



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



*Vance County Office Building
Photo Courtesy of Richard Long Photography*

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

COG Board Meeting

- Thursday, January 27
- Kerr-Tar COG Office

Kerr-Tar RPO Meeting

- Thursday, January 27
- Via Zoom

COG Office Closed

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day: Monday, January 17

NC Budget for 2021-23 Outlines \$16M for COGS

The NC General Assembly has approved a \$25.9 billion state budget with bipartisan support. In addition to allocating state revenue funds, the budget appropriates \$5.4 billion that the state received under the American Rescue Plan, as well as including various policy changes. The NC Association of Regional Councils of Government - on behalf of the state's 16 regional councils, including Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments - will receive direct funding for two key areas of local assistance and coordination.

- \$10 million to assist with American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Local Recovery Funds
- \$6 million to assist with disaster recovery, resilience, and mitigation

This investment will enable Kerr-Tar COG to provide more guidance, technical support, and resources to our communities in the next few years.

Business Recovery Grant Program

The application and web page for the Business Recovery Grant program is now available on [NCDOR's website](#), and the deadline to apply is **January 31, 2022**. This program will issue a one-time payment to eligible North Carolina businesses that experience significant economic loss due to COVID-19. Two types of grants will be available to eligible businesses that suffered an economic loss of at least 20% during the pandemic:

- A **Hospitality Grant** will be available to an eligible arts, entertainment, and recreation business, as well as an eligible accommodation or food service business such as a hotel, restaurant, and bar.
- A **Reimbursement Grant** will be available to an eligible business not classified in NAICS Code 71 and 72 and that did not receive funding from other relief programs including Paycheck Protection Program, COVID-19 Job Retention Grant, and EIDL Advance.

The Kerr-Tar COG is looking for partners to assist with outreach so that all eligible NC business owners have the opportunity to apply.

Use the [Outreach Toolkit](#) and [Flyers](#) to raise awareness of the program throughout your networks.

It contains highly useful details about the program and application process, FAQs, and example language to use on social media. If you'd like to host an event with NCDOR for your members or have someone from NCDOR speak at your events, please contact Will Futrell, Strategic Planning & Public Engagement Officer at will.futrell@ncdor.gov as soon as possible. NCDOR will do everything it can to accommodate any requests.

There will also be two free Business Recovery Grant Program webinars in January 2022. These webinars will provide an overview of the program which includes information on the types of grant awards under the program, eligibility requirements to receive the grant payment, how businesses apply for the payment as well as the resources available on the NCDOR website. Webinars will be held on **Thursday, January 6 from 2:00-3:00 pm** and **Tuesday, January 18 from 10:00-11:00 am** and you can register [HERE](#).

Did your business suffer losses due to the pandemic?
You may be eligible for a **Business Recovery Grant**

Businesses That May Be Eligible Include:
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
Hotels and Bars
Restaurants and Food Services
And Many More!

Visit ncdor.gov for more information
Apply by January 31, 2022

NCDOR NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Job Opening: Aging Specialist



The 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. This position 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. The position will be open until filled. Please email a cover letter, resume, and references to info@kerrtarco.org. The Kerr-Tar COG is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For full job description, click [HERE](#).

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

The Haliwa-Saponi tribe celebrated the Christmas holiday with a potluck and gift exchange. During this time, Kerr-Tar AAA provided 10 heaters and 10 hand woven blankets for tribe members in Warren County with the identified need. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group typically meets every 3rd Friday of the month at 10:00 am for support and fellowship. The support group will reconvene in February, starting a new curriculum called Parenting the Second Time Around.



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

During the month of December, Kim Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman, delivered Resident Rights Bingo Games and prizes to all 46 homes in the region before the holidays. The gifts included blankets, puzzles, coloring books, and coloring pencils. The delivery also included information about a virtual training on Cultural Sensitivity (LGBT), Resident Rights, and visitation during the holidays. Per CDC guidance, all residents can have visits at all times (with exceptions or limitations specific to COVID and safety).

Henderson Walk With Ease Program

Walk With Ease is the Arthritis Foundation's program that is proven to reduce the pain of arthritis and improve your overall health. The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging will be conducting this program for our Region this spring. No matter if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, this 6 week program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your every day life. The program includes a guidebook and a walking schedule to get you safely moving toward better health.



