

# Annual Report 2019-2020

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of  
Governments

**Kerr-Tar**  
**Regional Council  
Of Governments**

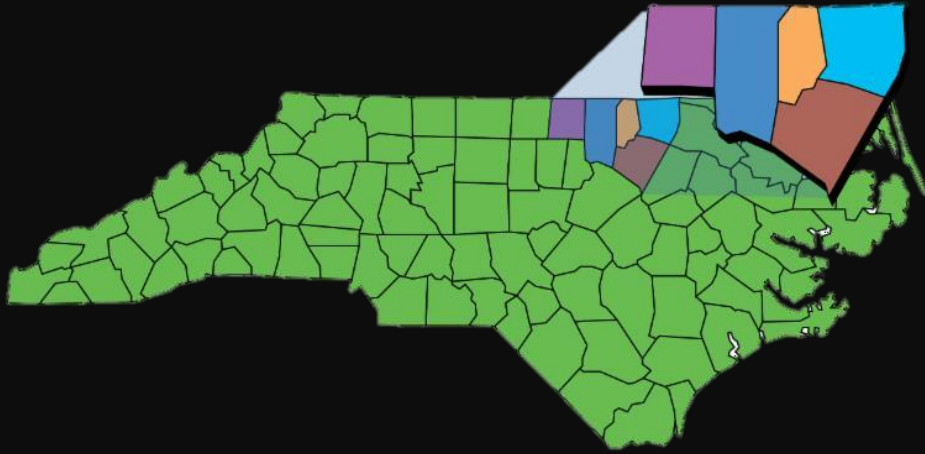


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- Kerr-Tar Board of Directors & Staff
- Area Agency on Aging
- Planning & Development
- Workforce Development
- Finance & Administration
- Focus 20/20

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Promoting regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve quality of life for our citizens through the effective delivery of services and programs.

## Our Mission

# Remarks

## Chairman's Remarks



*Sidney Dunston, Chairman*

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as Chairman of this distinguished Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 year. I want to thank the staff under the direction of Diane Cox for your awesome support that made my job easy and enjoyable. Many thanks to the staff support of Gina Parham over her years with the COG. I would also like to thank some others whose shoulders I have stood on that made it possible that I might have this opportunity to be of service to our community. Persons such as The Honorable Terry Garrison, Pete Averette, and Danny Wright, all of whom I observed over the years and tried to take some of their admirable traits and put into my leadership style.

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments has distinguished itself as the COG that other Councils of Governments would like to be. The management, the planning, and implementation of services that enhances the quality of life of all citizens in our community. Areas such as aging, senior games, workforce development, transportation, economic development, housing repair assistance, and many other areas that make it a joy to be a part of this region. So with that being said, I pass the baton to the next team of leaders. May God bless you and bless these United States of America.

# Remarks

## Executive Director's Remarks



*Diane Cox, Executive Director*

As the infamous song lyrics go...What a long, strange trip it's been! Six months ago, none of us could have imagined how our world – and our lives – would be thrown into turmoil by the coronavirus. This is a moment for all of us to reflect on the progress we have made and the lessons we have learned, and to recommit ourselves to doing everything to make our region strong and resilient.

As you read through the annual report, our staff hopes the program highlights demonstrate their efforts to build programs that meet the needs of our citizens. We continue to evolve, taking advantage of new opportunities while at the same time focusing on our core programs. These achievements are realized because of the dedicated staff of the COG. Their can-do attitude during these unique times has been nothing short of inspiring. I am humbled to work alongside such a dedicated crew and appreciate their continued commitment to serve the people of the Kerr-Tar region.

Thanks to the Kerr-Tar COG Board of Directors for their allegiance and dedication to service on behalf of the people who reside in our region. I want to thank the many volunteers serving on committees and giving tirelessly of their time. Lastly, I would like to thank Franklin County Commissioner Sidney Dunston for his service as Chairman this past year. As the pandemic forced us to adapt to changing circumstances, his leadership ensured that the COG remained responsive to its core mission...enhancing and improving the quality of life for our region's citizens.

We look forward to working with you as we continue to build strong and vibrant communities!

# Board of Directors

2019-2020

## Franklin County

Sidney Dunston  
Wanda Henderson  
Dazale Vines Kearney  
Marsha Strawbridge  
(Bunn)  
Dr. Phil Meador  
(Franklinton)  
Betty Wright  
(Louisburg)  
Fonzie Flowers  
(Youngsville)

## Granville County

David Brooks  
Francine Chavis  
Zelodis Jay  
Tom Lane (Butner)  
Kechia Brustmeyer-  
Brown (Creedmoor)  
Quon Bridges  
(Oxford)  
Keven Easter (Stem)  
Michael Williford  
(Stovall)  
David Smith (at large)  
Jeff Tingen (at large)

## Person County

Jimmy Clayton  
Tresco Lea-Jeffers  
Kenneth Perry  
Reggie Horton  
(Roxboro)

## Vance County

Mary W. Anderson  
Carolyn Faines  
Leo Kelly  
Eddie Ellington  
(Henderson)  
Jerry Joyner  
(Kittrell)  
Ruth Nance  
(Middleburg)  
Danny Wright  
(at large)

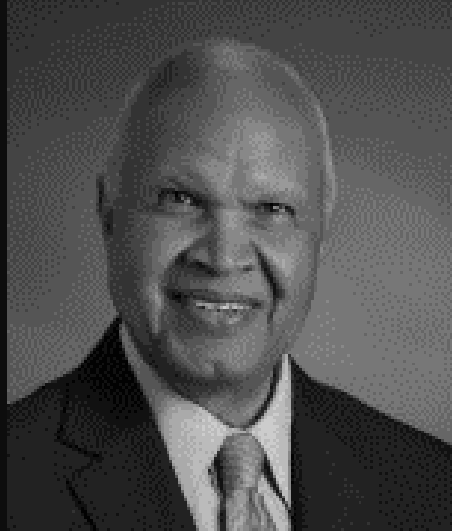
## Warren County

John Alston  
Jennifer J. Pierce  
Walter Powell  
Carroll Harris  
(Macon)  
Wayne Aycock  
(Norlina)  
Walter Gardner  
(Warrenton)



# Board of Directors

2019-2020



## Officers

### Chairman

Sidney Dunston

*Franklin County Commissioner*

### Vice-Chairman

Leo Kelly

*Vance County Commissioner*

### Treasurer

Walter Gardner

*Mayor, Town of Warrenton*

# Looking back to a simpler time

## 2018-2019 Awards Banquet





# Our Team

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of  
Governments Staff

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Diane Cox, Executive Director



Katie Conner, Finance Assistant



Donna Lee, Finance Manager



Susan Tucker, Administrative &  
Aging Assistant



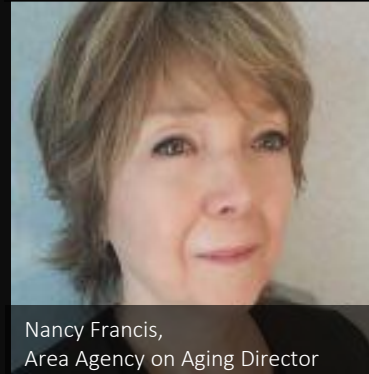
Beth Davis, Regional Engagement  
Specialist



