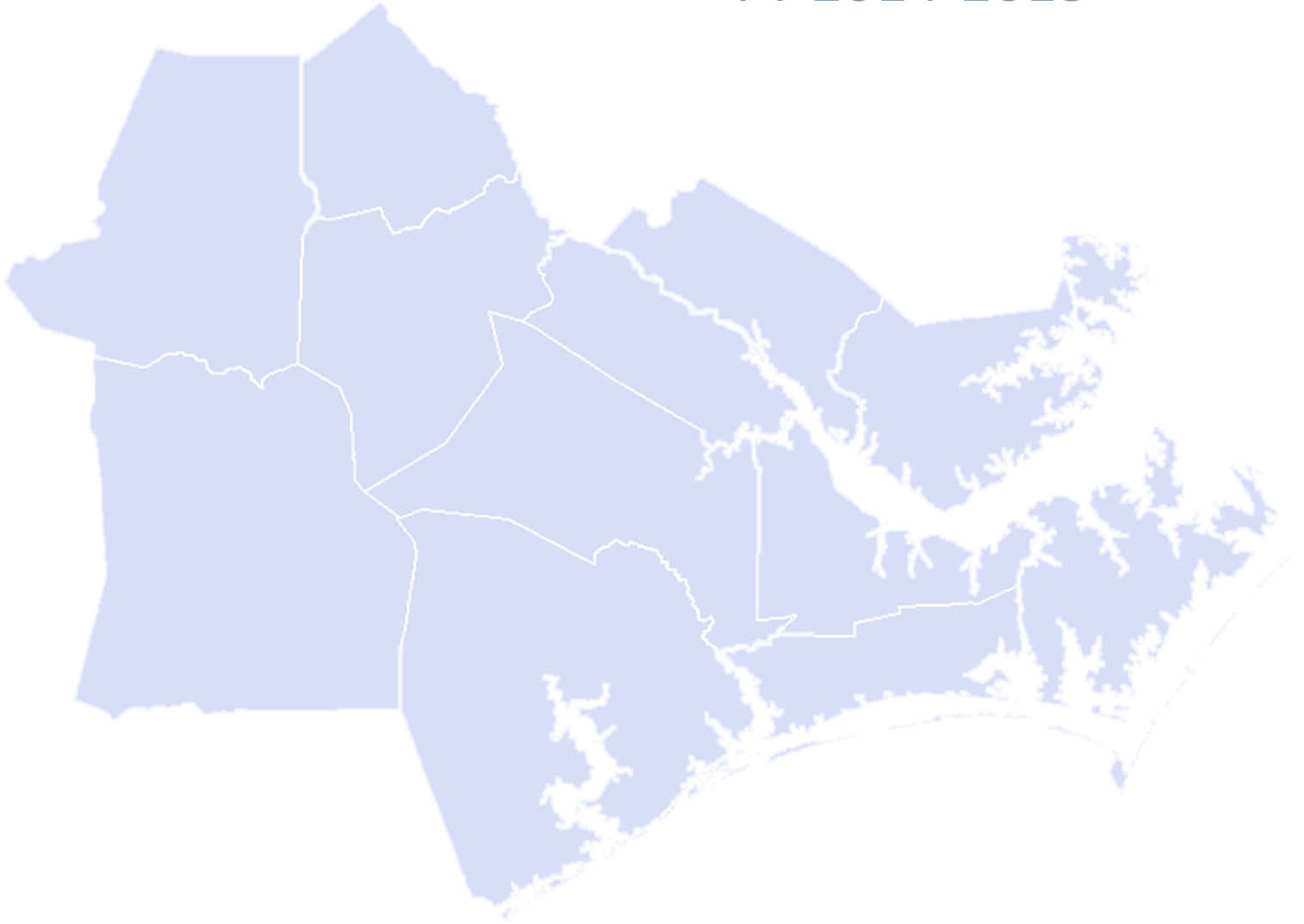


ECC ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2014-2015



Eastern Carolina Council

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To Our Community

WHAT IS ECC?

Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) is the Regional Council of Governments that serves the nine counties in Region P: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne.

The Eastern Carolina Council is one of sixteen multi-county planning and development regions in North Carolina. Regional Councils are governed by local, public, and private sector appointments. These Councils are forums where local officials determine priorities for the larger area of which their communities are an integral part.

ECC provides the organizational mechanism for local officials to address region-wide issues. By partnering local governments create a valuable instrument for crossing political jurisdictions.

ECC helps satisfy the requirement of most funding agencies for a regional system of cooperation, coordination, and accountability. Regional Councils bring together the leadership necessary to coordinate plans, programs and projects that deal with common problems and challenges, and to achieve mutual goals and objectives.

