



*Person County, Dwayne Reaves Photography*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Upcoming Events

- Kerr-Tar RAAC Meeting: **Wednesday, May 8 @ Kerr-Tar COG Office, 2:00pm**
- Franklin County Digital Inclusion Stakeholder Meeting: **Monday, May 13 @ 103 S. Bickett Blvd, Louisburg, 9:00am-10:45am**
- Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Meeting: **Thursday, May 23 @ Kerr-Tar COG Office, 9:00am**
- Kerr-Tar RPO TAC/TCC Meeting: **Thursday, May 23 @ Kerr-Tar COG Office, 3:00pm**
- Kerr-Tar COG Board Meeting: **Thursday, May 23 @ Kerr-Tar COG Office, Dinner at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:00pm**
- 2024 Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention Walk: **Friday, June 14 @ Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, 9:00am-1:00pm**
- **Save the Date:** Cultivate 2024 Regional Economic Development Summit: **Thursday, September 12 @ Jones Performing Arts Center, Louisburg, 8:30am-1:00pm**

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# Cultivate 2024: Regional Economic Development Summit



**Save the date for Cultivate 2024:** a dynamic regional economic development summit proudly hosted by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG). Discover the untapped power of our region and delve into compelling success stories spanning from our vibrant downtowns to the growing tourism sector. Gain invaluable insights from esteemed entities including the U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration, the Golden Leaf Foundation, and the North Carolina Department of Commerce, as they unveil funding opportunities poised to propel your community towards incredible growth. Cap off the day with an inspiring keynote address by renowned author and outdoor enthusiast, Jennifer Davis! Learn more about our keynote speaker [HERE](#).

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 12**, as we convene at the **Jones Performing Arts Center in Louisburg, NC**. The summit kicks off at **8:30am** and will conclude at **1:00pm**. Don't miss your chance to cultivate a thriving future for our region!

*We thank our event sponsors:*



# Disaster Recovery Financial Trainings Hosted by Kerr-Tar COG

Member governments across the Kerr-Tar region were invited to a training focused on financial administration of public assistance funds for disaster recovery. Two training date opportunities were available, **Thursday, April 11 and Thursday, April 18**. The April 11 Training was hosted at the **Town of Butner** by the COG and was part of a project funded by the North Carolina Emergency Management Association and the NC Association of COG's. The **21 attendees** gained knowledge and tools to build and maintain the necessary financial systems and identify the staff support needed to administer and report on the utilization of disaster recovery funds.



*Butner Training Session*



*Henderson Training Session*

Attendees left more aware of the FEMA/NCEM Public Assistance (PA) Program, the tools, resources, contacts they can call upon for support, and best practices to prepare for disasters. The April 18 training was held at the **Perry Memorial Library in Henderson** and provided the same opportunities for the **19 participants** that attended.

Special guests from Warren County Emergency Management, NC Emergency Management, and the NC Department of Insurance participated in the discussion to provide expert insights and real world examples. **Future offerings of this course are in the planning stage**. If you are interested in learning more about future Kerr-Tar COG disaster recovery financial administration opportunities, please contact Katie Conner at [kconner@kerrtarco.org](mailto:kconner@kerrtarco.org) or Ken Krulik at [kkruklik@kerrtarco.org](mailto:kkruklik@kerrtarco.org). You can also give us a call at (252) 436-2040. Thank you so much to all who attended the trainings!

## 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/kerrtarco/](https://facebook.com/kerrtarco/)



[instagram.com/kerrtarco/](https://instagram.com/kerrtarco/)

# Office of Senator Tom Tillis Visits Kerr-Tar COG for Regional Dialogue



On **Friday, April 5**, representatives from Senator Thom Tillis's team engaged regional leaders in productive discussions on local challenges and economic opportunities facing our communities. Seth Williford and Trey Lewis shared insights on federal grants and valuable project funding guidance. A big thank you to Senator Tillis's office and all attendees for a successful session!

