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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 5

Cinco De Mayo Holiday

MAY 10

Mother's Day Holiday

MAY 20

RAAC/STHL Meeting at 2pm

MAY 21

RPO TAC/TCC Meeting at 3pm

MAY 25

Memorial Day

MAY 28

KTRCOG Board Meeting at 6:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings

Please join us for the Kerr-Tar Regional Planning Organization TAC/TCC Meeting at the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Office on Thursday, May 21st, at 3pm.

Interested in the Regional Aging Advisory Council & NC Senior Tarheel Legislature Meeting will be held at the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Office on Wednesday, May 20th, at 2pm!

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments will be hosting its full board meeting on Thursday, May 28th, at 6:30pm! Dinner will be served to participants.

The Workforce Development Board Meeting will be held at the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Office on Tuesday, June 9th at 6pm.

Interested in attending any upcoming meetings? Our [calender](#) is updated continously! Don't forget to subscribe to our monthly newsletter editions!

Have any questions, comments, or concerns? Feel free to call or email us anytime on Monday-Friday from 8:30am-5pm!

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Henderson, NC 27536
(252) 436-2040
info@kerrtarcog.org

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UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Monday, May 4th, 2026



**Cinco De Mayo -
Tuesday, May 5th**

**Mother's Day -
Sunday, May 10th**

**Memorial Day -
Monday, May 25th**

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a special time to honor mothers, mother figures, caregivers, grandmothers, and all those who provide love, support, and guidance. We recognize and appreciate the meaningful role they play in families and communities every day.

Cinco De Mayo

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican victory at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Today, it is often celebrated as a time to recognize Mexican culture, heritage, resilience, food, music, and traditions. It is also a great reminder to honor the diverse cultures that strengthen our communities.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. As we observe this day, we reflect with gratitude on their sacrifice and the freedoms they helped protect.



As we move through the month of May, we encourage everyone to take time to celebrate culture, honor family, and remember those who served with courage and sacrifice.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED A CLOSEOUT NOTICE FROM TREASURY?



“Closeout Notices” are being emailed by the US Treasury to some local governments for ARPA SLFRF Funds. The email notice lets you know you have the option to close out your ARPA funds. If you are ready to close out:

- First, log in to your Treasury portal using your existing ID and login credentials.
- Then follow the straightforward steps to complete your close out certification. It does not take long.
- Keep a copy of your work for your ARPA records.

The only local governments receiving these notices will be those that indicated in their last year’s (April 2025) Treasury Report that they have fully expended their ARPA funds and are ready to close out.

According to the email from Treasury: **“Treasury encourages your community to utilize the resources below to successfully close out the SLFRF award as soon as possible. Recipients who initiate the award closeout in the portal are no longer required to submit Project & Expenditure (P&E) Reports. Note: Recipients who do not initiate program closeout are required to continue to submit required reports”**

If you have received a Closeout Notice, and would like assistance with logging in to the Treasury portal and/or closing out your funds, feel free to reach out to

KATIE CONNER AT
KCONNER@KERRTARCOG.ORG

Ashley Zuniga Joins the Kerr-Tar Regional COG as Regional Program Coordinator



We are pleased to announce that Ashley Zuniga has joined the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments on April 16, 2026 as the Regional Program Coordinator!

Ashley received a Bachelor’s in Social Work with a minor in Hispanic studies from East Carolina University in May 2024. She most recently worked as a Patient Services Representative with Rural Health Group in Henderson, NC. Ashley will manage the Safe Routes to Schools program and assist with communications for the Kerr-Tar Regional COG.

Ashley can be reached at azuniga@kerrtarcog.org.

Join us in welcoming Ashley to the team!

DEADLINES TO COMPLY WITH ADA WEB ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS EXTENDED BY ONE YEAR

Across the country, state and local governments have been working for months to get their web content into compliance with an April 24, 2024, Department of Justice (DOJ) rule that revised regulations under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act related to digital accessibility (the “2024 Rule”).

The [2024 Rule](#) established technical requirements for state and local governments’ web content and mobile apps. Some government entities were required to begin complying with the 2024 Rule as of the end of this week—April 24. Today, the Department of Justice officially published a new interim final rule that extends the 2024 Rule’s compliance deadlines (an unpublished version was released on Friday). The April 20 interim final rule is available here: [Federal Register: Extension of Compliance Dates for Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities](#)

For State and local government entities with a total population of 50,000 or more, the compliance deadline has been extended from April 24, 2026 to April 26, 2027. For public entities with a total population of less than 50,000, and any special district government, the compliance deadline is extended from April 26, 2027 to April 26, 2028. In each case, government entities now have an additional year to comply with the 2024 Rule’s web accessibility requirements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NCDOR Distribution Team at 919-814-1118 or via [email](#).