MISSION STATEMENT

ECC's mission is to improve the region's quality of life by providing planning, economic development and human services to local governments and area residents by maximizing resources and collaborating regionally.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF REGION

- 9 Counties
- 62 Municipalities
- Population 667,022
- Median Age: 35.1
- Median Household Income: \$42,043
- Number of Households: 256,919
- Average Household Size: 2.48
- Total Housing Units: 308,982
- Home Ownership Rate: 51.2%
- Median Home Value: \$163,521
- Labor Force: 252,462
- Average Unemployment Rate: 7.5%

Message from Shane Turney – President

Greetings!

As the President of the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (ECC) it is my pleasure to invite you to review the accomplishments of this organization that is in its 48th year of service to Region P, which includes Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne counties. One truth about the sustainability of an organization is that it must constantly strive to reinvent itself if the services it offers are to be relevant. That is what ECC works to accomplish.

ECC has a strong, diversified staff that are constantly looking for ways that ECC can be of service to its constituents—the local governments. Staff is available to consult on most issues of concern. If they cannot provide the specific expertise needed, they will help you identify appropriate resources. If your local government is a member of ECC and is not using this resource, you may want to ask why not.

The members of the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments Board of Directors are proud to be associated with this fine regional organization. ECC is strong administratively, programmatically and financially. We hope you will take the time to read this FY14-15 Annual Report so you can learn what has been accomplished.

We thank all member governments for their continued support. We believe the trust you have placed in ECC is well-founded and deserved.

Message from Judy Hills – Executive Director

To the ECC Region:

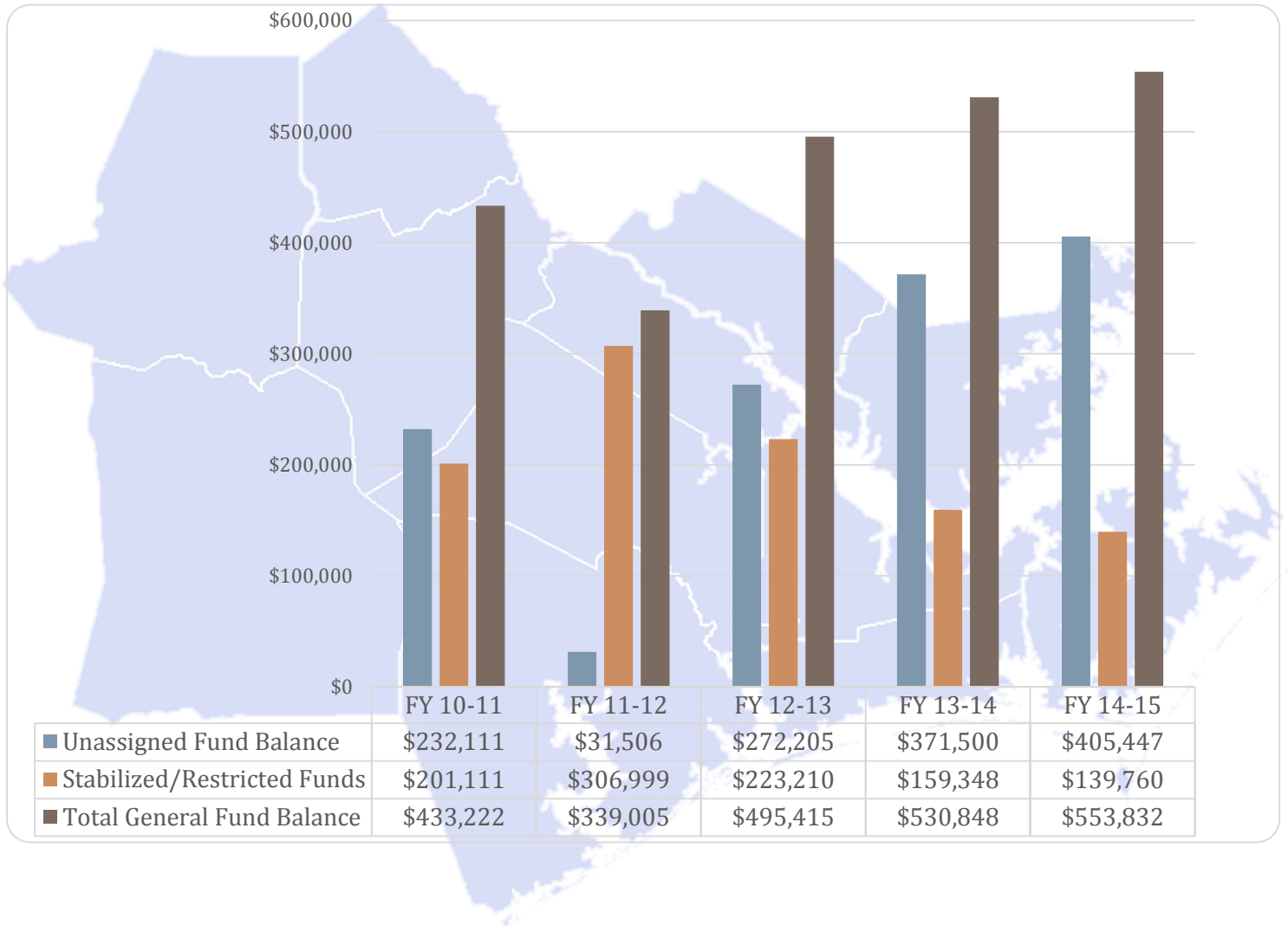
ECC continues to offer services that are valued by the region. This Annual Report presents an overview of our programs and accomplishments during the past fiscal year. As you will see we did a lot with a total staff of twelve. We ended this year with a strong fund balance, which is an indicator both of the fiscal health of ECC as well as the hard work of staff.