Michael Kelly, Planning Director



Stephanie Harmon, Regional  
Planner, RPO Coordinator



Nancy Francis,  
Area Agency on Aging Director



Kim Hawkins, Regional Long  
Term Care Ombudsman



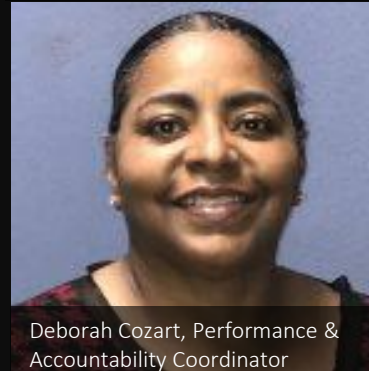
Harvey Holmes, Family  
Caregiver Specialist



Michele Brigandi, Aging Projects  
Coordinator



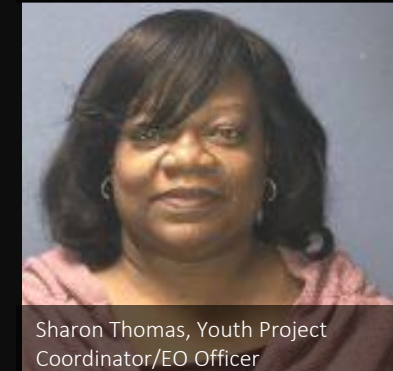
Lou Grillo, Interim Workforce  
Development Director



Deborah Cozart, Performance &  
Accountability Coordinator



Kelly Hundley, Workforce  
Development Program Specialist



Sharon Thomas, Youth Project  
Coordinator/EO Officer



Stop Video



Invite



Manage Participants

15



Polling



Share Screen



Chat



Record



Breakout Rooms



More

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# Area Agency on Aging

Area Agency on Aging Director: Nancy Francis

AAA Staff: Kim Hawkins, Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman, Susan Tucker, Aging Assistant, Harvey Holmes, Family Caregiver Support Specialist, Michele Brigandi, Aging Projects Coordinator



# Overview

Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA) works within federal mandates to inform, advocate and plan for community based services on behalf of older adults.

## KTAAA

- Supports our region's Senior Centers
  - Provides program funding
  - Serves as an interface with federal, state, and local resources
- Strives to enable older adults aged 60 and better to live independently in their homes and communities of choice.
- Offers a wide range of educational and social programs in conjunction with the region's Senior Centers and in other community settings.
- Develops relationships with community partners so our programs will be known and available in a variety of settings that suit the needs of our residents.

### KTAAA Mission:

To lead, develop, and enhance community based services, opportunities, and protections for older adults, persons with disabilities and family caregivers to enable them to live independent, healthy lives with improved quality of life in their community of choice for as long as possible.

The KTAAA vision is to be the source for **leadership, advocacy, planning, and information** to ensure the provision of services to build livable and senior friendly communities that are prepared to meet the challenges of a growing aging population.

# Funding Streams

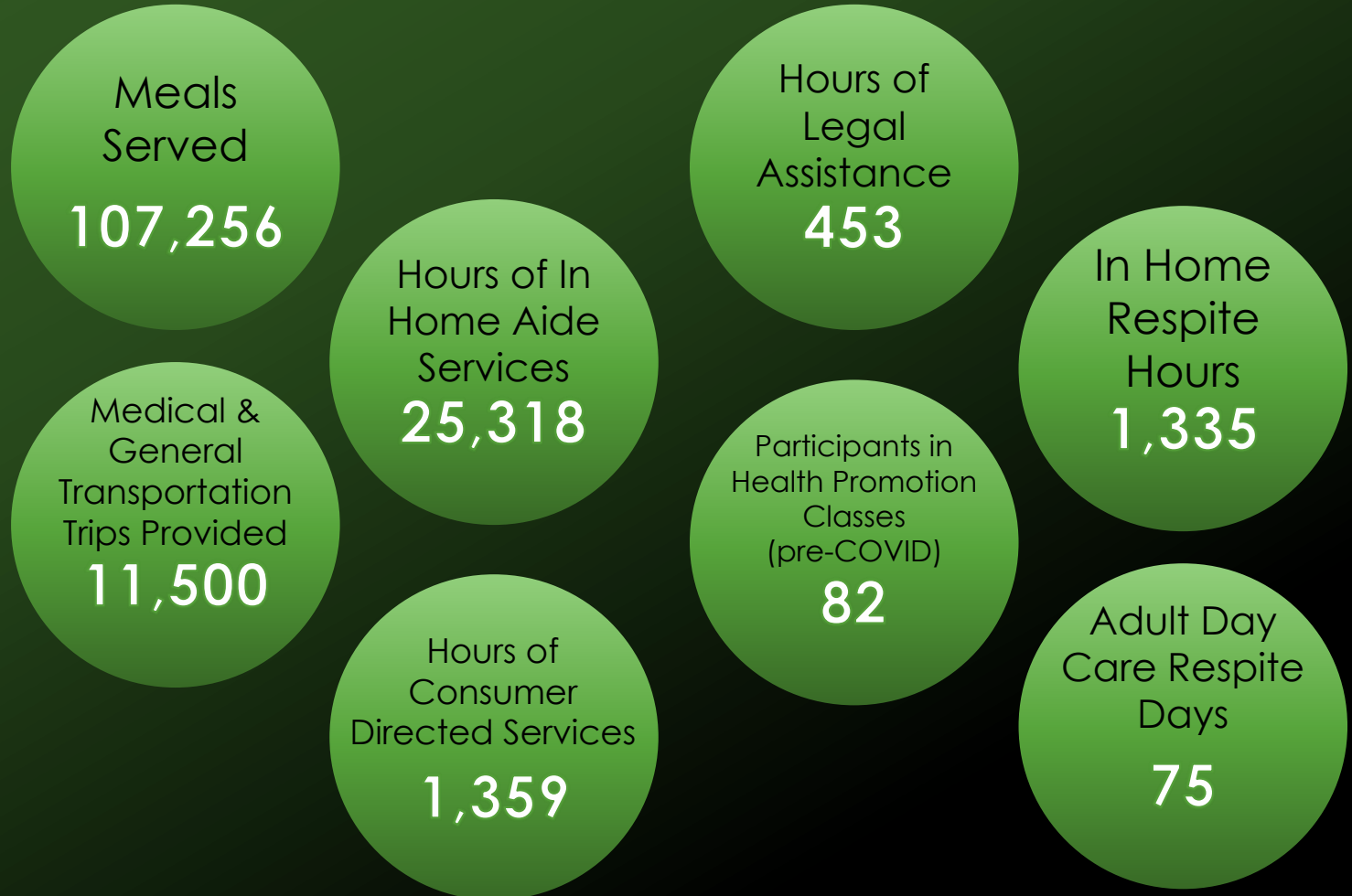
KTAAA manages the various funding streams for older adult services in the region. These include a **\$2M Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)**, which funds a wide range of services for older adults in our community, including nutrition programs, transportation, in-home aide services, and many others. Funds are allocated to each county based on an interstate funding formula.

