



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Armory
Warren County



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

COG Board Meeting

- TBD

Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) Meeting

- Wednesday, November 10 @ 2:00 pm
- Hybrid in-person/Zoom

COG Office Closed

- Thursday, November 11 - Veteran's Day
- November 25-26 - Thanksgiving

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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Fonzie Flowers

MAYOR, TOWN OF YOUNGSVILLE

Fonzie A. Flowers, Mayor of the Town of Youngsville, has been a member of the Kerr-Tar Council of Governments Board for 8 years. What he enjoys most about being a part of the KTCOG Board is the sharing of ideas, seeing and hearing what's happening in other areas, being able to bounce ideas off staff, and networking. When asked about one of his greatest achievements in public service, Fonzie said, "I feel like we've had a lot of wins since becoming Mayor. One thing I'm proud of is being involved in the rejuvenation of our main street. When I took over in 2013, there were a lot of empty and abandoned buildings. Now, we have a thriving downtown district with very successful small businesses." One goal for his community and the region is to make it the area where people want to live, work, and play.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Sharon Thomas

WORKFORCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Sharon Thomas, Youth Program Coordinator and Equal Opportunity Officer for Workforce Development Board, has been with the COG for just under 4 years. Sharon started in the Planning Department as the Mobility Manager where she oversaw the 5310 Elderly Transportation Grant, where she was for about a year before transitioning to the Workforce Department. What she loves most about working at the COG is having the ability to make a difference in the communities where we live. She says there is something inherently personable and meaningful in the services we provide because they are directly related to building and improving our communities. She gets excited about integrating ideas and collaborating with partners knowing our communities will have better outcomes because of the COG. The experiences Sharon has had working with youth and young adults aspiring to achieve their education and employment goals encourages her daily. Sharon served in the United States Marine Corps for over 12 years and has traveled all over the world to beautiful places like Spain, Italy, Japan, and all over the United States. She's been married to her husband for 26 years, and she met him in the Marine Corps. They have two sons, one in law school, and one a freshman at NCCU. Thank you for your service, Sharon and Happy Veteran's Day!



American Rescue Plan: What We Know

American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are being distributed, but several questions remain about how these funds can be spent. Local government units have many resources available to them as they make decisions about how to use this funding. For example, UNC School of Government (SOG) recently held a [Basics of the American Rescue Plan Course](#), which was a detailed look at all aspects of the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds legislation. SOG is also continuing to host weekly [Office Hours](#), where local government units have the opportunity to hear the most recent ARPA updates and ask any questions they might have.

In addition to Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, we also know that the state received Fiscal Recovery Funds. The NC House, Senate, and Governor are currently negotiating the details of the budget, but stay tuned for more information!

One piece of additional [Federal legislation to keep an eye out for](#) is the [State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act](#), which was passed by the Senate and has been introduced by the US House of Representatives for a vote. This legislation would strengthen the Fiscal Recovery Funds by providing state and local officials with the flexibility to invest funds in transportation, infrastructure, and government services. The [National Association of Counties website](#) hosts a table that contains official values from the US Senate of how much counties will be able to use towards transportation and infrastructure projects or government services under this bill.

[NC PRO ARP Resources](#)

[Coates' Canons ARP Guidance](#)

[NC Treasurer Accounting, Auditing, & Budgeting Guidance](#)

[NCACC's ARP Resources](#)

[NCLM's ARP Funding at a Glance](#)

[US Treasury's Interim Guidance](#)

- [FAQ's](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)



**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
ACT OF 2021**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Training



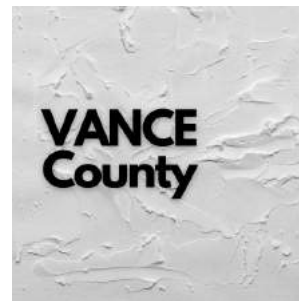
The Council of Governments has secured Dr. Linda Jordon, CEO of LRJ Coaching & Business Solutions to provide in-person Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Training during the last quarter of 2021. The Region K Community Assistance Corporation, the COG's non-profit entity was awarded a Social Justice & Racial Equity grant in 2020 to provide such training through the Duke Energy Foundation. The Kerr-Tar region was selected because of its diverse communities, citizens, and governing boards. The first training was held on October 14 at the Person County Office Building. The remaining session dates, locations, and registration links are listed below.



