



Merritt Commons, Roxboro
Photo by Richard Long

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Workforce Development Board Meeting

- Tuesday, September 7
- 6:00 pm on Zoom

KTRPO TAC/TCC Meeting

- Thursday, September 23
- 3:00-5:00 @ COG Office

COG Board Meeting

- Thursday, September 23
- 6:30 @ COG Office



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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Jennifer Jordan Pierce

WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Jennifer Jordan Pierce, Warren County Commissioner for District 1 has been a member of the COG Board for 6 years. She likes the everyone is there for one purpose, "improving the quality of life for the people we serve, beyond our county lines and promoting regionalism." When asked what one of her greatest achievements in public service was, Jennifer said, "In 2018 my Board supported me in spearheading a weekend celebration recognizing the work of County Government while highlighting a specific department to bring awareness of what they do and how they do it. The National Association of Counties celebrates County Government, as we're the closest form of government to the people, each April." Before she leaves public service, her goal is to have as many people as possible be aware of decisions that are made on their behalf and the whys behind those decisions. She wants greatness for everyone. When someone tells her what we don't have, Jennifer reminds them of what we do have, what's on the horizon, and ways they can contribute. It changes the narrative, and she loves it.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Susan Tucker

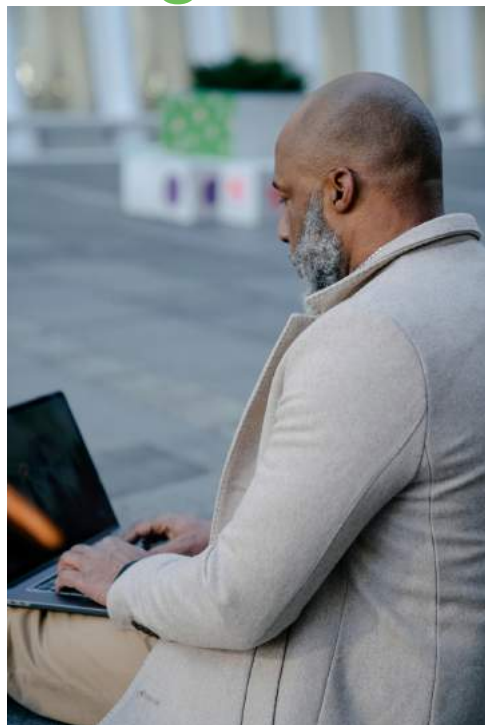
ADMINISTRATIVE & AGING ASSISTANT



Susan Tucker, Administrative and Aging Assistant, has been with the COG for 2 years. What she loves most about working at the COG is the variety of supporting all of the departments and the Board of Directors while also managing our Evidence-Based

Programming for our regional seniors. No two days are even remotely the same! When asked about Susan's proudest achievement while working at the COG, she had a hard time choosing one because she's learned so much and learning is a great achievement in and of itself. Susan loves to read, is very adventurous, and loves to travel. Her favorite trip so far was diving with Great White Sharks at Isla Guadalupe. She is looking forward to traveling to Germany this fall! Susan's role model is her grandmother, Mildred "Babe" Wilson. She says, "She was open, adventurous, and full of life. She was curious, funny, and a trailblazing career woman. And no one gave hugs like Babe!" One of Susan's favorite quotes is by Herman Melville in Moby Dick: "I try all things, I achieve what I can." If you haven't yet met Susan, you are missing out!

Caregiver Webinar



Join us on **September 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm** for a discussion on proven strategies that help Caregivers to find the much needed rest and courage from which to draw while navigating their caregiving journey. Speaker Rich Gwaltney serves as the Community Engagement Representative for Transitions LifeCare (founded as Hospice of Wake County in 1979). He has over 29 years of experience serving in non-profit organizations in both education and spiritual care. Rich received his graduate degree in Educational Leadership from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio in 2000. Before working at Transitions LifeCare, Rich and his family were on a five year adventure in Malaysia where he served as the Spiritual Life Director at an international school. Rich has a lifelong passion to engage people of all ages concerning the issues that matter most in life.