2019-2020 Allocations					
County	HCCBG	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	General Purpose	Family Caregiver Program	Total
Franklin	\$517,385	\$59,957	\$21,146	\$4,336	\$602,824
Granville	\$498,476	\$56,229	\$17,622	\$3,294	\$575,621
Person	\$368,711	\$38,699	\$10,574	\$6,066	\$424,050
Vance	\$393,022	\$44,151	\$10,574	\$2,863	\$450,610
Warren	\$292,960	\$26,797	\$10,574	\$3,441	\$333,772
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,070,554</b>	<b>\$225,833</b>	<b>\$70,490</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$2,386,877</b>

# Area Aging Plan

- New Area Aging Plan for 2020-2024 serves as a guide and work plan for KTAAA for the next four years
- Region-wide survey conducted on aging needs and priorities
- Valuable data from older adult residents was collected
- Significant response, hearing from **450+ individuals of all ages**
- Goals:
  - Older North Carolinians will be safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and have their rights protected
    - Incorporate social determinants of health criteria into the region's comprehensive approach to well-being
  - Support and encourage older adults of all backgrounds and their support systems to access information that helps them make informed choices about support services at home or in the community
  - AAA will lead efforts to strengthen service delivery and capacity engaging community partners to increase and leverage resources

# People Served/Services Provided





# COVID-19

At this time, the country is in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, which has affected all age groups and changed how everyone interacts. The aging network had to quickly adapt to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants and staff, which was done effectively.

- Senior Centers were closed to the public
- Daily congregate meals became drive-by pick up or delivery operations
- Regional advocacy groups had to meet without face-to-face contact
- Virtual visits to nursing facility residents were conducted

The senior centers immediately increased their nutrition services with Families First, and many were very creative and resourceful in procuring food.

- Worked with local farmers' markets, food pantries and local restaurants to **increase the provision of meals from five meals a week to ten or even 14 meals a week.**

Centers provided personal care and household items for participants, and are phoning their participants on a regular basis so participants still feel connected and engaged despite being isolated at home.

KTAAA received its allocation of federal grants related to the pandemic: the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)** and the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**.

The additional funding was provided to ensure that vulnerable older adults have supportive services and caregiver support during the pandemic.

The Families First funding was specifically to provide additional nutrition services, and the CARES funding is for all services KTAAA provides.

The Families First and CARES grants are through September 1, 2021. These two grants are in addition to the annual HCCBG grant.

Each senior center in the Kerr-Tar region received their portion of both COVID-related grants.

KTAAA will be providing direct services with some of the CARES funds. Nutrition services are now being provided for one Section 8 senior community, participation in the family caregiver consumer-directed voucher program has increased, and many other regional initiatives are being planned.

# Family Caregiver Support Program

The Family Caregiver Support Program has connected with families to support their caregiving needs. Not only has material support been provided (personal products and assistive tools for the care recipient), but also a commitment to supporting caregivers during the physical and emotional challenges of caregiving. This year, a new support group was formed in a local coffee shop, aptly named “The Caregiver’s Cup.” This group gets together each month to discuss caregiving, or to specifically not discuss caregiving and use it as a welcome diversion and chance to chat with people in similar life situations. The group has continued to meet virtually in the last few months. This year, the Family Caregiver Support Program has **connected with more than 1400 individuals through support groups, families and potential caregiver voucher participants.**



# Family Caregiver Support Program

## New Family Caregiver Programs:

In 2019, the Consumer-Directed Caregiver Voucher program was initiated, which enables family caregivers to take a much-needed break from round-the-clock caregiving. Family Caregivers were able to pay someone of their choosing to take over the caregiving for a limited number of hours to provide them a break. **KTAAA had 10 vouchers available and awarded them all.** All recipients felt they benefited from the break. CARES funding will allow this program to continue in the new fiscal year.

Also new to KTAAA, the robotic pet therapy program was implemented in 2019. Robotic cats and dogs provide comfort and entertainment, especially for persons living with dementia who tend to become agitated. **Ten robotic pets were distributed to individuals** who were screened for appropriateness. The Family Caregiver Specialist delivered and introduced the pets to recipients. Family caregivers reported that the pets provided activity and engagement, and the new pet owners enjoyed having a new companion.





# Programs & Events

KTAAA events and outreach efforts in the first eight months of the fiscal year provided the opportunity to connect with over **5,500 region residents**.

Events & outreach efforts included

- Dementia related training
- SHIP counseling
- Community health fairs and workshops
- Scam Jams
- Support groups
- Radio shows
- Learning how to utilize virtual events and new technologies
- Developing a 3-year plan for expansion of Evidence Based Health Promotion classes

Due to the pandemic, the following events were cancelled or modified:

- Annual Walk for Elder Abuse Awareness
- Annual Volunteer Lunch
- Senior Games—Virtual event this year with all 5 counties participating in Silver Arts (online displays of artwork and crafts)



A participant in a dementia training learns how senses can change with dementia

# Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman:

- **Managed 53 complaints,**
- **Provided 450 technical assistant contacts with citizens of our region,**
- **Conducted 36 facility visits, and**
- **Participated in 37 community education events**

Although community volunteers are unable to visit the LTC facilities during the pandemic, they are staying in touch with the ombudsman and with each other. LTC facilities continue to be served during the pandemic, as the ombudsman distributes information, goodie bags, and supportive items to all facilities.

Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June was observed with billboards throughout the region and informative materials distributed throughout the region.

The Walk for Elder Abuse Awareness in June became a car parade drive-by of senior centers and residential facilities, which provided a welcome diversion for both the drivers and onlookers.





# Planning & Development

Planning Director: Michael Kelly  
Planning Staff: Stephanie Harmon, Frank Frazier



# EDA Disaster Recovery Roundtable

On Thursday, June 20, 2020, the COG hosted Hillary Sherman, North Carolina's EDA Representative to discuss HR 2157; federally appropriated funding authorized by Congress resulting from damages caused by Hurricanes Florence and Michael.



Sherry Moss, Vance County Special Projects Coordinator, Richie Duncan, Franklin County EDC Director, and Harry Mills, Granville County EDC Director attending EDA's Disaster Recovery Roundtable

