



Centralina Council of Governments 2012-2013 Annual Report

Growing Our Economy.

Controlling Cost of Government.

Improving Quality of Life.



CENTRALINA COG 2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT

The Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) is a regional council of cities, towns and counties working together to help local governments in this region to grow jobs and the economy, improve quality of life and control the cost of government. Centralina provides services that enable local governments to address the local and regional challenges that affect them, get up-to-date information, save money, access grant funds and better position themselves for long-term economic health. We are one of 16 state-designated councils of government with this responsibility in North Carolina.

This Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Report provides a financial report, preceded by program highlights of the ways CCOG is responding to the needs of our member governments, their citizens and the region.

CONNECT OUR FUTURE

Through CONNECT Our Future, Centralina COG, along with its South Carolina partner Catawba Regional Council of Governments, is facilitating the efforts of governments and organizations in the 14-county, two-state region surrounding Charlotte to achieve the fundamental obligation of government – to build greater communities for future generations. This initiative is funded by a \$4.9 million HUD Sustainable Communities Grant awarded in November 2011, and \$3 million in local in-kind public and private matching resources.

- **Engaging Communities**

- 54 local governments and 31 others (private sector, quasi-governmental and non-profits) have signed the agreement and joined the CONNECT Consortium.
- The CONNECT Consortium, which was launched July 26, 2012, drew more than 175 participants representing 90-plus local governments and private/non-profits.
- 8 Consortium meetings were held in 2013 to review CONNECT activities and provide guidance.

- **Engaging Residents** – More than 2,200 diverse residents of CONNECT's 14 counties participated in the first phase of public engagement (November 2012 – February 2013). During the first phase of public engagement:

- More than 32 open houses and 63 small groups were conducted;
- More than 100 online surveys were completed;
- Community Conversations with Youth and Latino Groups were held; and,
- More than 2000 responses have been received.

- **Engaging Regional Leaders** – More than 400 elected officials and community, environmental, housing and business leaders from the region surrounding Charlotte worked together at this hands-on event. RealityCheck2050 was a one-of-a-kind event in the region that allowed participants to envision how the region can be ready for another 1.8 million people and 860,000 jobs by 2050.

- **Community Growth Workshops** – These interactive, participatory sessions held in 17 locations throughout the region gave residents an opportunity to provide their input on how and where to focus growth and needed infrastructure such as roads, transit and greenways. Workshops were held three times a day in each location and more than 1,050 residents participated in events in North and South Carolina counties in the CONNECT region.

CONNECT Our Future helps your community by responding to the needs you and other communities have expressed, and engaging all communities in preparing for future challenges with products, services and strategies developed through regional collaboration.



Vibrant Communities – Robust Region

The CAAA helps your community by supporting your older and disabled residents (through your county) with programs and services that support independent living, advocacy for seniors, and support services for caregivers.

AGING SERVICES

The need to create a community that meets the emerging population of all citizens, including seniors, is one with universal design aspects and a wide variety of job and educational opportunities. That means the creation of meaningful “retirement” activities including re-employment, volunteerism, and social engagement. In addition to our role as the fiscal monitor for the Older Americans Act funds, the Centralina Area Agency on Aging (CAAA) has been on the cutting edge in the development of senior-friendly planning initiatives that improve quality of life and help control the cost of government. This year’s program highlights include:

- **Mobility Management** – CCOG’s Planning and Aging departments have collaborated to develop Centralina’s Mobility Management program, an information and referral service for all public transportation options in the nine-county CCOG region. A key component of the program is Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS), a 501c3 non-profit organization, developed to provide transportation to older and disabled adults and veterans. Through creating and managing a network of volunteer drivers, overburdened transportation systems in each county will have a new resource in which to refer clients, and volunteers will be able to experience meaningful social engagement while helping to provide access to key services.
- **Healthy Living Programs** – More than 102 workshops were taught and a total of 1,280 participants across our region benefited from these evidence-based programs that focus on strengthening independent living, health management, and self-advocacy skills for older and disabled adults. Further, the new Spanish version of Chronic Disease Self-Management (Tomando Control de su Salud) is the first of its kind in North Carolina. This past year, the Chronic Disease Self-Management Education programs were recognized by the National Council on Aging as an outstanding example of leveraging volunteer leaders and collaborative partnerships to reduce the cost of the programs for the community and the participants.
- **Senior Community Employment Program** – The program creates re-employment opportunities for those displaced or entering the workforce for the first time. Despite dramatic cuts in the program funds, Centralina’s efforts saw more than 22 individuals re-enter paid employment.
- **Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman** – This year, through the Ombudsman program, more than 5,000 consumers were assisted with complex issue resolution in longterm care settings. These regional advocates help control the cost of government by offering local intervention and problem-solving skills that avoid the more costly regulatory intervention by a team of state regulators.