## Youngsville's Development Plan for its Future Receives National Recognition

The Town of Youngsville's comprehensive plan has turned out to be more than just a guiding plan for its future. In the present, it won the 2024 Vernon Deines Award from the American Planning Association's Small Town and Rural Planning Division. The national award is given annually to an outstanding comprehensive plan or special project plan that addresses the development of a neighborhood, community, county, or region. Read more on The Franklin Times website [HERE](#). (Photo courtesy of The Franklin Times Newspaper)



## Register Today for ARPA 360 Online Training

ARPA 360 is designed to give local governments specific instructions on the steps needed to obligate remaining SLFRF funds in a timely manner. It will also discuss how to access and use available resources and templates to implement compliant ARPA-funded projects. To register for the **May 7** (units with LESS than \$10 million in SLFRF funds) click [HERE](#). To register for the **May 15** (units with \$10 million or MORE in SLFRF funds) click [HERE](#).

# May is Older Americans Month

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2024 theme is **Powered by Connection**, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. We will explore the vital role that connectedness plays in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation, loneliness, and other issues. Join us in promoting the benefits of connecting with others. Learn more [HERE](#).



ACL.gov/OAM  
#OlderAmericansMonth



## 2024 Senior Games



Senior Games is the place to be! Over **200 local participants** are enjoying athletic events and competition through May 7. We have many winners in all events qualifying for State Finals. SilverArts and closing ceremonies will be on **Friday, May 17 at the Person County Office Building** in Roxboro, beginning at **10:00am**. Call us if you need more information! Pictured: Vance County Cheerleaders.

## Aging with Grace

Aging with Grace was the title of a presentation held on Saturday, April 27 in Oxford at the Orange Street Community Center. About **100 participants** enjoyed speakers who discussed ways to increase your engagement with your community as you age in place. Several vendors provided information and giveaways, including aging resources.



## ➔ Granville County Aging with Gusto

Granville County Cooperative Extension is excited to announce their first ever Aging with Gusto event in over a decade! The event will be held on **Tuesday, May 21** from **8:30am-11:30am** at the **Granville County Senior Center** and it will be **FREE** to attend. Six workshops will be available! You can pick up a registration brochure from the Granville County Extension office or [register online](#). **Pre-registration is due by Wednesday, May 15.**

Check out the event below! 



**Kerr-Tar**  
Area Agency on Aging  
*Your Anchor for Aging*



# SAVE THE DATE

2024 REGION K ELDER ABUSE  
AWARENESS & PREVENTION

# WALK

Friday, June 14th, 2024  
9:00AM - 1:00PM  
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford  
600 College Street  
Oxford, NC 27565

For more information, contact Kim Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman at (252) 436-2050

Check out the event below! 



Friday, May 10, 2024  
9 am - 2 pm

Clearview Church  
3485 Highway 158 Business  
Henderson, NC 27537

**MOBILE FREE  
PHARMACY  
PROGRAM**

**GIVES AWAY  
FREE OTC MEDICINE**



Take home free over-the-counter medicine items such as allergy, cough and cold, pain relief, vitamins, children's medicine, and more! Come see us in person on event day or order online and come pick up your medicines.

Order here: [www.medassist.org/mobile](http://www.medassist.org/mobile)  
or scan the Qr code.

**ONLINE ORDERING OPENS - 4/10/2024**

**ONLINE ORDERING CLOSES - 5/3/2024  
OR - AFTER REACHING 400 MAX PREORDERS**



This program has been brought to your community in partnership with:



**OPEN TO  
EVERYONE**

No appointment or registration required. No income eligibility. No I.D. required. Must be 18 years or older to receive medicines.

NC MedAssist is a statewide, nonprofit pharmacy that provides free prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications through various programs. Learn more at [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org).

Check out the event below! 



