



# Land of Sky Regional Council

## Your Regional Council

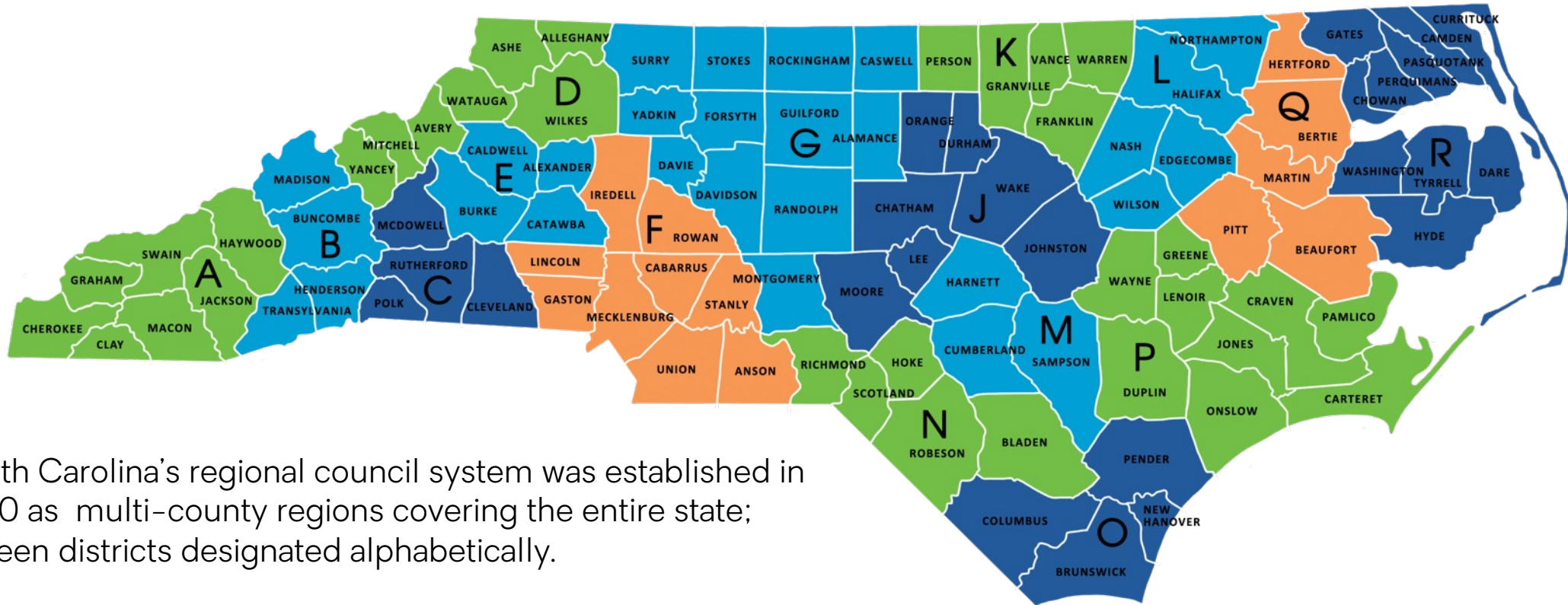




## LOSRC BEGINNINGS

- Land of Sky Regional Council began in 1966 as a partnership of five counties, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania. Today, Haywood County is part of Southwestern Commission (Region A) and the other four counties form Land of Sky Regional Council (Region B).
- The designation of Regional Councils was a result of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act in 1968 which called for closer cooperation between federal programs and state and local governments.
- By 1970 the Lead Regional Organization (LRO) policy was announced directing North Carolina state agencies to deal with a single regional organization in each region for the delivery of services.

# NORTH CAROLINA REGIONS



North Carolina’s regional council system was established in 1970 as multi-county regions covering the entire state; sixteen districts designated alphabetically.

The new “Lead Regional Organizations are a mechanism for strengthening local government, and each one deserves the full support of state agencies which are similarly concerned with the effective operation of local government.”  
 -Governor James Holshouser, Jr. (1973-1977)

## WHO WE ARE

Land of Sky Regional Council is a multi-county, **local government planning** and **development** organization. We reach across county and municipal borders providing **technical assistance** to local governments and **administer projects and programs** which **benefit our region's citizens**.

