.</p>						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>To comply with the Charter Resolution, the budgets for Centralina must be adopted by the Council no later than April 15th of each year. The Board of Delegates meets in February and then again in May, so the adoption must occur at the February 2026 meeting to comply with the Charter.</p> <p>The proposed membership dues assessment for Fiscal Year 2026 remains unchanged at \$0.26 per capita with no minimal assessment.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
<p>Motion to recommend the proposed FY2026 operating and passthrough place holder budget ordinances in the amount of \$9,220,000 and \$15,944,000, respectfully and the membership dues assessment of \$0.26 per capital with no minimal assessment per member to be approved for consideration for adoption by the Board of Delegates.</p>						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	As described above					

Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	As described above
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	FY27 Annual Operating Budget Ordinance FY27 Annual Pass-Through Budget Ordinance

Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Proposed Annual Operating Budget Ordinance

ANTICIPATED REVENUES	FY2025		Audited YE Actuals	FY2026 Estimated Budget	FY2027 Placeholder Budget
	Original	Budgeted Final			
Program Revenues					
Restricted Intergovernmental Revenue	6,532,000	11,023,051	9,457,111	17,815,600	7,000,000
Technical Assistance Projects	1,143,500	1,101,676	875,762	749,000	750,000
Other Program Revenue	335,000	1,541,142	1,398,466	620,000	400,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	-	14,864	-	143,405	-
Total Program Revenue	8,010,500	13,680,733	11,731,339	19,328,005	8,150,000
Other Revenues					
Member Dues Support	940,000	962,000	961,907	1,020,650	1,020,000
Interest and Other Revenue	75,000	110,000	88,613	542,000	50,000
Total Other Revenues	1,015,000	1,072,000	1,050,520	1,562,650	1,070,000
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES	9,025,500	14,752,733	12,781,859	20,890,655	9,220,000
EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS					
Member services, Board and committees	953,500	6,039,947	4,904,324	12,500,746	1,000,000
Management and Business Operations	1,800,000	2,010,414	1,689,667	1,854,572	1,900,000
Information Technology	366,000	370,000	346,772	437,951	440,000
Foundation	-	1,011,500	782,412	221,000	50,000
Community and Economic Development Depart.	1,351,000	1,107,646	978,932	953,784	980,000
Planning Department	1,700,000	1,776,071	1,659,391	2,607,561	2,500,000
Area Agency on Aging Department	4,095,000	3,663,357	3,377,138	3,435,037	3,435,000
Workforce Development Department	1,115,000	824,863	809,571	876,021	850,000
Indirect Costs Representation	(2,355,000)	(2,051,065)	(2,046,854)	(1,996,017)	(1,935,000)
TOTAL EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS	9,025,500	14,752,733	12,501,353	20,890,655	9,220,000
Revenues over expenditures	-	-	280,506	-	-



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 5

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Geraldine Gardner	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Shirely Speidell	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	shirley@strategics.consulting			
Alternate Contact:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	202.527.3114			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Executive	Department Head Approval:	G. Gardner			
Title of documents as shown in the agenda: Federal Advocacy Update and 2026 Federal Action Plan Approval						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
Strategics Consulting and staff will provide a progress update on federal engagement activities and propose changes to the 2026 Federal Advocacy Agenda.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
The Executive Board reviewed and approved advocacy agendas at the November 2024 meeting for the 119 th Congress. Staff have been working to update the document for the second half of the 119 th Congress that begins in January 2026. The proposed 2026 Federal Action Agenda will guide activities for the remainder of the session.						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Motion to approve the 2026 Federal Action Agenda						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Timely input on activities will help to inform continued engagement.					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	Draft 2026 Federal Action Agenda					