# Regional Opportunity Zone Workshop

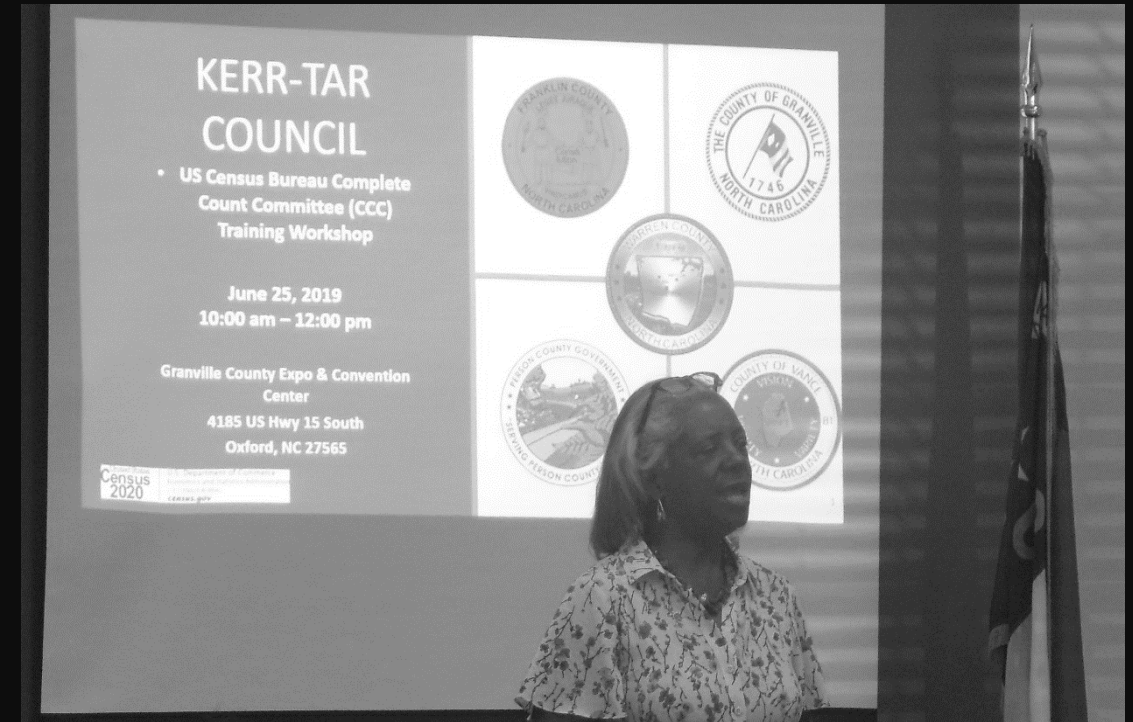
The COG hosted a regional Opportunity Zone Workshop. The workshop facilitators, Jeanne Milliken Bonds of the Federal Reserve and Hillary Sherman, North Carolina's EDA Representative discussed the legislation surrounding federally declared Opportunity Zones; the tax implications associated with investing; EDA and other federal agency assistance; and the necessary requirements for communities to create an effective prospectus to potential investors.





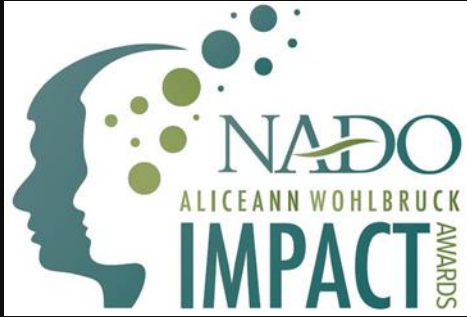
# US Census Bureau Complete Count Committee Training Workshop

The Council of Governments in conjunction with US Census Bureau staff hosted a Complete Count Committee Training Workshop on Tuesday, June 25, 2020 at the Granville County Expo and Convention Center. All five counties were represented at the training. Attendees learned the importance of identifying community individuals in the formulation of Complete Count Committees as they relate to increased participation in the 2020 Census. Census staff emphasized the overall goal of the 2020 Census as: To count everyone once, only once and in the right place.



Dr. Wilhelmenia I. Rembert, US Census Bureau's Partnership Specialist for the State of North Carolina, delivering opening remarks during the CCC Training Workshop.

# 2019 NADO Impact Award



The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments received a 2019 NADO Impact Award at the NADO Annual Training Conference in Reno, NV. This award recognized the launch of the region's Visit NC Farms Mobile App. The mobile app was launched on July 1, 2019 and highlights the region's farms, farmers markets, farm stays, and various other agritourism activities. Accompanying Diane Cox and Michael Kelly to the conference were KTCOG Board members Danny Wright and Jimmy Clayton.



# Community Development Block Grant Infrastructure Funding



The Planning Department assisted the Town of Louisburg in applying for and receiving funding through the Division of Water Infrastructure located within the NC Department of Environmental Quality. The Division provides low-interest loans and grants for local governments for water infrastructure improvement projects.

# Regional Food Policy Meetings

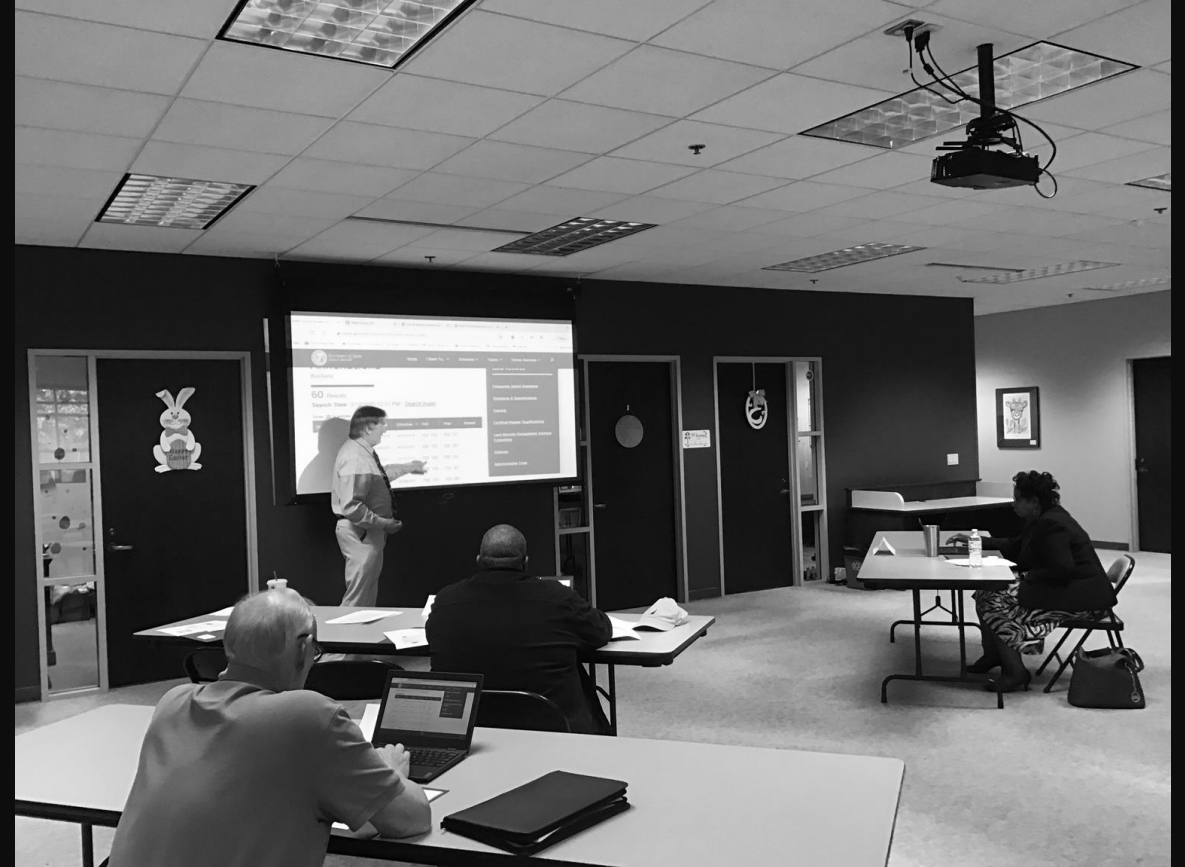


In November, the Council of Governments, along with regional partners, Working Landscapes, Community Food Strategies, and Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO) hosted community input meetings in all five counties to focus on drafting a regional Food Policy. These local meetings were the result of the Regional Food Policy Convening held at Vance-Granville in June. The meetings were well attended, with valuable information and suggestions being offered among participants.