Land of Sky Regional Council, one of **16** regional councils in **North Carolina** and one of **540** such organizations **nationwide**, serves North Carolina's **Region B – Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties**.





# OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide **creative regional solutions** to **relevant and emerging issues** in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties while providing a **standard of excellence** in the delivery of federal, state, and regional **services** for our member communities



## OUR COMMITMENT

- We value cultural, gender, racial and ethnic diversity
- We believe diversity and inclusion make us stronger
- We will treat all people with dignity, respect and compassion to foster a trusting and supportive working environment
- We will be honest, open and clear in our communication with our co-workers, member governments, funders, clients and our region
- We will respect diversity of opinion
- We are committed to a culture of personal responsibility with an appreciation for risk taking
- We will hold ourselves accountable to our co-workers, member governments, funders, clients and our region
- We will develop and implement policies and procedures that are fair, consistent and equitable



## HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

Land of Sky Regional Council is **governed by a board** made up of **local elected officials, economic development professionals, and key regional stakeholders**. The Council employs an **Executive Director** and **professional staff** to carry out the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Each member government appoints **two** delegates – **one primary** delegate and **one alternate** delegate. Primary delegates are **elected officials** of the appointing member governments. Delegates serve at the pleasure of their appointing governing body.

Each county government appoints one delegate to represent **economic development interests**. The Chair of the **Regional Aging Advisory Council** also serve as delegates. Four at-large delegates are appointed by the Land of Sky Board to represent **regional minority interests**.

The officers of Land of Sky Regional Council are the Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers are selected from members of the Executive Committee and serve one year terms.



## HOW WE ARE FUNDED & OUR BUDGET

Federal Funds (63%)

State Funds (17%)

Local Government Contracts, Private Grants,  
Donations, and In-Kind (18%)

Local Government Dues (2%)

Land of Sky uses local government dues for:

- Grant matching requirements
- Council meeting expenses and operations
- Dues for state/national organizations

**For every dollar of member dues, we leverage over \$58.64 in additional funding for our region.**

A balanced budget is adopted each year, as required by state law. The budget is amended several times during the fiscal year, as many federal grants have different fiscal cycles.

The budget for Fiscal Year 22-23 is over \$25M.





# LEAD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Land of Sky Regional Council is recognized by the **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)** and the **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** as the **Lead Economic Development District** for regional economic development planning and activities in our four county area.



**APPALACHIAN  
REGIONAL  
COMMISSION**



## WHAT WE OFFER

**Area Agency on Aging** – Promotes the well being of older adults and their families in our region.

**Mountain Area Workforce Development** – Plans for and addresses workforce development needs of our citizens and businesses.

**Economic & Community Development** – Planning, transportation, economic, and community development services for our local governments and communities.

**Transportation Resource Center** – Provides administrative and transportation services to qualified Buncombe County clients.

# ADMINISTRATION

This department is responsible for the overall administration of Land of Sky Regional Council. This includes a growing, multi-million dollar budget, establishing and maintaining relationships with local, state and federal elected officials, departments and partners, human resources, marketing, public relations, as well as outreach and engagement, etc.





## FINANCE

Land of Sky is primarily grant-funded, with additional support from dues from our 19 local governments. With an annual budget of over \$25M, we manage over 130 grants, 63% Federal, 17% State and the balance from Local and Private Foundation contracts.

LOS has an annual external audit that is approved by the Local Government Commission and accepted by the Council Board. The Accounting staff (4 FTE and 2 PTE: Finance Director, a Payroll and Finance Coordinator, an Accounts Payable Clerk, an Accounts Receivable Clerk, a .05 Accounting Assistant, and a 0.5 Finance Clerk) at LOSRC has combined experience in Governmental Accounting of over 80 years. The Council's policies and procedures clearly outline a strong internal control environment, a purchasing policy compliant with current Federal and State requirements and any issues of conflicts of interest.

# AREA AGENCY ON AGING



Staff leverage resources, ideas, and capital to provide superior programs and services to older adults and caregivers in the region. Our goal is to support older adults as they age in place. Staff manage over 50 state and federal contracts, 5300 nursing home beds, hundreds of volunteers, and is accountable for over 5 million dollars on an annual basis.

