



# KERR-TAR



## Council of Governments

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Merritt Commons, Richard Long Photography

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

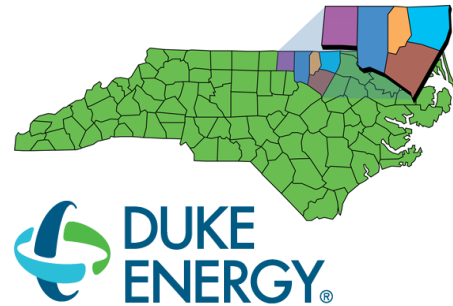
### Upcoming Events

- Kerr-Tar COG Office Closed: **Tuesday, July 4, Happy Fourth of July!**
- Kerr-Tar TCC Meeting: **Thursday, July 20, 2:00pm @ Kerr-Tar COG Office & Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)**
- State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant Program: **pre-applications due Friday, July 21, more information [HERE](#)**
- Kerr-Tar Regional Managers Meeting: **Thursday, July 27, 8:30am @ Warren County Memorial Library, 119 Front Street, Warrenton**
- UNC School of Government "Working Better Together as a Board" Training: **Friday, August 11 @ WCU at Biltmore Park, Asheville (In-Person Training)**
- Rural & Tribal Technical Assistance Grant Program: **applications open Monday, August 14, 2:00pm, more information [HERE](#)**
- Save the Date: **Falls Prevention Fair, Wednesday, September 20, 10:00am-1:00pm @ Vance-Granville Community College Civic Center**



# Kerr-Tar Region to Benefit from Resilience Accelerator Grant

The City of Roxboro received a **\$65,000** grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to help Kerr-Tar Region residents build local and environmental resiliency and prepare for and mitigate against the efforts of climate change. The City, who applied on behalf of the five-county region, is **one of 10** organizations in North Carolina to collectively receive more than \$600,000 in resilience accelerator grants from the Duke Energy Foundation.



The grant funding will support the **RISE Regional Resilience Portfolio Program** by supporting the implementation of priority projects identified in each of the nine RISE regional portfolios. The grant program will allow each region to kick-start all or part of a project. To read the full press release, along with project details, click [HERE](#).

# Project funding Announced to Support Granville & Vance Counties

**\$9,000,000** to the NCDOT for WALK NC: Creating Safer Crossings, to be allocated to Davidson, **Granville**, Rowan, **Vance**, Halifax, Wilson, Robeson, Chatham, Beaufort, Johnston, Lenoir, and Richmond Counties. This project will add pedestrian countdown signal heads, crosswalks, and accessible routes at signalized intersections in 15 communities across North Carolina. This project will also include signal timing improvements and address sidewalk gaps at select locations.



# Town of Franklinton Awarded Rural Transformation Grant

Governor Roy Cooper announced that 29 local governments in rural areas across the state have been awarded grants from the Rural Transformation Grant Fund, a robust source of support for rural economic development projects in North Carolina. The **Town of Franklinton** is among one of the local governments awarded **\$230,000** in project funds under the Downtown Revitalization category of the Rural Transformation Grant program. To read more about Franklinton's project, including other awardees, click [HERE](#).



# Vance County Appoints Interim County Manager



Vance County is pleased to announce the appointment of D. Scott Elliott as the Interim County Manager. With a wealth of experience in local government management and a proven track record of achieving operational excellence, Elliott brings a dynamic and results-oriented approach to this crucial role. Elliott recently retired from Pitt County as County Manager after 20 years with the county. Through the professional organizations of the ICMA and NCCCMA, he also serves as a Senior Advisor to local government managers in North Carolina.

To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

# Warren County Memorial Library Awarded Three Federal Grants

Warren County Memorial Library has been awarded three grants in the amount of **\$58,468**. One grant will be used for creating storywalks at Buck Spring Park and Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park; another grant is for the expansion of the library's collection through the NC Cardinal system; the third grant is to hire consultants to assist in developing a new five-year strategic plan. For more information, click [HERE](#).



