Kerr-Tar
Regional Council Of Governments

Interested in applying?

Contact us to get started.

alewis@kerrtarcog.org
(252) 436-2040, ext. 2005
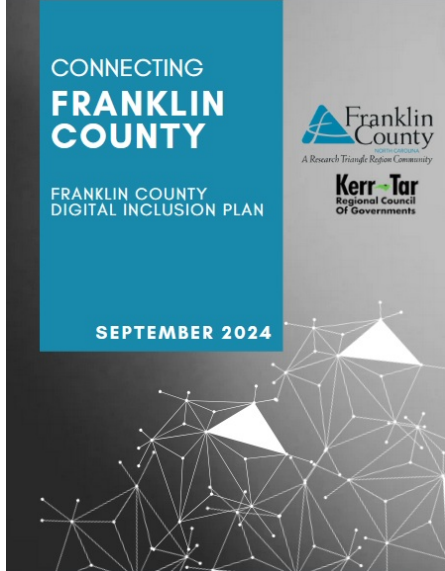
Regional Project Manager's Notes:

Hello Kerr-Tar region! We are wrapping up the County Digital Inclusion Planning, and we would love your feedback. Especially if you know of a program or organization that is actively working in this space. Thank you to everyone that have supported this project! To view the current drafts, click the image.

If you are passionate about broadband, please fill-out the **Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee interest form** to support the Digital Inclusion project efforts starting in September.
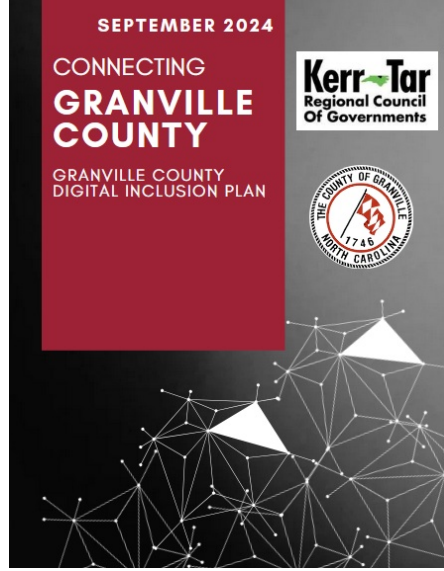
Kerr-Tar is interested in being a partner on the NTIA grant application. Please contact us as soon as possible to discuss further! Please reach out through email or phone with any technical assistance questions or to schedule a meeting.
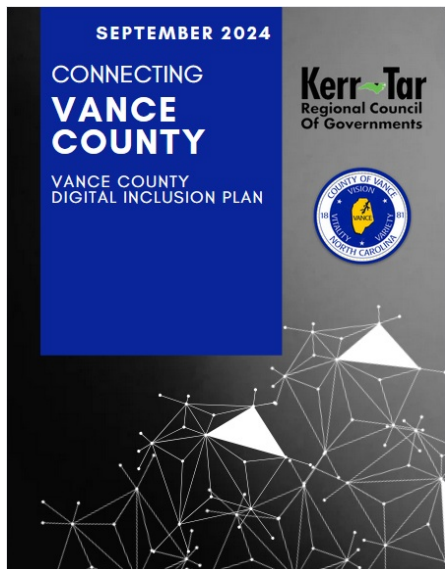
Thank you,
Amanda Lewis

Meeting Scheduler

CONNECTING FRANKLIN COUNTY

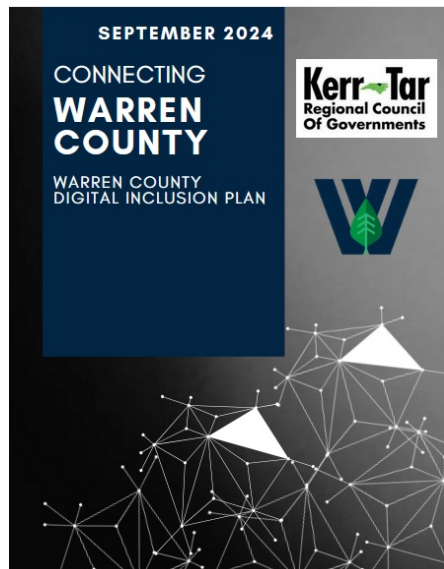FRANKLIN COUNTY DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2024

Franklin County has done an amazing on their County Digital Inclusion Plan! Kerr-Tar COG created the template for them and developed the framework. Once their project analyst, Jessica Hudson, started supporting the project the plan really came to life. Thank you for being a collaborator on developing this plan's additional components. We appreciate your efforts.

SEPTEMBER 2024

CONNECTING GRANVILLE COUNTY

GRANVILLE COUNTY DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN

Granville County Digital Inclusion Task-force has done an amazing job in supporting planning efforts between community partners. The County and Library staff have worked closely together on developing a strategy. The Broadband Expansion Efforts in Granville County is an excellent summary of how they are continuing the work.