To join this webinar, click [HERE](#).

Medicare Open Enrollment

If Medicare costs are hard to swallow, SHIP can help find the best Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for you. It's time to evaluate your plan and see what's new for 2022. The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) offers free, unbiased information about Medicare and can assist with enrollment and subsidy applications that could save you money. The Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period will be **October 15-December 7, 2021**. Changes will be effective January 1, 2022. Contact your local Senior Center to schedule an appointment with a trained SHIP counselor today.



All of our Senior Centers are open! Visit their websites or call for details. Some may have limited schedules.

Franklin County Senior Center (Louisburg):	919-496-1131
Franklinton Senior Center:	919-494-5611
Granville County Senior Services (Oxford):	919-693-1930
South Granville Senior Center (Creedmoor):	919-528-0848
North Granville Senior Center (Stovall):	919-693-3383
Person County Senior Center:	336-599-7484
Vance County Senior Center:	252-430-0257
Warren County Senior Center:	252-257-3111

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes

Are you an overwhelmed caregiver? Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a FREE class for unpaid caregivers of those living with any chronic condition or disability. Learn how to manage emotions, reduce personal stress, and confidently cope with caregiving issues and demands. This class will meet 90 minutes per week for 6 weeks and is open to any unpaid caregiver. All tools and materials are free for participants. There will be two different sessions this fall, one in-person and one virtual, both **November 2-December 7**. The in-person class will be Tuesdays from **10:00-11:30 am** at the Granville County Senior Center, and the virtual sessions will be Tuesdays from **1:00-2:30 pm**. Register by calling Susan Tucker at 252-436-2040. Please share this with any caregivers you know!



Walk With Ease Program



Walk With Ease is the Arthritis Foundation's program that is proven to reduce the pain of arthritis and improve your overall health. The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging will be conducting this program for our Region this fall. No matter if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, this 6 week program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your every day life. The program includes a guidebook and a walking schedule to get you safely moving toward better health.

Studies by the Thurston Arthritis Research Center and the Institute on Aging of the University of North Carolina show that Walk With Ease is proven to:

- Reduce the pain & discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength, & walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

Walk With Ease group sessions meet three times per week for 6 weeks. Trained group exercise leaders begin each session with a pre-walk discussion covering a specified topic related to exercise and arthritis, followed by a 10-40 minute walk that includes a warm-up and a cool-down. There will be two different sessions offered in our region this fall. To register, contact Susan Tucker at 252-436-2040.

Franklinton Session

September 27-November 5, 2021
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 am @ Franklinton Town Hall

Creedmoor Session

October 5-November 11, 2021
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
12:00 pm @ Creedmoor Community Center

Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email [Beth Davis](mailto:Beth.Davis@kerrtar.org), Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.

Grant Writing Workshops at VGCC

Vance-Granville Community College is offering a series of workshops both in-person and virtual to those interested in learning more about the grant writing process. More information on the courses is listed below:

- [Get Grants](#)
- [Grant Writing A-Z](#)
- [Writing Effective Grant Proposals](#)
- [Advanced Grant Proposal Writing](#)



KTRPO TAC/TCC Meeting



The KTRPO joint TAC/TCC will meet on Thursday, **September 23, 2021 from 3:00-5:00 pm** at the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Offices located in Henderson. The agenda and related meeting materials will be posted on the KTCOG website and sent to members as the meeting date approaches.

Fall 2021 Litter Sweep Dates

Dates for the Fall 2021 Litter Sweep are **September 11-25**. We are encouraging our local communities to participate in this event. Please visit the [NCDOT Litter Sweep website](#) for more information and to register. If participating in this year's event, be sure to use [#LitterSweepNC](#) on social media.