# Municipal Annexation Training

In anticipation of the upcoming Census, the Council of Governments was pleased to welcome Mr. John Bridgers, with the North Carolina Office of the Secretary of State Land Records Management Division to conduct a training for local governments on properly recording municipal annexations. The Council of Governments is thankful to the cities of Henderson, Oxford, Creedmoor, and Roxboro as well as Warren County for attending. Attendees learned about the effects of annexations, the constitutional authority of municipal annexations, state statutory requirements for recording annexations, and the consequences of not properly recording annexation documents.



# Warrenton Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

KTRPO staff served on the Warrenton Bicycle and Pedestrian Steering Committee to provide recommendations for priority bicycle and pedestrian routes and criteria for project selection. These recommendations were created using feedback from the Steering Committee, survey responses, and input gathered during the public workshop held at SpringFest in April. A second public workshop was held that evening to solicit additional input. The final report was presented in February 2020.





# SPOT P6.0

KTRPO staff began the P6.0 project selection process. With the assistance of NCDOT staff and subcommittee members, project submittals from SPOT P5.0 and new projects were selected for SPOT P6.0. Submittals were finalized in the SPOT Online system on July 31, 2020. The following number of projects were submitted for each mode:

- Highway—21
- Public Transit—7
- Aviation—6
- Rail—4
- Bicycle & Pedestrian—5



# Great Trails State Plan

KTRPO staff and several representatives from communities within the Kerr-Tar Region have participated in the Great Trails State Plan development process. The plan will consist of greenways, trails, and limited on-road connections where off-road connections are not available. This system will support low-stress travel between county seats and/or other urban/town centers, state parks, recreation areas, and state and national forests. The primary outcomes of this planning process will be a non-motorized network map that connects, to the extent possible all 100 counties within North Carolina and an action-oriented network plan and 5-year implementation strategy.

The project framework for the Great Trails State Plan includes a statewide existing conditions analysis, national best practices review, comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement, development of a statewide non-motorized network and prioritization methodology, and development of an implementation plan with defined goals, strategies, action steps, and funding sources. The final report will include 14 brochure-style executive summary maps (one per NCDOT Division).

To learn more about the project, [CLICK HERE](#).





# Alternative Fuel Vehicle Workshop

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments' Planning Department facilitated an Alternative Fuel Vehicles workshop on Thursday, December 5, 2019. The workshop educated local governments and the public about clean energy alternative fuel solutions and technologies that help reduce transportation related emissions and air pollutants. Participants received information that allowed them to make informed decisions about implementing alternative fuel use into their department fleet of vehicles and daily lives. Participants were also greeted with introductory remarks from Congressman G.K. Butterfield (NC-1) stating the importance of using biofuels to produce crops in rural communities in efforts to combat climate change. The initiatives of the workshop to attain zero net emissions, thereby leaving the country carbon free by 2050 parallels the themes in our state's Executive Order 80.





# Workforce Development

Workforce Director: Lou Grillo

Workforce Staff: Deborah Cozart, Kelly Hundley, Sharon Thomas



# Workforce Development Board

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board oversees workforce and business services planning and policy development for Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren counties. The majority of the Board, the Chair and Vice Chair must represent the private sector. Other members represent local government, community-based organizations, employment related agencies, apprenticeship, and educational organizations. The Board is committed to making the Kerr-Tar region a great place to have a business, find skilled employees, and ideal for job seekers to find the programs and training that will make them well-qualified employees.

Derrick Sims	Safety Manager	US Flue Cured Tobacco
Hal Muetzel	Owner	Express Personnel
Sara Lloyd	Regional Director, Customized Training	NC Community College System
Debra Harlow	ABE Coordinator	Piedmont Community College
Tonya R. Wilson	Owner	D&J Furniture & Upholstery
Jeff Tingen	Regional Human Resources Manager	Altec Industries
Zac Seger	Director of Manufacturing Operations	Captive Aire
Ginnie Currin	Director	Granville Chamber of Commerce
J. Phillip Betts	Isaiah 58 Jobs for Life	Cornerstone Church
Stacy D. Hill	Owner	Dunevant Insurance
Harry Mills	Director	Granville County EDC
Fred Keller	Manager of Member Services	Wake Electric
Monica Satterwhite	Manager	Oxford NCWorks Career Center
Gordon Agingu	Regional Manager	Vocational Rehabilitation
Nikki Ward	Human Resources Manager	Stay Online
Chris Roark	President	CWA Local 3632

Vance County  
Leo Kelly



Warren County  
Victor Hunt



Franklin County  
Sidney Dunston



Granville County  
Tim Karan

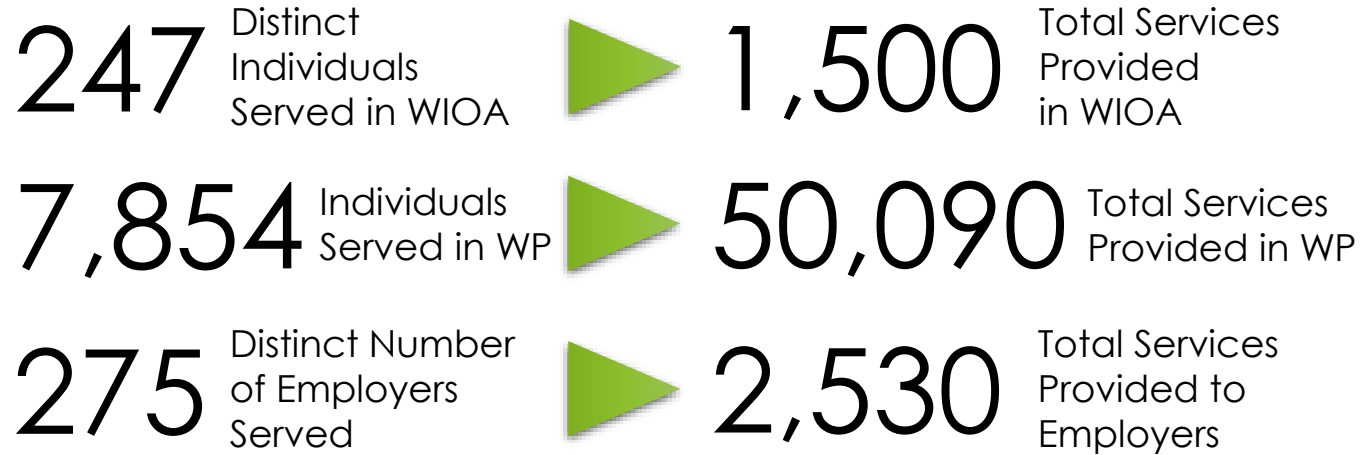


Person County  
Gordon Powell



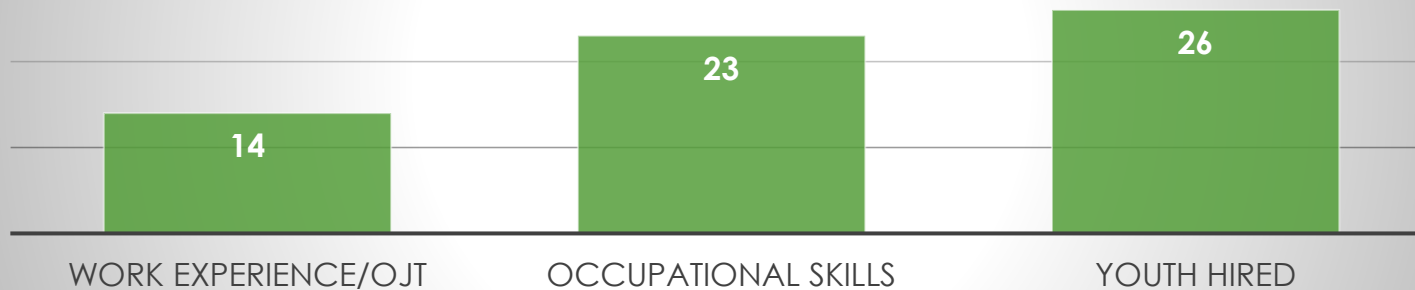
Workforce Development  
Consortium Board

