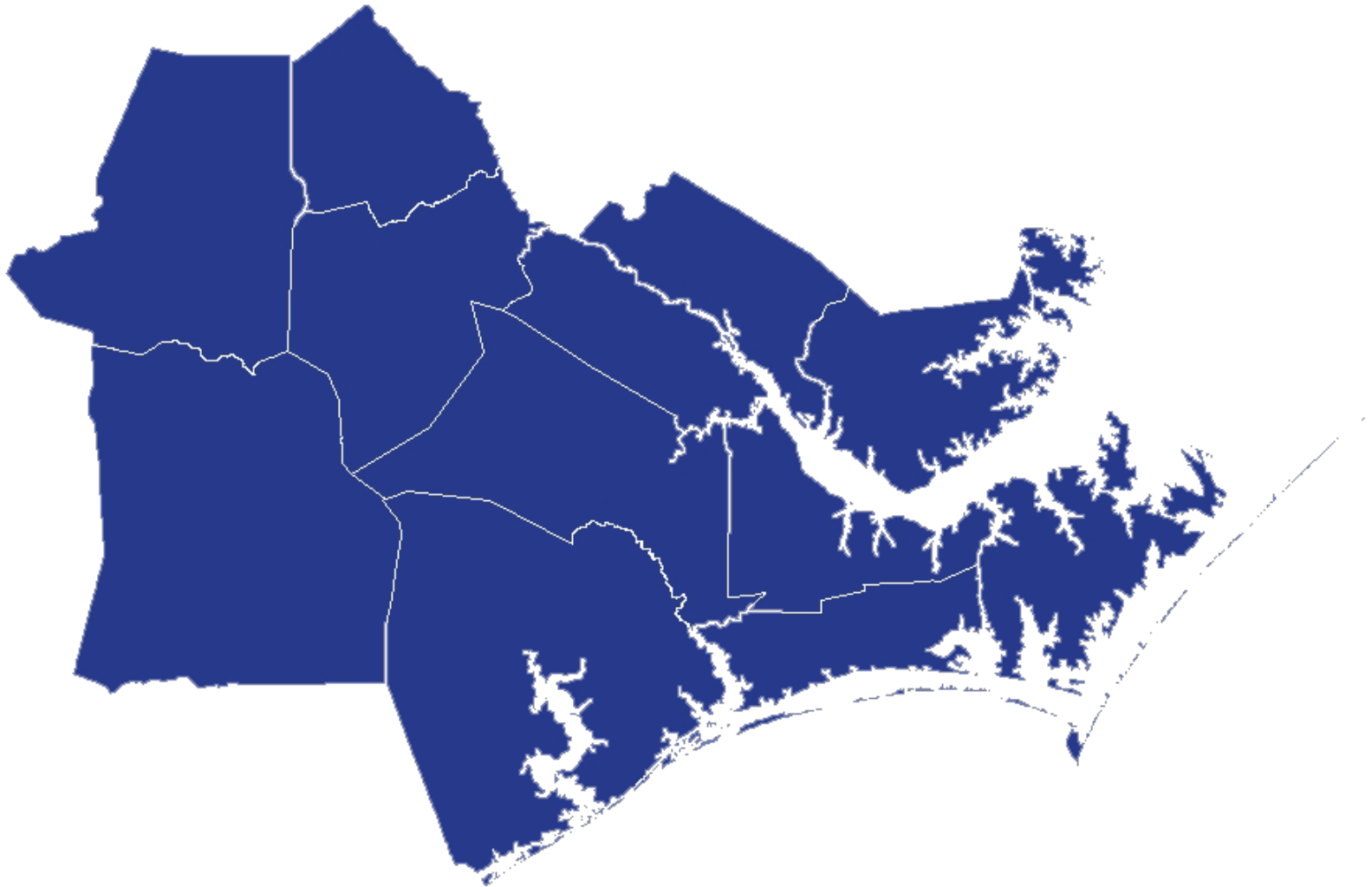


ecc
Eastern Carolina Council
2015-2016 Annual Report



A Word From Our Chair

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.

Greetings Regional Partners!