## Programs Include:

- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Project C.A.R.E.
- Senior Companion Program
- Home and Community Care Block Grant
- Senior Tar Heel Legislature
- Regional Aging Advisory Council





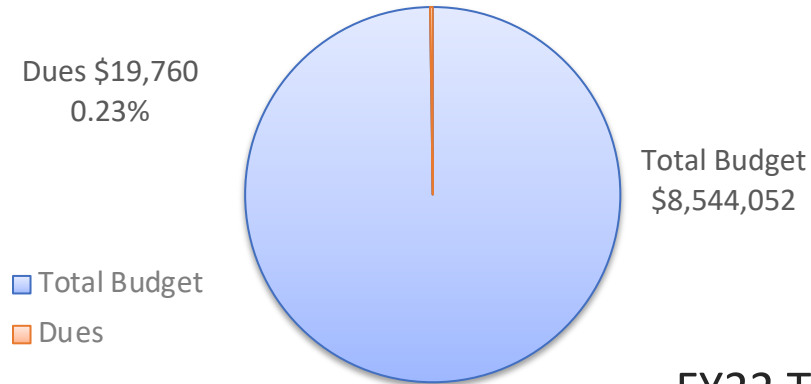
# AAA FUNDING MATCH

## Local Dues Match Invest in:

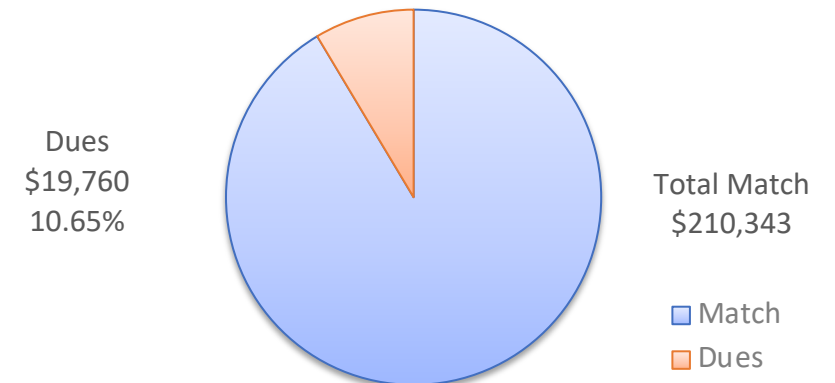
Administration of federal aging funds on behalf of the counties:

- Home and Community Care Block Grant: \$4,525,187 (yearly reoccurring funds)
- American Rescue Plan Act: \$2,152,564
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES): \$1,272,964
- Nutrition Funding:
  - \$357,673 - Families First Coronavirus Response Act
  - \$249,028 HDC5 - Consolidated Appropriations Act

FY22 AAA Budget



FY22 Total Match Required



# AGING PROFILE



## Buncombe Aging Profile, 2020

Ages	2020		2040		% Change (2020-2040)
	#	%	#	%	
Total	270,224		332,660		23.1%
0-17	48,432	18%	48,731	15%	0.6%
18-44	93,809	35%	107,186	32%	14.3%
45-59	42,748	20%	69,805	21%	32.3%
60+	72,235	28%	106,938	32%	42.1%
65+	56,767	21%	84,765	26%	49.3%
85+	6,914	3%	15,282	5%	121.0%

## Top Five Leading Causes of Death, Age 65+

Rank	Cause	# of Deaths	% of Total Deaths
1	Diseases of the Heart	522	23%
2	Cancer	398	17%
3	COVID-19	138	6%
4	Cerebrovascular Disease	123	5%
5	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	123	5%

# ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Staff leverage over 50 state, federal, and foundation grants and local contracts to develop and implement priority programs and services, in collaboration with member governments and partner agencies, throughout the region. Programs include:

## Community Development

- Federal, State & Foundation Grant Services & Administration
- Code Enforcement
- Planning and Zoning
- Comprehensive & Land Use Plans
- Environmental & Watershed Planning
- Stormwater Inventory & Asset Management
- Waste Management & Recycling Program
- GIS, Mapping & Data Analysis Services
- Board & Committee Facilitation & Training

## Economic Development

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- WestNGN Broadband Coordination
- Brownfields Program
- Infrastructure Implementation (water, sewer, access roads, broadband, etc.)
- Regional Resilience Planning