PLANNING

CCOG staff supports communities by coordinating, introducing and implementing new initiatives relating to all aspects of planning such as: land use, pedestrian, small area and corridor plans; public engagement; board training and retreats; park, streetscape, and landscaping design; and transportation. CCOG also convenes and leads energy and environmental programs in conjunction with federal, state, and local agencies and other partners, and coordinates the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC) program. Significant activities in Fiscal Year 2012-13 include:

- **Regional Scenario Planning Model** – This year, planning efforts have focused on building and calibrating the regional scenario planning model. This model will allow communities to contemplate different growth options and see how different growth patterns impact the demand for and cost of new roads, utilities, parks and schools.
- **Regional Collaboration** – The Regional Conference of Mayors and city and county managers meet bi-monthly to receive updates on North Carolina legislative action and to create strategies for addressing those issues that impact city and county governments in the region. Through this collaborative effort, mayors and managers have become active in building relationships with legislators through direct communication and through visits to Raleigh.
- **Carolina Blue Skies and Green Jobs Initiative** – Grant funds of \$2.8 million have been provided for the purchase of 37 advanced technology vehicles across the Centralina region. Those vehicles are part of the overall project that has displaced more than 325,000 gallons of petroleum in North and South Carolina since 2010.
- **NC's Plug-in Electric Vehicle Readiness** – The initiative supports community and statewide planning for plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and is supported in part by a U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program grant. Administered by CCOG, this planning effort is in conjunction with partners at Advanced Energy, NC Solar Center, Triangle J COG, Land-of-Sky Regional Council, PiedmontTriad Regional Council and utility partners including Duke Energy.

The Centralina Regional Planning Department helps your community by supporting local and regional planning through collaboration between local governments, and through programs and services designed to help you improve quality of life and become more efficient.



The Centralina WDB helps your community by providing the leadership and resources to ensure a qualified workforce is available for area employers.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Through public and private sector partnerships the Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) provides leadership in a variety of workforce development areas and has been effective in meeting the needs of the current and emerging workforce. This year's program highlights include:

- **Building Technical Talents Workforce Summit** – Centralina WDB teamed with Mitchell Community College to sponsor the Summit to highlight the benefits of 21st Century manufacturing in the region and bring awareness of the gap between the high unemployment rate and the lack of qualified manufacturing applicants. The Summit was made possible through a \$400,000 grant awarded to Mitchell Community College by The Golden LEAF Foundation to address the skills gap.
- **I-Care, Inc. Helps At-Risk Youth** – The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program, funded through the Centralina WDB, serves youth ages 16-21 and helps with educational needs and gives participants practical experience in the workforce. Through the program, young people are given the mentoring necessary to complete their education through the GED program and are provided with various job options to learn new skills. In 2012-13, the program provided work experience opportunities during the summer to 30 youths in Iredell and Lincoln County.
- **Prosperity for Anson Project** – The report identifies specific, targeted areas that Anson County can use to improve its economic development. For Anson, the target industries are: retail, health care, back office, professional services, transportation and logistics, and culture and entertainment. The data is important because it can help graduates to focus on jobs and industries that will be there. The program is part of a federally-funded grant. Centralina WDB staff assisted on project planning and implementation.
- **Teaching for Jobs** – Advanced manufacturing companies that are looking to move production back to the U.S. will gravitate to places where there is already a strong manufacturing infrastructure and a pipeline of skilled technical workers. This initiative helps to promote jobs in advanced manufacturing as an option for the “technically-inclined” and informs education professionals about the opportunities the field can offer. The initiative is a collaborative effort by the Centralina WDB, Statesville Regional Development, Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce, Mitchell Community College and Iredell-Statesville Schools.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Services provided by the Community and Economic Development (CED) Department help promote local and regional economic growth and quality of life. Significant activities in Fiscal Year 2012-13 include:

- **Five-Year Consolidated Plan** – The Department provided technical services for the development of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Mecklenburg County that integrates planning for \$3 million in HUD Community Development Block Grant entitlement funds. It focuses on low- and moderate-income population housing and community development needs.
- **Urgent Repair Program** – The CED assisted 16 elderly and low-income homeowners in Iredell and Lincoln County to stay in their homes rather than be displaced to nursing homes, saving the State on average \$37,000 per year, per homeowner. The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency awarded \$84,000 to CED for this Program and CCOG provided \$20,000 in matching funds.
- **Grants** – The CED facilitated the award and administration of North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance grant programs that totaled more than \$2 million in funding to local communities for housing and infrastructure improvements.

Essential to collaborative region-wide economic growth is the Centralina Economic Development Commission (CEDC), established by CCOG in 2005 as a 501c3 public-private partnership that promotes retention, expansion, and development of business and industry. Significant accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2012-13 include:

- **Centralina Regional Economic Development District's CEDS Plan** – The "Prosperity for Greater Charlotte" CEDS plan, was completed for the 2012-2017 period. It features research that better aligns regional infrastructure, talent and assets for economic growth. The plan also includes key strategies for boosting the job growth rate by linking the region's workforce skills and strengths, education assets, and infrastructure to the needs of high-growth and emerging industries.
- **Global Competitiveness Summit** – Prosperity for Greater Charlotte supported Charlotte Global Competitiveness Summits in August 2012 and February 2013 that brought together more than 500 business, education and community leaders to engage the Greater Charlotte Region's role in the global marketplace.
- **Jobs, Workforce and Education Alignment Strategy** – Produced within the Prosperity for Greater Charlotte project, the study identified future workforce skills and bridged gaps in the existing regional education and training pipeline to enhance industry alignment with a steady supply of qualified workers. The findings are being used to launch a unique project called "Career Headlight," a web-based platform that will provide efficient matching of workers and students with local demand-based careers and training resources.

The CED Department helps your community by providing technical assistance to improve housing and public infrastructure and pursuing grants on your behalf.

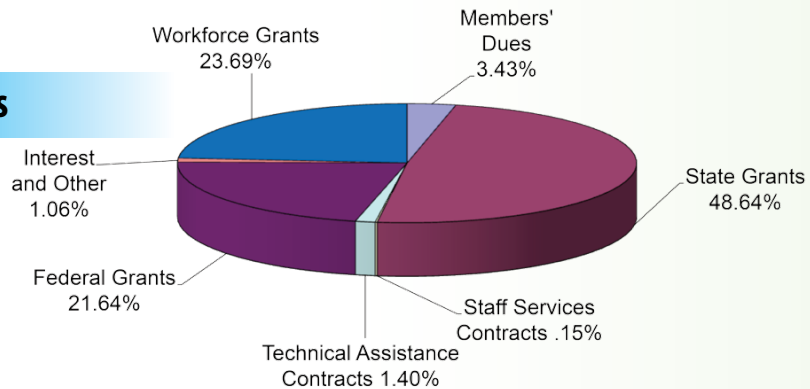
The CEDC helps your community by preparing and implementing U.S. Department of Commerce strategic plans and grant applications to create jobs and promote community economic growth.



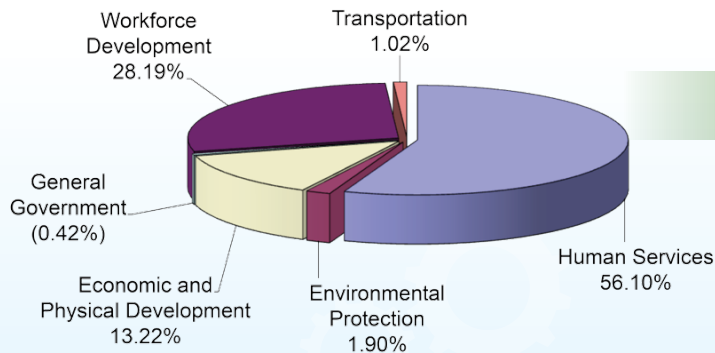
Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013

Centralina Council of Governments' revenue from all sources exceeded \$21.8 million during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013, with increases in federal, state and other grants revenue. The accompanying charts show the primary revenues by source and expenditures by program.

Sources of Revenues



Expenditures by Program



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