Community Change Grants

America Walks is excited to announce another round of its popular Community Change Grant program. This program will award grantees \$1,500 in community stipends for projects related to creating healthy, active, inclusive, accessible, and engaged places to live, work, and play. America Walks appreciates communities' passionate work being done on a daily basis to create places where all community members have safe, accessible, equitable, and enjoyable places to walk and move.

Advocates and community members are critical to creating opportunities for all members to see the benefits to individual health and wellness, community interaction, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability that come when walking and walkability is supported by local efforts. This grant program works to provide support to the growing network of advocates, organizations, and agencies using innovative, engaging, and inclusive programs and projects to create change at the community level. This year's application for the Community Change Grant will open in September.

Operation Stop Arm

With many of our region's students returning to in-person learning last month, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol is participating in Operation Stop Arm between the dates of October 21-25 to enforce stop arm violations and other traffic violations in and around school zones. The campaign hopes to raise awareness of school bus safety. For more information on school cross safety, visit ncbussafety.org.

North Carolina's law on stopping for a school bus

All traffic must stop for a stopped bus, unless it is on a road of four or more lanes with a median or center turning lane. In those instances, oncoming traffic does not have to stop because children will not be crossing the road to reach the bus. Traffic following a bus must always stop with the bus. If in doubt, always stop for a stopped bus.

- 1 Two-lane road**
All traffic from both directions must stop.
- 2 Two-lane road with a center turning lane**
All traffic from both directions must stop.
- 3 Four-lane road without a median separation**
All traffic from both directions must stop.
- 4 Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation**
Only traffic following the school bus must stop.
- 5 Road of four lanes or more with a center turning lane**
Only traffic following the school bus must stop.

Source: N.C. Department of Transportation

CASSANDRA SHERRILL/JOURNAL

All traffic must stop for:

- Two-lane roadway
- Two-lane w/center turn lane
- Four-lane roadway

Only traffic following bus must stop:

- Four-lane roadway w/a median
- Four or more lanes w/center turn lane

Other tips:

- Follow bus driver's signals
- Wear bright clothing
- Stand off the road
- Look before getting off the bus
- Parent should wait for their child on the side of the road where the child is dropped off

Bike Helmet Distribution Events

Kerr-Tar Region Council of Governments collaborated with the City of Oxford's Planning Department, the Oxford Housing Authority, Granville County Boys and Girls Club, Pinkston Street Elementary School, the Warrenton Police Department, and Warren County Parks & Recreation throughout the month of August to distribute bike helmets and safety materials to our region's students.

To promote helmet usage and support local bicycle activities, the Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation within the North Carolina Department of Transportation accepts applications from organizations willing to distribute helmets. The selection process encourages applicants to collaborate with community groups to extend bicycle safety awareness outreach.



Dr. Jennifer Carraway, Director of Student Services & Special Projects at VCS, Vance County Sheriff Curtis Brame, Aarika Sandlin, Director of Communication & Marketing at VCS, and Kisha High, Safe Routes to School Coordinator during bike helmet distribution at Pinkston Elementary School.



Kisha High, Safe Routes to School Coordinator distributing bike helmets and safety information at the Oxford Housing Authority.

Success Story: Brandon Whitt

Brandon Whitt was referred to the Business Services Team in May 2021 to discuss his job interests and services available to him. Mr. Whitt was looking to develop his skills to pursue a career in the manufacturing industry. One opportunity that was discussed was the Work Experience program, which is part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. This program offers short-term training for individuals at no cost to an employer, where a customer can get exposure to new industries and positions, and develop their skills. P&A Industrial Fabrications in Roxboro, NC was interested in partnering with NCWorks for the Work Experience program and had a need for a Splitter Operator, which aligned with Mr. Whitt's goals.