FY 15-16 has been another productive year for the Eastern Carolina Council due to its hard-working staff and management team. With strong leadership from the ECC Board of Directors, the organization continues its mission “to improve the region’s quality of life by providing human, planning and economic development services to local governments and area residents by leveraging resources and collaborating regionally.”

ECC’s region consists of nine counties, 62 municipalities, and a population of 656,654. Our economy is diverse: military, agribusiness, manufacturing, medical, tourism and others. But we have more in common when it comes to the quality of life issues: transportation, water quality, deteriorating infrastructure, K-12 education, aging populace, workforce, broadband, health care, environmental, housing, sustainable food systems, etc. ECC helps to address these issues in its roles as convener, collaborator, and consultant. Ultimately, ECC is here to serve the people through the services we provide to our local governments.

In 2017 ECC will enter its 50th year of service to this region. That is a long time in the life-cycle of any organization. Over those years, ECC has morphed and changed to meet the challenges it faced and it will continue to do so in the future to ensure relevancy and accountability.

As the President of the Board, it has been an honor to serve in this capacity as we continue our journey. We are gratified that so many local governments continue to see the services provided by ECC as meaningful. We will strive to further that tradition in the years ahead.

Shane Turney

President



Message from Our Executive Director

The Eastern Carolina Council staff of twelve has continued to work hard this past fiscal year. Our largest program, the Aging Department, has six staff and the planning department has three staff. We have one administrative assistant that helps all the departments, one Finance Director and one Executive Director, who carries a project load while having overall responsibility for the organization. When you read this report we hope you will appreciate the scope of what we were able to accomplish given the size of our staff.

We are thankful that we have an engaged, supportive Board of Directors. These members are ECC's advocates. They help us identify the needs of the region and assist in maintaining the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region as required by one of our funders, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. (EDA)

In 2017 ECC will be 50 years old—half a century. ECC began as the Neuse River Council of Governments in 1967 under the leadership of J. Roy Fogle who guided the organization until 1994. In 1998 the name was changed to the Eastern Carolina Council. Over the years the organization has responded to the marketplace. The Workforce Development Program and the Loan Program were spun off leaving ECC with its core programs: aging, planning and economic development. We are supported primarily by various grants, by technical assistance projects, and by member dues which help us to meet match requirements for the grants and sustain the infrastructure. While the road to 2017 has not always been smooth, ECC continues to serve to the best of its ability the governments in our region. We thank you for the confidence you have placed in us.

Looking forward, June 30, 2017 will be my last day as the Executive Director of ECC as I will be retiring. I have been a full-time employee of ECC since 1999, but was employed in a temporary capacity prior to that. I have always felt that this organization has a very important mission and am proud to have served it in a number of capacities. I strongly encourage all county and municipal governments in the region to continue to support ECC through member dues.

Thanks for all your support through the years both to me personally and to the organization! This experience has enriched my life and hopefully I have given back far more than I have personally gained. My husband and I will continue to live in New Bern, so we'll see you around the region.

Judy Hills

Executive Director

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.

Economic Health

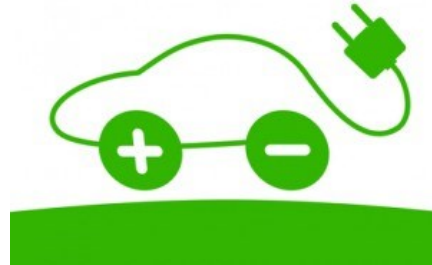
The time has come for local governments to begin to think of economic and community development in terms of the health of its citizens. The health of a community is more than just the physical health of its residents, although that is certainly a component. According to the Federal Reserve Bank, “Healthy Communities is the space in which the community development, economic development, public health, and health care industries collaborate to reduce persistent health inequities and create healthier communities for all...The social determinants of health—where people work, live and play—play a strong role as well...They are the nexus of the community development and health sector’s joint interest.” We encourage you to begin utilizing this term, “economic health” instead of the narrow term “economic development.” Every community has the opportunity to improve its economic health while every community does not have the same advantage when it comes to its economic development.