Every year ECC is examined by both funding agencies and our auditors from McGladrey to assure that we are fiscally responsible and that we are following programmatic guidelines. Our funders and our auditors assure our Board that ECC is worthy of the confidence that Federal, State and Local Governments put in us.

As we close FY14-15 with this Annual Report, we thank the region and the local governments for believing in ECC and the important role that ECC continues to play in its 48th year of service. We look forward to continuing to serve the region in the coming years.

General Fund Balance

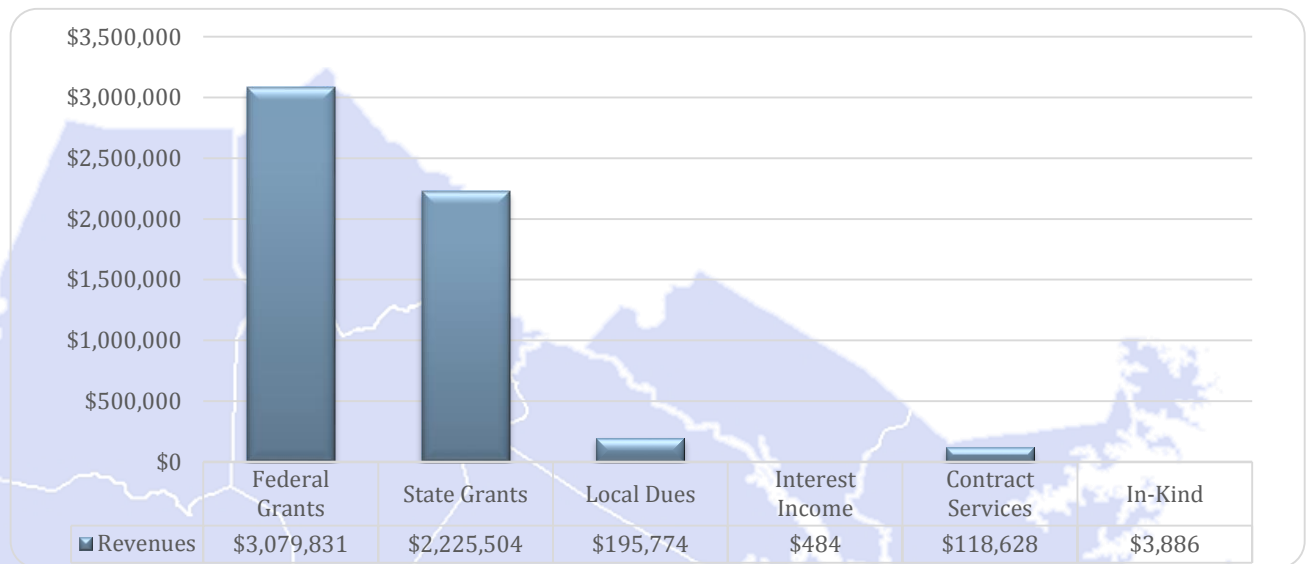
5 Year History



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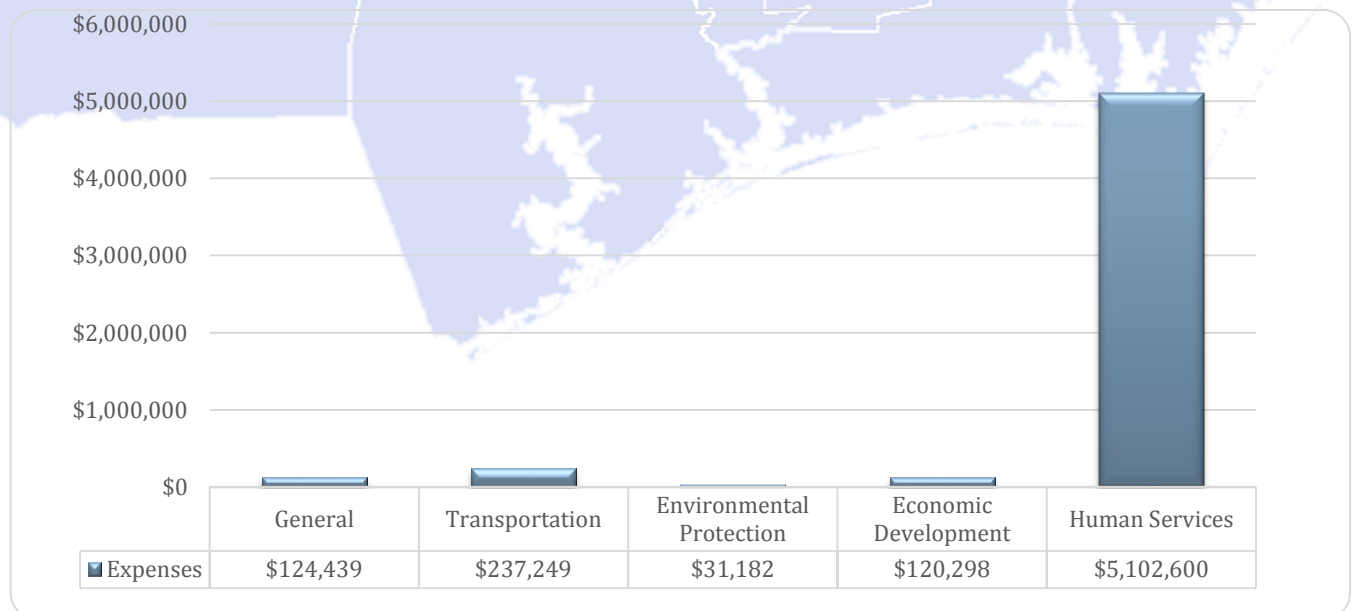
Revenues

Total Revenues: \$5,624,107



Expenses

Total Expenses: \$5,615,768



Economic & Community Development

WHAT DOES ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DO?

Eastern Carolina Council has the primary responsibility to assist local governments with a myriad of requests. These requests range from small tasks that can be handled expeditiously to others that may require more extensive work over a period of several months. ECC does charge for certain technical assistance projects, but at a much lower rate than a comparable consultant would cost. ECC consults with local governments to identify and apply for grants; holds essential training seminars for local officials; designs programs and strategies specific to a community; and works to attract resources to support development activities for the needs of the community.

ACTIVITIES

Here is a list of some of the activities in FY 14-15:

- Assisted Town of Fremont with their Small Town Economic Prosperity program
- Provided project administration services to Town of Faison for their Economic Development Administration grant for enhancements to their water system
- Hosted a meeting of those in the region involved in tourism
- Assisted the Town of North Topsail Beach to complete a Comprehensive System-wide Parks and Recreation Plan