Mr. Whitt began his Work Experience as a Splitter Operator on July 1, 2021. During his 10-day check-in, his supervisor made note that he was already showing great willingness to learn, working hard, and doing well in his new role. He also had the opportunity to shadow other workers and learn more advanced skills during his assignment. His midpoint evaluation reflected that he was making great progress in all outlined objectives. Heading into the last week of his Work Experience, P&A stated they were interested in extending an offer to Mr. Whitt to join their team full-time. Based on the progress he made, they will be promoting him to an Advanced Operator starting August 30, 2021 through the On-the-Job Training program offered through NCWorks.



Success Story: Cristina Hernandez



Cristina Hernandez enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program at Vance-Granville Community College in May 2021 to obtain her CDL-Class A License. Prior to her enrollment, she was a Vance County Early College student. Once she enrolled in WIOA, she received her High School Diploma on May 24. She began her CDL training on June 1 and completed it on August 6. Ms. Hernandez showed dedication and perseverance during the class and finished with perfect attendance. Her hard work paid off and she was able to reach her goal. She is now a CDL driver at Covenant Trucking in Youngsville, NC.

Success Story: Jordan Taylor

Franklin County resident Jordan Taylor enrolled in the NextGen Program in August 2021. A recent high school graduate, she came seeking assistance obtaining employment. Shortly after joining NextGen, Jordan started an On-the-Job Training assignment with Power GPU, located in Youngsville. Power GPU is a local tech company that builds high end and customized PCs. Ms. Taylor is currently working as a Sales Representative where she assists customers with selecting PCs that meet their individual needs and processes all required paperwork to complete orders. She recently received her first paycheck and excitedly contacted the Program Manager to let her know about this milestone achievement.



Successful Community Job Fair

Kerr-Tar NCWorks, in partnership with Granville County Economic Development, Vance-Granville Community College, and Piedmont Community College, hosted a Kerr-Tar Community Job Fair at Hix Field in Oxford, NC on Saturday, August 21. This event was made successful with the help of the 21 employers/resource providers and 65 job seekers who attended. There was a great variety of industries and organizations represented including healthcare, government, manufacturing, and more. Job seekers were very engaged and many connections were made. The NCWorks team was very pleased with the turnout and is planning more in-person job fair events in the future, so stay tuned! For more information regarding employer and job seeker services, contact the NCWorks Career Center at 919-693-2686 or 252-438-6129.



Employers/Resources Present:

Altec | Bridgestone | Carolina Sunrock | City of Oxford
| Chick-fil-A | County of Granville | Express
Employment Professionals | Executive Personnel Group
| Granville Health Systems | Granville Vance Public
Health | Granville County Sheriff's Office | KARTS |
MGM Products | Murdoch Center | NCWorks |
Polywood | Piedmont Community College | Regal
Driving Academy | Revlon | Walmart Distribution |
Vance-Granville Community College | Vocational
Rehabilitation

[**CLICK HERE FOR KERR-TAR
LABOR MARKET UPDATE**](#)

Housing Assistance Available

Urgent Repair Program

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) has been awarded **\$200,000** by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) under the 2021 Cycle of the Urgent Repair Program to assist residents in the counties of **Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren**. The Urgent Repair Program finances emergency home repairs for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose **incomes are below 50% of the median** for the area. Only repairs that address imminent threats to the life and/or safety of occupants of the dwelling unit or accessibility modifications will be performed under the program. A total of **20 households are projected to be assisted**.

In the Urgent Repair Program, one of two critical problems may be repaired, but the entire house is not addressed. Examples of work typically done under this program include roof or HVAC system repair, well or septic system repairs, adding accessibility features like ramps, bathroom grab bars, and wider doors. The COG will provide assistance to those whose homes are selected for repairs in the form of a loan. Homeowners will receive an unsecured deferred, interest-free loan, forgiven at a rate of \$2,000 per year until the principal balance is reduced to zero. **The maximum amount of the loan available is \$10,000.**

Applications are available and must be returned to the COG Office by 5:00 pm on November 1, 2021. Clients to be assisted will be selected by January 1, 2022. The application and program information are available on the Kerr-Tar Regional COG website at www.kerrtarcog.org or by calling 252-436-2040. The funds provided by the NCHFA for the Urgent Repair Program come from the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund.