ECC continues to provide economic health ideas via its Weekly Informational Bulletin. Every community, no matter how little it might have in resources, can do something to better the lives of its citizens. The following are examples of some economic health activities and projects ECC accomplished or worked on in FY 15-16:

- Provided Weekly Information Bulletin to over 500 in the region.
- Provided information to the 300+ members of the grant writers’ listserv regarding grants, educational opportunities and data.
- Hosted quarterly meeting of the managers in ECC’s region to address items of mutual interest.
- Helped to address issue of abandoned and derelict vessels in local waterways.
- Hosted a Water Summit for the region.
- Consulted with various towns, nonprofits, and community colleges regarding issues, grants (EDA) and economic development.
- Acted as fiscal agent for Coastal Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (serves 4 of ECC’s 9 counties) Without our assistance they would not have been able to receive these grants to benefit the region.
- Provided administrative services to the Town of Faison for their Economic Development Administration grant to make improvements to their water system benefitting local agribusinesses.
- Consulted with Town of Magnolia, Town of Bridgeton, and Town of Pikeville on PARTF application for 2016.
- Hosted a free ethics training for new municipal aldermen and commissioners.
- Maintained the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.



Economic Health



- ECC was awarded a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to complete a Plug-in Electric Vehicle Study for the Highway 70 corridor.
- Consulted individually with a number of nonprofits concerning their operations and finances.
- Assisted the City of New Bern to prepare an EDA application to renovate an old city utility building into a workforce training center.
- ECC assisted Town of North Topsail Beach and the Town of Fremont to apply for Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grants (were awarded).
- Facilitated a meeting with the Craven County School Board and a housing developer regarding workforce housing options for teachers.
- Collaborated with the City of New Bern and the Neuse River Community Development Corporation on a community-wide event to clean up and fix up dwellings.
- Conducted a retreat for the Town of Kenansville Commissioners.
- ECC hosted a legislative luncheon for the local elected officials to meet with their State Senators and Representatives
- Assisted Carteret County with application to state Military Advisory Council for funding to implement the Joint Land Use Study Update recommendations for Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.



Judy Hills

Executive Director

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.

Patrick Flanagan

Planning Director

Lauren Tuttle

Community Planner

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.

