

10 FAST FACTS

About Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG)



What is Centralina Council of Governments? Here are a few fast facts so you can know us better.

- 1** **Centralina is a council of local governments working together for the region.** Centralina is not another form of government. It is a council made up of more than 60 local government members (cities, towns, counties), governed by an Executive Board and a Board of Delegates composed of elected officials from those member governments.
- 2** **Centralina works with you for a vital, growing region.** Centralina works with member communities to coordinate the efforts of federal, state and local governments and organizations on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries to help grow the economy and jobs, control cost of government and improve quality of life within our region.
- 3** **Centralina is not the only council of governments in the State.** In fact, we are the largest (by population) of 16 councils of government legislatively authorized by the State of North Carolina.
- 4** **Centralina coordinates the distribution of \$17 million in grants to the region.** In 2012-2013, \$17 million in federal and state pass-through grants for aging and workforce development activities were distributed to cities, towns, counties and organizations within our region.
- 5** **The Centralina region is one of the fastest growing large regions in the U.S.** The region's current rapid growth rate is expected to continue. Our population is projected to increase by 50 percent in the next two decades and almost double within the next four decades.
- 6** **Centralina is working with the region to prepare for future growth and ensure vitality.** Through CONNECT Our Future, Centralina is working with local governments and other organizations throughout the region to develop a regional growth framework that includes tools that communities can use to meet local challenges.
- 7** **Centralina helps communities in the region in four other important areas.** Besides the CONNECT Our Future initiative, Centralina provides services in Community and Economic Development, Workforce Development, Aging and Regional Planning (land use, transportation and environmental/energy).
- 8** **Centralina also provides a wide range of affordable Technical Assistance services to help your community.** Members receive discounted rates on technical and management services such as: community planning, comprehensive land use, pedestrian/bike, park, and corridor planning; senior life-style planning and programming; downtown redevelopment; local government employee recruitment and selection; public engagement; board training and retreats; code enforcement; and grant writing and administration.
- 9** **Centralina members are critical to the organization.** As a member, you ARE the Centralina Council of Governments. Tell us about your community's challenges and the opportunities that you see for local governments to address issues more effectively, efficiently and affordably together. Let us help you get results through collaboration.
- 10** **You've Asked, We're Delivering – Centralina is listening to members.** We're listening to what you and your residents are telling us is important to your community and this region. We are looking at our services and developing and refining strategies to better help you achieve your local goals. More changes will be coming in the next year.

Centralina Council of Governments – Serving Local Governments in the Centralina Region



■ **CONNECT OUR FUTURE** – Working with the region to create a framework for growth & vitality based on what communities identify as existing conditions, future plans, needs, values & potential strategies. Funded by a \$4.9 million federal grant, and \$3 million in-kind public and private matching resources.

■ **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** – Leadership in workforce development ensuring the region can meet the needs of the current and emerging workforce.

- Designated Workforce Development Board for seven counties in the region, providing innovative workforce development strategies
- Developing a user-friendly, web-based regional platform for career seekers and career development professionals that provides a roadmap to skills training and rewarding careers in growing industries in our region, called Career Headlight
- Managed \$6.1 million in federal and state grants in 2012-2013
- Administers Workforce Investment Act funding to provide services for adults, dislocated workers, youth and incumbent workers
- Oversees eight Workforce Centers

■ **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Building collaborative partnerships to promote regional vitality through the growth of industry clusters, expanding economic and jobs activity, and the region's ability to compete nationally and globally.

- Staffs and administers the Centralina Economic Development Commission, the local Designated Economic Development District making public agencies eligible for U.S. EDA opportunities
- Completed and maintains the 2012-2017 Centralina Economic Development Strategy
- Completed region's Prosperity for Greater Charlotte Report and groundbreaking Jobs, Workforce, and Education Alignment Study
- Administers the Centralina Revolving Loan Fund, funded by U.S. EDA and the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund, to provide gap financing to small business enterprises
- Provides grant administration and management and is a conduit for other federal and state grants, including public facilities
- Provides community development services programs

■ **AREA AGENCY ON AGING** – Assisting communities to address the needs of older and disabled adults through innovative programming and enhancing the capacity of service and advocacy systems in the region.

- Designated Area Agency on Aging for the region, bringing innovative programming, training opportunities and accountability for federal and state funds
- Assists eligible older adults in retraining and finding employment through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (Title V)
- Provides individual and group advocacy on aging issues.
- Provides Options Counseling for consumers transitioning to and from long-term care to the community
- Managed \$10.9 million in federal and state grants in 2012-2013
- Assists residents of long-term care to protect the rights for quality of life through the Ombudsman Program
- Provides services for caregivers of older adults and grandparents through the Family Caregiver Support Program
- Promotes evidence-based health promotion programs to increase independence for individuals dealing with various health issues

■ **REGIONAL PLANNING** – Developing and managing partnerships that bring communities across the region together with other stakeholders to address shared planning challenges and grow the economy, control cost of government, and improve quality of life.

- Provides local government planning assistance including land use, pedestrian, small area and corridor plans; public engagement; board training and retreats; park, streetscape, and landscaping design; and grant writing assistance.
- Provides efficient and effective transportation services for the region's aging and disabled populations through the Mobility Management program, a collaboration between Centralina's Aging and Planning departments
- Maintains the Regional Data Center which provides data and maps from the U.S. Census and other data sources
- Administers/staffs and or operates regional programs such as the Lake Norman Rural Planning Organization, NC 73 Council of Planning, Lake Wylie and Mountain Island Lake Marine Commissions and the Regional Conference of Mayors
- Convenes and leads energy and environment programs in conjunction with federal, state, and local agencies and other partners; coordinates the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC) and is a member of U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program
- Administers grant funding to engage and involve the region and State in preparing for plug-in electric vehicle adoption and increased usage