SEPTEMBER 2024

CONNECTING VANCE COUNTY

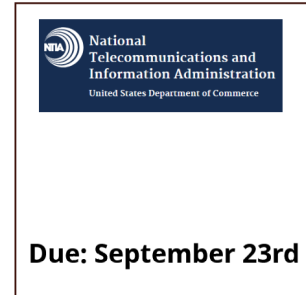VANCE COUNTY DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN

Vance County Digital Inclusion Plan was completed in 2022 in partnership between HubZone Technology Initiative and Vance County, and is currently undergoing a refresh. Kerr-Tar COG's Victoria Glasscock supported the transfer of the plan from a website domain to the cohesive branding seen here. There is a lot of information still needed for this plan update. Please reach out if you have additional information to share. We appreciate your contribution!

SEPTEMBER 2024

CONNECTING WARREN COUNTY

WARREN COUNTY DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN

Digital Warren has been an instrumental partner in community engagement--specifically with stakeholder. Charla Duncan re-framed our approach in how to develop group activities that stimulated conversation for the Mission, Vision, and Goals for the plans. Rose Ponton has utilized working with AI in an effort to further develop some of the narratives and goal alignment. Warren County has an innovative approach to broadband and a passion for supporting their community.

Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

This Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") solicits applications for the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program ("Competitive Grant Program" or "Program"), the third of three digital equity programs authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The Competitive Grant Program will make funds available to a wide range of entities to address barriers to digital equity faced by Covered Populations.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
United States Department of Commerce

Due: September 23rd

Grantees must secure at least 10% matching funds

Grant recipients must expend the grant amounts during the four (4) year period after the date on which the entity is awarded the grant. Grant recipients may continue to measure and evaluate the activities supported with the grant amounts for a period of one (1) year after the initial four (4) year Period of Performance. No extensions to the four (4) year Period of Performance or the one (1) year evaluation period will be granted.

Proposed programs, projects, and activities will support efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion activities, and spur greater adoption and meaningful use of broadband among the Covered Populations.

Develop and implement digital inclusion activities that benefit one or more of the Covered Populations; Facilitate the adoption of broadband by the Covered Populations in order to provide educational and employment opportunities; Implement training programs for the Covered Populations that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills; Implement workforce development programs; Make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability and digital network technology for broadband services to Covered Populations at low or no cost; Construct, upgrade, expand, or operate new or existing public access computing centers for Covered Populations through community anchor institutions; or undertake any other project or activity the Assistant Secretary finds to be consistent with the purposes of the Program. Grantees may also use not more than 10 percent of the grant amount to measure and evaluate the activities supported with the grant amounts.

Learn More

Good Jobs Challenge

This Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") solicits applications for the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program ("Competitive Grant Program" or "Program"), the third of three digital equity programs
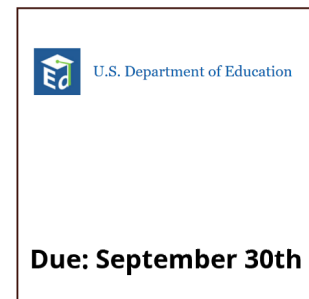
authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The Competitive Grant Program will make funds available to a wide range of entities to address barriers to digital equity faced by Covered Populations. **Good Jobs Challenge website**

Due: September 27th

Learn More

Fund for The Improvement of Postsecondary Education (IFPSE)

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Transitioning Gang-Involved Youth to Higher Education (TGIY) Program is to provide a funding opportunity for organizations that work directly with gang-involved youth to help such youth pursue higher education opportunities that
will lead to certification or credentials.

U.S. Department of Education

Due: September 30th

The priorities are:
Absolute Priority 1—Projects for Organizations to Work Directly with Gang-Involved Youth to Help Such Youth Pursue Higher Education Opportunities.
To meet this priority, an eligible applicant must demonstrate that the project will work directly with gang-involved youth to help such youth pursue higher education opportunities.
Absolute Priority 2—Increasing Postsecondary Education Access, Affordability, Completion, and Post-Enrollment Success. Projects that are designed to increase postsecondary access, affordability, completion, and success for underserved students by addressing one or more of the following priority areas:
(a) Increasing the number and proportion of underserved students who enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs, which may include strategies related to college preparation, awareness, application, selection, advising, counseling, and enrollment.
(b) Supporting the development and implementation of student success programs that integrate multiple comprehensive and evidence-based services or initiatives, such as academic advising, structured/guided pathways, career services, credit-bearing academic undergraduate courses focused on career, and programs to meet basic needs, such as housing, childcare and transportation, student financial aid, and access to technological devices.
(c) Increasing the number of individuals who return to the educational system and obtain a regular high school diploma, or its recognized equivalent for adult learners; enroll in
and complete community college, college, or career and technical training; or obtain basic and academic skills, including English language learning, that they need to succeed in college—including community college—as well as career and technical education and/or the workforce.
(d) Supporting evidence-based practices in career and technical education and ensuring equitable access to and successful completion of high-quality programs, credentials, or degrees.
(e) Supporting the development and implementation of evidence-based strategies to promote students' development of knowledge and skills necessary for success in the workplace

and civic life.