AREA	REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Surface Transportation Authorization expires on September 30, 2026. • Major metro areas across the country, including the Greater Charlotte Region in NC, have multiple MPOs serving one economic region. MPOs can and should work collaboratively and across boundaries to serve the larger region. • Discretionary programs are critical for local governments and regional organizations. Federal investments must flow directly and predictably to local governments and regional planning bodies to ensure safety, efficiency and impact.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve and streamline federal funding opportunities including formula funding and grants. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support Local Decision-Making Through Formula Programs. b. Simplify grant requirements and increase technical assistance for discretionary programs. 2. Incentivize Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to work collaboratively, across boundaries, for greater safety, efficiency and regional economic impact in areas with multiple MPOs. 3. Define Regional Councils in statute as a type of local government eligible for all USDOT discretionary and competitive grant programs.
BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the formula process and simplifying grant requirements could bring more federal resources into the region to support key infrastructure priorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivizing regional collaboration at the federal level would ensure strong collaboration and partnerships across-MPOs. We have been successful working with some MPOs on a voluntary basis, but incentives would help spark additional collaboration.
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AREA	REFORMING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current FEMA programmatic and funding approaches are burdensome and reactive. Taking a regional approach to comprehensive mitigation, resilience and recovery planning eliminates project delivery redundancies and inefficiencies in a post-disaster situation.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<p>Support comprehensive reform for FEMA programming and funding that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incentives and/or requirements for regional planning and coordination across FEMA's main mission areas: response, recovery, mitigation, and preparedness. Regional boundaries should follow established planning and economic zones within each state. 2. Requirements for regional hazard mitigation, resilience and recovery planning to unify local priorities and regional needs to protect life, property and taxpayer assets. 3. Funding BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) or similar programs that promote proactive investments and offer planning support to increase the likelihood of project development. 4. Increase the authority of regional councils to implement resilience and mitigation projects as regional applicants to support local governments' capacity and readiness needs.
BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal endorsement of the benefits of cross-jurisdictional/regional collaboration in response, recovery, mitigation, and preparedness will encourage reform at the state level. • Reinstating funding programs that support planning and project development will shorten the delivery and implementation time frame and proactively invest public funding in mitigation activities.

For more information, contact Geraldine Gardner – ggardner@centralina.org and our partners at Strategics Consulting - Shirley Speidell (202) 527-3114 or shirley@strategics.consulting and Leslie Mazingo (202) 255-5760 or leslie@strategics.consulting.



AREA	REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA)
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current OAA officially expired on September 30, 2024. • Funding for the Aging Network has not kept pace with demographic change in North Carolina and Centralina Region where the 55+ is the fastest growing demographic. <i>Our regionwide waiting list for Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) services is now over 4,000 older and disabled adults.</i> This includes primarily meals and in-home aide services, but a few of the counties had some waiting for Adult Day Care services and transportation. • Supplemental ARPA funding that has supported additional clients serves ended on June 30, 2025, which is contributing to the increase in waiting list numbers.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support OAA Reauthorization that provides sufficient funding, modernizes programs and services to meet current needs and incentivizes innovation in service delivery for our region's older adults, their families and caregivers. 2. Offer maximum flexibility in regulations in key service areas (nutrition, transportation, housing, and economic stability) to meet local and regional needs. Flexibility offered during the COVID-19 pandemic has been suspended. 3. Support funding to increase the direct care workforce for the care of older and disabled adults.
BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting regulatory flexibility and encouraging programmatic innovation will enable Centralina AAA and our regional provider network to be more efficient with taxpayer resources and meet the growing demand for services in our nine-county region.

AREA	REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WIOA was signed into law in 2014 and officially expired on September 30, 2020.

For more information, contact Geraldine Gardner – ggardner@centralina.org and our partners at Strategics Consulting - Shirley Speidell (202) 527-3114 or shirley@strategics.consulting and Leslie Mazingo (202) 255-5760 or leslie@strategics.consulting.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding from WIOA supports the Centralina Workforce Development Board’s programs and services in seven of the nine counties in our region.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enact five-year reauthorization with continued investments for low-income, youth and dislocated workers. Ensure that Workforce Development Boards are consulted during policy discussion and any potential changes to the Act. Support WIOA policy recommendations from the National Association of Workforce Boards, National League of Cities, and National Association of Counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustain and enhance funding for the public workforce system and provide dedicated federal support for one-stop infrastructure to strengthen service delivery nationwide. Expand flexibility in training requirements so local boards can achieve successful workforce outcomes. Preserve locally driven workforce governance while expanding flexibilities that allow boards and local governments to tailor programs to regional economic needs.
BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reauthorized legislation will provide updated programmatic guidance and stable funding to support the Centralina Workforce Development Board and its collaboration with partners to ensure the region competes well in a global economy with an exceptional workforce.