Friday, May 31, 2024  
9 am - 2 pm

Warren County  
Armory Civic Center  
501 US Hwy 158 Bus East  
Warrenton, NC 27589

**MOBILE FREE  
PHARMACY  
PROGRAM**  
**GIVES AWAY  
FREE OTC MEDICINE**



Take home free over-the-counter medicine items such as allergy, cough and cold, pain relief, vitamins, children's medicine, and more! Come see us in person on event day or order online and come pick up your medicines.

Order here: [www.medassist.org/mobile](http://www.medassist.org/mobile)  
or scan the Qr code.

**ONLINE ORDERING OPENS - 4/30/2024**

**ONLINE ORDERING CLOSES - 5/24/2024  
OR - AFTER REACHING 400 MAX PREORDERS**



This program has been brought to your community in partnership with:



**OPEN TO  
EVERYONE**

No appointment or registration required. No income eligibility. No I.D. required. Must be 18 years or older to receive medicines.

NC MedAssist is a statewide, nonprofit pharmacy that provides free prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications through various programs. Learn more at [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org).



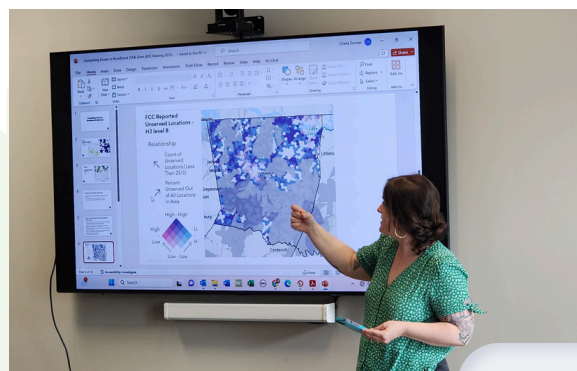
# Kerr-Tar COG Hosts Digital Inclusion Stakeholder Meetings

During the month of April, Regional Project Manager, Amanda Lewis, spearheaded the planning of a series of Digital Inclusion Planning Stakeholder meetings in Granville and Warren Counties. The goal of these meetings was to hear from all stakeholders on how we can create a comprehensive and inclusive Digital Inclusion Plan for these communities, and the region as whole. Thank you to all who attended both meetings!

**Granville County** stakeholders gathered on **April 17** to discuss the future of Granville County's Digital Inclusion Planning. The meeting kicked off with folks from BAND-NC giving a brief overview of what Digital Inclusion is and how that perspective impacts Granville County. After their presentation, the floor was opened for stakeholders to share their thoughts. They all shared a desire for county level data. All stakeholders in attendance participated in a group activity that involved scanning a QR code and responding to survey questions in real-time. These results will be used to develop the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Values of the Granville County Digital Inclusion Plan.



**Warren County** stakeholders gathered on **April 26** to hear an update on broadband infrastructure from Community & Economic Development Director, Charla Duncan. Internet service provider representatives were present and offered an update for their roll-out of broadband into the Warren County area. A brief explanation of what Digital Inclusion means was addressed by the folks from BAND-NC. All information gathered from the stakeholder meeting will directly influence the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Values of the Warren County Digital Inclusion Plan.



# April SRTS Outreach

Our Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program Coordinator, Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, stayed quite busy during the month of April attending community events across the region and spreading the message of SRTS! On **April 18** our SRTS program attended Person County's inaugural **Fam Fest** in Roxboro. The event was a fun time for the whole family, with local vendors, bounce houses, food trucks and more! Then on **April 20**, SRTS participated in the Henderson Family YMCA's **Healthy Kids Day**. The event offered families an opportunity to participate in active play and educational opportunities designed to promote health and wellness.



## Free Bicycle Helmets Coming Soon to the Kerr-Tar Region



Organizations across North Carolina will be receiving helmets through this year's N.C. Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) **Bicycle Helmet Initiative**. Since 2015, the Bicycle Helmet Initiative has provided 77,065 helmets to children in need. Organizations across the Kerr-Tar region have already started contacting us to help organize bike safety events and we are so excited! If your organization needs assistance planning a bike safety or helmet distribution event, contact our Safe Routes to School Program at (252) 436-2040.