- Assisted following towns in completing a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant application: Trent Woods, North Topsail Beach and Fremont
- Consulted with the following towns regarding economic development ideas: Dover, Cove City, Vanceboro, Bridgeton
- Participated in groups related to the military in our region: Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT), Joint Land Use Study update for MCAS Cherry Point
- Hosted quarterly ECC Region managers' meetings
- Assisted Town of Swansboro with hiring a new manager



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- Assisted the Area Day Reporting Center of New Bern to complete the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant application for an after school care program serving underprivileged children
- Acted for fiscal agent for two nonprofits: Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (serves five of our nine counties) and the 21st Century Community Learnings Centers (Area Day Reporting Center)
- Consulted with several groups regarding possible Economic Development Administration grants
- Assisted the Town of Maysville to submit an Economic Development Administration grant application
- Participated in the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development plan for Carteret County
- Helped to organize a stakeholder group to address abandoned and derelict vessels in coastal NC
- Applied for an EPA Brownfields Planning grant
- Applied to the Economic Development Administration for funding to create a plan for Plug-in Electric Vehicles for the Highway 70 corridor
- Responded to Request for Proposal to complete a Joint Land Use Study for both Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and MCAS Cherry Point
- Conducted retreats for the towns of Newport, Warsaw and Kenansville
- Completed pay studies for towns of Warsaw, Kenansville and Newport
- Completed an in-patient hospice facility feasibility study for Onslow County for Onslow Caregivers, Inc.



