

COG Calendar:

- Region K CAC Board Meeting Thursday, March 23rd @ 6:00 p.m.
- COG Board Meeting Thursday, March 23rd @ 7:00 p.m.
- Senior Games Opening Ceremonies, Thursday, March 23rd @ John Graham Gymnasium
- NCLM Town Hall Day Wednesday, March 29th [Click here](#) for more information
- Good Friday Holiday, April 14th—COG office closed
- NC Rural Center Rural Day, Tuesday, May 9th [Click here](#) for more information

Around the Region

COG Board Meeting

The Next COG Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23rd at the COG office. The 2016 audit will be presented. Click [here](#) to review the meeting packet. There will also be a meeting of the Region K CAC Board on March 23, 2017. Interested parties may click [here](#) to review the meeting packet.

Senior Games Opening Ceremonies

Senior Games opening ceremonies is Thursday, March 23rd at 9:00 a.m. at the John Graham Gymnasium, Warren County.

2017 EDA Funding Programs

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments as the Economic Development District for the region is proud to present to you the 2017 EDA Funding Programs. For more information on these economic development programs [click here](#).

Economic Development Resources

[Click here](#) for North Carolina Economic Development Resources. Please keep in mind that the Kerr-Tar COG may assist you with putting together your grant application, as well as administering it. Contact dcox@kerrtarcog.org for more information.

\$1 Billion in EPA loans now available through the Water and Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency EPA announced the availability of approximately \$1 billion in credit assistance for water infrastructure projects under the new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. This financing will help support approximately \$2 billion in total infrastructure investment. EPA's WIFIA program will provide long-term, low-cost credit assistance in the form of direct loans and loan guarantees to creditworthy water projects. WIFIA provides another option for financing large infrastructure projects – generally at least \$20 million – in addition to the State Revolving Funds and bond market. WIFIA is available to state, local, and tribal governments; private entities; partnerships; and State Revolving Fund programs. Prospective borrowers may submit letters of interest from **January 10, 2017** until midnight on **April 10, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Around the Region Continued

Kerr-Tar Council of Governments Revolving Loan Fund

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments administers a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to assist existing businesses as well as new entrepreneurs in securing financing they are otherwise unable to secure through traditional channels. The primary goal of the RLF program is to create new jobs in the region. Preference is given to businesses that will add full-time skilled or semi-skilled positions. The source of funding is the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). Some specific guidelines may apply. The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments welcomes partnering with other lenders to assist local area business to succeed and thrive. For more information contact [Mark Warren](#). Click [here](#) to view the brochure or [here](#) for an application.

Department of Agriculture Invites Applications for the Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), [announces](#) that it is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2017 for the [Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee program](#) (the Broadband Program). The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (Broadband Program) furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas. There will be two application windows for FY 2017. The first application submission will be from **March 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017** and the second application window will be from **September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017**. All applications can only be submitted through [RD Apply](#) online application system.

Department of Agriculture Invites Applications for Technical Assistance Grants for Rural Transportation Systems

The Department of Agriculture invites applications for grants to provide technical assistance for Rural Transportation (RT) systems under the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program for fiscal year 2017. Completed applications must be received in the USDA Rural Development State Office no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on **March 31, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Department of Agriculture invites applications for REDLG Grants and Loans

The Department of Agriculture invites applications for grants under the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Programs for fiscal year 2017. The REDLG programs may include business startup costs, business expansion, business incubators, technical assistance feasibility studies, advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational, and job training services, and community facilities projects. The deadlines for completed applications to be received in the USDA Rural Development State Offices no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) are: Third Quarter, **March 31, 2017**; and Fourth Quarter, **June 30, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI)

Grants to support the development and/or expansion of local implementation of a community infrastructure that integrates behavioral health treatment and services for substance use disorders and co-occurring mental and substance use disorders, permanent housing, and other critical services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Application Deadline is **April 25, 2017**. [Click here for details](#).

U.S. Conference of Mayors, Wells Fargo Announces 2017 CommunityWINS Grant Program

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and Wells Fargo today (January 17) announced a call for nominations for the 2017 [CommunityWINS](#)SM grant program, aimed at accelerating neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and job creation in municipalities across the country. Launched in 2015, the CommunityWINS grant program includes a \$3 million investment by the Wells Fargo Foundation over three years. CommunityWINS grant program is administered by [The U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) and funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation. Through a competitive application process, the USCM will determine eligibility and administer grant funds to eligible nonprofits in six cities to support neighborhood revitalization, economic development and job creation initiatives. USCM member cities can nominate up to three eligible nonprofit initiatives or programs that address one of the following categories:

- *Neighborhood stabilization* – projects designed to stimulate growth and stability while assisting in the removal of blight and the rebuilding of neighborhoods.
- *Economic development* – projects designed to promote business development.
- *Job creation* – projects designed to aid in local job creation or assist in job training.