**Tuesday,
November 9**
10:00 am-2:00 pm
VGCC Franklin
Louisburg Campus
8100 NC-56
Louisburg, NC
[Register HERE](#)



**Tuesday,
November 16**
10:00 am-2:00 pm
City of Creedmoor
Community Center
Willow Oak Room
108 E. Wilton Ave.
Creedmoor, NC
[Register HERE](#)



**Tuesday,
December 7**
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Perry Library
Farm Bureau Room
205 Breckenridge St.
Henderson, NC
[Register HERE](#)



**Wednesday,
December 8**
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Warren County Armory
501 US Hwy 158 Bus. E
Warrenton, NC
[Register HERE](#)

New Triangle North Website

With the help of Liaison Design Groups and our Triangle North partners, the Triangle North website has been revamped and is launching on Monday, November 1. This new website features site plans, utilities, drone footage, workforce and labor

information, regional assets, transportation information, and demographics for the region. Be sure to check it out and share with anyone you think would be interested. Click [HERE](#) to visit the new website.



New Staff Member

Please welcome Amanda Gordon-Redmon, the new Aging Specialist who is coordinating outreach and education. Amanda just completed her Masters Degree in Gerontology from UNC-G. Look for Amanda at local events where we partner with community based organizations to keep our region protected and informed. Vaccinations for all ages keep our older adults and everyone else safe.



Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes

Are you an overwhelmed caregiver? Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a FREE class for unpaid caregivers of those living with any chronic condition or disability. Learn how to manage emotions, reduce personal stress, and confidently cope with caregiving issues and demands. This class will meet 90 minutes per week for 6 weeks and is open to any unpaid caregiver. All tools and materials are free for participants. This will be a hybrid class, which will consist of virtual and in-person options. Classes will be held every Tuesday, **November 2-December 7 from 1:00-2:30 pm**. The in-person classes will be Tuesdays at the Granville County Senior Center. Register by calling Susan Tucker at 252-436-2040. Please share this with any caregivers you know!



Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment started on **October 15 and continues through December 7**. In his first week of Open Enrollment, Austin Caton, our Family Caregiver Support Specialist, saved clients thousands of dollars with his recommendations, providing tremendous relief for clients. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Austin, contact him at 252-436-2040, ext. 6072 or call your local Senior Center.



All of our Senior Centers are open! Visit their websites or call for details. Some may have limited schedules.

Franklin County Senior Center (Louisburg):	919-496-1131
Franklinton Senior Center:	919-494-5611
Granville County Senior Services (Oxford):	919-693-1930
South Granville Senior Center (Creedmoor):	919-528-0848
North Granville Senior Center (Stovall):	919-693-3383
Person County Senior Center:	336-599-7484
Vance County Senior Center:	252-430-0257
Warren County Senior Center:	252-257-3111

Ombudsman Update

Kim Hawkins, Kerr-Tar AAA Ombudsman, completed the Annual Ombudsman Report for FY 2021. Compared to 2020, complaints increased in 2021. Kim attributes this to the complexity of the complaints and restrictions on follow-up visits to facilities and residents during Covid. Kim is currently handling 11 open complaints.

Kim is also recruiting new Community Advisory Committee members in four of our five counties. The state has established new volunteer training requirements that greatly increase the number of hours of required orientation and ongoing training, which may affect recruitment. Volunteer meetings are currently being held virtually, and Kim is transitioning to face-to-face meetings as appropriate, one county at a time.



AAA Programs

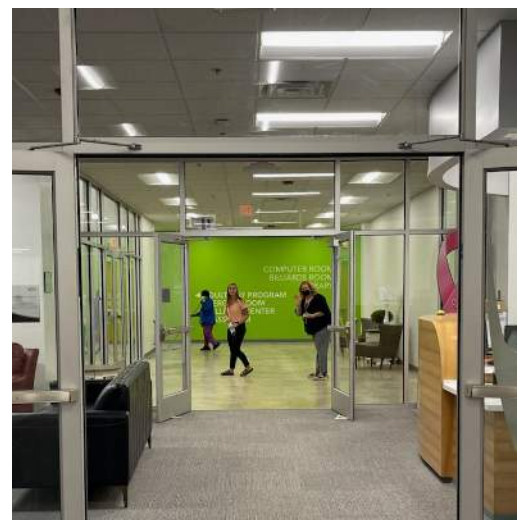
The next **Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC)** meeting will be **Wednesday, November 10 at 2:00 pm**. This will be a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting with the in-person location being held at the Kerr-Tar COG Office (1724 Graham Avenue, Henderson). Rebecca Freeman from DHHS will be the guest speaker and will share stories of RAAC successes from other regions to inspire future efforts. All are welcome to attend.