# Franklin County Continues Broadband Expansion with New Grant Funding

For more than five years, Franklin County has been focused on efforts to improve broadband access throughout the county. Those efforts continue. Through a **\$4 million** Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant, Brightspeed - formerly CenturyLink and Lumen - will begin deploying high-speed fiber-to-the-home internet in more than 1,400 locations in Franklin County. GREAT Grant Phase II award requires a \$437,651 match from Brightspeed and a County match of \$437,650. At the May 1, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting, commissioners approved the funding agreement to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to fulfill the County's match requirement. For more information, click [HERE](#).

# Elder Abuse Awareness Event

Elder Abuse Awareness Day was June 15 and was recognized at a regional event at the Creedmoor Community Center. Lunch was provided by Golden Corral of Roxboro and there were informative and inspiring presentations by several speakers. Many older adults were connected to KTAAA at this event and everyone was enthusiastic about spreading the word for preventing elder abuse. Kim Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman would like to thank the vendors who helped make this event possible. More than 200 participants were in attendance and all walked away with a free Elder Abuse Awareness shirt and tote bag filled with educational information and resources.

Thank you to the many vendors who attended this event to share information about their organizations & businesses!

Kerr Lake Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Henderson | Creedmoor Police Department, Creedmoor | Brantwood Nursing & Rehab Center, Oxford | Vance County Senior Center, Henderson | NCSHHP | Franklinton Senior Center, Franklinton | Warren County Senior Center, Warrenton | Granville County DSS, Oxford | South Granville Senior Center, Creedmoor | Person County Senior Center, Roxboro | Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging, Henderson | Louisburg Manor & Louisburg Healthcare & Rehabilitation | United HealthCare | Granville Medical Center, Oxford | NCDHHS Services for the Blind | The Help Center NC, Henderson | Warren County Health Department, Warrenton | Warren Hills Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center of Warrenton | Roxboro Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center | Land Loss Prevention Project, Durham | NC PACE Association | SafeKey Staffing & Respite Care, Warrenton | NCSECU Butner Branch | Families Living Violence Free, Oxford | NCDHHS/MFP | NC Division of Services for the Blind



# Senior Tarheel Legislature Celebrates 30th Anniversary

On June 6 we celebrated the Senior Tarheel Legislature's 30th Anniversary at the North Carolina Museum of History. It's an exciting milestone for the organization to commemorate three decades of service and advocacy for North Carolina seniors.

The Senior Tarheel Legislature (STL) is an organization in North Carolina that represents the interests of senior citizens. The Senior Tarheel Legislature was established to provide a forum for seniors to voice their concerns and advocate for policies that benefit older adults in North Carolina. It consists of delegates from each of the state's 100 counties who are elected by local Senior Centers and other organizations serving seniors. The organization works closely with the North Carolina General Assembly to propose and support legislation that addresses the needs and interests of older adults. The Senior Tarheel Legislature focuses on issues such as healthcare, long-term care, elder abuse prevention, financial security, transportation, and other matters that affect the senior population.



Supported by NCDHHS DAAS

## Reminder: Operation Fan Heat Relief



Our annual Operation Fan Heat Relief is underway for older adults who need a box fan to keep cool this summer. We have distributed over **200 box fans** to our local senior centers for eligible older adults! If you or an older adult you know needs a box fan for these hot summer days, call your senior center to request one. First come, first served!

## Register for State Senior Games



Reminder that all Senior Games participants qualify for State Games this year! Contact your senior center, or our Aging Specialist Barbara Unrein at (252) 436-2040 if you have any questions.

## Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Kerr-Tar COG Communications & Administrative Coordinator.

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# USDOT Announces Technical Assistance Grants for Rural & Tribal Communities

The **Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program** offers technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities. The NOFO combines two years of funding (Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023), \$3.4 million in total, to eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis. Individual awards will range in value up to the statutory limit of \$360,000. There is no local funding match required to participate in this program. The Build America Bureau has created a simple, four-page funding application, available [HERE](#), and will begin accepting submissions at **2 PM ET on August 14, 2023**.



## IEDC Report



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Economic Development Research Partners Program has released its latest report examining the impacts of social and demographic trends on the future labor force, what younger workers seek from communities and employers, and how economic development organizations are responding to ensure that communities have the talent they need for the future. Read the report [HERE](#).

## Funding Forecast



Check out these **cool** funding opportunities!