## Transportation Planning

- French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
- Public Transportation Technical Assistance
- Transportation Demand Management
- Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles Program

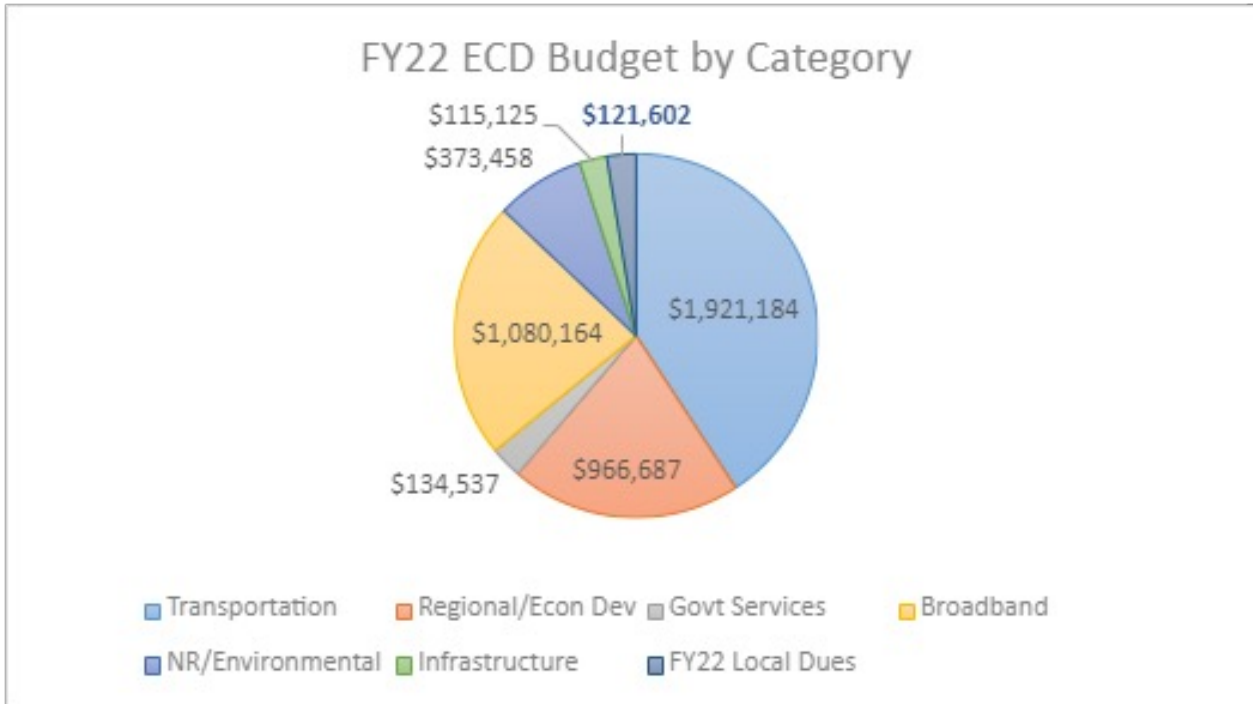