THE 10TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE FLEET TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



The 10th Annual Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference will be held at the Durham Convention Center in Durham, NC August 25-27, 2026.

Mark your calendars and join us along with other leading fleets and technology providers to share industry ideas, trends, strategies and technologies that will improve the efficiency and sustainability of fleet operations. The event will include keynote presentations, 70+ speakers, breakout sessions, indoor vehicle and equipment displays, and plenty of networking opportunities.

[Register now](#) and save with special \$349 Early Bird pricing! (Ends July 10)



KERR-TAR SENIOR GAMES

The Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games are in full swing. Participants are competing daily in activities in all of our five counties. Both Erwin Braswell and Charvester Williams won medals at this year's Billiards Competition (photos attached). Silver Arts, which is on Friday, May 15, will conclude this year's program. If you want to serve on next year's Senior Games Planning Committee, please reach out to Michael Patterson mpatterson@kerrtarcog.org or Crystal Allen callen@kerrtarcog.org.



ELDER EDUCATION ON SCAMS

The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging staff presented at Plink Chapel United Methodist Church Senior Circle. We discussed both digital and medical scams as well as more general information about caregiving and elder abuse awareness.



SENIOR TARHEEL LEGISLATURE

The Kerr-Tar Regional Aging Advisory Committee and the Senior Tar Heel Legislature Delegation will meet on Wednesday, May 27 at 2 PM. These volunteers gather to be more knowledgeable about senior issues in our region as well as to inform the Area Agency on Aging about local interests. If you want more information about the meeting or ways you can be engaged, please contact Alan Winstead awinstead@kerrtarcog.org.

CHAMPION YOUR HEALTH

OLDER
AMERICANS
MONTH

MAY 2026



MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH!

We have recognized older Americans contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm our commitment to serving older adults in our communities during the month of May since 1963.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2026 is “Champion Your Health”. Healthy aging covers both physical and mental health.

Older adults can play an active role in advocating for themselves, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.

The Senior Centers in our area can help promoting social connections, providing nutritious meals, and planning physical activities.

Alan Winstead
KTRCOG Area Agency on Aging Director
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awinstead@kerrtarcog.org



SHIIP

SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM

N.C. Department of Insurance • Mike Causey, Commissioner
855-408-1212 (toll free) • www.ncdoi.gov

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH!

Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. Nearly one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition. Those living with mental health conditions are our family, friends, classmates, neighbors, and coworkers.

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

Mental health care includes services and programs to help diagnose and treat mental health conditions. These services and programs may be provided in outpatient and inpatient settings. Medicare helps cover outpatient and inpatient mental health care, as well as prescription drugs you may need to treat a mental health condition.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CRYSTAL ALLEN: 252-436-2040



2026 REGION K ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

Conference & Walk

Friday, June 12, 2026

10:00 am-2:00 pm



FREE
& Open to
the Public

Warren County Armory
Convention Center
501 US Hwy 158 Bus E,
Warrenton, NC 27589

Free t-shirts, lunch,
& goodies
available
(while supplies last)

Wear **PURPLE & SILVER** to show the world you care about ending elder abuse and/or decorate your vehicle, in support. We will recognize each participant that displays their support for Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention.

Thanks to our sponsors!



SAVE THE DATE!



Kerr-Tar Regional Economic Development Summit Thursday, October 8, 2026

McGregor Hall Performing Arts Center
Henderson, NC 27536

Platinum



PERSON COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to our sponsors!

Venue Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Contact Desiree Brooks at
252-436-2040 or
dbrooks@kerrtarco.org
to learn about
other sponsorship opportunities!

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Childcare Summit To Be Held April 8, 2027

A strong childcare system supports economic growth by attracting employers, increasing productivity, and building a reliable workforce. At the same time, providers face staffing shortages and low wages, reducing available care and deepening the crisis. Childcare also plays a key role in early childhood development, helping ensure children are prepared for school and long-term success.

The Kerr-Tar Regional Childcare Summit will address these challenges and focus on innovative, achievable solutions to strengthen childcare access, support providers, and drive economic growth in the region. **SAVE THE DATE** and stay tuned for more information!