# 2019-2020 Results



WIOA & Wagner-Peyser Programs

## WIOA In-School & Out-of-School Youth



## WIOA Adult & DW Training





# Kerr-Tar Career Center Locations

## NCWorks Career Center- Granville County

111 Hilltop Village  
Oxford, NC 27565

Phone: 919-693-2686

Days/Hours of  
Operation:  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 am-5:00 pm

Email: [ncworks.6900@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.6900@nccommerce.com)

## NCWorks Career Center- Vance County

857 South Beckford Dr.  
Suite G  
Henderson, NC 27536

Phone: 252-438-6129

Days/Hours of  
Operation:  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 am-5:00 pm

Email: [ncworks.4200@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.4200@nccommerce.com)

## NCWorks Career Center- Warren County

VGCC Warren Campus  
Building 1  
210 W. Ridgeway St.  
Warrenton, NC 27589

Phone: 252-257-3230

Days/Hours of  
Operation:  
Monday & Tuesday  
8:30 am-12:00 pm  
1:00pm-5:00pm

## NCWorks Career Center Access Point

VGCC Franklin Campus  
8100 NC-56  
Louisburg, NC 27549

Phone: 919-496-1567

Days/Hours of  
Operation:  
Wednesday  
8:30 am-5:00 pm

## NCWorks Career Center Access Point

Person Co Senior Center  
87 Semora Road  
Roxboro, NC 27573

Phone: 919-693-2686

Days/Hours of  
Operation:  
Wednesday  
8:30 am-5:00 pm



# NCWorks: Finish Line Grant



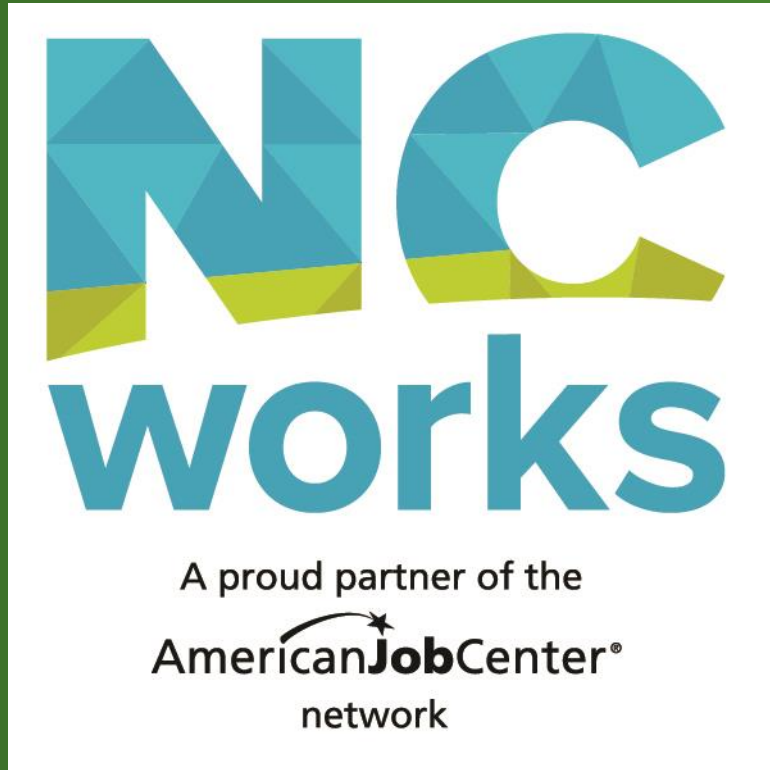
Often times, community college students are faced with unexpected financial emergencies such as childcare, vehicle repairs and expenses, or healthcare costs that halt or delay their completion of education. On July 12, 2018, Governor Roy Cooper announced the Finish Line Grants program to monetarily assist community college students with these unexpected financial emergencies, who had completed at least 50% of their education/training.

The Kerr-Tar Council of Governments Workforce Development Board received a Finish Line Grant from the NC Division of Workforce Solutions beginning in Program Year 2018 to assist those students with emergency situations at Piedmont Community College and Vance-Granville Community College. From September 2019 through June 2020, this grant has **assisted fourteen students**, totaling approximately **\$7,800**. This initiative will be continued for the next program year in an effort to serve even more students.





# NCWorks Branding



The updated NCWorks logo and branding was announced at the October 2019 NCWorks Partnership Conference. There has been a lot of work to raise the profile of NCWorks among business leaders across North Carolina. As part of that effort, NC wanted to launch a new logo and a new brand. Some of this effort is underway with two new NCWorks social channels, [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), in addition to the already refreshed [Twitter](#) account. As leaders in workforce development, work is being done to increase the online reach of NCWorks as we communicate the wide variety of services our NCWorks Career Centers offer, and highlight the impactful work that is being done every day.

# Success Stories: Finish Line Grant



**Ms. Kierra Snipes** came to NCWorks looking to overcome personal circumstances and to continue her pursuit in nursing at Piedmont Community College. Ms. Snipes was a recipient of the Finish Line Grant which provided her the assistance she needed to complete her degree in nursing. Upon graduation, Ms. Snipes passed the State Board Exam for Registered Nursing and is now employed by Duke Regional Hospital as a Registered Nurse in the intensive care unit making over \$20.00 per hour.

**Ms. Morgan Zizzi** was also pursuing a nursing degree and needed assistance in order to continue her education. Ms. Zizzi was a recipient of the Finish Line Grant as well, which allowed her to continue her education uninterrupted. She also graduated from Piedmont Community College, passed her State Board Exam for Registered Nursing and is now making more than \$20 per hour working as a Registered Nurse with Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care.





# Success Story

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NCWorks NextGen Youth Participant

## Latolya Person, Educational Data Systems, Inc.

Latolya came to the NCWorks NextGen Program looking to increase her skill set in order to provide a better life for herself and her daughter. Latolya displayed determination from the start and took advantage of multiple services offered at the local NCWorks Career Center. She attended career development workshops and earned her Career Readiness Certification (CRC) through Vance-Granville Community College. Without pausing, she entered the Nurse Aide 1 training where she thrived during class and clinicals. Latolya successfully passed the state exam and received her Nurse Aide License. Immediately, she began applying for positions within the healthcare industry. Latolya recently accepted a position with Duke University Hospital in Durham as an ED Tech where she works in the emergency room and earns more than \$16 per hour. In her new role, she checks in patients, monitors vital signs, and prepares patients to enter their assigned hospital room.