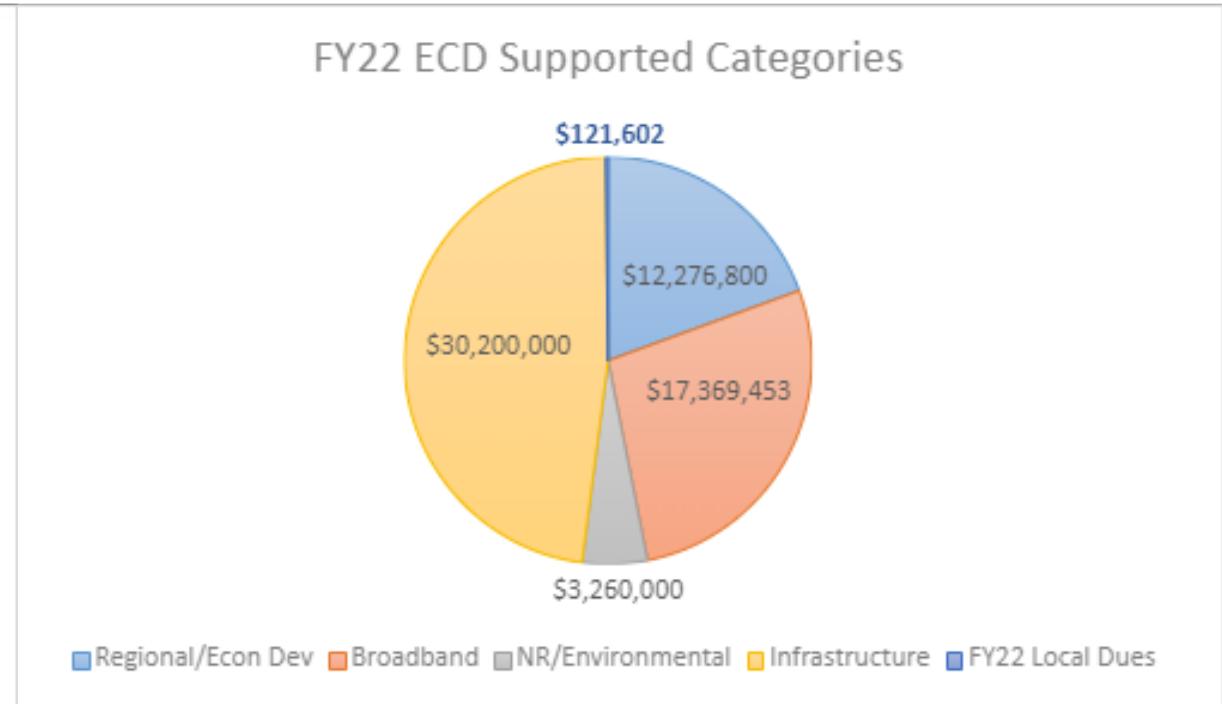
# ECD PROJECTS



## ECD Budgeted Projects



## ECD Supported Projects



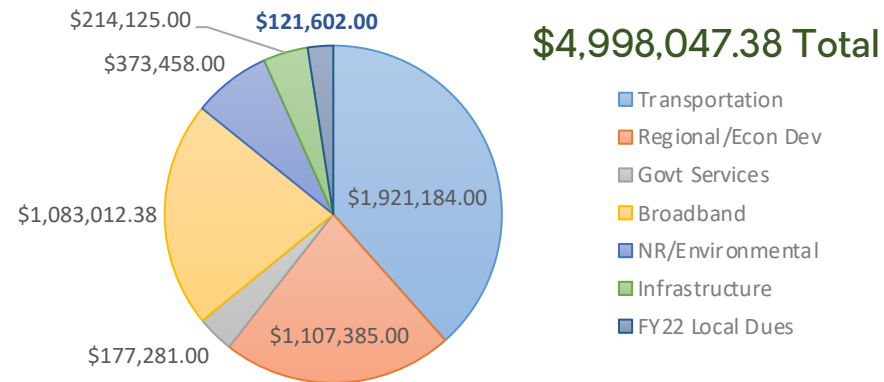
# ECD ARC & EDA MATCH



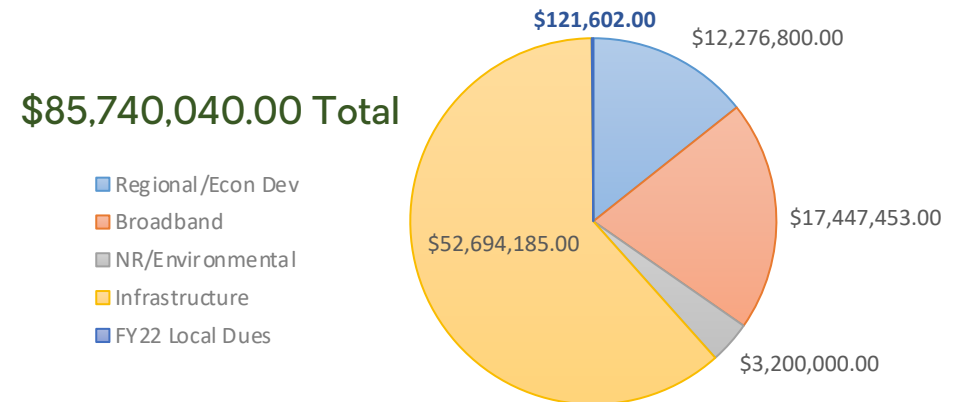
## Local Dues Match Invests in:

- ARPA Support for Local Governments
- Free Education/Training – COGWorks
- Regional Projects
  - WNC Innovation Park
  - Regional Chambers & Business Collaboration
- Statewide, National & Regional Committees
- Data & GIS Requests
- Leveraged numerous partnerships
- Regional Dashboard
- Resilience Toolkit
- Tech Assistance & Grant Writing to Local Governments, Nonprofits, COGs & Partner Agencies

FY22 ECD Budget by Category



FY22 ECD Supported Categories



# FBRMPO & LOSRPO



- Regional Forums for Transportation Decision Making (MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization, RPO = Rural Planning Organization)
- Help Determine Transportation Priorities in the Region
- Provide Technical Assistance to Transit Operators, Local Governments, and Stakeholders

- Work with NCDOT, Local Governments, and Other Stakeholders on Transportation Projects
- Carry out the Federally-Required Transportation Planning Process
- Participate in Statewide Transportation Policy Initiatives
- Program Competitive Transportation Grants to Member Governments (MPO)

Woodfin Greenway, Beaverdam Creek Greenway, and Enka Heritage Trail are recipients of the MPO's discretionary grants.

# MOUNTAIN AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Employer led board with a \$2+ million annual budget to support our region's NCWorks Career Centers and NCWorks NEXTGEN youth programs. Focus on helping employers meet their workforce needs while helping job seekers and youth find rewarding career pathways.



ncworks.gov

**Get Help To Get The Job You Want**

**Contact Us At:**  
 Asheville - (828) 251-6200  
 Henderson County - (828) 694-1755  
 Madison County - (828) 782-2632  
 Transylvania County - (828) 883-2550

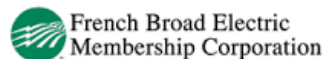
**MOUNTAIN AREA workforce development board**  
[mountainareaworks.org](http://mountainareaworks.org)

**MAC Mountain Area Careers**  
[mountainareacareers.org](http://mountainareacareers.org)

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# TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER



Land of Sky contracts with Buncombe County to provide administrative and transportation services to qualified clients through Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation and Mountain Mobility.

## Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation

- 5 staff members serving 1976 clients annually

## Mountain Mobility

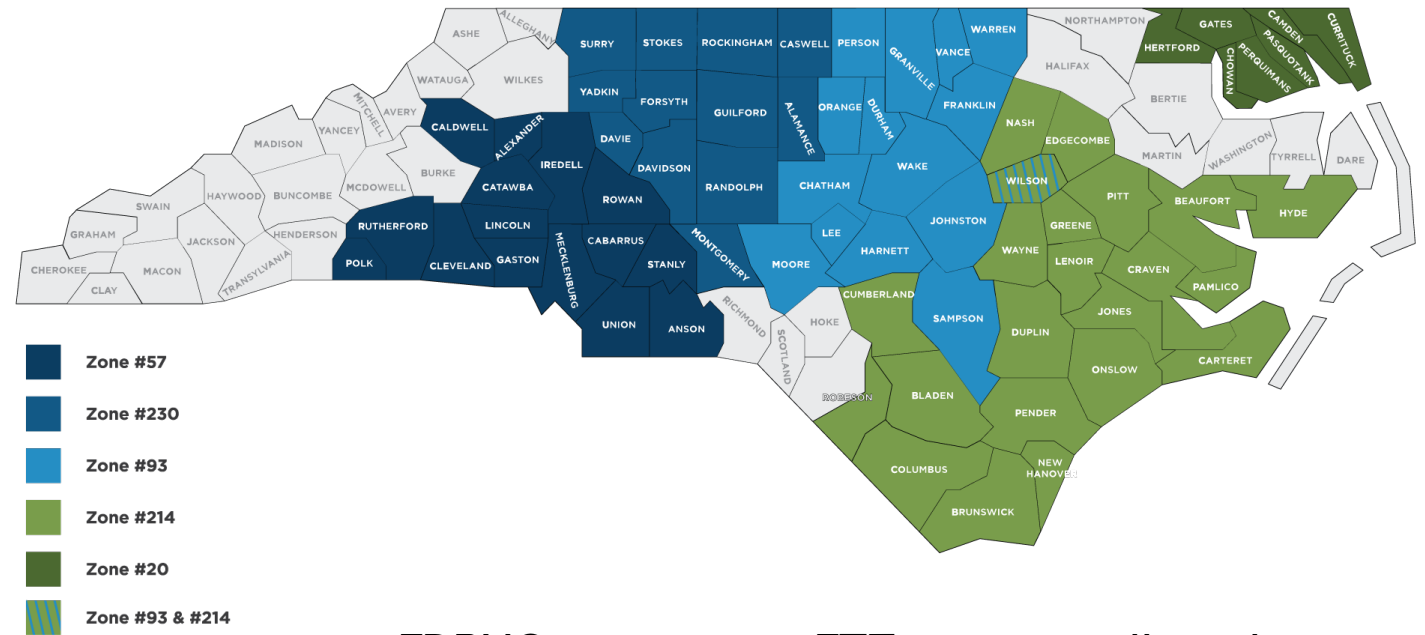
- ADA Complementary Paratransit Service
- Trailblazer Services
- RIDE Program Coordination (Ridership Independence for the Disabled and Elderly)