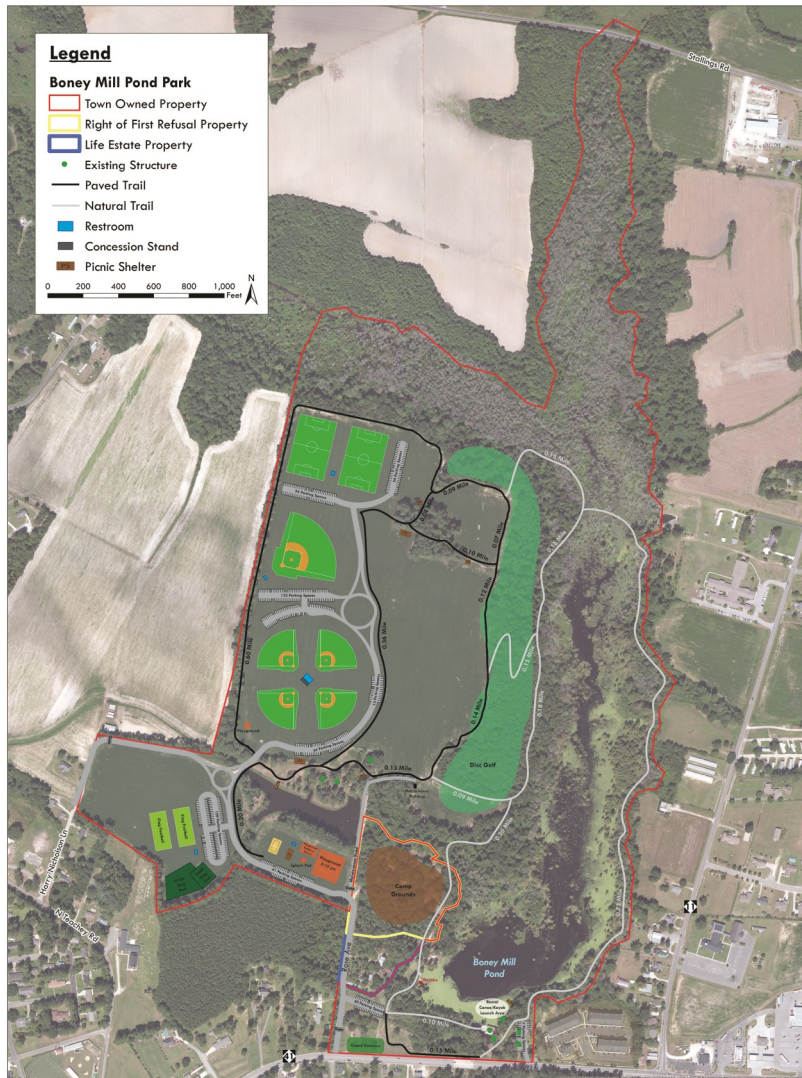
Planning & GIS

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, transit, aviation, ferry, rail, 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 the future NDOT projects.



Boney Mill Pond Park Master Plan



In 2015, ECC completed a Master Plan for the future 210-acre Boney Mill Pond Park for the Town of Wallace. Throughout the Plan development process, ECC:

- Helped facilitate public input workshops
- Conducted a thorough site analysis of historic, man-made, and natural features through site visits and using GIS
- Met with the Town Council and Town staff numerous times to identify desired park amenities, develop a park site plan, and determine park phasing
- Estimated planned amenity costs
- Composed the final Master Plan.

This Plan was designed to meet all requirements of a master plan for applying to a NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant and was adopted by Wallace's Town Council in December 2015.



Human Services—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.

Tonya Cedars

Human Services Director

David Rosado

Human Service Deputy Director

January Brown

Human Service Planner

Andrea Reese

Human Service Planner

Angelia Pridgen

Lead Ombudsman

Renee Kea

Ombudsman

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.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



June 15th is designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day each year. North Carolina recognizes the timeframe from Mother's Day to Father's Day each year as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The ECC AAA Ombudsman Program has held annual "Walks" in June in Onslow County for the past four years and in Lenoir County for the past three years. This year, we held our second Walk in Craven County. The goal of the Elder Abuse Awareness Walks is to educate the community on what constitutes Elder Abuse, how to prevent

abuse, who to report allegations of abuse to, and to provide national and state statistics on abuse. Throughout the routes of the walks, we set up signs that display various elder abuse statistics. This year the event in Onslow was held at the New River Waterfront Park in Jacksonville on *June 10th*. We had approximately 65 participants in the Walk. The Lenoir County Walk was held at the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Kinston on *June 15th* with a total of 200 participants. The Craven County Walk was *June 29th* held at The Courtyards of New Bern with approximately 60 participants. The attendance for all three walks have increased this year. Our goal for 2017 is to add additional Walks throughout our nine county region.



Home and Community Care Block Grant

For FY 15-16, ECC AAA received an allocation of \$3,853,348 from the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services (NCDAAS) Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) to be distributed to our 9 counties. The HCCBG is a combination of allocations from the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) in support of respite care, portions of the State In-Home and Adult Day Care funds, and other relevant State appropriations.

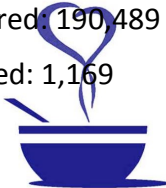
The distribution of the federal and state funds is based on county population using a formula with the following factors and weights:

- 50% on the number of persons 60 years of age and older
- 30% on the number of persons 60 and older who live at or below poverty
- 10% on the number of non-white persons 60 and older
- 10% on the number of 60 and older who live in rural areas



Home Delivered Meals:

- Average Rate: \$6.05
- Units Delivered: 190,489
- People Served: 1,169



Congregate Nutrition:

- Average Rate: \$5.97
- Units Delivered: 146,051
- People Served: 2,137



Transportation:

- Average Rate: \$19.20
- Units Delivered: 61,945
- People Served: 499



In Home Services

- Average Rate: \$15.97
- Units Delivered: 98,821
- People Served: 611

The formula component was designed to meet the requirements of the Older Americans Act, a major HCCBG funding source, to take into account: (1) the geographical distribution of older adults; and (2) the emphasis placed on those with the greatest social and economic needs. The formula-based allocation amounts to the counties fluctuate from year to year based on the shift in the designated demographic factors and funding levels.

HCCBG has 18 fundable programs to help meet local needs in assisting older adults to remain at home as long as possible in an effort to prevent premature institutionalization. With the annual allocation each county receives, the county funds programs based on guidance given to the County Commissioners from the local aging planning board with the intent to help those most in need. To the left, you will see the top four funded programs in our region and how effective they have been during FY 15-16 in serving the older adults.