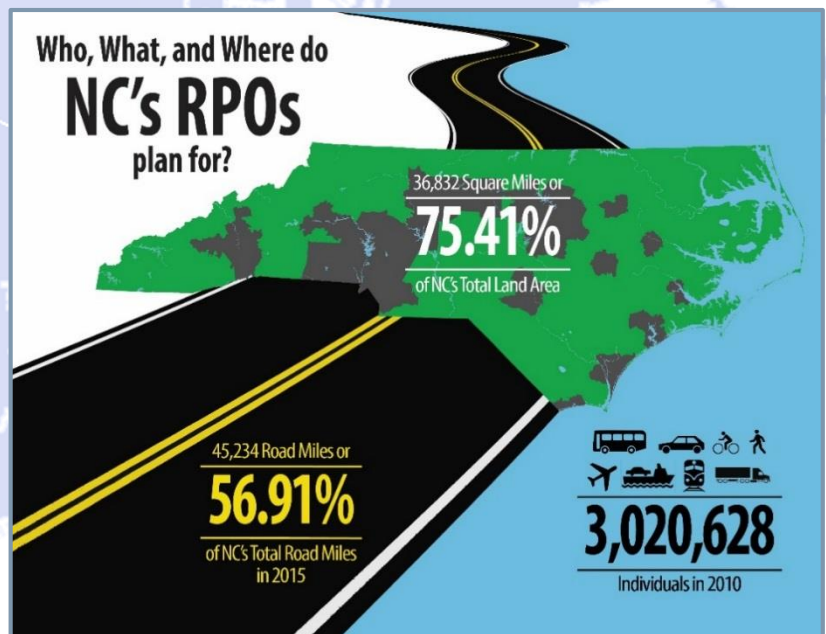
Planning & GIS

WHAT IS PLANNING & GIS?

The Planning Department is focused on greater regional cooperation and also provides community planning and Geographic Information System (GIS) services to the region's governments and communities. The goal of the department is to meet the needs and desires of our region now and into the future. Professionally trained and experienced staff strives to improve economic, environmental and social conditions in every program area and project. This is accomplished through quality facilitation, grant writing and management, project administration, data management, policy research and development, education, events, GIS services, and more.

WHAT IS AN RPO?

Rural Planning Organizations (RPO) are designated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) as the official transportation planning organization for their regions. ECC serves as staff to the Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO) for Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico counties, as well as the Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization (ECRPO) for Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne counties. RPOs across the state are charged with prioritizing projects for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) including highway, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. RPOs are also important partners in developing Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP). CTPs are long range (25-30 year) plans that identify problems or deficiencies and propose recommendations to address those problems. These recommendations are the basis for future NCDOT projects.



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2016-2025 STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a 10-year State and Federal-mandated plan that identifies the construction funding for and scheduling of transportation projects throughout the state. This plan is updated every two years and is developed in concert with Federal and State revenue forecasts, NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization process, preconstruction, and project development timetables and in adherence with Federal and State laws. In FY 14-15 our two RPOs reviewed all projects entered into the previous STIP, made changes and modifications. Additionally the RPO staff solicited the region for potential new projects to enter for prioritization. In June 2015, the NC Board of Transportation proposed the 2016-2025 STIP. The 2016-2025 STIP is the first STIP developed under the new Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law, passed in June 2013. In the 2016-2025 STIP, multiple projects in multiple transportation modes in the Down East RPO and Eastern Carolina RPO were partially or fully funded.



STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)



2016-2025

2015

JUNE 2015

North Carolina Department of Transportation

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NADO EXCELLENCE IN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AWARD

In December 2014, ECC received a 2014 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for ECC's Croatan Regional Bicycle and Trails Plan. ECC staff also presented on this Plan at NADO's National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference.



HOW CAN ECC HELP YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH PLANNING?

Currently, ECC is under contract to provide a variety of land use planning and GIS services to a few local governments in our region. These services include organizing and providing staffing for Planning Board and Board of Adjustment activities, processing zoning and floodplain permits, and creating new or updated maps using GIS software. ECC's planning staff can also help evaluate your local government's current zoning ordinance and provide relevant and context-sensitive solutions to bring your ordinance up-to-date.

Human Services – Area Agency on Aging

WHAT IS AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING?

The Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging (ECC AAA) is one of 16 Area Agencies on Aging in North Carolina. ECC AAA is responsible for the development and coordination of services for older adults within our planning service area as mandated by the Older American's Act. Federal funding is distributed to the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services and is then allocated to each Area Agency on Aging.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The ECC AAA will advocate, plan, develop, and support a comprehensive system of quality services designed to attain and preserve quality of life, health and independence of older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers.

ECC AAA ADVISORY BOARDS:

Regional Aging
and Advisory
Committee
(RAAC)