Senior Games 2022 materials are finalized and the region is ready for participant registration, which opens **February 25, 2022** for Early Birds and March 11 for everyone else. We look forward to a robust Games!

Walk With Ease classes continue in two locations, with several dozen participants. This is the first time we have teamed with a local Parks & Rec department to hold an evidence-based health promotion class, and it's been a great experience for all.

The new **Louisburg Senior Center** has opened! An Open House is planned for some time in November. Be sure to go by and check it out.

Caregiver Support Groups are being planned for virtual and in-person participation. If you or someone you know would benefit from support in their demanding, challenging, rewarding caregiver role, Austin Caton is available at 252-436-2040, ext. 6072.



Louisburg Senior Center

New Henderson-Vance EDC Director

Vance County is pleased to announce the hiring of McKinley Perkinson as the Director of the Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission. Perkinson is no stranger to Vance County having served as the Marketing Director for Maria Parham Health for four years, and prior to that leading as the Marketing and Public Relations Manager for VCU Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill, VA for over seven years. Most recently, she assisted Franklin County EDC as a Project Manager working to enhance their website and online presence for economic development, tourism, and the overall county. She brings a wealth of experience in communications and marketing, public and media relations, project leadership, budget management, and relationship development.



"We were intentional in prioritizing personality and fit for our next EDC Director. We were looking for an individual who is creative, able to work with the community and local businesses to build relationships, and the one who has passion for improving the community," said County Manager Jordan McMillen. "McKinley is an outstanding fit for this role. She brings optimism, energy, and passion for Henderson and Vance County and has proven to be a creative force in marketing in her past roles. Vance County has had a number of recent economic development successes and McKinley is well positioned to continue leading this effort."

Perkinson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications and Public Relations from Western Carolina University and a Master of Arts degree in Leadership and Management from Liberty University. Perkinson will begin her new role on November 15.

Warren County Welcomes New Staff



Two new staff members have joined the Warren County Community & Economic Development department. Cynthia Jones joined the team on October 4 as the Assistant Director of Community & Economic Development, and Rachel Wooster joined September 16 as Community & Economic Developer.

As Assistant Director, Cynthia Jones will oversee the Planning, Zoning, Code Enforcement, and GIS divisions of Community & Economic Development. Jones is a native of Nash County and brings 19 years of local government experience to the county. Jones was previously a planner and zoning administrator in

Edgecombe and Durham counties, and was the Edgecombe County Planning Director from 2015-2020 before working for the City of Rocky Mount in Community & Business Development through 2021.

Rachel Wooster, a native of Raleigh and recent graduate of Appalachian State University with a Bachelors degree in Political Science & Public Administration, will serve as Community & Economic Developer. "Rachel has an energy and enthusiasm for development work that I believe will resonate with both our current and future residents and businesses," said Charla Duncan, Warren County EDC Director. "Our goal with Community & Economic Development,



especially now that we have countywide zoning, is for our Planning & Economic Development Divisions to work with each other and not in silos. As we enter into the beginning stages of our Comprehensive Development Plan update, it's a perfect time to think about how we want to use our land, how we want to grow, and what actions we need to take to get there. With the additions of Cynthia and Rachel to Warren County, we can responsibly and strategically progress Warren County forward," said Duncan.

Warren County Tops State in Visitor Spending Growth in 2020



Domestic and international visitors to and within Warren County spent \$49.6 million in 2020, an increase of 32% from 2019, according to an annual study commissioned by Visit North Carolina, a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). For a second year in a row, Warren County's growth rate was the highest in North Carolina compared to all other counties from the year 2019 to 2020.

Of the \$49.6 million related to visitor spending, \$12 million came from lodging, \$15.5 million from food and beverage, \$6.7 million from recreation, \$4.8 million from retail, and \$10.6 million from transportation. The study also reveals that Warren County was the only county in its region to see growth; all other counties in the North Central region saw a decrease in visitor spending, including Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Person, Vance, and Wake counties.

"We are fortunate that Warren County's travel and tourism industry has been able to demonstrate such resilience during a difficult year," stated Charla Duncan, Director of Warren County Community & Economic Development. "Individually, many of our businesses have certainly experience similar challenges as other small businesses across America during this pandemic. The strength in Warren County, particularly during 2020, is that our natural and cultural assets are a stable, safe, and desirable resource for visitors."