## Oxford Bike Rodeo

The City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Bike Rodeo Obstacle Course at Hix Park on **Saturday, May 18** from **9:00am-12:00pm**. This event is being coordinated between the City of Oxford and Kerr-Tar COG along with the Oxford Police and Fire Departments and local organizations. Our Safe Routes to School Program will be in attendance to provide participants with bicycle safety information including the proper way to wear a helmet. The Oxford Parks and Recreation Department applied to receive bicycle helmets through NCDOT's 2024 Bicycle Helmet Initiative. This event promises to be fun and educational!



# Make a Difference in the Kerr-Tar Region: Join Our Planning & Development Team!

## *Regional Program Coordinator*

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The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) seeks a Regional Program Coordinator to perform education, outreach and administrative management of grant-funded programs throughout the Kerr-Tar Region (Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren counties). Coordinator will also provide staff support to the Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization. The Regional Program Coordinator will administer

programs funded by annual grants (such as Clean Fuel Advanced Technology and Safe Routes to School) and provide administrative support for the Kerr-Tar Regional Planning Organization. The successful candidate will develop marketing and outreach programs, coordinate with community organizations and local officials, and provide education opportunities to residents of the region (including school-aged children). The Coordinator will also provide technical support to the Kerr Tar Rural Planning Organization, including assisting with preparation of materials for meetings, research and field data collection and reports. This role requires considerable public contact and media. Apply and learn more [HERE](#).



## *Community & Economic Development Manager*

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The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) seeks a highly motivated individual to join a team of professionals who work to plan and implement collaborative projects in the Kerr-Tar region. The Community and Economic Development Manager will provide planning and grant management in support of the Kerr-Tar Economic Development District, which includes the counties of Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren. The Manager will work with local officials, community leaders, and businesses to support community and economic development activities including infrastructure and housing development; provides a variety of technical assistance including supporting economic development efforts in attracting new businesses, developing special economic profiles and demographic and economic data. Apply and learn more [HERE](#).

# Check out the event below!

To register for the Franklin County Digital Inclusion Stakeholder Meeting click [HERE](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
STAKEHOLDER  
MEETING  
2024**

**MAY 13TH  
9:00 - 10:45 AM**

**103 S. BICKETT BLVD  
LOUISBURG, NC 27549**

**Agenda**  
9:00 am - Arrival  
9:05 am - Welcome Remarks  
9:15 am - BAND-NC speakers  
9:35 am - Group Activity  
10:30 am - Networking  
10:45 am - End

**BAND-NC**  
Building a New Digital Economy in NC

**Kerr-Tar**  
Regional Council  
Of Governments

**Franklin  
County**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
*A Research Triangle Region Community*  
**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY.**

# U.S. Department of Labor Visits Regional NCWorks Career Center



On **Wednesday, April 17** the U.S. Department of Labor Deputy Assistant Secretary Lenita Jacobs-Simmons visited the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center to attend a special presentation about the NC PROWD program, a federally funded program. NC PROWD started in 2023 assisting individuals at the Butner Federal Correctional Complex transition back into the workforce and the community. PROWD stands for Partners for Reentry Opportunities in Workforce Development and the partnership includes Kerr-Tar, Durham and Capital Area Workforce Development Boards, and the Bureau of Prisons.

The visit was an opportunity to give the Deputy Assistant Secretary an overview of the NC PROWD program and partners but the agenda also included opportunities to highlight Kerr-Tar’s partnership with Kittrell Job Corps and the implementation of innovative career exploration modules at the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center through the use of virtual reality.