# Success Story

NCWorks NextGen Youth Participant

## Landon Whitlow, Piedmont Community College (PCC)

Landon visited the Workforce Development Staff at Piedmont Community College to learn about available services and training opportunities to begin his self-improvement journey. He enrolled in the Employability for Career Pathway Lab where he learned about the NCWorks NextGen Program and earned his National Career Readiness Certificate (CRC). His interest in advanced manufacturing led him to enroll in the Certified Production Technician Training. He successfully completed this class receiving six national certificates. Landon continued on into the Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways by taking the Advanced Manufacturing and Automation class. He completed the class successfully and received the International Siemens Level I Certification. NextGen staff assisted him with his resume, online job search, and interviewing skills. Landon's hard work and perseverance paid off, as he now has a full-time job working for the up and coming Polywood company in Person County.





# Success Story

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NCWorks NextGen Youth Participant

## Matthew Varker, Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC)

Matthew enrolled in the NextGen program in February 2018, seeking assistance with obtaining the High School Equivalency Diploma. With perseverance and dedication, he received his High School Equivalency Diploma in April of 2018. Determined to continue his education, Matthew enrolled in the Associate of Arts Program. Because of his hard work and determination, Matthew earned the Presidential Scholar Award in October 2019 and he has also been inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in which students must have and maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average. Matthew is also very involved in school activities. He is a member of the Male Achievement Academy at VGCC where the stated mission is “to provide intentional support to male students that will empower them to accomplish their academic and career goals.” In an effort to be a more well-rounded student, Matthew is also a member of VGCC’s Drama Club and has participated in many drama productions.