(f) Providing secondary school students with access to career exploration and advising opportunities to help students make informed decisions about their postsecondary enrollment decisions and to place them on a career path.

0% matching funds required

Grant Administrator:
Julius C Cotton
ED Grants.gov FIND Systems Admin. julius.cotton@ed.gov Program Manager: Jymece Seward, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C113, Washington, DC 20202-4260. Telephone: 202-453-6138. Email: Jymece.Seward@ed.gov.

Learn More

October 2024

Short Courses on Utilizing the NIH Stage Model to Develop Behavioral Interventions to Promote Healthy Aging

NIH National Institutes of Health
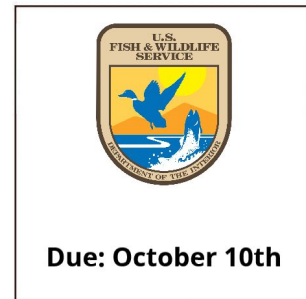*Turning Discovery Into Health*

Due: October 8th

The purpose of this NOFO is to create short courses on utilizing the NIH Stage Model to develop behavioral interventions to promote healthy aging and prevent illness, improve care, foster disease management, assist with end of life decision-making and care, and support the needs of the growing older adult population. The term behavioral intervention is used broadly here, to include a variety of **non-pharmacological interventions** for individuals, dyads, families, groups, communities, organizations, and systems.

The NIH Stage Model is a conceptual framework of behavioral intervention development composed of six stages: basic science (Stage 0), intervention generation, refinement, modification, and adaptation and pilot testing (Stage I); traditional efficacy testing (Stage II); efficacy testing with real-world providers (Stage III); effectiveness research (Stage IV) and; dissemination and implementation research (Stage V). The goal of the NIH Stage Model is to produce potent, scalable, and culturally competent behavioral interventions that are defined by their mechanism(s) of behavior change (MoBC(s), so examination of MoBC is encouraged in every stage of intervention development. The Modelcan be used for the development of single or multi-component interventions, and for interventions meant for individuals, dyads, groups, communities, organizations, or systems. This RFA supports the development, delivery, and evaluation of a short-course curriculum to equip investigators to apply the NIH Stage Model to intervention development research.
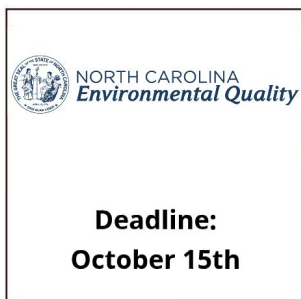
Learn More

North American Wetlands Conservation: 2025 US Small Grants

The U.S. Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds. The program requires a **1:1 non-federal match and research funding is ineligible**. This program supports the DOI and FWS mission of protecting and managing the nation's natural resources by collaborating with partners and stakeholders to conserve land and water and to expand outdoor recreation and access.

Due: October 10th

Learn More

Aquatic Weed Control Program

Deadline: October 15th

For **Public Waters**, This Program Can Provide:
- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Operational Support
- Aquatic Plant Identification
- Treatment Recommendations

Financial assistance and operational support are in the form of cost-share arrangements and are available to Counties, Municipalities, Soil & Water Districts, Drainage Districts, Public Utilities, and other government agencies.

Program staff provide a range of fieldwork services including site assessments, aquatic vegetation surveys and aquatic weed management operations. To provide these services, the program utilizes specialized equipment. Staff are trained on this equipment and have aquatic herbicide applicator licenses.

How to Apply for Financial Assistance:
- A telephone call, letter or email may serve as the initial communication. Be prepared to describe the problem in detail.
- Program staff will need to conduct a site visit in most circumstances.
- Submit a grant application. Download application form.
- Applications must be received no later than October 15 the year before the project begins.
- Applications will be considered for inclusion in the work-plan for the following year.

For **Private Waters**, This Program Can Provide:
- Technical Assistance
- Aquatic Plant Identification
- Recommend Treatments

Private landowners can also contact their county offices of the Agricultural Extension Service for further assistance.

Learn More

Walmart - Local Community Grants

Local Community grants range from a minimum of $250 to a maximum of $5,000. Eligible nonprofit organizations must operate on the local level (or be an affiliate/chapter of a larger organization that operates locally) and directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding.