AREA	APPROPRIATIONS – COMPETITIVE GRANTS PREDICTABILITY, STABILITY & ELIGIBILITY
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discretionary programs are critical for local governments and regional organizations. Federal investments must flow directly and predictably to local governments and regional planning bodies to ensure safety, efficiency and impact.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require federal agencies to notify both the House and Senate at least 120 days prior to the termination of any congressionally funded grant.

For more information, contact Geraldine Gardner – ggardner@centralina.org and our partners at Strategics Consulting - Shirley Speidell (202) 527-3114 or shirley@strategics.consulting and Leslie Mozingo (202) 255-5760 or leslie@strategics.consulting.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Direct federal agencies to allocate no fewer than 90 days of those days to work with grantees to restructure or rescope the award to better effectuate program goals or agency priorities. 3. Ensure federal agencies to continue to reimburse grantees for work done under the award during this time period. 4. If a grant award is terminated, instruct federal agencies to prioritize that grantee in a future funding opportunity.
BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant predictability is essential for Centralina and its local government members to ensure sufficient resources for committed, grant funded projects and/or staff. Centralina welcomes the opportunity to adjust projects or initiatives to meet new funder priorities.

AREA	APPROPRIATIONS – FY27 FUNDING AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain current funding levels for certain federal agency programs that regional councils of governments and member communities rely on for crucial planning, implementation and service delivery activities.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the following agencies and programs and <i>at least</i> maintain current funding levels in FY27 appropriations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aging Programs funded by Older Americans Act (HHS) ○ Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funds (DOL, ED, HHS) ○ Apprenticeship programs to help cover costs for on the job training ○ Economic Development Administration (Commerce) ○ BUILD Transportation Grants (DOT) ○ Clean Cities alternative fuel deployment program (DOE) and the Diesel Emission Reduction Grants Program (EPA) ○ Rural Development Programs (USDA) ○ Community Development Block Grants (HUD)

For more information, contact Geraldine Gardner – ggardner@centralina.org and our partners at Strategics Consulting - Shirley Speidell (202) 527-3114 or shirley@strategics.consulting and Leslie Mazingo (202) 255-5760 or leslie@strategics.consulting.



BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<p>Adequate funding for key programs and services directly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralina Area Agencies on Aging • Centralina Workforce Investment Board • Centralina Economic Development District • Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition
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AREA	HOUSING REFORM TO SUPPORT PRODUCTION AND LOCAL CONTROL
ISSUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralina Regional Council plays a crucial role in housing crisis in the greater Charlotte region. We encourage collaboration between housing authorities, bridge gaps across jurisdictions, and promote resilient housing plans in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
REQUESTED FEDERAL ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support housing reform that balances tools to promote production with the need to preserve local control over land use and development intensity. 2. Preserve federal programs that support homeownership and specifically those that enable older and disabled adults and veterans to age in place in their home. 3. Support robust funding for programs within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that support housing and community research and development for urban, suburban, and rural areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in agencies that support housing • Maintain discretionary grant funding • Support housing resilience and disaster recovery efforts
BENEFITS TO THE CENTRALINA REGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centralina region continues to experience intensive growth and residential development, yet housing production still lags behind demand. • Local governments are intentionally directing growth to support local needs and policy priorities. Efforts to curb local control impacts the ability to shape smart growth at the local level.

For more information, contact Geraldine Gardner – ggardner@centralina.org and our partners at Strategics Consulting - Shirley Speidell (202) 527-3114 or shirley@strategics.consulting and Leslie Mazingo (202) 255-5760 or leslie@strategics.consulting.





CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 6

Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Kelly Weston	Presentation Time:	15 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Kelly Weston Sarah Prencipe	Phone Number:	704-348-2728			
		Email:	kweston@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Geraldine Gardner	Phone Number:	704-351-7130			
		Email:	ggardner@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Strategic Engagement & Technical Services	Department Head Approval:	Kasia Thompson			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda: In Focus Discussion: Raleigh Relations Engagement with Lumin Strategies						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i> Lumin Strategies will present on the strategies and processes they'll use to drive our Raleigh Relations agenda in the coming year. They'll also introduce key areas the Board should consider as it sets guiding principles for the NC General Assembly's 2026 short session.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: Centralina has established a new partnership with consulting firm Lumin Strategies to advance our Raleigh Relations program. This collaboration is designed to enhance our influence and engagement during the NC General Assembly's 2026 short session and beyond. Our work will focus on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building relationships with legislators, the executive branch, and state agencies. • Refining and clarifying our regional advocacy priorities to align with member needs and creating a consistent approach for responding quickly to emerging legislative issues • Improving member communication and providing regular updates <p>These efforts aim to strengthen Centralina's standing as a trusted regional voice among state government officials and ensure our members' needs and priorities are effectively represented at the state level.</p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation: Receive as information and provide requested feedback.						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Timely feedback from the Executive Board will help finalize our relationship-building strategy and our framework for responding quickly to legislative issues before the NC General Assembly's short session begins on April 21, 2026.					
Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	None					



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 7

Executive Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent:		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Anna Lu Wilson	Presentation Time:	10 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Christina Danis Megan Upchurch Anna Lu Wilson	Phone Number:	704-385-4790			
		Email:	alwilson@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Christina Danis	Phone Number:	704-688-6502			
		Email:	Cdanis@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	CED Admin	Department Head Approval:	<i>Christina Danis</i>			
Title of documents as shown in the Agenda:						
In Focus Discussion: Resilience Programming Updates						
Description of Agenda Item: <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page).</i> CEDD will provide a focused update on key resilience initiatives including the Regional Resilience Collaboration, day-to-day resilience strategies and what implementation looks like in practice.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations: Centralina is advancing a coordinated, regional approach to resilience and protecting taxpayer assets through the Regional Resilience Collaborative (RRC) with a focus on how to best proceed with implementation moving from planning to practical, day-to-day local government activities. Over the past year, staff have worked with local governments and regional, state and federal partners to better understand how resilience is operationalized at the local level with a focus on preparedness and practical solutions to address gaps or concerns.						
Through this work, several consistent needs have emerged, including clearer implementation pathways, practical tools that support daily operations and sustained coordination within and across jurisdictions. While many communities are actively engaged in resilience planning, translating those plans into routine practices that foster, shared knowledge among all staff continues to be a challenge without shared frameworks and support.						
The recommendations presented are informed by RRC activities, direct feedback from participating jurisdictions, observed passed practices and implementation challenges. They are intended to share about how Centralina can clarify what resilience looks like in practice, strengthen local capacity and support consistent, scalable approaches to resilience in the Centralina region.						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Time Sensitivity: <i>(none or explain)</i>	Receive as information and advance toward implementation actions					

Budget Impact: <i>(none or explain)</i>	None
Attachments: <i>(none or list)</i>	



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Item 8

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date:	January 14, 2026	Agenda Item Type:	Consent		Regular:	X
Submitting Person:	Narissa Claiborne	Presentation Time:	5 minutes			
Presenter at Meeting:	Nominating Committee	Phone Number:	717-434-2284			
		Email:	nclaiborne@centralina.org			
Alternate Contact:	Kasia Thompson	Phone Number:	704-348-2703			
		Email:	kthompson@centralina.org			
Submitting Department:	Strategic Engagement and Technical Services	Department Head Approval:	Kasia Thompson			
Title: Nominating Committee Formation						
The Nominating Committee will provide an update on its activities in advance of the February 14, 2026, Annual Board of Delegates meeting.						
Background & Basis of Recommendations:						
<p>Article IX, Section B of the CCOG bylaws states:</p> <p><i>The Executive Board, prior to the Council meeting each year at which elections are to be held, shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) delegates. At the Council's meeting each year at which the elections are to be held, and prior to the election of officers by the Council at that meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the Council the names of proposed officers. Nominations from the floor may be made. The person receiving the highest number of votes cast for each office shall be deemed elected.</i></p>						
Requested Action / Recommendation:						
Receive as information and provide requested feedback.						
Time Sensitivity: (none or explain)	The Board of Delegates will vote on the proposed slate of officer nominees at the February 14, 2026, Annual Meeting.					
Budget Impact: (none or explain)	None					
Attachments: (none or list)	None					