Grant requirements, application details, application checklists, and the online application forms are available now at usmayors.org/communitywins. Applications must be submitted by **March 17, 2017**.

Planning & Economic Development



CEDS Committee

The COG hosted its second Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) Committee meeting in late February. The event was at the House of Ribeyes in Oxford. During this session, Committee members further expanded on Region K's *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats*. The CEDS process, a requirement of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, is designed to serve as a regional multi-county area economic development strategy plan. Input is received from a diverse array of stakeholders, all working collaboratively to achieve this goal.

NADO Establishes Resource Archive for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)

For years, the NADO Research Foundation has provided training, resources, and tools for Economic Development Districts (EDDs) and other regional entities to provide a solid foundation for planning, developing, and implementing their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). Some of the most popular and well-received of these resources are now stored at the [CEDS Resource Archive](#) for easy access and reference. New staff working on the CEDS for the very first time as well as more seasoned veterans of the process should all find this information useful and relevant to their work. As more materials are developed through the new Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions program, stay tuned to www.nado.org and our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for the latest on CEDS development, resilience planning, and new approaches for getting the most out your CEDS to make it a true, inclusive driver of regional economic development. Click [here](#) to explore the CEDS Resource Archive.

NC Tree Preservation Ordinances

The NCFS Urban & Community Forestry Program has just updated its guide for developing tree preservation ordinances. <http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/pdf/treeProtection.pdf> Local governments are eligible to apply for match grant funds for assistance in developing tree ordinances. http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/Urban_Forestry.htm

Farewell & Best Wishes to Tony Sumter, Mobility Manager

The Planning & Development Department is sad to report that our very own Mobility Manager, Anthony (Tony) Sumter has resigned from the COG. Tony has begun to work as a Transportation Engineer at a Consulting Firm in Raleigh. Since working for the COG, Tony has been instrumental in assisting with the Regional adoption of the NCLD Bike & Pedestrian Plan; serving on the COG's AAA Plan Steering Committee; and administering the Elderly and Disabled Individuals Transportation Program Grant, as well as much more. Please join us in congratulating Tony on this new and exciting opportunity!



2020 Census



The United States Census Bureau has begun the ramp up to the 2020 Census, and in January the [Local Update of Census Addresses \(LUCA\)](#) program launched with advanced letters being mailed to the highest elected officials. The Census Bureau will hold informational workshops this Spring before inviting local governments to designate LUCA coordinators for their participation in July. LUCA is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the U.S. Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census. If interested in hosting a LUCA Informational Workshop for the local governments in your area, please contact COG staff.

Important Pending Transportation Legislation from the State of North Carolina

[STI/Regional & Division Weighting](#) - House - Filed 2/9/2017; 03/01/17 Passed 3rd Reading

[DOT/DMV Changes](#) - House - Filed 2/16/2017, Senate - Filed- 1/25/2017; 02/16/17 House-Ref to the Com on Transportation, if favorable, State and Local Govt. II

[Maintenance Bond for Subdivision Roads](#) - House- Filed 2/21/2017; 02/22/17 House-Ref to Com on State and Local Govt. II, if favorable, Transportation



NCDOT Seeks New Partners for 2017 "Watch for Me NC" Campaign

The program is seeking new communities in North Carolina looking to help address pedestrian and bicycle safety. Communities selected to participate will receive free law enforcement training, technical assistance and safety materials to support their local efforts. Safety materials include bicycle lights, reflective arm bands, bumper stickers, brochures, posters and banners that have pedestrian and bicycle safety messages. English and Spanish materials are available. Interested communities can learn more about the program or download an application on the Watch for Me NC website <http://www.watchformenc.org/about/participate/>. **Applications are due Friday, March 24, 2017.**

Affordable Rental Housing

Finding decent, secure and affordable rental housing is increasingly difficult for many North Carolinians. A recent Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) study found that more than 377,000 rental households in the state are held back from leading fulfilling and productive lives by living in housing that imposes a severe cost burden on residents, is overcrowded or lacks critical facilities. This report identifies locations in North Carolina with high levels of multiple housing deficits and includes an analysis of the findings and a discussion of policies and programs for addressing the housing needs of the state. Click [here](#) to read more.