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The U.S. Census Bureau released version 4.26.1 of OnTheMap for Emergency Management. Version 4.26.1 updates American Community Survey tabulations to the 2020-2024 5-year estimates and Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) data to 2023.



OnTheMap for Emergency Management provides real-time access to a range of detailed Census Bureau data about the people living and working in areas affected by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, winter storms, and federal disaster declaration areas.

Explore our OnTheMap for Emergency Management data tool and our help and documentation resources.

DEQ FLOOD RESILIENCY BLUEPRINT

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Flood Resiliency Blueprint program (Blueprint) held a public information session on March 25 to provide an overview of the state’s science-based and stakeholder-driven flood mitigation planning initiative.

The meeting provided information on the program’s online decision support tool and the ongoing development of River Basin Action Strategies. The Blueprint is designed to support the planning, evaluation, and implementation of flood resilience strategies. It is the largest proactive statewide flood mitigation investment in North Carolina history, equipping local governments, the state, and supporting organizations with data, tools, and processes to guide strategic investments to reduce flood risk, fund priority projects, and address gaps in mitigation efforts.

Since 2024, the Blueprint has funded 81 flood resilience projects totaling more than \$40 million in the six river basins designated by the NC General Assembly: Neuse, French Broad, White Oak, Tar Pamlico, Cape Fear, and Lumber.

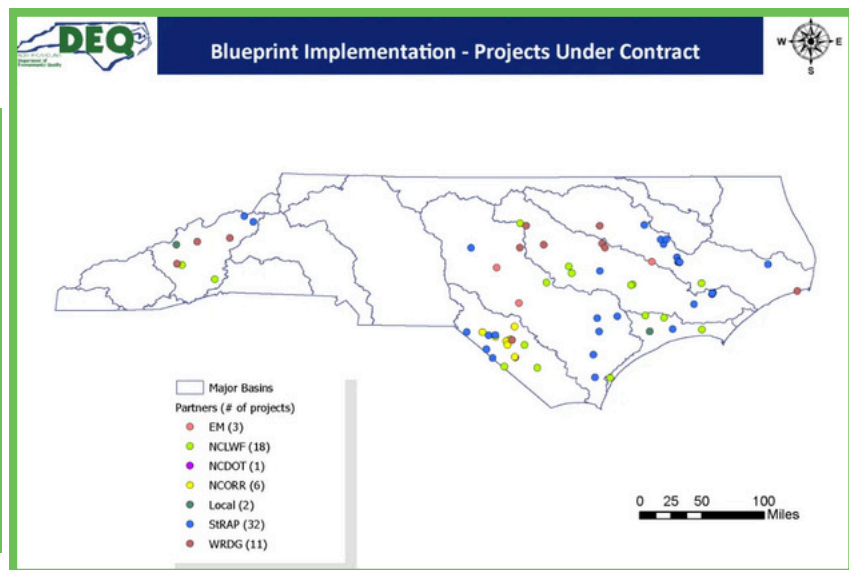


The online decision support tool, or Blueprint tool, is a data- and model-driven GIS-enabled web application designed to:

- Provide users with accurate, data-driven flood risk and vulnerability assessments
- Allow users to explore, develop, and define flood resilience actions
- Help users to evaluate and prioritize effective flood resilience actions

The program will also deliver a River Basin Action Strategy for each basin. The action strategy will include a set of projects and funding strategies aimed at reducing flooding, lessening damage, and strengthening communities’ long-term resilience – their ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover quickly from future disasters.

To learn more about the Blueprint, click [here](#).





WALK BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL

National Bike & Roll to School Day is May 6, 2026, and [registration](#) is now open!

Simply click the link in this message, and sign up in less than 30 seconds!

While May 6 is this year's official date, communities are welcome to celebrate any May day (and any way) that best fits their schedules and local needs.

Why Are Walk/Bike & Roll to School Days Important for Children?

According to the Walk, Bike & Roll to School initiative, Walk/Bike & Roll to School Day events help communities address important issues such as improving safer and more walkable routes to school, strengthening school spirit, and encouraging families to choose walking or biking for the school commute more often. Many of these events are part of year-round efforts to promote student walking, bicycling, and rolling.

These events can also inspire communities to make policy and engineering improvements that increase pedestrian and bicycle safety near schools. In 2021, 65% of event organizers reported that their event led to planned or completed policy or engineering changes, and nearly 40% used their event to highlight road safety needs within their communities.

