



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Downtown Warrenton, Warren County

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- **COG Office Closed:** July 4, 2024
- **Save the Date:** Cultivate 2024 Regional Economic Development Summit: **Thursday, September 12 @ Jones Performing Arts Center, Louisburg, 8:30am-1:00pm**
- **Save the Date:** Caregiver Conference: Best practices in dementia care with Melanie Bunn: **Tuesday, August 6, 2024 @ VGCC Civic Center Auditorium, Henderson, 9:00am-1:30pm**
- **Save the Date:** COG Annual Awards Banquet: **Thursday, September 26th @ Festival House at the Homestead Steakhouse, Roxboro, 6:30pm**

Thursday, September 12, 2024
8:30 AM-1:00 PM

JONES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
LOUISBURG COLLEGE
501 N. MAIN ST. | LOUISBURG, NC



Embracing rural power, for a thriving future

CULTIVATE 2024

Registration Opens July 15th!



Ryan Combs
Executive Director,
Research Triangle
Regional Partnership



**Keynote Speaker
Jennifer Pharr Davis**
Award Winning Author
Small Business Owner



Scott Peacock
Director, Tourism
Marketing
& Communications,
Visit NC

Join us for this regional economic development summit as we foster innovation and learn how small changes can lead to big impacts. This event will include dynamic speakers, panel discussions, trade show, and more.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors:



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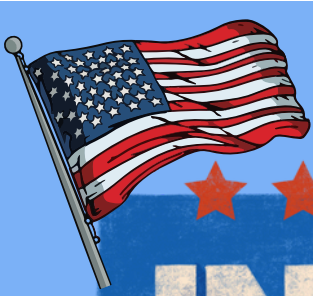
ELECTRICITIES
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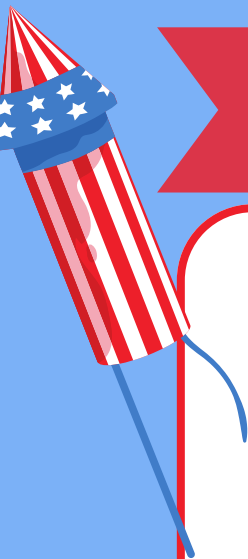
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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebrate with us!

- Franklin County Parks and Recreation: July 3, @ Louisburg Magnet High School, 5pm
- Granville County/City of Creedmoor/Town of Butner/Town of Stem, City of Oxford: July 3, @ Lake Holt, 6pm
- Independence Day in Roxboro: July 4, @ 105 S Lamar Street, Roxboro, 10am
- Fireworks Display: July 6, @ Person High School Football Field, Roxboro, Begins at dusk
- Vance County Fireworks: July 6, @ Satterwhite Point Park in Henderson, 9:15pm
- Wise NC Independence Day Celebration: July 4, @ Wise Baptist Church, Norlina, NC, 10:00am
- Fireworks Longbridge Volunteer Fire Department: July 6, @ Eaton Ferry Bridge Littleton, NC, Beginning at Dark



Follow us on social media!

Don't miss out on future training opportunities and events hosted by the Kerr-Tar COG! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on what we are up to.



facebook.com/kerrtarcog/



instagram.com/kerrtarcog/



Celebrate with America 250 NC!



We are excited to share that the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) is leading the America 250 NC initiative to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

Starting April 12, 2024, and continuing through December 2026 (with additional events through 2033), North Carolina will host a wide range of activities to honor this historic milestone. DNCR is planning extensive statewide activities and supporting local commemoration efforts. They are holding virtual statewide stakeholder meetings to discuss and encourage local planning. Resources like a planning guide are being developed to assist local institutions.

The NC General Assembly has also created the **America 250 NC Local Grant** Program to support local commemoration efforts. Our goal with encouraging official county committees is to provide a mechanism for oversight on the local level for coordination of commemoration events. Although the initial grant cycle is closed, applications will reopen in August 2024. For more information and resources click [here](#).



Announces Funding

Congrats to Warren County!

Warren County awarded \$42,500 in Golden LEAF SITE funding.

The Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors recently awarded Warren County **\$42,500** in SITE funding for due diligence for the county's Hwy. 1 Industrial Site. For more information click [here](#).

Welcome to Spotlight on Resilience



We want to stay connected with our partners and NC communities by sharing what we're doing and hearing from you. If you have something you'd like shared through the newsletter, email [Nicole Goddard](#) to be included in a future edition.