Studies by the Thurston Arthritis Research Center and the Institute on Aging of the University of North Carolina show that Walk With Ease is proven to:

- Reduce the pain & discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength, & walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

There will be a Walk With Ease group session starting in Henderson and will meet **Monday, Tuesday, and Friday** for 6 weeks, from **March 7-April 14, 2022**. Participants will meet at **11:00 am at Aycock Recreation Center**. Trained group exercise leaders begin each session with a pre-walk discussion covering a specified topic related to exercise and arthritis, followed by a 10-40 minute walk that includes a warm-up and a cool-down. To register for this session, contact Susan Tucker at 252-436-2040 or stucker@kerrtarcoag.org.

Vaccination Events



Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging sponsored a COVID-19 vaccination event for Granville-Vance Public Health on Wednesday, December 8 and Friday, December 10 where over 100 people were vaccinated. Community members who were vaccinated received a free food truck meal provided by R&J's Fish & Wings. Kerr-Tar AAA also sponsored a COVID-19 vaccination event for Warren County Health Department on Tuesday, December 7. Participants who were vaccinated received a cold-weather set that included a hat, pair of gloves, and a scarf. Stay tuned for more upcoming vaccination events.

Regional Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training Recap



The Council of Governments would like to thank our region for participating in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Trainings that were held during the last quarter of 2021. The sessions were facilitated by Dr. Linda Jordon, CEO of LRJ Coaching & Business Solutions. 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 trainings through the Duke Energy Foundation. The Kerr-Tar region was selected because of its diverse communities and citizens, as well as its diverse governing boards.

"The Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training sponsored by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments was outstanding. The training addressed an importance of these areas for better understanding, communication, and quality outcomes in the workplace and life in general."

-Representative Terry Garrison (District 32)

"The Town of Warrenton was very pleased to have this DEI training available through the Kerr-Tar COG. All of the Town's permanent staff signed up for the class and were all able to make it the day of the training. The Town very much appreciates the generosity of Duke Energy Foundation in providing funding."

-Robert Davie, Jr., Warrenton Town Administrator



Michael Kelly, Linda Jordon, & Diane Cox at the Person County Training

Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization

The next KTRPO joint TAC/TCC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 27, 2022 from 3:00-5:00 pm via Zoom**. Further details about the meeting will be provided to members and posted onto the COG's website as the meeting date approaches.



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@kerrtar.org), Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.

Electric Vehicle Driver Spotlight

With the increasing popularity of electric vehicles and the increased funding for electrification in the new infrastructure bill, we wanted to highlight electric vehicle drivers and share what they love about driving an EV.



ARTHUR GAUSE

AKA
IT Guy

JOB:
Retired; Prev. IT Tech/ Network Engineer

LONGEST TRIP IN AN EV:
100 miles

MILES DRIVEN ELECTRIC PER YEAR:
~8,000 miles

I love the fact I simply plug in at home to recharge, and never need to concern myself about fuel prices or oil changes.



I have a love for technology- and the added benefit of experiencing this new technology every time I drive!

FIRST PURCHASED AN EV:
2015

FAVORITE PLACE TO CHARGE:
Home garage & EVgo Fast Charge

EV OF CHOICE:
2015 Nissan Leaf

Learn more and see all of the driver profiles at fuelwhatmatters.org



Town Talk: The Future of Clean Energy & Electric Vehicles

Last month, Mr. Rick Sapienza, Director of the Clean Transportation Center at NC State University, was featured on WIZS Town Talk. Rick, along with Kerr-Tar Regional Engagement Specialist, Beth Davis, were interviewed by John Rose on new and emerging transportation technologies including electric vehicles. You can listen to Beth & Rick's Town Talk segment [HERE](#).

Town Talk on WIZS

The Future of Clean Transportation



Guest Speakers

Rick Sapienza
Clean Transportation Director,
NC Clean Energy Technology Center

Beth Davis
Regional Engagement Specialist,
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

North Carolina Ethics Commission

Elected officials and appointed alternates serving as members of the KTRPO TAC are required to submit Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) and Real-Estate Disclosure (RED) Forms annually to the North Carolina State Ethics Commission. The annual due date for the Commission to receive these documents is **April 15, 2022**. If you're in need of assistance completing these forms, please contact the Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, to schedule an appointment at 252-436-2040.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grants

Thirteen municipalities from across the state will receive assistance with bicycle and pedestrian planning, thanks to grants awarded by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Of significant note is the Town of Franklinton, which was awarded a grant for a joint bicycle/pedestrian plan.



The NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant program, now in its nineteenth year, helps North Carolina communities develop a comprehensive strategy for expanding bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and improving the safety of our transportation network for all users.



East Coast Greenway Update

In September, the Kerr-Tar RPO released a Request for Letters of Interest (RFLOI) from firms to conduct a Feasibility Study along a portion of the East Coast Greenway in Granville County. After receiving responses and assembling a Selection Committee, Exult Engineering was selected to complete the feasibility study. The Exult team will begin their work on the study this month, with the project expected to be completed by the summer. Funds for this study were awarded to the RPO from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.