Senior Tar Heel
Legislature

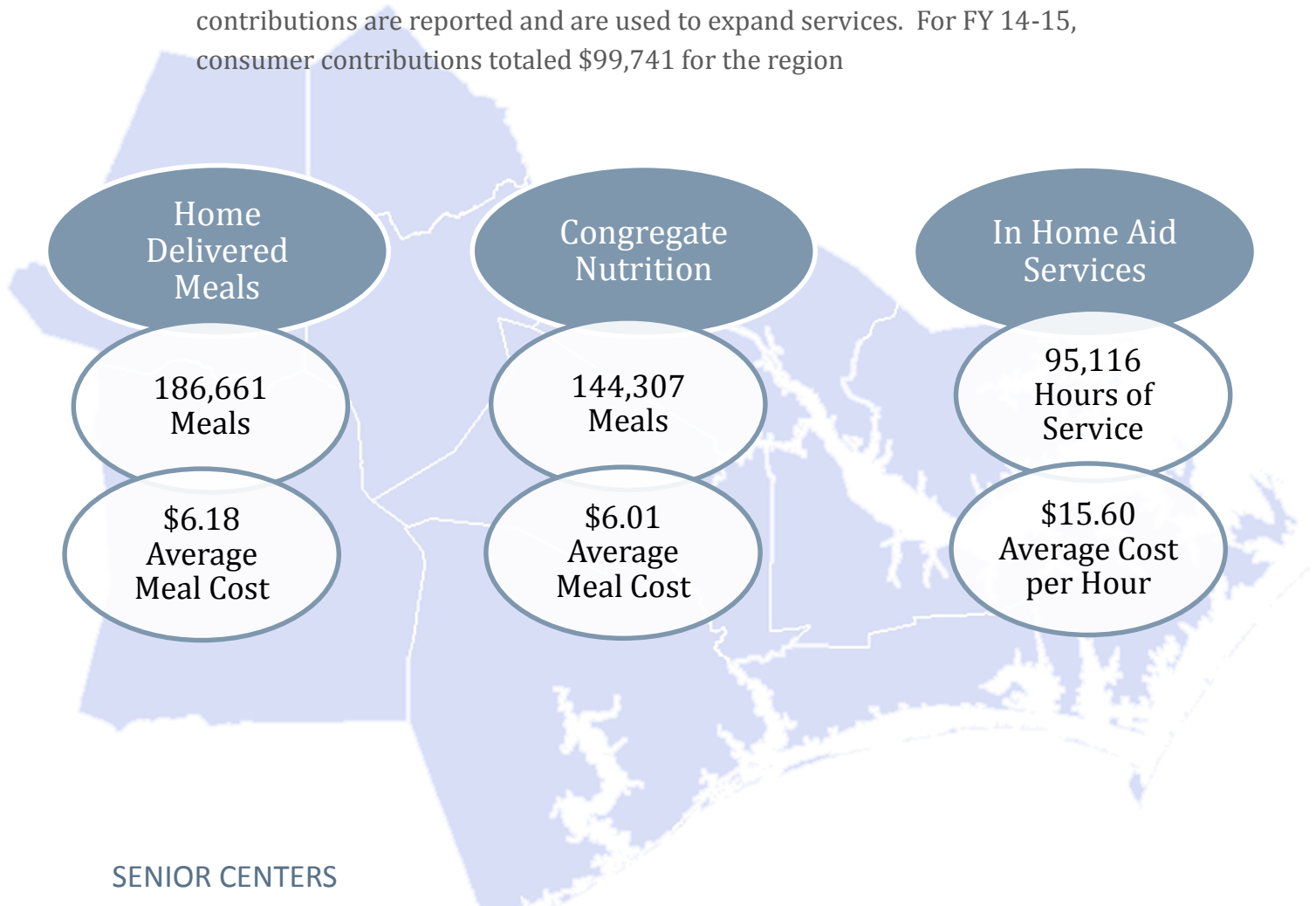
Ombudsman
Community
Advisory
Committees

HOME & COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT INFORMATION

- Service providers throughout the region expended \$4,430,456 for home and community based services. This includes federal and state funding passed through ECC, as well as local match.
- Service providers throughout the region provided 504,328 units of services to eligible older adults. Units of service include meals (both at the senior center and home delivered), transportation, and in-home aide assistance.

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- ECC AAA completes programmatic assessments for all services to ensure compliance with federal and state standards. During FY14-15, assessments were conducted for nutrition, in-home, senior companion and transportation programs.
- As mandated by the Older American's Act, participants have the opportunity to voluntarily give back to the program. This is called consumer contributions. All contributions are reported and are used to expand services. For FY 14-15, consumer contributions totaled \$99,741 for the region



SENIOR CENTERS

ECC AAA supports ten senior centers throughout the region. Senior centers serve as local focal points in communities for information on programs and services for older adults and caregivers. They also provide activities, congregate meals, and exercise programs.

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Certified Senior Centers of Excellence:

- Carteret Senior Services
- Greene County Senior Services
- Lenoir County Council on Aging
- Onslow Senior Center
- Pamlico Senior Services
- Wayne County Services on Aging – Peggy Seeger’s Senior Center

Certified Senior Center of Merit:

- City of Havelock Senior Center

Multi-Purpose Senior Centers:

- Craven County Senior Services
- Duplin County Services for the Aged
- Jones County Senior Center



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OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

ECC AAA has two certified Ombudsmen each covering a portion of the region. Angelia Pridgen serves Carteret, Jones, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne Counties. Renee Kea serves Craven, Duplin, Greene and Lenoir Counties. Ombudsmen advocate for the rights of residents and are responsible for investigating complaints made by or on behalf of nursing & adult care home residents. They work with residents, family members, concerned citizens, facilities, as well as public and private agencies to ensure resident's rights are protected and to improve their quality of care.