NCORR's Resiliency Program builds resilience to natural hazards and climate change across NC. NCORR helps local governments, the state, and nonprofit organizations advance resilience through analyses, projects, plans, guidance, and data. We also support formal and informal networks of organizations and programs that advance our state's ability to withstand, recover, and learn from climate hazards.

In each edition:

- We'll share updates from NCORR and beyond
- Highlight funding opportunities
- Suggest tools and resources
- Provide other information like upcoming events and resilience news

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HENDERSON Dementia Caregiver Conference

Tuesday, August 6, 2024
Vance Granville Community College
Civic Center

- Dress in layers
- Breakfast & refreshments provided
- Resource tables with helpful information

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

AGENDA

- 9:00 am
 - Check in, visit resource tables, meet other caregivers
- 10:00 am
 - Welcome & Education Sessions

Presented By



**DEMENTIA
ALLIANCE**
of North Carolina
A STATE OF CARING

Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments

Sponsored By



OUR SPEAKERS

- Melanie Bunn, RN, Dementia Training Expert
- Michael Patterson, Family Caregiver Specialist

Register online:

<u>Online Registration:</u>	\$10
Family Caregiver Ticket	
Professional Ticket (Includes 3.0 CEUs)	\$25

Conference ends at 1:30pm

Exhibit Tables and Sponsorships Available

Contact **Michael Patterson** for details at mpatterson@kerrtarocog.org
or (252) 436-2040, ext. 6072

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KT AAA Elder Abuse Event

Kerr-Tar AAA held their **10th Annual Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Conference and Walk** on June, 14th 2024 at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, NC. The event was well attended with representation from all five counties along with surrounding counties in NC (Wake, Durham, Orange and Halifax counties). A new record was set in Granville County this year with **30 different vendors** from our region and across the state, and **approximately 246 participants**.



Special thanks to Granville County DSS for their partnership in organizing the event, all the vendors, staff, volunteers, & guest speakers!

Highlights:

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamations were read from the Governor and City of Oxford Mayor.
- All participants took a commemorative Walk in support of **Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention** even in the heat!
- **Over 20 residents** attended from Granville House ASL and Angelica House FCH.
- **30 different vendors** participated.





SRTS Partners with GVPH to Give Helmets to Mi Centro Program

The **SRTS** (Safe Routes To School) Program teamed up with **GVPH** (Granville Vance Public Health) to provide 30 kids in the **Mi Centro Program** a bag full of goodies regarding biking safety. Our previous Regional Program Coordinator, Kenia Gomez, packed all their goodies and ensured they received reflective wristbands, bike reflectors, and lights to encourage safe biking. Most importantly, they were gifted **30 bike helmets** provided by the NCDOT Grant in collaboration with GVPH. The Mi Centro is a program for students who will be entering Pre-K in August of 2024. Below you'll see our new Regional Program Coordinator, Victoria Glasscock, and Elizabeth Leegins from GVPH alongside the students of Mi Centro. *For questions about the Safe Routes to School program, please contact Victoria Glasscock at vglasscock@kerrtarcog.org*



Ms. Gomez's class (above) smiles in excitement as they pose for the picture.

Ms. Mora (right) is showing her class the fundamentals of helmet safety and how to properly wear a helmet when riding a bike.

Always remember to wear your helmets!





HURRICANES

Hurricanes can bring extremely high winds, heavy rainfall. Use this guide to stay safe.

When Hurricanes Are Most Common

- ✓ June 1st to November 30th

Warning Signs

- ✓ Tropical storm or hurricane watches and warnings issued by meteorological agencies
- ✓ Increasing wind speeds and heavy rainfall
- ✓ Rising sea levels and storm surges

Preparing Your Home

- ✓ Install storm shutters or board up windows with plywood
- ✓ Reinforce garage doors
- ✓ Secure outdoor furniture and objects

Keeping Your Pets Safe

- ✓ Plan evacuation routes that include pet-friendly shelters
- ✓ Microchip pets to find them if lost
- ✓ Have a pet emergency kit

Keeping Livestock and Farmland Safe

- ✓ Move livestock to safe, elevated areas
- ✓ Secure equipment, feed, and chemicals
- ✓ Have a plan for relocating animals if needed



Hurricanes are some of the most powerful and unpredictable storms on earth



What To Do In Case Of Emergency

- ✓ Follow evacuation orders issued by local authorities
- ✓ Stay informed through weather updates and emergency alerts
- ✓ Seek shelter in a sturdy building away from flood-prone areas
- ✓ Watch out for downed power lines that may still be live
- ✓ Do not travel unless necessary

Building An Emergency Kit



- ✓ Non-perishable food and water for several days (aim for at least 1 gallon of water per person per day)
- ✓ First aid kit and necessary medications
- ✓ Important documents in a waterproof container
- ✓ Flashlights, batteries, and a weather radio
- ✓ Extra clothing, blankets, and personal hygiene items



Have Your Say: Join the STIP Feedback Sessions!