"Warren County has opportunities for day trippers, weekenders, and repeat visitors, and our local economy benefits from that," Duncan said. "It is great to see this positive news as we adjust to the long-term impact of the pandemic," said County Manager Vincent Jones. "We hope that this new energy we are seeing as people discover and rediscover the charm of Warren County is sustained going forward."

According to Visit NC data, the Warren County travel and tourism industry directly employs 231 people; this is an increase in employment related to visitor spending since 2019. The total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Warren County in 2020 was \$10.1 million. These statistics come from the Economic Impact of travel on North Carolina Counties 2020, which can be accessed [HERE](#). The study was prepared for Visit NC by Tourism Economics in collaboration with the US Travel Association. Warren County has seen an increase in visitor spending every year since 2016.



Open for Business Loans Available

Many small and local businesses in the Kerr-Tar region have been negatively affected by COVID-19. Please be aware that our Open for Business Loans are available to businesses in our region through the Kerr-Tar COG. These loan opportunities are being offered in an effort to provide support and assistance to **small to medium size businesses** to get back up and running.

The Open for Business Loan is a non-forgivable interest-free loan, ranging from \$10,000-\$100,000. Eligible borrowers are small to medium size (1-99 employees) businesses who have been in business for at least 12 months and must be located in Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, or Warren counties. All loans will require a personal guarantee and additional collateral. Funds can only be used for working capital, inventory, and/or equipment and require an application fee of \$200. Standard loan terms of 5-10 years. To apply, visit www.kerrtarco.org and click on the "Open for Business Loan" tab.



One major change this year is that businesses are ***no longer required to demonstrate a loss of revenue as a result of the pandemic***. Our goal is to help get local businesses back up and running. Please share this information with anyone you think would benefit from these loans.

The Open for Business Loan Program is locally administered, funded by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Applications are available on the Kerr-Tar COG website or by calling Kerr-Tar COG at 252-436-2040. Applications should be completed as soon as possible as funding is limited.

Public Input Needed on NCDOT Services

The N.C. Department of Transportation is again asking the public for feedback on how the agency is performing and ways it can improve its customer service. Now in its sixth year, NCDOT's survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and the link is mobile-friendly. Participation can help the department identify ways to make North Carolina transportation services safer, more efficient and customer focused. Administered by North Carolina State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education, the survey is grouped into eight core transportation services: motor vehicle transportation (highway), bicycle, pedestrian, transit (local bus), passenger rail, ferry, general aviation and the Division of Motor Vehicles. The N.C. General Assembly requires the survey and results be used to measure NCDOT's customer service performance across the department.

Survey responses must be received by the end of November. The results will be available to the public on the agency's website, www.ncdot.gov, by March 2021.



Veteran Appreciation & Community Hiring Event

A Veteran Appreciation and Community Hiring Event will be held on **Tuesday, November 9 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm** at the Vance-Granville Community College Civic Center, located at 200 Community College Road in Henderson, NC in partnership with Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board, NCWorks, and Vance-Granville Community College. Various employers will be present and ready to connect with veterans and all others seeking employment. There will be resources available for homeless, unemployed, and underemployed residents of the Kerr-Tar region including NCWorks Career Center Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist & Local Veteran Employment Representative, VA Benefits Information & Assistance, Resource Organizations, Food Bank, Vance & Granville County Veterans Services Officer, and Health Education & COVID vaccines. Contact Sean Small for details and registration at 919-693-2686 or visit www.kerrtarworks.com. Be sure to bring your cover letters, resumes, and any certification/licenses for professional review.



Success Story

Ms. Michele Zattoni was a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) at Duke VA, where she entered the VR&E program pursuing a degree in Human Resources. Upon completing the program, Michele had difficulty achieving employment in her field of study, partially because of her extensive medical background. However, the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist and Staff provided multiple counseling sessions, functional resume building, and quality referrals to which she received interviews, but lacked job offers/responses. After applying for numerous positions, the NCWorks staff sourced out a job opportunity with the Social Security Administration, refined her resume, and discussed interview strategies. Shortly after applying for the position, Michele was hired almost immediately. The HR department describes Michele's background and interview skills as flawless. Michele began work in September with improved wages. Michele is just one example of how hard work, patience, and persistence pay off.

