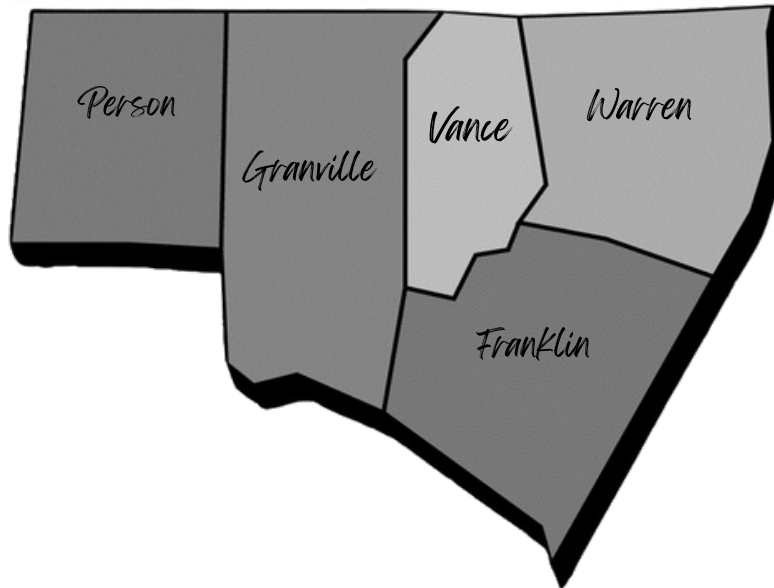


Kerr-Tar

Regional Council Of Governments



Digital Opportunity Regional Plan

The Kerr-Tar Digital Opportunity Regional Plan and the County Plans contained herein were developed under grant SLFRP0129, Assistance Number 21.027. The Institute for Emerging Issues is a part of the Digital Opportunity State Government Entity Grant program through NCDIT.

Table of Contents



Introduction	1
Acknowledgements	2
Digital Opportunity Planning	3-4
Survey Deployment & Data	5
Kerr-Tar Region Asset Map	6
Regional Alignment	7
Test Your Internet Speed	8
FCC Speed Test App	9
Morphic Bar App	10
Kerr-Tar Broadband Planning Committee	11
Franklin County	12
2024 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer Award	13
Granville County	14
Person County	15
Vance County	16
Warren County	17
Continuing the Work	18

Introduction

Project Team & Partners

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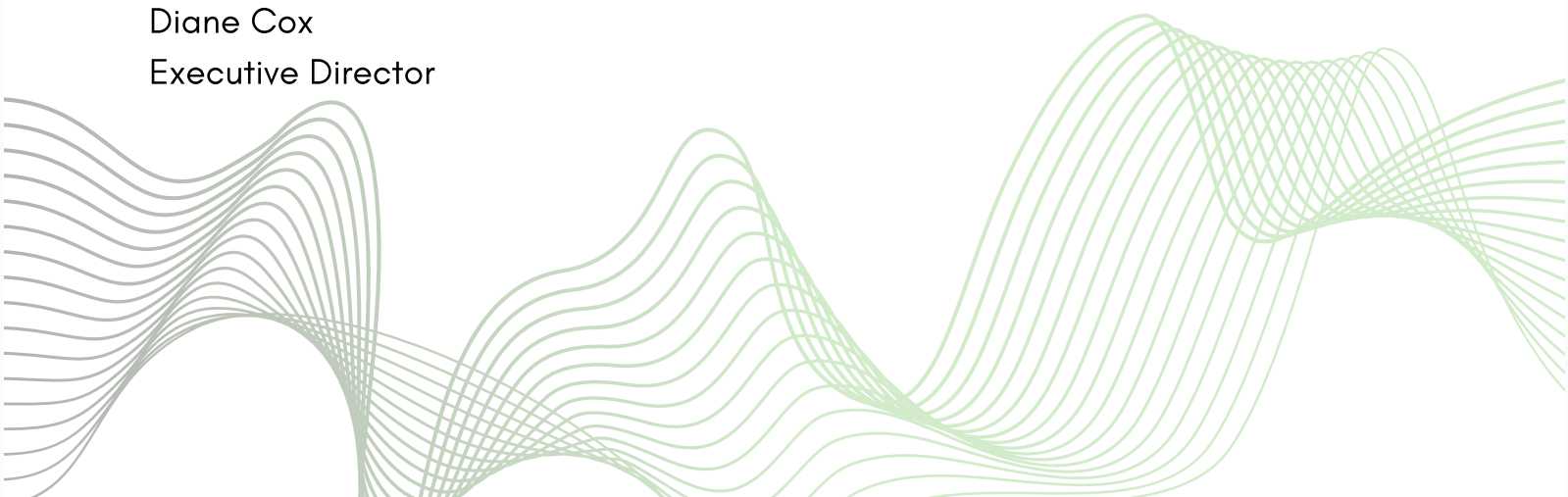
Diane Cox, Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

Message from the Executive Director

"Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments is pleased to present the Kerr-Tar Regional Digital Opportunity Plan to support alignment between the great state of North Carolina and the member governments we serve. The counties have formed tasks force to meet with our team over the last year to develop independent county plans that will support the needs of their communities. Our regional plan highlights the assets throughout the region, informational materials, and the beginning of implementation support for each county plan developed. Thank you to all who have made this project a success. We value your partnership and look forward to helping bridge the digital divide, together."

Diane Cox

Executive Director



Acknowledgements



[BAND-NC](#) has supported the project development by hosting a monthly meeting on Zoom to provide mentorship and peer support to our staff working in this space. These meetings has allowed for folks across the state to support one another and build on the previous success of others developing plans.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments joined as a National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) Affiliate to stay informed and have access to resources being developed across the United States. NDIA Affiliates total 2000+ in 50 states, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and 41 Tribal entities. More information can be found on the [NDIA Resource](#) page.