Exciting news! The **N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT)** is inviting everyone to provide feedback on transportation projects for the 2026–2035 STIP. The STIP is developed under the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law, which established the Strategic Mobility Formula. These sessions will help shape the Draft STIP due next year. You can find a short video about this outreach effort [here](#).

NCDOT is hosting 14 regional outreach sessions from **June 18 to July 10** to gather input on local priorities. Your feedback is essential in shaping the Draft STIP, due next year. The public comment period runs from **June 17 to July 17, 2024**. Please share this opportunity with your friends, family, and colleagues. Let's make our voices heard and shape the future of our transportation network together! Later this summer, NCDOT will release project scores, and the highest-scoring projects will be prioritized based on funding and other factors. For more details and to watch a short video about this outreach, visit the NCDOT website [here](#).

Uniting Forces: Request for PRICE Main Funding for Housing



Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC), in partnership with *Rebuilding Together of the Triangle (RTT)*, ***Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments***, the *North Carolina Justice Center*, *Community Home Trust*, and the *UNC School of Medicine Community Practice Lab*, is requesting **PRICE Main funding** to expand upon current partnerships to comprehensively advance support and drive long-term solutions for the preservation and development of manufactured housing in central North Carolina.

Such efforts will improve *opportunity, accessibility, and financing* for affordable housing, with a focus on manufactured housing in **11 counties** throughout the CPRC and Kerr-Tar regions – particularly for the region's most underserved populations. Titled the ***Regional Affordable Housing Partnership (RAHP)*** in Central North Carolina, this collaborative partnership will serve Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, and Orange counties in CPRC's region, and Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren in Kerr-Tar's region.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen input sought for Central Pines Regional Council's Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) application.

Public comment period:

The public comment period will be open from June 21 - July 6, 2024. Comments can be made in person at 4307 Emperor Blvd., Durham, North Carolina, 27703. Comments can also be made via email at bdavis@centralpinesnc.gov or at 919.558.2712. The DRAFT application can be found here: [CPRC Application](#).

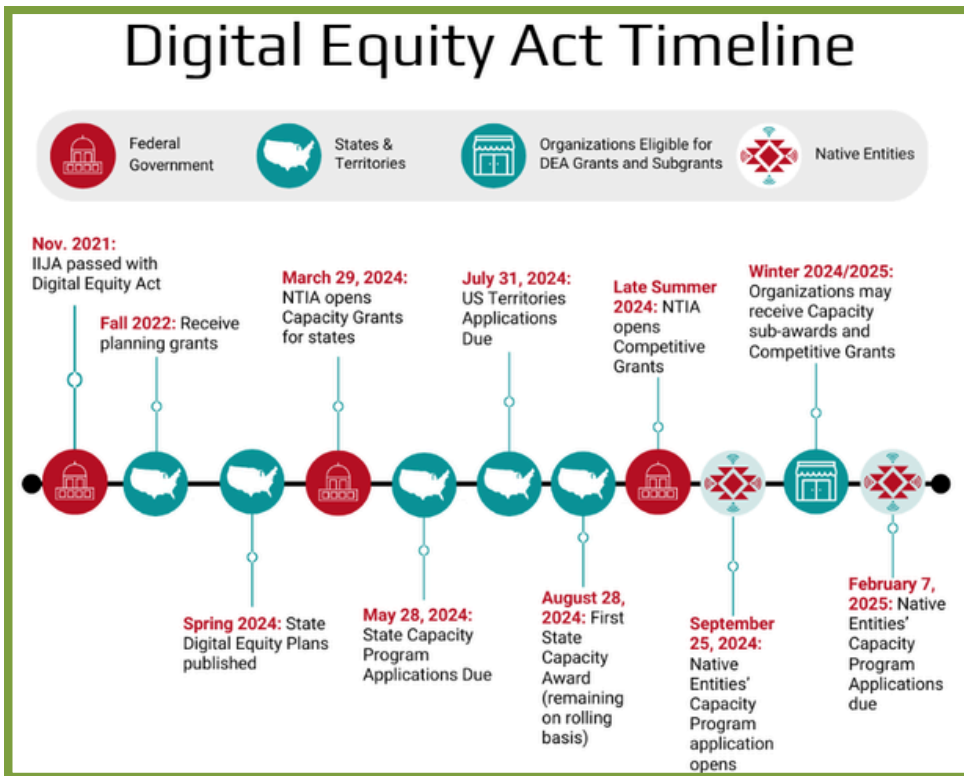


Future Grant Opportunity: Digital Equity



On June 4th, 2024 Amanda Lewis, Kerr-Tar's Regional Project Manager, attended the Digital Opportunities: Growing Connections Across North Carolina in Western NC to network with community partners, receive updates on upcoming funding opportunities, and participate in the statewide digital inclusion plan celebration! According to BAND-NC, **more than 130 people from 40 different North Carolina counties joined**. BAND-NC looks forward to hosting more digital inclusion events in the future.