FY 14-15 Ombudsman activities:

- Investigated 180 complaints
- Provided 918 technical assistance contacts
- Conducted 144 visits to nursing homes
- Conducted 175 visits to adult care homes
- Conducted 45 visits to family care homes
- Oversaw 13 Community Advisory Committees with 87 volunteers.
- Hosted 46 community education events
 - Facilitated 8 Virtual Dementia Tour simulations – a total of 229 individuals participated
 - *Alive Inside* movie event
- Completed 149 consults to long term care staff regarding resident rights

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

ECC AAA hosted several Elder Abuse Prevention activities during FY14-15.

- Developed Elder Abuse posters for distribution
- Facilitated elder abuse workshops
- Provided administrative assistance and leadership to the Craven Elder Abuse Awareness Team
- Aired elder abuse prevention commercial on all major television stations (ABC, NBC and CBS)
- Provided elder abuse education to Community Advisory Committee members

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- Hosted three Elder Abuse Awareness Walks
 - Onslow County, New River Waterfront Park, June 12 – 50 participants
 - Lenoir County, NC State Veterans Home, June 15 – 100 participants
 - Craven County, Senior Center, June 19 – 50 participants

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) assists unpaid individuals who serve as caregivers to frail elderly members and grandparents raising their grandchildren by providing them with:

- Information about available services in the community
- Assistance in connecting individuals with the available supportive services
- Individual counseling, support groups and training for caregivers to help them in making decisions and solving problems related to their caregiving role
- Respite care in the form of in-home assistance, adult day care, or group respite to provide the caregivers with a temporary relief from their caregiving duties
- Supplemental services to assist the caregiver as needed such as incontinence supplies, nutrition supplements, minor home modifications, and assistive devices

During FY 14-15 ECC AAA Family Caregiver Support Program:

- Provided 5,617 respite hours through voucher program
- Provided 4,702 hours of in-home respite
- Provided information to 1,928 callers
- Hosted 92 Caregiver events with 5,016 attendees

PROGRAM EXPANSIONS DURING FY 2014-2015

- Jones County: Established Caregiver Respite Voucher Reimbursement Program
- Duplin County Services on Aging: Established Caregiver Respite Voucher Reimbursement Program
- Wayne County Senior Center: Increased in Caregiver Respite Voucher Reimbursement Program
- Craven County Department of Social Services: Established Caregiver Respite Voucher Reimbursement Program

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CHRONIC DISEASE SELF MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) is an evidence-based health promotion program, meaning the program has been studied and published in a peer reviewed journal with proven results. Participants who take the

CDSMP workshop (once a week for six weeks) report overall better health, better communication and increased physical activity.



Nearly 90% of people 65+ have at least one chronic condition. In North Carolina, the biggest chronic disease issues are hypertension, diabetes and arthritis. CDSMP helps individuals with two or more chronic health conditions to better self-manage. Participants are led through problem-solving, action planning, decision making, healthy eating, physical activity, and medication management activities to enable them to better manage

their condition. Based on national programmatic data, CDSMP has a potential annual health care savings per participant of more than \$700 in emergency department and hospital visits.

David Rosado and Jillian Hardin are certified T-Trainers for CDSMP. As T-Trainers (they serve as two out of 100 T-Trainers worldwide) David and Jillian are qualified to train Master Trainers. Master Trainers then go back to their communities and train Lay Leaders who teach these self-management programs to participants within the community. ECC AAA hosted its second CDSMP Master Training



course on May 18. The group of 24 trainees included hospital education staff from Florida, Community Health staff from the University of Virginia and Washington DC, Area Agency on Aging and behavioral health agency staff from North Carolina and Alabama.

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ECC AAA also offers other evidence based health promotion programs such as Living Healthy with Diabetes and A Matter of Balance (a falls prevention program).



LOCAL CONTACT AGENCY

ECC AAA has been designated as the Local Contact Agency (LCA) for our nine-county region for skilled nursing facility referrals. When a nursing facility resident seeks to return to their community, the facility makes a referral to the State; the State forwards the referral to the appropriate LCA agency. A face-to-face visit is made by ECC AAA staff to the resident to identify services needed in order to transition home. In 2014-2015, ECC AAA provided outreach visits, in-services and meetings for the purpose of providing information on this referral process.

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program, funded by Medicaid, is designed to help individuals who live in a skilled nursing facility transition back into their community. The program monitors participants for one year after transition. Staff coordinates with the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAPDA), Independent Living and other community based services to



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ensure a safe transition. When an individual becomes eligible for MFP they receive priority status for housing and other supportive services. In addition, participants receive up to \$3,000 of “startup” funds for one-time costs such as utility deposits, housing deposits, first month rent, furniture and kitchen packages.