CERRI 2022: NC Announces More Participants

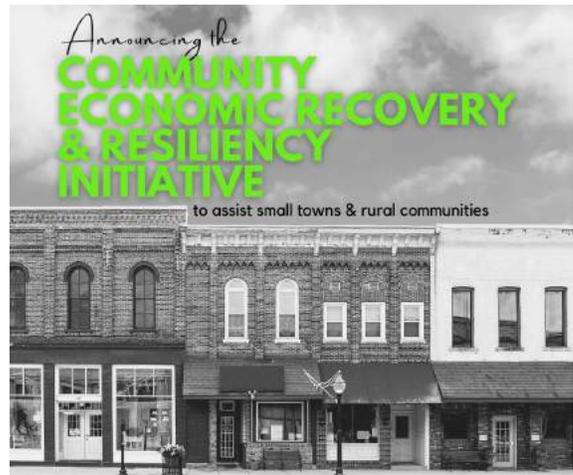
Governor Roy Cooper announced the participation of 16 additional communities statewide in the Community Economic Recovery & Resiliency Initiative, also known as CERRI. The initiative helps small towns and rural communities recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to prepare local economies to be more resilient for future crises. Administered by the Commerce Department's Rural Planning program, CERRI provides a structured planning process for communities to develop local economic recovery strategies and offers technical services for implementation.

"The initial pilot of CERRI has proven to be a great enhancement to the economic recovery of North Carolina small towns and rural communities," said NC Department of Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "Increasing the capacity of our local governments also supports the small business communities that are critical to fueling strong local economies."

Participating communities in the Kerr-Tar region for CERRI 2022 include:

- **Town of Stovall (Granville County)**
- **Town of Franklinton (Franklin County)**

The COG thanks Warren County and the City of Oxford for participating in the CERRI initiative last year as well as the Town of Bunn for participating in a department-led Community Economic Development Assessment. The COG will continue to serve as a Community Partner in the CERRI initiative.



NC Approves Nearly \$15 Million CDBG

The NC Department of Commerce has awarded 21 Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) requests to local governments totaling \$14.9 million. The requests will provide housing and public improvements for low and moderate income North Carolinians. "These neighborhood revitalization grants will help us build stronger and more resilient communities across our state," said Governor Roy Cooper. CDBG-NR offers a non-entitlement municipality or county the opportunity to tailor a community development project to address the specific and most critical needs of their community. **The City of Henderson (Vance County) was awarded \$750,000.**

The CDBG program is a US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program administered in part by NC Commerce. CDBG funds are awarded to enhance the vitality of communities by providing adequate housing, suitable living environments, infrastructure development, and expanding economic opportunities. The State must ensure that at least 70% of its CDBG grant funds are used for activities and projects that serve persons of low and moderate income. For additional information about NC Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, visit www.nccommerce.com/rd.

Success Story: Marquel Epps

Marquel Epps, a Vance County resident, enrolled in the NCWorks NextGen Program in August 2021. He completed CDL training at VGCC on December 16, 2021 and was the first student in his class to pass the DMV exam for his Commercial Driver's License. He has already accepted an offer from Walmart Distribution to become employed as a driver once he completes two weeks of training in South Carolina, as well as one week of training at their Henderson location. The NextGen Program Manager said, "I hope to assist many other customers like Marquel. From his first day in the program, Marquel demonstrated employable attributes such as respect, dedication, and an eagerness to learn. He followed and achieved all the objectives outlined in his career plan to secure a good paying job."



Success Story: Malik Bobbit



Malik Bobbit is excited to be working full time in his new career as a CDL driver. Malik came into the NCWorks Career Center seeking assistance obtaining his CDL license. He completed all required assessments and his career advisor agreed that this would be great training for him. On August 2, his Career Advisor enrolled him in the NCWorks training program, and he began Regal Driving Academy on September 13. He successfully completed the 160 hours of class and passed all required exams. Malik is now employed with High Tail Trucking, located in Raleigh.

Success Story: Truck Driving Training

Two Vance-Granville Community College WIOA Youth participants completed truck driving training in December 2021. Those individuals are Meana Parrish of Warren County and Question Jones of Granville County. Meana and Question enrolled in the WIOA youth program at VGCC to pursue CDL truck driving training. The training began October 11, 2021 and with hard work and dedication, they both completed successfully. Meana has found employment as a CDL driver with Covenant Trucking in Youngsville, NC and Question is actively seeking employment.



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





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

lgrillo@kerrtar cog.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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