Planning & Economic Development Continued

SOG Finance Center—Stormwater Fee Survey Results are in

The School of Government Environmental Finance Center just wrapped up an update of our stormwater fee survey -- it includes exhaustive data on fee structures for every utility in the state. We are planning on rolling out a stormwater fee dashboard next month that is similar to our water rates dashboard, but in the meantime, most of the basic information is available in a presentation we did last week that you can download [here](#).

National Institute of Standards & Technology Releases Two New Community Resilience Planning Guide Briefs

In support of the Community Resilience Planning Guide, the NIST Community Resilience Group has released two additional Community Resilience Planning Guide Briefs. These new Guide Briefs both focus on step two, "Understand the Situation", of the six-step planning process outlined in the Community Resilience Planning Guide. The Community Resilience Planning Guide Briefs were developed to provide further guidance to communities seeking to use the Community Resilience Planning Guide and the six-step process to plan for resilience. These Guide Briefs and others can be found on the [Community Resilience Planning Guide Brief page](#).

Wireless Technology Forums

All over the country, municipalities big and small are taking steps to make their city operations smarter, faster and more efficient. Join local officials from across your region for a two-hour forum to learn about wireless technologies that can help achieve those aims. Brought to you by the NC League of Municipalities, you'll hear from industry and government experts on public safety initiatives such as FirstNet, good government practices such as the Internet of Things and smart cities, and next-generation wireless capabilities enabled by small-cell technologies. The forum will be held in three locations, Wilmington on **March 17**, Greensboro on **March 20**, and Charlotte on **March 27**. The forum will offer a free two-hour program followed by a reception with legislators from your area. Click [here](#) to register.

Workforce Development

Grand Opening of Franklin County Workforce Center

On February 22, 2017, Franklin County celebrated the grand opening of its Workforce Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony sponsored by the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. The Center is located at 101 Main Street, Suite 101 in Louisburg. Patricia Yarborough is the Workforce Manager and stated that the goal of the center is to assist job seekers with finding employment and also assist employers that are in need of satisfying job openings in the area. The center also holds other activities within the center such as resume writing and job search.

Melissa Wolfe, the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce chairperson, welcomed Ms. Yarborough and the staff to the area. Michelle Muir, the Regional Operations Director with the Division of Workforce Solutions spoke to those in attendance as well. Also, Louisburg Mayor Karl Pernell, town and Franklin County officials, and several member of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce were present at the grand opening.

To see March events and trainings held at Local Career centers, please click [here](#). For more information please contact Kelly Hundley at

khundley@kerrtarcog.org

AGING

Save the Date

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 3rd Annual Region K World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk to be held on **June 15, 2017**. This year the event will be hosted by Vance County (Location has not been confirmed). Start time is 8:30 am with Registration; Walk to start at 9:30 am. More information coming soon. If you have any questions or wish to register as a vendor please contact [Kim Hawkins](#), Regional Ombudsman at (252)436-2050 or 1(866)506-6223. We are looking forward to seeing you on June 15, 2017 in Vance County.

SHIIP/Medicare

Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help Outreach Events:

Vance County:

March 28, 2017 @ Vance County Senior Center

Person County:

March 15 and March 20, 2017 @ Person County Senior Center

Granville County:

March 14, 2017 @ Granville County Senior Center

Franklin County

May 26, 2017 @ Franklinton Senior Center



Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Program continues to serve hundreds of older adults daily throughout the region in need of proper nutrition and socialization. This program would not be possible without the support of our Counties, dedicated staff and volunteers. To learn more about the importance of this program and statistics regarding the need in North Carolina, click [here](#).

Requesting Volunteers and Sponsors for the 2017 Region K Senior Games Registration

The 2017 Region K Senior Games will kick off this month on March 23rd and continue through May 18. The coordination and execution of all the events would not be possible without all the dedicated volunteers. If you'd like to join us in encouraging our seniors to stay active and healthy, please consider becoming a volunteer. Volunteers from all areas of the community are welcome. We are also seeking corporate sponsors. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Senior Games program as a sponsor or volunteer, please contact: [Melissa Catlett](#), Local Coordinator at 252-436-2040. Click [here](#) to for more details.



Documentary on the Impact of Alzheimer's Disease

PBS recently aired a powerful documentary which provides a clear picture of the significant impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias facing our nation. [Click here to watch the documentary.](#)

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.kerrtarcog.org

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Walter Gardner | Town of Warrenton

David Smith | At-Large

Bryan Pfohl | At-Large

Danny Wright | At-Large

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

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Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments



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.