ESFR Loan Program

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) has been granted membership by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) under the 2021 Cycle of the Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool Program (ESFRLP2021). Funding from this program will assist with essential and critical repairs to single-family homes that are owned and occupied by lower-income households. These repairs help veterans, seniors, and persons with disabilities stay in their homes, saving on health care and long-term costs.

The major requirements to be eligible for ESFRLP2021 assistance are:

- Home must be located in **Warren County**;
- Home must be owner-occupied;
- Site built and off frame modular units will be eligible for considerations, however manufactured housing is not eligible for assistance;
- House must have a full-time household member who is an older adult (age 62+), disabled or a veteran, or a household with a child under the age of six whose health is threatened by the presence of lead hazards;
- Gross annual household income must not exceed **80% of the area median income for Warren County**;
- Property cannot have been repaired or rehabilitated w/public funding of \$30,000 or more within the past 10 years;
- Cost of rehabilitation cannot exceed the ESFRLP2021 Program Guideline limit of \$30,000.

Applications are available by calling Kerr-Tar COG at 252-436-2040 or on the Kerr-Tar COG website at www.kerrtarcog.org. Applications should be returned as soon as possible but no later than **November 5th at noon**.

Open for Business Loans Available

Many small and local businesses in the Kerr-Tar region have been negatively affected by COVID-19. In an effort to provide support to those businesses, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments is rolling out the Open for Business Loan Program. This loan program is designed to assist small to medium size businesses get back up and running.

The Open for Business Loan is a non-forgivable interest-free loan, ranging from \$10,000-\$100,000.

Eligible borrowers are small to medium size (1-99 employees) businesses who have been in business for at least 12 months and must be located in Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, or Warren counties. All loans will require a personal guarantee and additional collateral. Funds can only be used for working capital, inventory, and/or equipment and require an application fee of \$200. Standard loan terms of 5-10 years. To apply, visit www.kerrtarcog.org and click on the "Open for Business Loan" tab.



The Open for Business Loan Program is locally administered, funded by the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Applications are available on the Kerr-Tar COG website or by calling Kerr-Tar COG at 252-436-2040. Applications should be completed as soon as possible as funding is limited.

2021 NADO Photo Contest

We are pleased to announce the 2021 NADO Photo Contest, open through **September 10**. This contest is an opportunity for member organizations to tell the story of their regions through images that capture the people and places that make their communities great places to live, work, and play. Photos submitted will be judged in five categories:

- Building Vibrant Places
- Strengthening the Built and Natural Environments
- Investing in Our Regional Economy
- Sustaining Our Communities
- COVID-19 Response & Recovery

Prizes will be given to winning photos in these categories, as well as to a "People's Choice" winner that will be selected by votes through the [NADO Facebook page](#). Looking for inspiration? Click [HERE](#) to see last year's winners and runners-up. Please direct any questions to NADO Research Foundation Associate Director Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to download the entry form.



This photo, taken by McKinley Perkinson, Project Manager for Franklin County Economic Development, received Runner Up in the Investing in Our Regional Economy category last year.

Census Update

Release of Census Data

On August 12, 2021, the United States Census Bureau released population counts based on responses received during the Census 2020 process. Below are county and municipal counts for the Kerr-Tar region.