Ashley Zuniga

KTRCOG Regional Program Coordinator for Safe Routes to School

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YOUNG ADULT HIRING EVENT

The Young Adult Hiring Event (YAHE) 2026 Job Fair was a tremendous success, bringing together students and employers from across the region for a day of connection, opportunity, and engagement.

With several hundred students in attendance and over 19 employers on site, the event created a dynamic environment for career exploration and workforce connections.

The Kerr-Tar Region was well represented, specifically with participation from Person, Vance, Franklin, and Granville County Schools, along with Vance Charter School, Kittrell Job Corps, Vance-Granville Community College.

Employers representing all counties offered a wide range of career pathways and workforce opportunities, providing students with valuable exposure to local industries and direct access to hiring professionals.

Students were highly engaged throughout the event—asking questions, participating in conversations, and exploring potential career options. The energy in the room reflected a strong interest in workforce readiness and future employment opportunities.

We extend our sincere thanks to all participating employers, educators, and partners who helped make this event such a meaningful and impactful experience. We cannot wait until next Year!



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Rapid Response Hiring Event for Carolina Country Snacks Employees

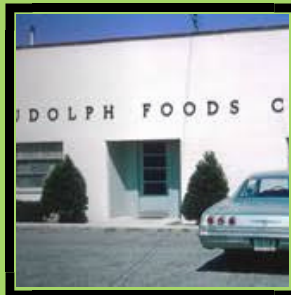
As Carolina Country Snacks/Rudolph Foods prepares to close its Henderson production facility and relocate operations, we here at Kerr-Tar are the local rapid response team. After receiving the news, we quickly mobilized to support the company and the affected employees with resources and reemployment opportunities.

On April 7, the team hosted an on-site information session, along with VGCC providing workers with guidance on unemployment benefits, training programs, and job search assistance. Building on that effort, a private job fair was held on April 15 exclusively for impacted employees.

Eight local employers participated in the event, offering immediate job opportunities and career support. The NCWorks Mobile Unit was also on-site, assisting individuals with resume development and facilitating on-the-spot interviews.

Through these coordinated efforts, the Rapid Response Team is working to ensure a smooth transition for employees, helping connect them to new opportunities and minimize the impact of the facility's closure on the local workforce.

See below for vintage photos of Rudolph's Co./Carolina County Snacks warehouse and production.



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Eckerd Connects: Kerr Lake Girls Residential Academy Participates in Career Readiness Series

Over the past 4 months, eight female youth from the Eckerd Connects Kerr Lake Girls program participated in a High School Career Readiness program conducted by Kerr Tar Area Region NC Works Career Center.

The ladies learned about the services and resources offered by NC Works centers, researched the four career pathways, created and presented a specific career area presentation highlighting in-demand industries, education, and employment outlook.

They had an opportunity to participate in a virtual reality job exploration, create a resume, learn interviewing tips, how to create a great first impression, and participate in mock interviews to build their employment interviewing skills.

Lastly, the ladies took their resumes, confidence, professional etiquette, and interview skills to participate in the Kerr Tar Region – Next Gen NC Works youth hiring event for area youth searching for summer jobs and entry-level employment.

Each participant received a certificate for completing program and gained some valuable resources to assist in making potential career connections.



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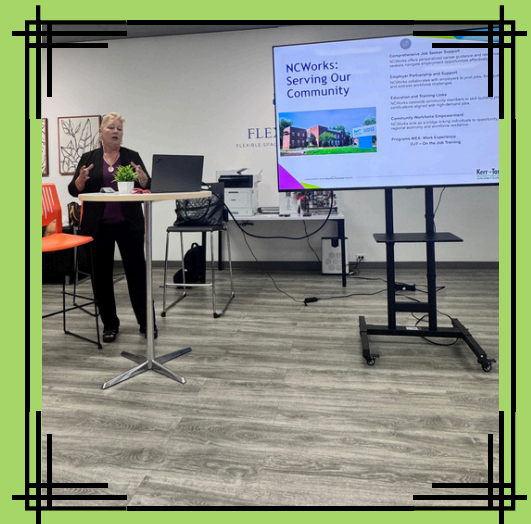
Vance County Business Roundtable Focuses on Workforce and Economic Development

The Vance County Chamber of Commerce hosted its quarterly Business Roundtable on April 16 at Flex Desk360, bringing together local employers and community leaders to discuss workforce needs and economic growth.

