

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INVESTS \$400,000 IN CARES ACT FUNDING TO BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CRITICAL TO HELPING 5-COUNTY KERR TAR REGION OF NORTH CAROLINA RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS

Contact: EDA Public Affairs Department, (202) 482-4085
July 6, 2020



WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$400,000 CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, Henderson, North Carolina, to update economic development plans and fortify programs to assist communities in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

“The Trump Administration is eager to allocate these essential CARES Act funds and deliver on our promise to help American communities recover from the impact of COVID-19,” said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. “I am proud of the perseverance and strength shown by our communities coast to coast throughout this pandemic, and these funds will help provide North Carolina’s Kerr-Tar region with the necessary resources to make a swift and lasting economic comeback.”

“This investment comes at a crucial time to help North Carolina’s and our nation’s economy come roaring back and provide hard-working Americans with new opportunities,” said Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. “We are pleased to make this investment in the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments to support regional coronavirus response efforts by adding additional staff, providing robust data to support capacity building of regional stakeholders, and developing strategies to better equip the region to prepare for and respond to current and future economic disruptions.”

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD), is one of the more than 850 existing, high-performing EDA EDD, University Center, Tribal, and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant recipients invited to apply for supplemental funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The CARES Act, [signed into law](#) by President Donald J. Trump, provides EDA with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

On May 7, Secretary Ross announced that [EDA is accepting applications](#) for CARES Act Recovery Assistance funding opportunities.

EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance, which is being administered under the authority of the bureau’s flexible [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) (EAA) (PDF) program, provides a wide-range of financial assistance to eligible communities and regions as they respond to and recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. For complete information, please visit our recently updated [EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance page](#).

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.