ACCESS TECH RESOURCES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Use the Tech Resource Finder and Dial 211 for help with:

- Finding public computers and Wi-Fi
- Digital skills classes
- Setting up an email

NCDIT  NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY



The State of North Carolina issued a [press release](#) on December 17, 2024 regarding the Tech Resource Finder. Users can search for local offerings by county, zip code or type of resource and can select a map view or table view. Each resource includes a description, address, website, contact information and directions. The division is also partnering with NC State University's William & Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation to keep the Tech Resource Finder's offerings up to date. As part of the division's partnership with the United Way/ NC 211, the Tech Resource Finder offerings will be integrated into the NC 211 system, so their trained community resource specialists can connect callers to these verified community sources. NC 211's service is available in most languages and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Digital Opportunity Survey & Plan Development

Our Mission

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments will provide technical assistance to local governments in the region to help local leaders support collaboration and develop County Plans to support the creation of the Kerr-Tar Regional Digital Opportunity Plan. To develop a robust digital plan for each county we need YOUR help! By taking this survey that was developed by the Friday Institute at NC State University, you help us better understand the needs of the community. This survey is a statewide data collection tool. Anyone you know who lives in our great state of North Carolina can help with this process by taking the brief survey. Thank you for supporting our efforts around digital opportunity for your community! Check out our growing [Kerr-Tar Regional Asset Map](#)!

County Libraries

County Libraries will support public access to Wi-Fi, devices, and digital literacy training. Libraries are a great resource for communities to access for digital literacy efforts!

Workforce Centers

Workforce Centers will be working with us to assess the current state of the access to digital literacy training for our region. Program development for the region will be one of our objectives in the planning process.

Agricultural Business

Cooperative Extension offices will be working with us to assess the needs of the Agricultural sector of the region, around access to broadband internet.

Senior Centers

Senior Centers (also known as Aging Centers) are working with us to assess aging residents 65 or older in their public access to Wi-Fi, devices, and training resources.

Community Nonprofits (NGOs)

We are working with local governments to identify community nonprofits in the region that have experience helping with community technology needs.

Priority Populations

Low-income, individuals in rural areas, veterans, aging residents (65 or older), re-entry workforce, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier, and individuals who are members of a minority group are a focus.



SURVEY

Community members take the survey. The data collected will support digital opportunity planning efforts for the Kerr-Tar region.



ANALYZE

Local governments will use the information collected from this survey to develop programs based on the equitable needs of the residents. Analysis will focus on the needs of priority populations.



PLAN

Each county for our region will develop their own County Digital Plan. These Plans will be publicly available once completed.



CALL:
919-750-0553
SCAN ME



Digital Opportunity Multi-Language Survey - NCBroadband.gov/Survey



[Kerr-Tar Region Asset Map](#)



www.kerrtarcog.org



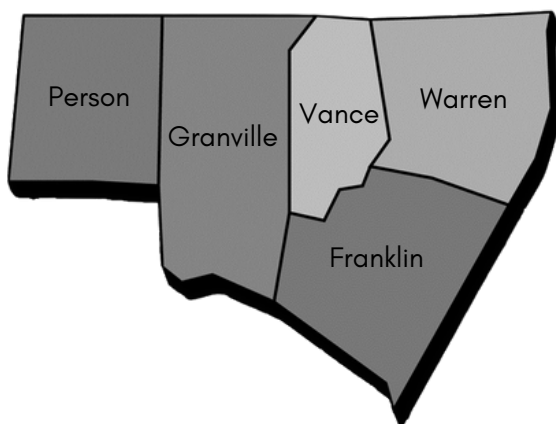
info@kerrtarcog.org

Why?

4

Digital opportunity impacts a community's ability to access broadband internet at their home or business, acquire digital literacy skills, and access to online information. Without broadband access to the internet K-12 students cannot complete their assignments at home, aging adults cannot view the lab results from their doctor, and members of the community cannot view their local government's website for upcoming events and information! Services are often limited in rural areas with lower access to internet, and businesses could greatly benefit from an online presence to attract new customers!

Counties We Serve



Home & Business Survey

The Home & Business survey is an optional survey that should be taken while logged onto the Wi-Fi at your home or business. This is so the survey can capture the speed of the internet you have at your home and/or business. This survey takes approximately five minutes to complete and can be used for future planning purposes.



Aging/Senior Centers

- Granville County Senior Center
- North Granville Senior Center-Stovall
- South Granville Senior Center-Creedmoor
- Vance County Senior Center
- Louisburg Senior Center
- Franklinton Senior Center
- Warren County Senior Center
- Person County Senior Center



Library Branches

- Franklin County Library
- Bunn Branch Library
- Franklinton Public Library
- Youngsville Public Library
- Richard H. Thorton Library
- Stovall Branch Library
- South Branch Library
- Berea Branch Library
- Person County Public Library
- Perry Memorial Library
- Warren County Memorial Library
- The Express Library at Wilton
- The Express Library at Oak Hill



Higher Education

- Piedmont Community College
- VGCC: Franklin County Campus
- Vance-Granville Community College
- VGCC: South Campus
- VGCC: Warren County Campus



NC Works Centers

- NCWorks Access Point for Warren County
- NCWorks Career Center
- NCWorks Access Point for Person County



Nonprofits (NGOs)

Nonprofits that would like to support the efforts around Kerr-Tar Digital Opportunity Planning would need to work with local government officials. If you are a nonprofit in the Kerr-Tar region, you may reach out to the Regional Project Manager, Amanda Lewis to start a conversation.



Public Transportation



Survey Deployment & Data

5

**SLOW internet?
NO internet?**
We need to know.

The N.C. Broadband Survey is designed to gather information on locations without adequate internet access and speeds in our community.



For Homes & Businesses
WITH Internet Service

Visit NCBroadband.gov/Survey
to take the survey now.



For Homes & Businesses
WITHOUT Internet Service

Text **"internet"** to **919-750-0553**.
Standard text messaging rates will apply.

**Your feedback directly impacts grant and
infrastructure funding in your community.**

NCDIT NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY
Broadband Infrastructure Office

The North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office, with the Friday Institute at NC State University, conducted a five-minute survey to gather data on internet connectivity for North Carolina households and businesses. The data was used to inform research, policy and funding recommendations to assist communities where internet access was found inadequate. The raw data for each county, can be viewed with the following links:



Franklin County



Granville County



Person County



Vance County



Warren County

Regional Alignment

Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren Counties all have unique alignment with the [State of North Carolina Digital Opportunity Plan](#). Regional alignment runs parallel to the state's plan with the exception to supporting Strategy 4, "Promote practices and leverage tools to ensure online privacy and security." The objectives within North Carolina's Digital Opportunity Plan focuses on statewide efforts. Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments has developed regional objectives for counties to support alignment at the local level. See below.