County	2010 Population	2020 Population	Numeric Change	Growth Rate (%)
Franklin	60,619	68,573	7,954	13.1%
Granville	59,916	60,992	1,076	1.8%
Person	39,464	39,097	-367	-0.9%
Vance	45,422	42,578	-2,844	-6.3%
Warren	20,972	18,642	-2,330	-11%
NC	9,535,483	10,439,388	903,905	9%

Sources: Carolina Demography and US Census Bureau

Municipality	2010 Population	2020 Population	Numeric Change	Growth Rate (%)
Bunn	344	327	-17	-4.9%
Butner	7,591	8,397	806	10.6%
Creedmoor	4,124	4,866	742	18%
Franklinton	2,023	2,456	433	21.4%
Henderson	15,368	15,060	-308	-2%
Kittrell	467	132	-335	-71.7%
Louisburg	3,359	3,064	-295	-8.8%
Macon	119	110	-9	-7.6%
Middleburg	133	101	-32	-24.1%
Norlina	1,118	920	-198	-17.7%
Oxford	8,461	8,628	167	2%
Roxboro	8,362	8,134	-228	-2.7%
Stem	463	960	497	107.3%
Stovall	418	324	-94	-22.5%
Warrenton	862	851	-11	-1.3%
Youngsville	1,157	2,016	859	74.2%

Challenging the 2020 Census

As people digest the [2020 Census counts](#) that were recently released, Governor's Census Liaison Bob Coats, in the NC Office of State Budget and Management, said they've begun asking him whether these counts can be challenged, and if so, how. In a NCPlan newsletter, Coats responded "yes" to the first question and provided the following details:

The US Census Bureau conducts the Count Question Resolution (CQR) program after decennial censuses. CQR allows local governments to challenge their census counts based on limited issues:

- Boundary: the Census used incorrect boundaries for an area
- Geocoding: housing units or group quarters were counted in the wrong place (inside/outside city or county limits)
- Coverage: housing units or group quarters were not counted at all

Local governments must document their challenge and make their case. The CQR operation is free and runs from January 2022-June 2023. After the CQR operations, local governments may pay for a Special Census (a recount) of their areas, but Special Censuses are very expensive.

The NC Office of State Budget and Management held a virtual event in May for local governments discussing the 2020 Redistricting data, the new Census Disclosure Avoidance System, and CQR. Subject matter experts from the US Census Bureau spoke on these topics. Their presentations and a video of the event are available online [HERE](#). The CQR website will also provide more detail [HERE](#).

Special Recognition



Congratulations to Tare "T" Davis, Chair of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, who was elected as the NC Association of County Commissioners Second Vice President during the annual NCACC meeting, August 12-14 in New Hanover County.

Welcome to Nathan Page, new Town Administrator of Youngsville. Nathan most recently served as Planning Director in Graham.



Ongoing Opportunities

Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) Grant Program

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) is seeking funding requests for infrastructure projects from local governments for several upcoming funding rounds through FEMA. One of the funding sources currently available is the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) 2021 National Competition.



The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) is seeking funding requests for infrastructure projects from local governments for several upcoming funding rounds through FEMA. One of the funding sources currently available is the Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) 2021 National Competition. The BRIC program is funded by FEMA and administered through a partnership with NCEM. NCEM has the authority and responsibility for developing and maintaining a State Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan, reviewing the sub-applications, recommending technically feasible and cost effective sub-applications to FEMA and providing pass-thru funding for FEMA-approved and awarded project grants to eligible sub-applicants.

Cities, townships, counties and tribal entities are encouraged to submit their letters of intent using the EMGrants portal no later than **October 1 at 5:00 pm**.

American Rescue Plan EDA Funding

In July, the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the release of the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) that will guide the administration's use of the \$3 billion in supplemental funding that EDA received through the American Rescue Plan. Through a collection of programs--collectively called Investing in America's Communities--EDA will invest the \$3 billion to assist communities across the country. This EDA investment is the largest economic development initiative from the Department of Commerce in decades and is intended to help communities across the country to "build back better." Investing in America's Communities includes:

- \$1 billion for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge
- \$500 million for the Good Jobs Challenge
- \$500 million for Economic Adjustment Assistance
- \$100 million for Indigenous Communities
- \$750 million for Travel, Tourism, & Outdoor Recreation
- \$90 million for Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks

More information can be found on the EDA's website, and the NOFOs can be found HERE.





KERR-TAR

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](#)

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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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