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



Warren County Job Fair Success

A Regional Job Fair was held on Thursday, October 14 in partnership with Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board, NCWorks, Warren County Economic Development, Vance-Granville Community College, and Piedmont Community College. The event was held at the Warren County Recreation Complex in Warrenton. There were 20 participating employers/community resources, and 50 people in attendance. There was a variety of great opportunities, which meant something for everyone. Many connections were made and job offers extended on the spot. Two local food trucks, Chewly Delicious and RJ's Grill, provided delicious food for participants. In addition to employers meeting new job candidates, they were able to network and build new partnerships with local resource providers. This event was a huge success for all. For more information on future events, or to host an event, contact 919-693-2686 or visit www.kerrtarworks.com.

While at the Warren County Job Fair, the NCWorks staff witnessed a success story almost immediately. Shortly after the job fair started, the NextGen Program Manager spotted a young lady who seemed to fit the age requirements of the youth program. After engaging the job seeker in a brief conversation about career center services and her purpose for attending the job fair, the Warren County native excitedly exclaimed, "I just got hired on the spot!" She was offered a full-time warehouse position with a Henderson employer through Qualified Staffing.

Job Fair Employers

- Bertie Ambulance Service
- County of Warren
- Educational Opportunity Center
- Franklin Vance Warren Opportunity
- Gate Precast
- Glen Raven
- Granville Vance Public Health
- H&M Woodworks
- Ideal Fastener
- KARTS
- Meherrin River Forest Products
- NCWorks
- Qualified Staffing
- Turning Point CDC
- United Way of Vance Co.
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Versatrim
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Warren County EMS
- Warren County Sheriff's Department



Prescription Drug Take Back Community Day

The Warren County Sheriff's Office together with the Health Department and EMS are hosting a Prescription Drug Take Back Community Day. Drop off any unused or expired medication at the Warren County Health Department parking lot on **Saturday, November 6 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm**. Warren County Emergency Medical Services will be present to provide hands only CPR training, free hand sanitizer, masks, and giveaways for kids. Green Rural Redevelopment Organization will be there to provide FREE Covid-19 testing and vaccines (12 years and older). Accepted medications include: prescription medicine, over the counter medicine, prescription patches, vitamins, pet medication, prescription ointments, sharps and syringes. For more information or questions, call the Warren County Sheriff's Office at 252-257-3364.



KTCOG Seeking Aging Specialist

Kerr-Tar Council of Governments is currently seeking energetic, self-motivated, and detail oriented candidates for the position of Aging Specialist to work in the Area Agency on Aging department. The Aging Specialist performs outreach, oversight, and administrative work within the aging department. The Aging Specialist plays a critical role in the region's aging support work. Work includes: providing direct services via partnerships with community based organizations, teaching health promotion classes in the community, providing information and outreach, participation in community events, support of services performed by external contractors, administrative and programmatic support to the director. It is a dynamic and varied position that would be an excellent fit for a person who is familiar with and enthusiastic about older adult services, and enjoys engaging with individuals and groups. Please email cover letter, resume, and references to info@kerrtarco.org. Submit by **November 15, 2021** for first consideration. The Kerr-Tar COG is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information, click [HERE](#).



Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email [Beth Davis](mailto:Beth.Davis@kerrtarco.org), Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.

Strategic Economic & Community Development Funding

Strategic Economic & Community Development (SECD) supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans. These plans use the unique strengths of rural communities to advance prosperity. SECD programs include:

- [Community Connect Grants](#)
- [Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program](#)
- [Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)
- [Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements of each program and projects must be carried out in rural areas. Click on a program of interest for application instructions and deadlines.



Accepting Applications for "Recreation Economy for Rural Communities"

The Recreation Economy for Rural Communities planning assistance program helps communities identify strategies to grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their Main Streets. A planning team will help communities bring together local residents and other stakeholders to decide on strategies and an action plan to grow the local outdoor recreation economy. The planning assistance process will take place over four to six months, with a focal point being a facilitated community workshop where participants will identify a vision, goals, and specific actions. This workshop could be held in person, as a series of virtual work sessions, or a combination of both, depending on travel limitations due to the COVID pandemic. Eligible applicants include local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit institutions and organizations representing any community in the US. Application Deadline is **November 22**.

Transportation Fleet Survey

The Kerr-Tar Council of Governments is requesting that our region's fleet managers complete the survey below so that we can see what your sustainability goals are in order to provide assistance in reducing emissions. Click the button below to submit your county/municipality's response. To take this survey, click the button below.

[Click HERE for survey.](#)





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
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Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis
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Planning & Development

Michael Kelly
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Workforce Development

Lou Grillo
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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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