# FOREIGN TRADE ZONE INITIATIVE

## LOSRC seeks FTZ Grant of Authority

- FTZ: An area inside the US that is designated as being outside US Customs' territory for duty purposes.
- 20 WNC counties not in an FTZ program service area
- Businesses in WNC seek FTZ benefits
- Zone program helps grow and keep jobs in America
- Valuable addition to the economic development toolbox
- Promotes US exports
- FTZ adds investment dollars to the local economy



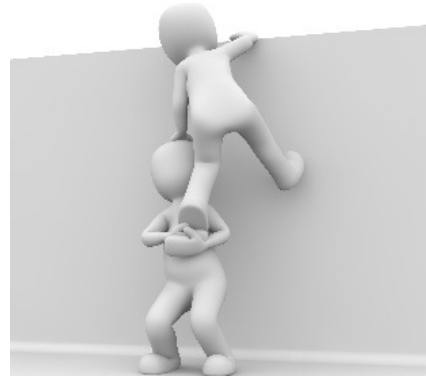
EDPNC estimates an FTZ program will result in 300-400 new jobs and up to \$100M in investment in just the LOSRC counties.

# INSPIRE RECOVERY TO CAREER



Integrating Recovery into the Workplace

**Workforce  
Development**



**Peer  
Support**

Buncombe, Madison, Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee Counties

**Transportation**



**Work Attire**



**Sober Living**



**Recovery  
Support**

# GO PLACES



## Growth Opportunities: Peer Leaders Activating the Community for Employment Success

The overall purpose of the GO Places Project is to introduce and prepare youth and young adults ages 18-24 for the world of work through placement into paid work experiences and on a path to more equitable career opportunities with their peers. This program is focused in three priority regions: Asheville, North Carolina; Cocke County, Tennessee; and Knoxville, Tennessee. Each region has collaborated with community partners to offer you the participant the best resources possible to achieve the following objectives:

- Decrease recidivism rates within a specific population
- Decrease violent crimes within specific areas through paid educational training, mentorship, workplace employment, and 12-month mentorship involvement and projects.
- Increase labor and education participation rates within specific populations and communities.





# HEALTHY OPPORTUNITIES PILOT



The Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP), part of North Carolina's Medicaid transformation, addresses four of the social determinants of health – food insecurity, housing, transportation and interpersonal violence/toxic stress. By understanding the linkages between these focus areas and overall health, the HOP works with local organizations to provide services to Medicaid members that will ultimately result in healthier communities in Western North Carolina.

Land of Sky Regional Council is working with Impact Health, an arm of Dogwood Health Trust, to provide transportation oversight and technical assistance to the 18 westernmost counties in North Carolina.



# P20 COUNCIL



**Target: Fill the 10K workforce gap by 2030.**

The Land of Sky P20 Council fosters collaboration among employers, educators, and community members in the spirit of enduring economic prosperity, through the alignment of innovative cradle-to-career skills and resources that lead to life-sustaining job opportunities in our four-county region of western North Carolina.





# THANK YOU!

## Contacts

Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director / Workforce Director

Erica Anderson, Deputy Director / Economic & Community Development Director