Walmart >|< org

Q1: April 15
Q2: July 15
Q3: October 15
Q4: December 31

There are eight (8) areas of funding for which an organization can apply. Please review the areas listed below to ensure your organization's goals fall within one of these areas.

- Community and Economic Development: Improving local communities for the benefit of low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Diversity and Inclusion: Fostering the building of relationships and understanding among diverse groups in the local service area
- Education: Providing after-school enrichment, tutoring or vocational training for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Environmental Sustainability: Preventing waste, increasing recycling, or supporting other programs that work to improve the environment in the local service area
- Health and Human Service: Providing medical screening, treatment, social services, or shelters for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating: Providing Federal or charitable meals/snacks for low-income individuals and families in the local service area
- Public Safety: Supporting public safety programs through training programs or equipment in the local service area
- Quality of Life: Improving access to recreation, arts or cultural experiences for low-income individuals and families in the local service area

Learn More

November 2024

The Great Trails State Program

The Great Trails State Program provides funding for new trail development and extension of existing trails anywhere in the state of

Deadline Extended: November 12th

This includes paved trails or greenways, natural surface trails, biking trails, equestrian trails, and any other type of trail recognized by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

There will be one grant cycle distributing the full $25 million dollars in non-recurring funding. The Great Trails State Coalition (Join Here) successfully advocated for the Great Trails State Program for all types of trails. Our goal is to make this one-time funding recurring. Thanks to our members who have made this success possible. If you aren't on the list, consider joining, to help advance trails across North Carolina.

Project Minimums:

- $100,000 minimum for planning and design, acquisition (all types), construction of natural surface trails, and maintenance of natural surface trails
- $250,000 minimum for maintenance of paved trails
- $300,000 minimum for construction of paved trails

Match Requirements:

Eligible applicants receiving a grant under this program shall provide matching funds based on the tier ranking of the county where the project is located. If trail projects is located in more than one county, the match is based on lowest county tier. The match may include:

- cash,
- fee waivers,
- in-kind services,
- donation of assets,
- provision of infrastructure, or
- any combination of the above.

Non-cash matches must be quantifiable and documented.

- Tier 1 Counties: $1 non-state matching funds for every $4 of state funds
- Tier 2 Counties: $1 non-state matching funds for every $2 of state funds
- Tier 3 Counties: $1 non-state matching funds for every $1 of state funds

Learn More

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

The Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant program (Community Change Grants), created by the Inflation Reduction Act, offers an unprecedented $2 billion in grants under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Community Change Grants will fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation. This historic level of support will enable communities and their partners to overcome longstanding environmental challenges and implement meaningful solutions to meet community needs now and for generations to come. There will be two tracks of funding under this opportunity. Track I

Deadline: November 21st

will fund approximately 150 large, transformational community-driven investment grants of $10 million - $20 million. Track II will fund approximately 20 meaningful engagement grants of $1 million - $3 million. Grants cannot exceed 3-years in duration. Please review the NOFO for further information about the exciting opportunities under the Community Change Grants program and details about the application process.

Learn More

January 2025

Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants in North Carolina

USDA

**Deadline:
January 31, 2025**

This program assists rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA).

How may funds be used?
The assistance must be provided to agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Rural small businesses must be located in eligible rural areas. This restriction does not apply to agricultural producers.

Assistance provided must consist of:
- Energy audits.
- Renewable energy technical assistance.
- Renewable energy site assessments.

Applicants must submit separate applications, limited to one energy audit and one Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA) per fiscal year. The maximum aggregate amount of an energy audit and REDA grant in a Federal fiscal year is $100,000.

Learn More

Training & Resources

Benton Institute for Broadband

High-speed, affordable broadband is the infrastructure of opportunity. Our goal is to bring open, affordable, high-performance broadband to all people in the U.S. to ensure a thriving democracy. Benton believes that communications policy—rooted in the values of access, equity, and diversity—has the power to deliver new opportunities and strengthen communities.

YouTube Channel: Benton Institute for Broadband

CSEN: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network

The National Cybersecurity Alliance excited to partner with Greatest Training Ever to bring you CSEN: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network! Led by renown newsman and on-air personality Chet Barkley, CSEN features an an ensemble cast that delivers fun, relevant, and timely cyber security tips and advice.

YouTube Playlist: The Cyber Security Entertainment Network

StaySafeOnlineNCA is the official YouTube channel of the National Cybersecurity Alliance. NCA's mission is to educate and therefore empower a digital society to use the Internet safely and securely at home, work, and school, protecting the technology individuals use, the networks they connect to, and our shared digital assets. For more information, visit www.staysafeonline.org.

Connect with us!

Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments | 1724 Graham Avenue P.O. Box 709 | Henderson, NC 27536 US