- **[KTRCOG] Promote cybersecurity importance to the communities served.**
- **[KTRCOG] Host cybersecurity training sessions for local government and community-based organizations.**

Granville County:

- Goal 4, Objective 1 – Promote cybersecurity importance through classes, handouts, and communication to the Granville County communities.
- Goal 6, Objective 2 – Host cybersecurity training sessions with Digital Navigators and Digital Agents.

Vance County:

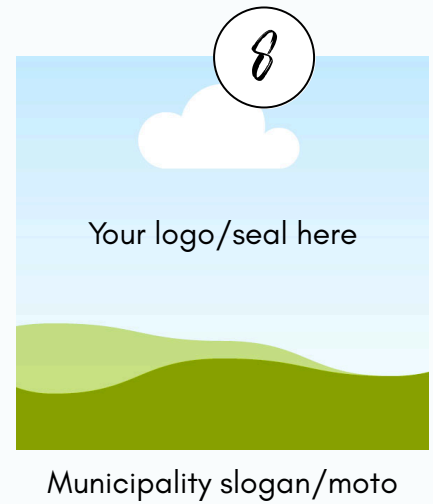
- Goal 3, Objective 3 – Keep residents of Vance County informed of what the Vance County Digital Opportunity Task Force is doing for them through various means.
- Goal 2, Objective 1 – Engage new entities who are providing access to digital literacy. Including digital privacy, cybersecurity, and digital health.

Warren County:

- Goal 3, Objective 1 – Host free, online or in-person Cybersecurity Awareness Workshops for residents and businesses on topics such as recognizing phishing emails, creating strong passwords, and securing home and/or business networks.
 - Metric: Four workshops in the first year; target attendance of 15 participants per session.
- Goal 3, Objective 2 – Collaborate with local schools and the library to provide cybersecurity resource handouts and/or short training sessions integrated with their existing technology programs.
 - Metric: Track participation with a goal of engaging 100 residents in the first year.

Test Your Internet Speed!

Residents of [Town/City/County], did you know in 2024 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to reclassify internet access service as a Title II telecommunications service? The current proposed speed designation is *100 mbps download* and *20 mbps upload* speed.



Case Study Overview

The Federal Communication Commission's [Measuring Broadband America Program](#) resulted from a recommendation in the National Broadband Plan to improve the availability of information for consumers about their broadband service. The FCC works with industry, academia, public interest organizations and others to develop open and transparent ways to measure broadband performance. The *FCC Speed Test App* is a crowd-sourced smartphone app that measures mobile broadband performance throughout the United States. Volunteers share information about their handsets and operating systems, and the app measures the speed and performance of their broadband connection.

Source:

<https://www.citizenscience.gov/fcc-speed-test/#>

Town Hall Meetings:

Upcoming demonstrations are being offered to support the community. The [Town/City/County] community is here to help! Get help answering your questions and walk you through how to download and test your internet speed, using the app!

[month] [day], 2025

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

ADA Accessible parking & entrance

[month] [day], 2025

[Address Line 1]

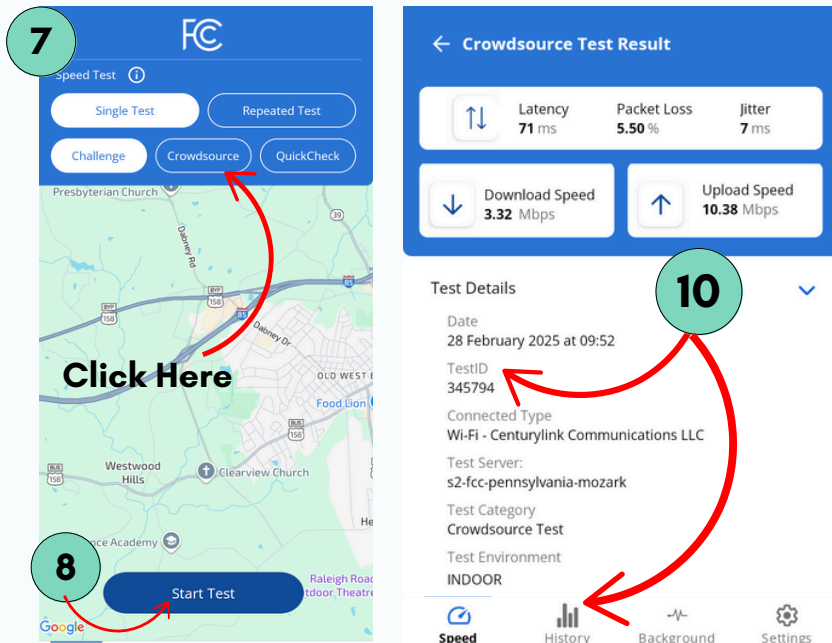
[Address Line 2]

Not ADA Accessible

FCC Speed Test

<https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/speed-test-app>

How to Test Your Wi-Fi Speed



How to Contest Wired Broadband Connection:

1. Visit website: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/>
2. Type in the address of the location
3. Make sure you have selected "Fixed Broadband" on the right side menu.
4. Select "Availability Challenge" and answer the prompts
5. Use the FCC Speed Test App's "Single Test" "Crowdsource" option and download the speed test data to submit into the 'Availability Challenge'

10 Easy Steps

1. Download the FCC Speed Test App.
2. Allow permissions for the app.
3. Connect to WiFi you want to test.
4. Go to "Settings" and then "User Information" to create your account.
5. Once you have provided the information hit "Confirm & Continue."
6. Go to "Speed" and a map should appear with testing options.
7. Select "Single" and "Crowdsource"
8. Select "Start Test", then "Confirm & Continue", then "Indoor."
9. Wait for the speed test to run.
10. Record the "TestID" or select "History" and then "Crowdsource."