Watch the recordings on [IEI's YouTube channel](#) and view the [collaborative notes document](#) that includes slides and resources.



The State Employee's Credit Union (SCEU) Foundation representative shared that the foundation would like to support in areas on Capacity around Digital Inclusion. One guest asked the panelist, "How do you see the bias in AI being handled going forward?" To which NDIA offered, "We have to get in the game."

The upcoming federal grant, **Digital Equity Capacity Grant**, was applied for by North Carolina and will have three rounds of funding available.

Learn More Here:

- Local communities would apply at the state level--if North Carolina is awarded.
- The application window for local governments to apply would open late summer or early August.
- NTIA Competitive Grant will have three tranches and will be available for everyone *but states* and will require collaboration for a competitive application.
- The North Carolina state grant, Digital Equity funding will support large-scale digital equity programming. The application window opens in late summer or early fall.

Success Stories



Dunnaven Francis

Congratulations to Dunnaven Francis for successfully completing the CDL program and securing employment! Dunnaven joined the WIOA program on March 3, 2024 with the goal of obtaining his CDL Certification and License. He enrolled in the CDL program at Vance Granville Community College in May 2024.

As a single father of two, balancing training with family responsibilities was challenging for Dunnaven. He was previously employed at Universal Leaf as an Assembler. Nevertheless, his commitment and determination to improve his financial situation and provide for his family never wavered.

Upon receiving his credentials, Dunnaven accepted a position as a Transport Driver for Carolina Eagle Distributing (Budweiser Company) in Rocky Mount, NC and started his new position on June 17th.



Jasir Burton

Congratulations to Jasir Burton for successfully completing the CDL program and securing employment at Sunrock as a Concrete Delivery Driver. Jasir enrolled in the WIOA program on March 4, 2024, with the goal of obtaining his CDL License.

Subsequently, he joined the CDL program at Vance Granville Community College in May 2024.

Previously, Jasir worked at US Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers in a seasonal position. Seeking stable employment, he dedicated himself to acquiring the necessary skills and certifications.

Jasir begins his new position on July 1st, bringing his determination and newly acquired expertise to Sunrock.

Empowering Futures: The M.M.E.A.T. Mentoring Program

The **M.M.E.A.T. (Ministry, Management, Entrepreneurship, Accountability, and Training)** program is designed to equip individuals with skills and the mindset necessary to thrive in society. From workforce readiness to life skills development they provide individuals with the tools they need to succeed while empowering them with a sense of community and fostering ownership, responsibility and accountability to themselves and other participants. Some of the elements MMEAT focused on were oral communication, public speaking, effective listening, community outreach, personal growth, self-responsibility, leadership and goal setting.



Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board partnered with Ken's Construction to provide a thought provoking and life changing mentoring program to students attending Kittrell Job Corps.

Through 8 weeks of intensive classroom instruction and hands-on elements of the MMEAT program 16 students graduated with a certificate and a developed business plan for their future! Participants were able to showcase their entrepreneurial skills and present their company and services to fellow students and Kerr-Tar WDB staff.

MMEAT is not just a mentoring program, it is indeed a road map for success and self-discovery, allowing the individual to examine themselves, develop a detailed plan for success and achieve positive growth.

Stay Connected with Your NCWorks Career Center!



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LABOR MARKET UPDATE](#)



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KERR-TAR

Council of Governments

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- [Town of Stem](#)
- [Town of Stovall](#)
- [Town of Warrenton](#)
- [Town of Youngsville](#)

Executive Director

Diane Cox
dcox@kerrtarco.org

Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead
awinstead@kerrtarco.org

Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks
dbrooks@kerrtarco.org

Workforce Development

Lou Grillo
lgrillo@kerrtarco.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

1724 Graham Avenue
PO Box 709
Henderson, NC 27536
Phone | (252) 436-2040
Fax | (252) 436-2055
info@kerrtarco.org | kerrtarco.org