Lou Grillo, Workforce Development Director, and Lisa Holland, Business Services Manager, led the discussion, sharing key statistics and trends impacting Vance County's labor market. Joining them was Ferdinand Rouse, Vance County Economic Developer, who provided insights on ongoing development efforts and future opportunities within the county.

Together, the presenters highlighted current challenges and opportunities facing local businesses and emphasized how the Workforce Development Board and NCWorks can support both employers and job seekers. Services discussed included recruitment assistance, training programs, and career development resources.

The quarterly roundtable continues to serve as a valuable forum for collaboration, connecting the business community with workforce and economic development partners to strengthen Vance County's economy.



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Local Reentry Council Celebrates Workshop Success

The Power of a Second Chance with Project S.E.R.V.E. a Kerr Tar Local Reentry Council job readiness workshop in partnership with Kerr Tar NCWorks Career Center and Freedom Bridge Resource Center.

For many, the two weeks between April 6th and 17th, 2026 were just another stretch of spring. But for the 1st cohort of participants in the Project S.E.R.V.E. (Strengthening Essentials for Reentry and Vocational Excellence) job readiness workshop, these ten days represented a bridge from a difficult past to a promising future.

The participants entered the workshop with quiet determination but many questions. Most faced common reentry barriers—gaps in resumes, the "digital divide," and the daunting task of explaining their history to employers.

The workshop focused on more than just "getting a job"; it was about vocational excellence. Over the two-week intensive, participants mastered modern job searching, and tailoring resumes to highlight transferable skills. Professional pitching, building the confidence to share their story while focusing on the value they bring to a team and essential "Soft Skills", practicing time management, workplace communication, and conflict resolution.

The highlight of the workshop was Mock Interview Day. Paired with local business volunteers, each participant received real-time feedback that transformed their anxiety into action. After the mock interviews one participant stated, "I realized that my past doesn't define my potential, Project SERVE gave me the tools to prove that I am an asset, not a liability."

By the final day of April 17th, graduation day, the participants were more than graduates; they were candidates for employment, through mock interviews, resume building, and professional development, our graduates are now ready to enter the workforce with confidence! This is a testament to the mission of Project S.E.R.V.E., that with the right preparation and a supportive community, every returning citizen has the power to achieve vocational excellence. Join us in celebrating their hard work and the power of second chances! We look forward to welcoming our next cohort!



Sharon Thomas
KTRCOG Regional Reentry Program Manager
252-436-2040 Ext. 2043
sthomas@kerrtarcog.org

APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name

Address

Phone

First

Workforce Partners Attend VGCC Spring Job Fair and Apprenticeship Convening

On April 23, workforce partners participated in the VGCC Spring Job Fair and Apprenticeship Convening, connecting with students, job seekers, and regional employers.

The event provided an opportunity to share information about available career pathways, training programs, and apprenticeship opportunities. Attendees engaged with employers across multiple industries, highlighting the importance of work-based learning and skill development.

The convening also encouraged collaboration among education and workforce partners, reinforcing a shared commitment to building a strong talent pipeline and expanding access to sustainable career opportunities in the region.

The Apprenticeship Convening, held from 12:30–2:30 p.m., included a focused discussion on apprenticeship opportunities in collaboration with ApprenticeshipNC. Employers, current apprentices, and VGCC staff shared insights and experiences, highlighting the value of work-based learning programs.

The event provided an opportunity to promote career pathways, training programs, and apprenticeship options while strengthening partnerships among education and workforce leaders. Together, these efforts continue to support a strong talent pipeline and expand access to sustainable career opportunities in the region.



Lisa Holland

KTRCOG Business Service Manager

252-436-2040 ext 2057

lholland@kerrtarcog.org



Happy Birthday!

Deborah Cozart

*Workforce Development Staff:
Performance & Accountability
Coordinator*

May 30th



Happy Anniversary!

Ty Cheek

*Transportation and Planning Staff:
Regional Planning
Coordinator*

2 Years - May 1st

Kerr-Tar

Regional Council of Governments

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Franklin County
Granville County
Person County
Vance County
Warren County
Town of Bunn
Town of Butner
City of Creedmoor
Town of Franklinton
City of Henderson
Town of Kittrell
Town of Louisburg
Town of Macon
Town of Middleburg
Town of Norlina
City of Oxford
City of Roxboro
Town of Stem
Town of Stovall
Town of Warrenton
Town of Youngsville

Executive Director

Diane Cox

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Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead

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Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks

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Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

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MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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