Download the app here:



FCC information:

YouTube video mobile speed test:

<https://youtu.be/YnhzTznIamo>

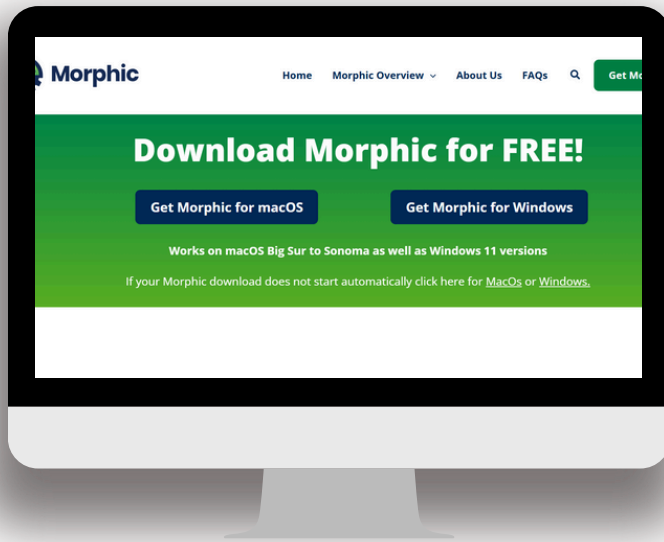


Morphic

<https://www.morphic.org>

10

Accessibility Tools on Your Desktop!



How to install the Morphic Bar:

1. Visit website: www.morphic.org/download
2. Select if you have an Apple (MacOS) or PC (Windows).
3. The file will appear in your downloads folder.
4. Double click the "MorphicSetup" file.
5. Read through the End User License Agreement.

With Morphic you can:

1. Increase or decrease the font size of anything on your screen.
2. Turn your cursor into a magnifying glass.
3. Take a picture of anything on your screen and paste it somewhere else.
4. Have your computer read on-screen text aloud to you.
5. Increase color contrast on your screen.
6. Change your screen's lighting to be gentler for your eyes.
7. Customize Morphic for easy access to tools and pages you use frequently.

Download the Morphic Bar here:

[Get Morphic for MacOS](#)

[Get Morphic for Windows](#)



Kerr-Tar

Regional Council Of Governments

Broadband Planning Committee

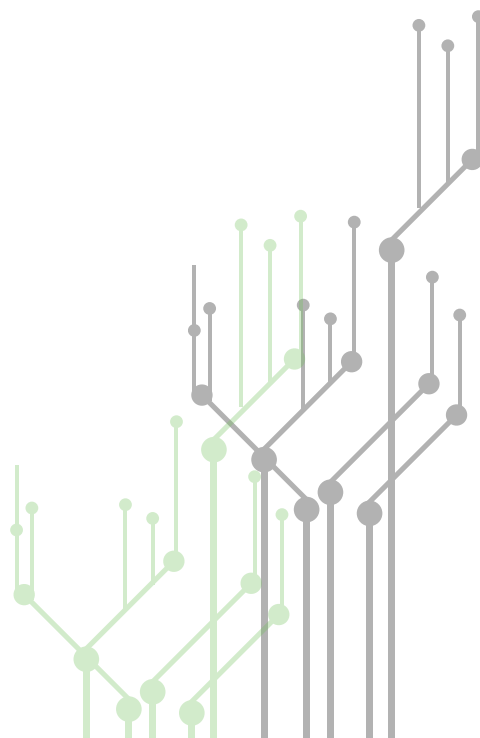
Internet and Training for all

The Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee will consist of an actively engaged group that will:

- Brainstorm regionalism through the lens of Digital Opportunity
- Support Broadband infrastructure improvements
- Support implementation of the Kerr-Tar Regional Digital Opportunity Plan
- Maintain and update of the Kerr-Tar Regional Digital Opportunity Plan when Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren have updated their county level plans on a regular basis (optional annually or required by 2030).

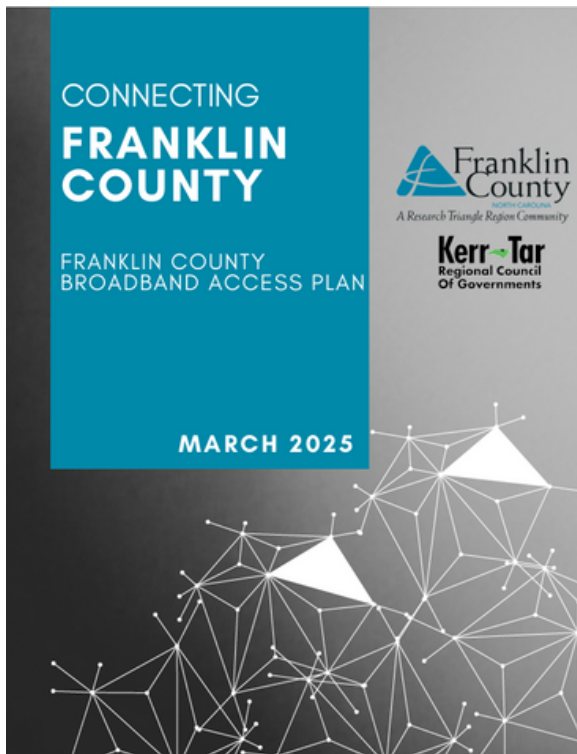
Committee Members: The proposed structure of the Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee will designate sixteen seats that promote opportunities from identified voices in the region:

Franklin County
Granville County
Person County
Vance County
Warren County
Healthcare
Farm/Agriculture
Veteran
Information Technology
Education (K-12)
Higher Education (VGCC)
Higher Education (PCC)
Nonprofit
Small Business
Faith Leader
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments



Franklin County

12

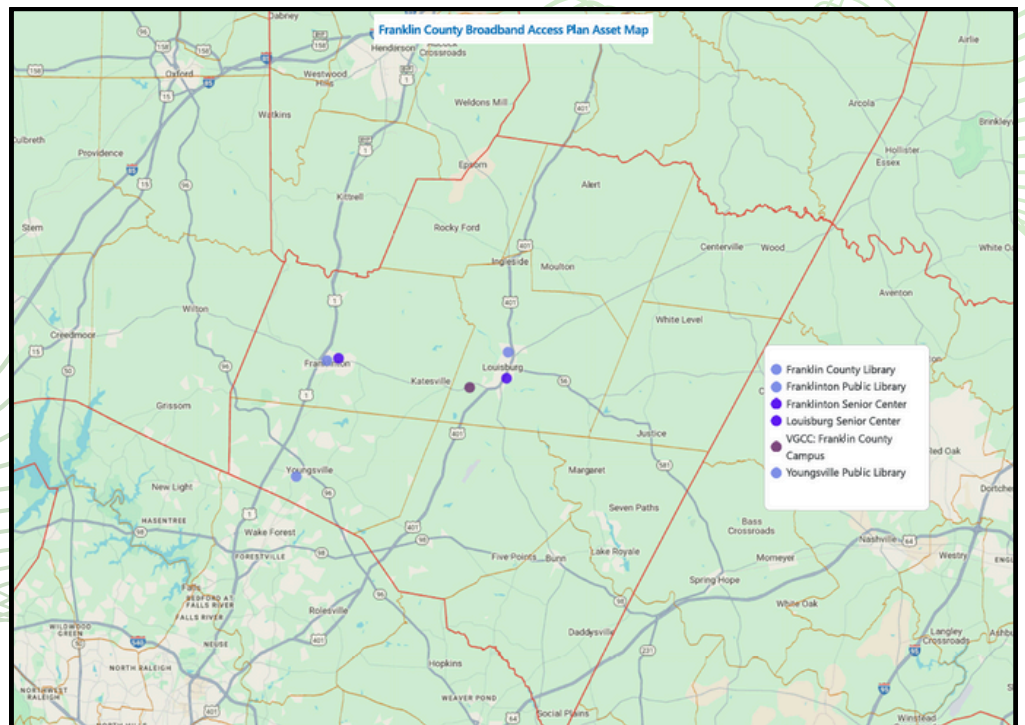


Franklin County Broadband Access Plan
Click the plan to read more

The Franklin County Broadband Access Plan was developed between Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and Franklin County staff. Franklin County took the lead on the detailed development of the plan, once the Franklin County Stakeholder Engagement meeting was held on May 13th, 2024. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners adopted the plan on March 17th, 2025. On May 19th, 2025, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners approved the Implementation Budget of \$7,500 to purchase ten 2-in-1 laptops and software annual subscriptions for both Franklin County Senior Centers to support senior citizens receiving training. In the tablet configuration, the larger screen size will allow senior citizens to become more knowledgeable of mobile phone/ mobile device use in an easier to read format with touchscreen capabilities for those unable to utilize a mouse and keyboard. This device option will hopefully encourage senior citizens to engage with digital technology devices that are less intimidating and easier to use than traditional computers.

Need Directions?

Check out the
[Franklin County](#)
[Digital](#)
[Opportunity](#)
[Planning](#)
map!



Source: randymajors.org was used to generate the Franklin County Broadband Access Plan Asset Map using the Google KML file, updated in June 2025.



**GRANVILLE COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Thornton Branch | South Branch | Stovall Branch | Berea Branch

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) has named Granville County as a 2024 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer.

Trailblazers provide models for other local governments to aspire to as communities build greater access to digital resources. Granville County achieved Trailblazer status by prioritizing digital inclusion for residents of their communities through:

- Developing and adopting a digital inclusion plan with input from all five municipalities and other community partners.
- Working collaboratively with Granville County Schools, local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and county departments to provide innovative access to digital resources including technology classes, Wi-Fi router lending programs, and laptop lending programs.
- Purchasing equipment, including braille keyboards, for all four library branches to provide digital access for vision impaired residents.
- Purchasing mobile device charging lockers to ensure those who utilize library branches for internet access can use their devices safely and securely throughout the day.

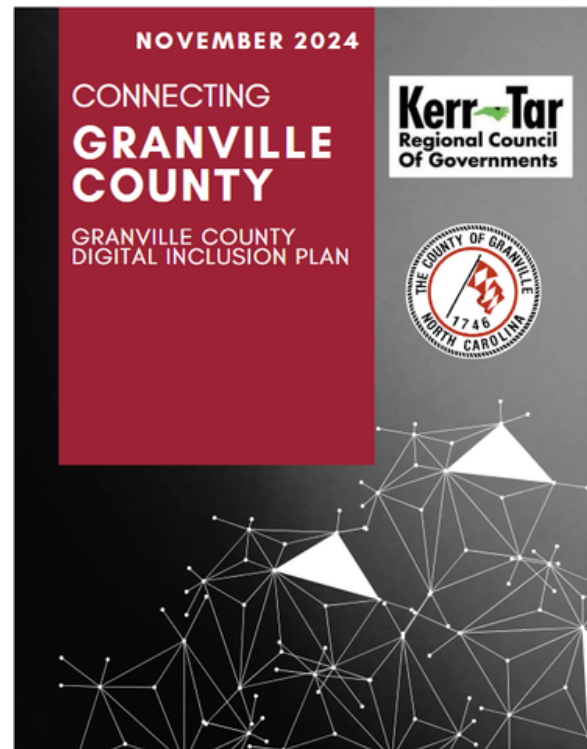
"The Granville County Board of Commissioners and our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that no Granville resident is left behind in this digital age," said Chair of the Granville County Board of Commissioner Jimmy Gooch. "This recognition from NDIA shows that our efforts are making an impact and serving as model for local governments across the country."