MFP SUCCESS STORY

Jillian Hardin, Transitions Coordinator, met with Mr. and Mrs. Ward at the beginning of 2015. He was a resident at Willow Creek Skilled Nursing Facility in Goldsboro. He wanted to move back home so he could “live with his wife.” ECC AAA assisted with the MFP application. Once the application was approved, ECC AAA worked with several local partners including



Independent Living, CAPDA and the facility social worker to develop a transition plan that would ensure Mr. Ward could live more independently and safely. Mr. Ward successfully moved back into his home on April 27! ECC AAA has made several follow-up visits to the Ward home. Each time Jillian has been greeted by Mr. Ward with a smile on his face. He says that he loves being home with his wife and enjoys her cooking.



SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM

The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counsels Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers about Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and long-term care insurance. As SHIIP Counselors ECC AAA staff and area volunteers offer free and unbiased information regarding Medicare health care products.



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Current ECC Staff

JUDY HILLS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JENNY MILLER
FINANCE DIRECTOR



TONYA CEDARS
HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR



PATRICK FLANAGAN
PLANNING DIRECTOR



DAVID ROSADO
HUMAN SERVICE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR



JANUARY BROWN
HUMAN SERVICE PLANNER



ANDREA REESE
HUMAN SERVICE PLANNER



ANGELIA PRIDGEN
LEAD OMBUDSMAN



RENEE KEA
OMBUDSMAN



LAUREN TUTTLE
COMMUNITY PLANNER



ROBIN BLOSS
COMMUNITY PLANNER



LEIGHANN MORGAN
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT



2014-2015 Executive Committee

*As of June 2015

President	Shane Turney	Mayor Pro Tem Town of Trent Woods
(1 st) Vice President	Jay Bender, Jr.	Mayor Town of Pollocksville
(2 nd) Vice President	Robin Comer	Commissioner Carteret County
Treasurer	Edward Riggs, Jr.	Mayor Town of Alliance

Sam Blizzard, Jr.	Commissioner Town of Beulaville
Edward Cromartie	Commissioner Wayne County
Scott Dacey	Commissioner Craven County
Jesse Dowe	Commissioner Duplin County
Larry Gladney	Councilman Town of LaGrange
Bennie Heath	Commissioner Greene County
Dick Macartney	Alderman Town of North Topsail Beach
Ray McDonald	Mayor Town of Mount Olive
Patricia Prescott	Commissioner Pamlico County
Arthur Robinson	Commissioner Town of Hookerton
Bill Taylor	Councilman Town of Morehead City

Knox Proctor	Ex-officio, Legal Counsel
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2014-2015 General Membership Board

Carteret County

Stephen Blizzard	Town of Newport
Robin Comer	Carteret County
Marianna Hollinshed	Town of Beaufort
John Lotspih	Town of Atlantic Beach
Sam Meadows, III	Town of Cedar Point
Mitchell Russell, Jr.	Town of Bogue
Elizabeth Sweeney	Town of Bogue Clerk
Bill Taylor	Town of Morehead City
Pete Wylie	Town of Indian Beach

Craven County

Frank Bottorff	Town of Havelock
Richard Bowers	Town of Vanceboro
John Chittick	Town of Bridgeton
Scott Dacey	Craven County
Brenda Garvey	Town of River Bend
Dred Mitchell, Jr.	Mayor of Cove City
Victor Taylor	City of New Bern
Shane Turney	Town of Trent Woods
John Wetherington	Town of Dover

Duplin County

Woody Brinson	Town of Kenansville
Shawn Condon	Town of Warsaw
Jesse Dowe	Duplin County
Warren Hepler	Town of Wallace
Clayton Herring, Jr.	Town of Rose Hill
Carolyn Kenyon	Town of Faison
Jackial Swinson	Town of Greenevers
James Whitehead	Town of Magnolia

Greene County

Bennie Heath	Greene County
Arthur Robinson	Town of Hookerton

Iones County

Jay Bender	Town of Pollocksville
Darlene Spivey	Town of Trenton
Edward Waltz	Town of Maysville

Lenoir County

Roland Best	Lenoir County
Larry Gladney	Town of LaGrange
Sammy Whitehurst	Town of Grifton

Onslow County

John Lister	Town of Swansboro
Dick Macartney	Town of N. Topsail Beach
McKinley Smith	Town of Richlands

Pamlico County

Vennie Himbry	Town of Bayboro
Sherry Howlett	Town of Vandemere
Booker Jones	Town of Mesic
Julia Lee	Town of Grantsboro
Patricia Prescott	Pamlico County
Edward Riggs, Jr.	Town of Alliance
Larry Summers	Town of Oriental

Wayne County

Billy Ray Davis	Town of Eureka
Edward Cromartie	Wayne County
Ray McDonald, Sr.	Town of Mount Olive
Greg Ricker	Village of Walnut Creek





EasternCarolinaCouncil