

2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

119th Congress



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 during the 119th Session of Congress:

1. Reauthorize critical programs and funding to support the regional delivery of services: Aging, Workforce Development and Surface Transportation
2. Ensure competitive grants predictability, stability and regional council eligibility
3. Pursue federal housing and emergency management reform to ensure efficient and effective use of public funds, support regional planning and service delivery, and preserve local control and decision making

Program & Funding Reauthorization

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Centralina supports reauthorization that:

- Preserves, streamlines federal funding opportunities, including discretionary grants
- Incentivizes and/or requires MPOs to work collaboratively, across boundaries, for greater safety, efficiency and regional economic impact

Older Americans Act (OAA)

Centralina supports reauthorization that modernizes programs, curbs regulatory restrictions and aligns funding levels to match the demographic realities in rapidly growing states, such as North Carolina.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Centralina supports the reauthorization that improves operational efficiencies, strengthens local capacity and improves local flexibility to administer programs.

Federal Funding of Regional Programs & Services

Competitive Grants Predictability & Stability

Awarded federal grants must flow directly and predictably to local governments and regional planning bodies to ensure safety, efficiency and impact. **Centralina supports Congressional action that directs federal agencies to work with grantees to restructure or rescope an award to better effectuate program goals or agency priorities instead of cancellation.**

Competitive Grants Eligibility

Regional councils are not always explicitly eligible for competitive grants and funding from federal agencies. **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.**

Maintaining FY2Y Funding Levels for Critical Services

Regional councils of governments and member communities support retaining current funding levels for crucial planning, implementation and service delivery.

Federal Program Reform

Reforming the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

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 ultimately supporting the efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Housing Reform to Support Production and Local Control

Centralina supports housing reform that balances tools to promote production with the need to preserve local control over land use and development.

READY TO LEARN MORE?

Reach out to Geraldine Gardner,
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