For more information about the 2024 Trailblazer award winners, visit the NDIA website:

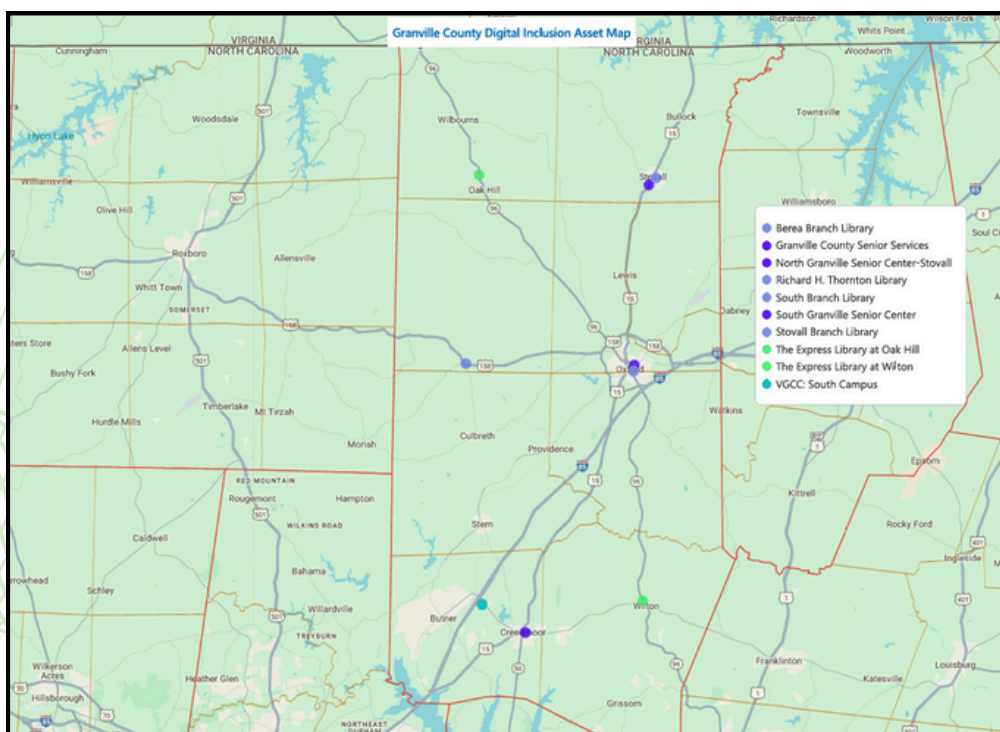
www.digitalinclusion.org/digital-inclusion-trailblazers-2024/

Granville County

The Granville County Digital Inclusion Plan was developed between Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and the Granville County Digital Inclusion Taskforce. The Granville County Digital Inclusion Taskforce met with Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments regularly to develop the plan. On April 18th, 2024, Granville County hosted a Stakeholder Engagement session to develop the Vision, Mission, and Values, contribute information, share previous broadband work, and support plan detail refinement. The Granville County Board of Commissioners approved the plan on November 18th, 2024. The Implementation Budget of \$7,500 was used to purchase equipment for the Granville County Library system; one cell phone charging locker, one braille keyboard, eight trackball mice, four assistive learning tools, four adaptive and braille keyboards, six braille keyboard stickers, and four adaptive keyboards. All of the specialized equipment will help residents of the community have access to technology in the public libraries throughout Granville County.



Granville County Digital Inclusion Plan
Click the plan to read more



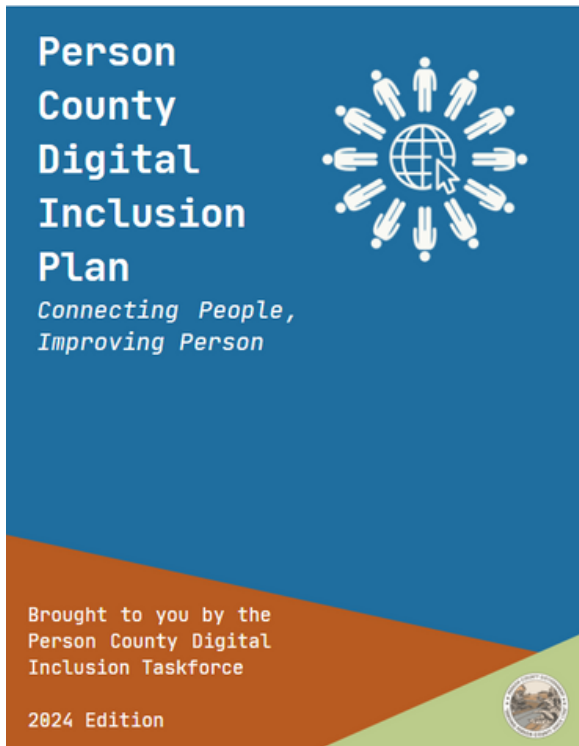
Need Directions?

Check out the

[Granville County](#)
[Digital](#)
[Opportunity](#)
[Planning](#)
 map!

Source: randymajors.org was used to generate the Granville County Digital Inclusion Asset Map using the Google KML file, updated in June 2025.