# Finance & Administration

Finance Manager: Donna Lee

Finance Assistant: Katie Conner

Regional Engagement Specialist: Beth Davis

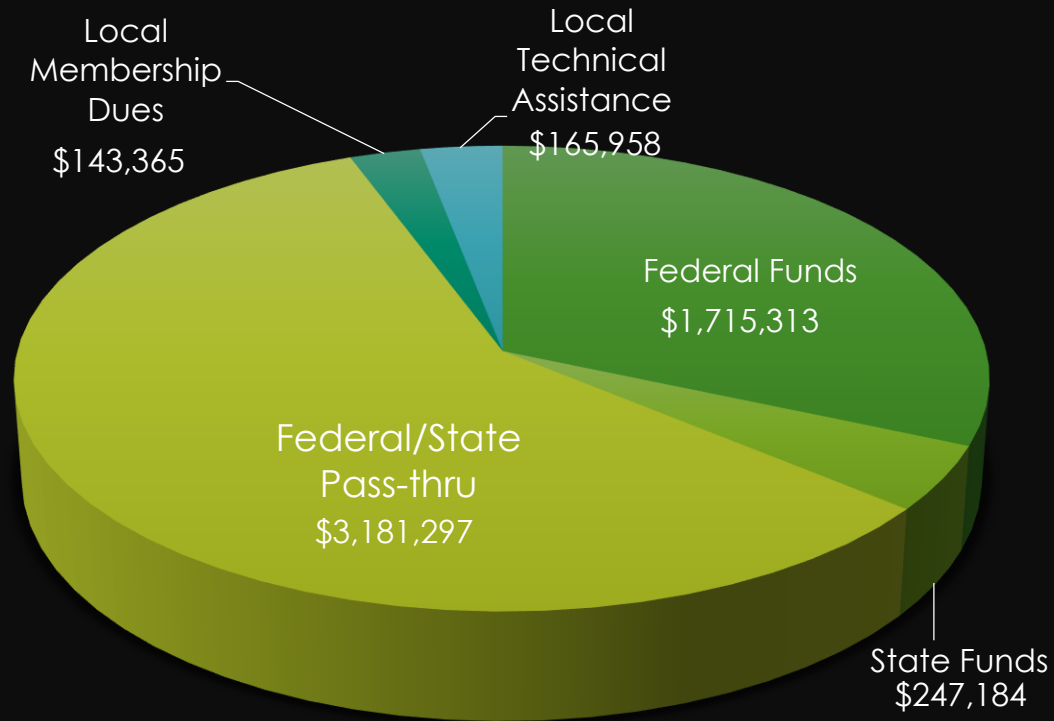
Administrative Assistant: Susan Tucker

Director: Diane Cox

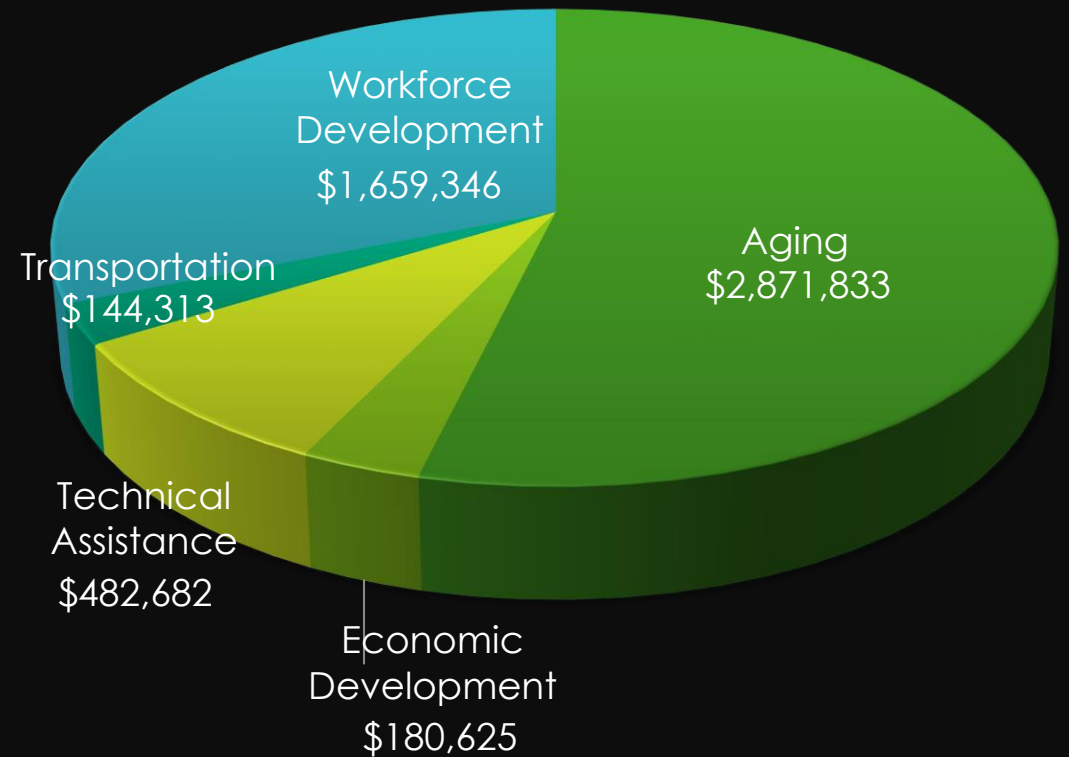


# Finance Report (unaudited figures)

## KTCOG Revenues: \$5,453,117



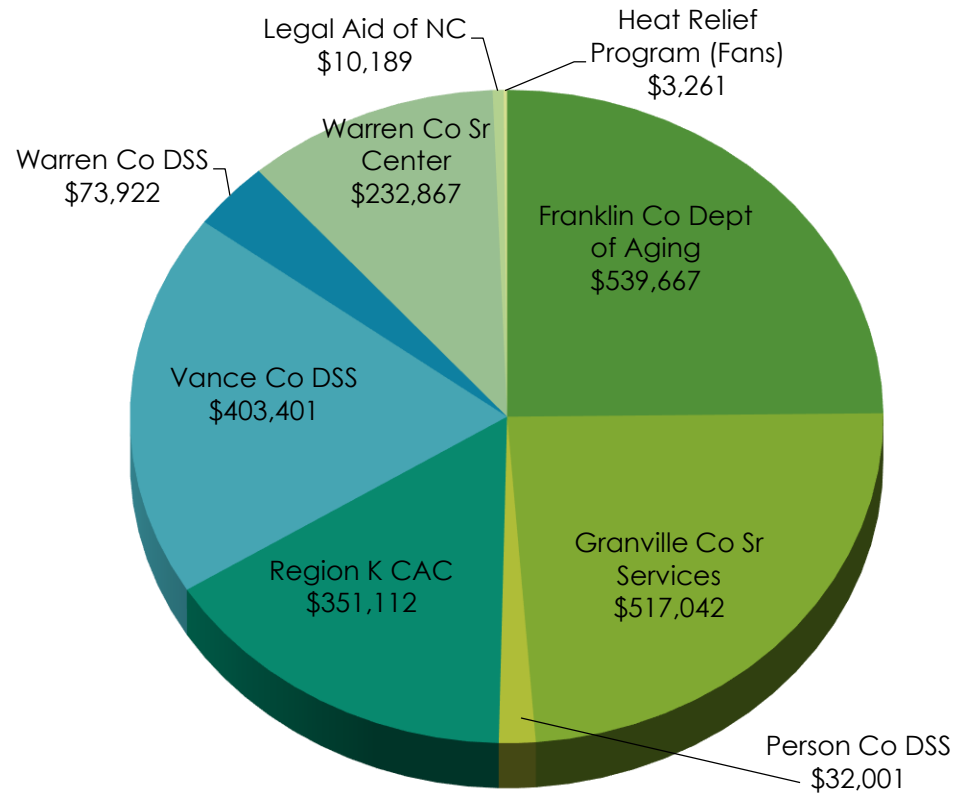
## KTCOG Expenditures: \$5,338,799



# Finance Report (unaudited figures)

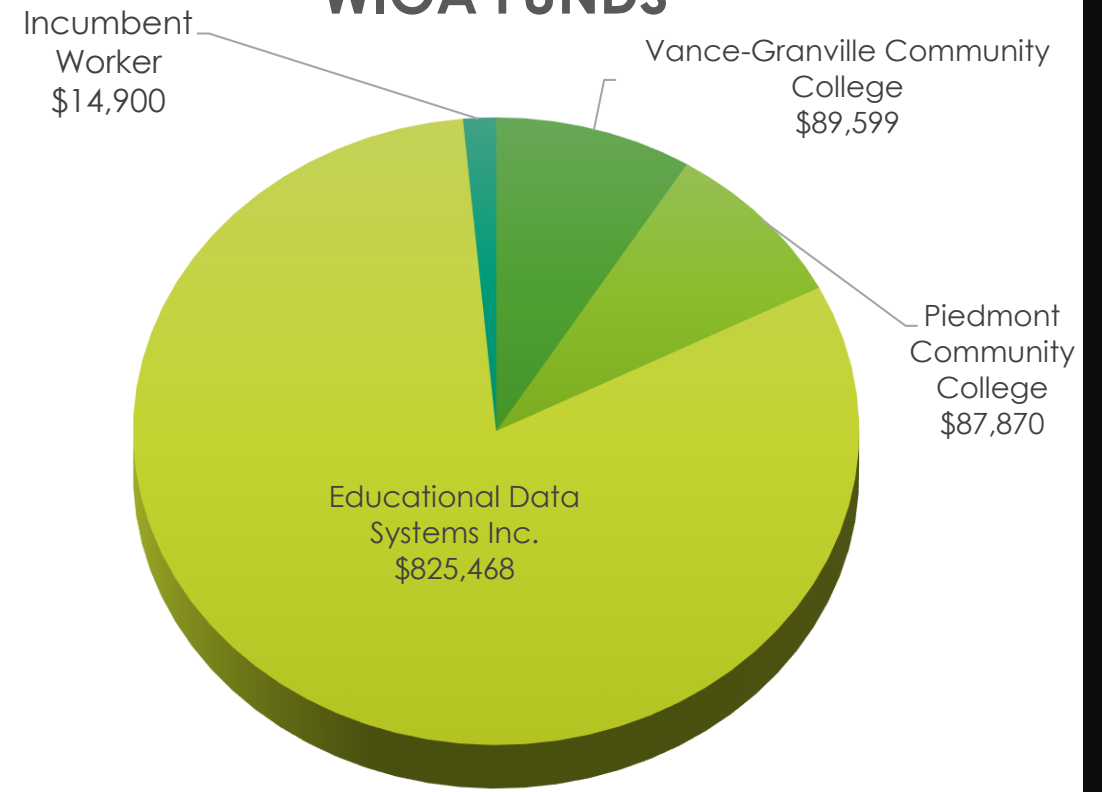
## Area Agency on Aging Funds

### Area Agency on Aging Funds



## Workforce Development Funds

### WIOA FUNDS





# Focus 2020

February 20, 2020



## A Regional Economic Development Summit

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# Focus 2020 Speaker Doug Griffiths

Kerr-Tar Council of Governments, in conjunction with our regional partners hosted its inaugural Regional Economic Development Summit, Focus 2020. The event featured author and community facilitator, Mr. Doug Griffiths. He is the author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, where he identifies the challenges and opportunities communities face. His book is filled with stories applicable to many cities and towns across the United States.

Doug asserts our biggest challenge is not that we lack good plans, but that we lack the right perspective and attitudes. That is why Doug helps communities identify what is holding them back from finding success, and then helps them overcome those factors.

Doug's passion lies in building strong communities, because within strong communities, leadership can succeed, businesses can prosper, and families can find great quality of life.



Photo Courtesy: The Talent Bureau

To listen to Focus 2020,  
[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) to watch the event.

# Focus 2020

In addition to the keynote speaker, many other leaders in the region shared their thoughts on economic development. Speakers included:

- Judy Bradsher, Director of CTE with Person County Schools
- Tony Copeland, NC Secretary of Commerce
- Dr. Jenni Harris, Executive Director of Business Services, NC Department of Commerce
- Rhonda High, Customized Training Director, Halifax Community College
- Jennifer Lantz, Executive Director, Wilson Economic Development Council
- Thom Ruhe, President & CEO, NC IDEA
- Dr. Pamela Senegal, President, Piedmont Community College
- Hillary Sherman, NC Economic Development Representative, US Department of Commerce
- Dr. Michael L. Walden, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor & Extension Economist at NCSU



# Kerr-Tar



## Regional Council Of Governments

Thank You

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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252-436-2040

[www.kerrtarcog.org](http://www.kerrtarcog.org)

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