- SEID - State Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant Program
  - The inaugural FY 2023 SEID grant program will invest \$20 million, including \$5 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, in projects across the six member states of the **Southeast Crescent Regional Commission**. The pre-application due **July 21** is mandatory and invited applicants will submit the full application by **September 15**. More information [HERE](#).
- USDOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard
  - This resource provides communities with an overview of discretionary grant opportunities that can help meet their transportation infrastructure needs. The Dashboard also includes Federal grant programs outside of DOT that may be of particular interest to **rural communities**. Visit the Grants Dashboard to check out open and upcoming grant opportunities [HERE](#).

# Young Adult Hiring Event

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and NCWorks, in partnership with the Career & Technical Education Coordinators/Career Development Coordinators with schools in the Kerr-Tar Region, held a Young Adult Hiring Event on Tuesday, May 9 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The event was held at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson.



There were a total of 149 job seekers who attended: 119 high school seniors and 30 participants from the general public. There were 25 employers from the five-county region onsite to meet the students and share information about available opportunities. Many of them were able to identify careers that they would like to pursue after graduation! The concessions stand was open serving delicious food and there were giveaways and music throughout the day. The event was a huge success!

To stay updated on future events, visit the Kerr-Tar NCWorks website [HERE](#) or visit our Facebook [HERE](#). For employer or job-seeker assistance contact the NCWorks Career Center at 252-598-5200.

# Rapid Response Job Fair



Following the news of the unfortunate closure of Pruitt Lumber Company in Louisburg, the NCWorks Rapid Response team provided services to the staff and the employees to assist with the transitions. There were 42 total employees affected. An information session was held on May 24 to provide resources and support to the staff. A job fair was then held on June 14 onsite for all of the employees with 10

interested employers in attendance. The NCWorks Mobile Unit was onsite with computers available for the employees to use with NCWorks staff on hand to assist. Employers were able to use the conference room for interviews and Vance-Granville Community College staff were able to assist employees with class registration. Tony's Lumber and NCTurf in Franklin County have already reported that they were able to hire many of the employees that attended the job fair which was a great success!

## Success Story: *Samya Speller*



Samya Speller began a WEX with Carolina Sunrock on June 12 as an HR Intern. Samya is a Warren County resident who came to the NextGen Program seeking assistance with her job search. After discussing career goals with Samya, staff determined that she would make a good fit for a local work-based learning opportunity. The NextGen Program has been working alongside Laura Greene, HR Recruiter at Sunrock, since early May reviewing candidates for a summer internship.

In her new role, Samya is responsible for assisting new applicants, supporting the recruiting and onboarding processes, and scheduling onsite interviews. When asked what she has gained from her work-experience thus far, Samya had this to say: "I have benefited from the NextGen Program tremendously. Because of this program, I was able to get hands-on experience working in a career field I have interest in. WEX has indeed prepared me for the next step in my career pathway. I've learned so much that I didn't know in this short time. I've met some wonderful people as well who have helped develop and expand my skills, as well as prepare me for a position in this career field." Congratulations Samya!

## Success Story: *Larissa Peace*

Larissa Peace successfully completed the Vance Granville CDL-A program on May 18. Larissa started working at Carolina Sunrock on May 29 as a CDL Driver and Hauler. Before starting her CDL journey, Larissa was working part time at Kerr Lake Nursing & Rehabilitation Center as a CNA. We are so proud of Larissa and her accomplishments!



[CLICK HERE FOR KERR-TAR  
LABOR MARKET UPDATE](#)





## COMMUNITIES SERVED

[Franklin County](#)  
[Granville County](#)  
[Person County](#)  
[Vance County](#)  
[Warren County](#)  
[Town of Bunn](#)  
[Town of Butner](#)  
[City of Creedmoor](#)  
[Town of Franklinton](#)  
[City of Henderson](#)  
[Town of Kittrell](#)  
[Town of Louisburg](#)  
[Town of Macon](#)  
[Town of Middleburg](#)  
[Town of Norlina](#)  
[City of Oxford](#)  
[City of Roxboro](#)  
[Town of Stem](#)  
[Town of Stovall](#)  
[Town of Warrenton](#)  
[Town of Youngsville](#)

### Executive Director

Diane Cox  
[dcox@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:dcox@kerrtarcog.org)

### Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis  
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### Planning & Development

Vacant

### Workforce Development

Lou Grillo  
[lgrillo@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:lgrillo@kerrtarcog.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

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