Person County

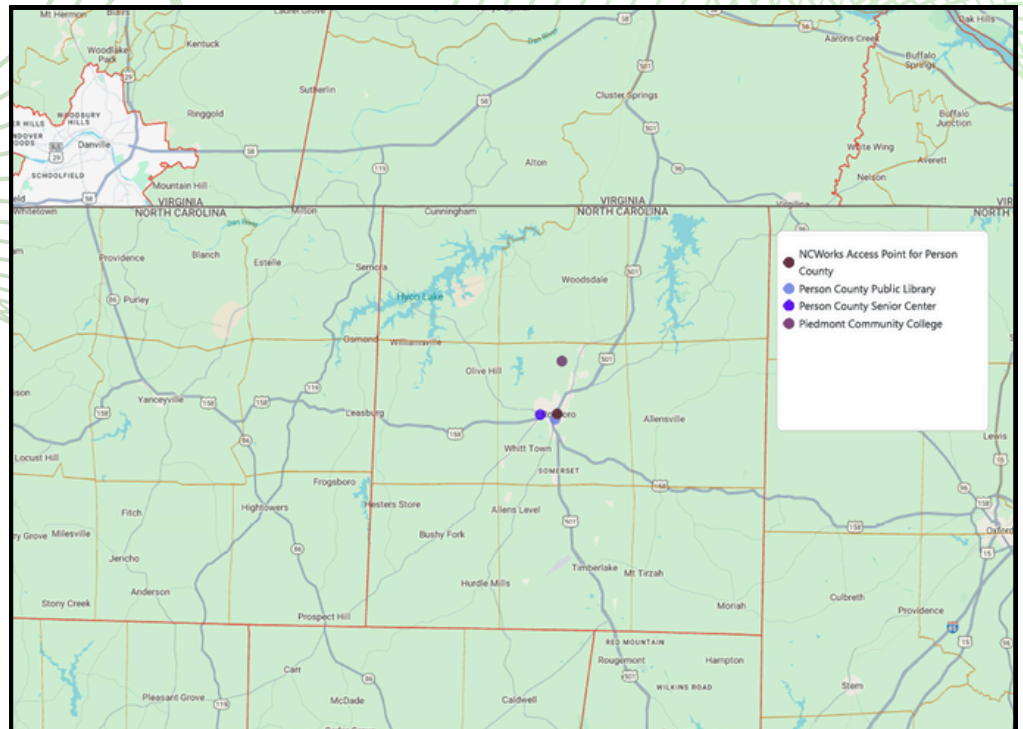


The Person County Digital Inclusion Plan was developed by the Person County Digital Inclusion Taskforce. Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments provided support upon request to Person County during the plan development, providing resources that could be used. Person County's Board of Commissioners adopted the Person County Digital Inclusion Plan on January 21st, 2025. During the presentation, the Person County Digital Inclusion Committee shared that the plan is a living document. Implementation funds for Person County with a proposed budget approved for the \$7,500 will be used to purchase equipment for the Person County Public Library. These items include a Smart TV, two iPads, Mac mini, five keyboards, and a laptop for patron use.

Person County Digital Inclusion Plan
Click the plan to read more

Need Directions?

Check out the
Person County
Digital
Opportunity
Planning
 map!



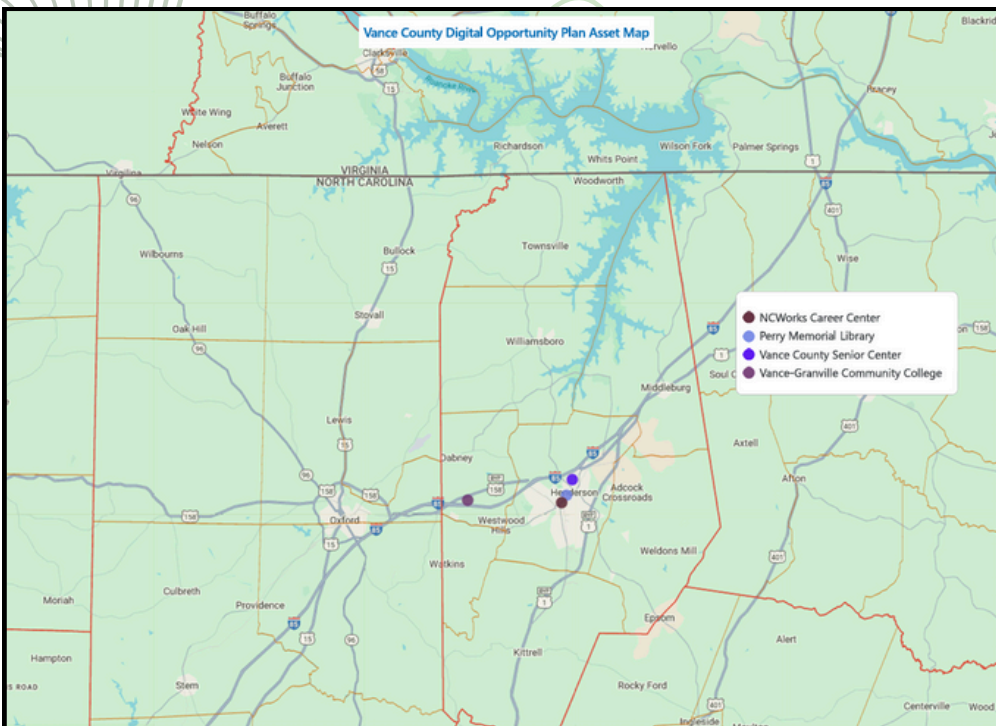
Source: randymajors.org was used to generate the Person County Digital Inclusion Asset Map using the Google KML file, updated in June 2025.

Vance County

The Vance County Digital Opportunity Plan was developed between Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and Vance County staff. The Vance County Stakeholder engagement session helped refresh the previous plan, developed in 2022 by HUBZone Technology Initiative. During the meeting stakeholders refined the Vision, Mission, and Values. The Vance County Board of Commissioners approved the Vance County Digital Opportunity Plan on June 2nd, 2025. Implementation funds are available for Vance County to begin the Implementation phase, once a proposed budget is approved for the \$7,500 available mini grant.



Vance County Digital Opportunity Plan
Click the plan to read more



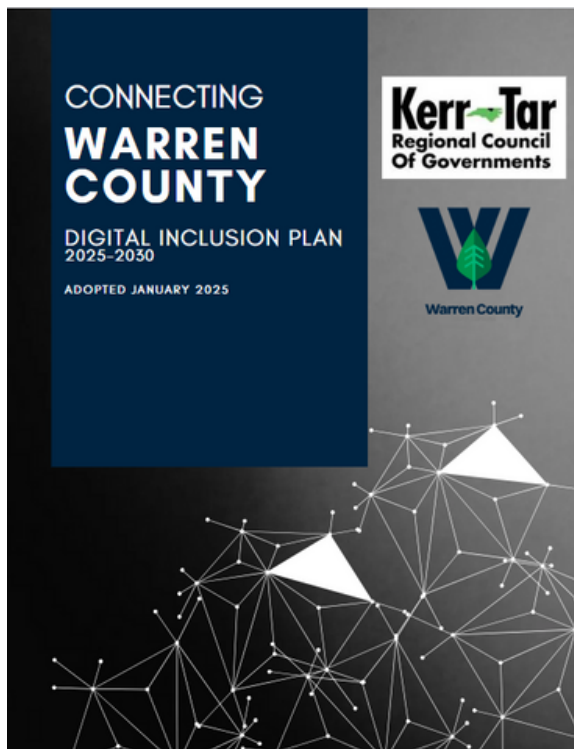
Need Directions?

Check out the
[Vance County](#)
[Digital](#)
[Opportunity](#)
[Planning](#)
 map!

Source: randymajors.org was used to generate the Vance County Digital Opportunity Asset Map using the Google KML file, updated in June 2025.

