

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 \$15 million in grants to the region.** In 2013-2014, approximately \$15 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** – *This region's first-ever Regional Growth Framework was developed with support of over 8,400 participants in two states and 14 counties. The Framework ensures an economically competitive region through collaboration and community based growth priorities. Over 75 best-practice tools are available to help communities reach their growth related goals. For more information, visit www.ConnectOurFuture.org.*

■ **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. First regional workforce board in NC
- 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 - Centralina Career Headlight
- Managed \$6.5 million in federal and state grants in 2014-2015
- Administers Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding to provide services for adults, dislocated workers, youth and incumbent workers
- Oversees operations for eight NCWorks Career Center

■ **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – *Building collaborative partnerships to promote regional economic vitality through the growth of target industry clusters, expanding jobs creation activities, and providing strategic competitive advantage to compete nationally and globally.*

- Staffs and administers the Centralina Economic Development Commission, the local Designated Economic Development District facilitating public agencies access for U.S. Commerce EDA funding opportunities
- Completed and implements the 2012-2017 Centralina Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), "Prosperity for Greater Charlotte Report" and groundbreaking Jobs, Workforce, and Education Alignment Study
- Completed and implements the 2015 Centralina Manufacturing Ecosystem Development Strategy (CMEDS) to support Advanced Industries workforce pipeline, R&D, supply chain analysis, and export/logistics growth for region.
- Received and facilitates a Lumina Foundation Community Postsecondary Attainment 2015-2016 grant for Greater Charlotte Region that will provide pilot project and system for internal existing industry workforce attainment and related college and K-12 pipeline alignment.
- Provides municipal management and grant administration services and is a regional conduit for other federal and state grants, including public facilities, water and wastewater improvements, and housing

■ **AREA AGENCY ON AGING** – *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 assistance for consumers transitioning to and from long-term care to the community
- Managed \$10.9 million in federal and state grants in 2014-2015
- Assists residents in long-term care by protecting their rights and quality of life through the Ombudsman Program
- Provides services for caregivers of older adults and grandparents raising grandchildren through the Family Caregiver Support Program
- Promotes evidence-based health programs to increase independence and self-management of individuals dealing with various health issues and reducing falls

■ **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
- 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
- Administers/staffs and or operates regional programs such as the NC 73 Council of Planning, Lake Wylie and Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission 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) Department of Energy's Clean Cities program