## Stay Connected with Your NCWorks Career Center!



[@NCWorksCareerCenter-KerrTar](https://www.facebook.com/NCWorksCareerCenter-KerrTar)



[www.kerrtarworks.com](http://www.kerrtarworks.com)



[@ncworks\\_kerrtar](https://www.instagram.com/ncworks_kerrtar)

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



# Young Adult Hiring Event

On **Tuesday, April 30** the NCWorks Career Center held the 3rd Annual Young Adult Hiring Event at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson in partnership with the regional Career & Technical Education Departments. It was a beautiful day for this outdoor event! There were **33 employers in attendance** from the Kerr-Tar region, Wake, and Durham Counties to share their available opportunities with graduating seniors and enhance career awareness in the region.



Community College partners, Vance-Granville Community College and Piedmont Community College were onsite to share about their programs, classes, and short-term training opportunities. Turning Point CDC, a local community partner, brought their mobile lab (the big blue bus) with computer access for those who needed to complete resumes or fill out online applications. Groups of students attended from Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren Counties, all eager to obtain employment following graduation. There were **approximately 100 students and 60 public job seekers in attendance**.

It was an exciting event with lots of engagement. Many employers showed up with heavy equipment and work trucks to highlight their industries. Some equipment included Altec's bucket truck, Sunrock's dump truck, Person County's pink/black Sheriff's sports car, and some other work vehicles on display. Sunrock also had their simulator onsite, which gave students and other job seekers the opportunity to have hands on experience with operating heavy equipment! Many students reported that they have interviews set up with their preferred employers and the employers were impressed with all of the job candidates they met. Everything came together resulting in a very successful event!

## List of Employers Included:

ADUSA (Ahold-Delhaize USA) Proudly serving Food Lion, Altec, Anderson Automotive Group, Associated Scaffolding, Boyd & Girls Club, Carolina Sunrock, Central Regional Hospital, CertainTeed, City of Henderson, Clayton Homes - Oxford, Comfort Systems USA MidAtlantic, Dill Air Controls Products, ESS, Express Employment Professionals, Granville Health System, HUBZone Technology Initiative, Huff Consulting, LLC, Kittrell Job Corp, Lewis Electric, JD Service Now, Maria Parham Health, Murdoch Developmental Center, NC Department of Adult Correction, Ontic Engineering & Manufacturing, Inc., Person County Government, PNC Bank, Qualified Staffing, Southeastern Specialty Vehicles, The Boat Lift Store, Turning Point CDC, Walmart Distribution Center and Wolfsped.

## Success Story: *Ladies taking over the Roads!*

You read that right! Ladies are taking over the roads! The Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center is proud to report that they have three new female CDL-A drivers ready to get out on the road with the courage to break through barriers and blaze new trails. Shaquana Jones, Ashanti Cooper, and Shonta Evans all graduated from Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) on **Monday, March 18.**

From the get-go, their passion for becoming truck drivers was palpable, driving them to pursue their dreams behind the wheel. Their graduation was filled with praise from their instructors, each comment serving as a powerful testament to their unwavering dedication and hard work. All three ladies are now being assisted with their resumes and job search. Congratulations Shaquana, Ashanti and Shonta - the road ahead has never looked brighter!



## Success Story: *Heidi Hughes*

NCWorks Veteran Services had the privilege of assisting Heidi Hughes, a Navy veteran who was referred by the Department of Veteran Affairs for employment services. Heidi had completed the job training program to become a Nurse Practitioner, but faced challenges with testing accommodations for licensure. Despite efforts to negotiate accommodations with the testing facility, we encountered a firm refusal.



Instead of giving up, extensive research was conducted and Heidi was provided with multiple job leads, including direct referrals for RN positions that closely matched her salary expectations! She accepted one of these opportunities and, although disappointed with the testing site's decision, was delighted with the new job, accommodations, and salary provided. Congratulations Heidi, we wish you all the best!



# KERR-TAR

*Council of Governments*

## 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  
[nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org)

### Community & Economic 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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