Warren County

17

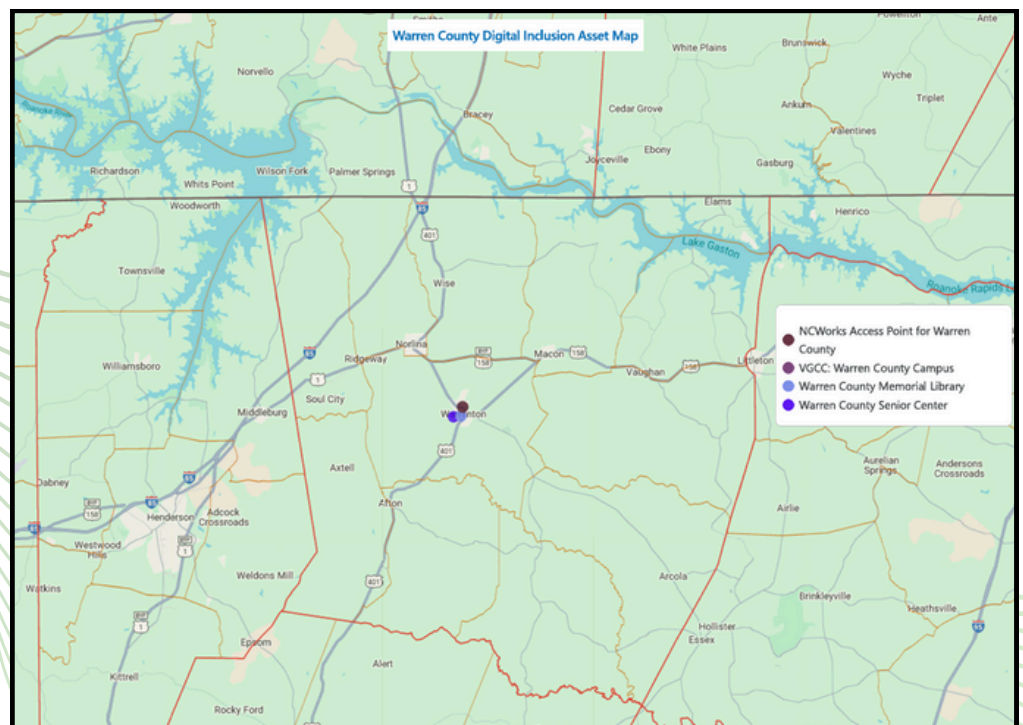


The Warren County Digital Inclusion Plan was developed between Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and the Warren County Digital Inclusion Task Force. Warren County Stakeholder Engagement meeting was held on April 26th, 2025, to have stakeholders participate in multiple group discussions to help develop the Vision, Mission, and Values for the plan. The Warren County Board of Commissioners adopted the plan on January 13th, 2025. The Implementation Budget was approved by the Warren County Board of Commissioners on June 2nd, 2025. The \$7,500 has been allocated to purchase a smart board for the senior center, ten pairs of headphones for the library, two iPads for Community and Economic Development, and one large screen projector for county staff use.

Warren County Digital Inclusion Plan
Click the plan to read more

Need Directions?

Check out the
[Warren County](#)
[Digital](#)
[Opportunity](#)
[Planning](#)
map!



Source: randymajors.org was used to generate the Warren County Digital Inclusion Asset Map using the Google KML file, updated in June 2025.

Continuing the Work

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments has partnered with HUBZone Technology Initiative to help distribute laptops to members of the community. This partnership was formed to help distribute refurbished laptops to members of the communities we serve. An initial twenty-five laptops were provided to the Area Agency on Aging department to distribute to through the Digital Navigator program, supporting senior centers across the Kerr-Tar Region. The Digital Navigator Program supports the Kerr-Tar region and Upper Coastal Plain region, totaling a ten-county service area.

 Learn basic computer skills

 Get to know your mobile phone

 Choose the right internet service plan

 Be informed when shopping for devices

 Surf and text safely and securely

 Get healthcare online with Telehealth apps



Kerr-Tar
Area Agency on Aging
Your Anchor for Aging

Your Digital Navigator is Here to Help!

Our Ageless Access Program aims to guide older adults in North Carolina as they engage in the digital community with ease and security. Join us for a digital skills class, schedule a one-on-one tech training session, or let us assist you in finding an affordable, reliable device or home internet service. Whether you want to interact with family and friends on Facebook, schedule a doctor's appointment on My Chart, view your online bank statement, or start writing your memoir in Microsoft Word, your local Digital Navigator can show you how!

 **Randi Bowen, Digital Navigator**
 (919)725-8762
 digitalnavigator@kerrtarcog.org
 www.kerrtarcog.org



During the project period of performance, Regional Project Manager, Amanda Lewis, submitted a proposal to the USDA Broadband Technical Assistance grant program. While not awarded, the proposal has useful information pertaining to the Kerr-Tar Region and may support future planning efforts around broadband infrastructure. In light of this geographical based data analysis, the staff have elected to make this proposal public. The not-awarded USDA BTA proposal for the [Kerr-Tar Rural Development project](#) proposal is available for all to review on our website and should be considered in future planning efforts.

Continuing the Work

Information that was obtained from national convenings has been shared below. These data sources, and financing models may support various projects that will address broadband infrastructure planning and support innovative ideas to support the counties we serve. While this is not an exhaustive list, it has been made available to help bridge the digital divide across the Kerr-Tar region. Thank you for your consideration.

Municipal Broadband and Innovative Financing Models: Unlocking Economic Growth

- YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLh8rDqIt9g>
- Examples from presentation:
 - <https://fairlawngig.net>
 - <https://www.ecfiber.net>
 - <https://ecvtd.gov/>
 - <https://emma.msrb.org/>
 - <https://communitynets.org/reports/neighborly-networks-vermonts-approach-community-broadband>
 - <https://www.benton.org/publications/public-broadband-handbook>
 - <https://www.aapb.us/membership>

Data Resources

- North Carolina Census Data: <https://data.census.gov/table?q=North%20Carolina>
- National Geospatial Data Assets: geoplatform.gov
- County Highlights from Map Book: <https://ncacc.org/research-and-publications/research/county-data-and-information>
- County Resilience Profiles: <https://carolinaacross100.unc.edu/data/county-profiles/>
- myFutureNC Attainment Profiles: <https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/>