HCCBG Funded Agencies:

Carteret County

- Carteret County DSS ▪ Carteret Senior Services ▪ Coastal Community Action, Inc. (CCA)

Craven County

- Craven County DSS ▪ CCA ▪ Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) ▪ Havelock Senior Center

Duplin County

- Duplin Services for the Aged

Greene County

- Greene County Senior Services ▪ Greene County DSS

Jones County

- Jones County DSS ▪ CARTS ▪ CCA

Lenoir County

- Lenoir County Council on Aging, Inc. ▪ Lenoir County DSS

Onslow County

- Onslow County Senior Services

Pamlico County

- Pamlico County DSS ▪ Pamlico Senior Services

Wayne County

- Wayne County Services for Older Adults ▪ Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency, Inc. (WAGES)

Family Caregiver Support Program

ECC AAA conducted nine virtual dementia tours throughout the region in FY 2015-2016 with over 275 attendees. The tour was presented to caregivers, family members, professionals, and our communities. ECC AAA completed a tour with the entire staff of Craven County Electric and also with an ECU Psychology class for the school of Social Work.

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

The ECC AAA FCSP program sponsored a Respecting Choices Facilitator Training and certification class. ECC AAA currently has individual facilitators trained for eight of our nine counties.

- Supplemental services to assist the caregiver as needed such as incontinence supplies, nutrition supplements, minor home modifications, and assistive devices.

County Reimbursed FCSP Regional Services:

Regional Respite Care Hours Provided Through the Respite Voucher Program: 7,376 Hours Provided

Regional Institutional Respite Days: 27 Days Provided

Regional Community Respite Days: 56 Days Provided

Regional In-Home Aide Services: 6,654 Hours Provided

Home Delivered Meals: 640 Meals Distributed

Home Modifications: 2 Completed Projects

ECC AAA FCSP participated in **67** events with over **2630** attendees for caregivers of older adults and **7** events with **405** participants for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

FCSP & Veterans Partnership Expansion Program for FY 2015-2016

ECC AAA Family Caregiver Specialist sits on the Craven County Veterans Stand Down board and assists with veteran partners throughout the region to provide information to caregivers and family members.

ECC AAA participated in two regional VA Stand Down events with over 450 attendees. The ECC AAA FCSP assisted with quarterly elder care classes aboard USMC Cherry Point for caregivers and family members.

Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program advocates for the rights of residents in Long Term Care (LTC) in the region. We investigate and work to resolve complaints related to medical and personal

Long Term Care Ombudsman Activities for FY 2015-2016

Visits to LTC Facilities	377
Facility In-Services	12
Community Education Events	15
Technical Assistance	911
Complaints	170
Cases	78

services provided to facility residents. We work with facilities, residents and their family members, concerned citizens and government entities to protect the rights of residents and provide information on the long-term care system. The Program provides in-service training and education to LTC facility staff and provide elder abuse awareness for community groups and organizations. We also train and oversee the functions of thirteen Community Advisory Committees (CAC) consisting of 85 volunteers.

Internship

The Ombudsman had the opportunity to provide field instruction to Makaley Deal for her internship in the Social Work program at ECU from January through April 2016. She completed 15 hours of orientation classroom training and facility orientation training. Makaley assisted the Ombudsman



* Makaley is the third from the left

Program with complaints, developed CAC and facility training presentations, and conducted those trainings at CAC meetings and at facilities.

Additionally, she was involved in organizing community events such as coordinating the volunteers for our local Neuse River Senior Games.

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 unbiased information regarding Medicare health care products.

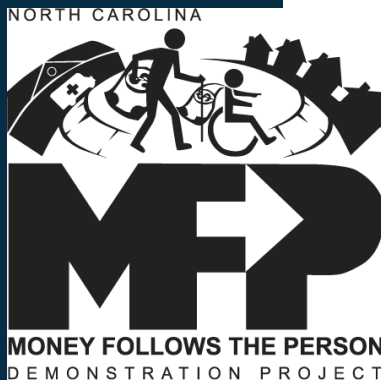
2015 Craven County ECC AAA Coordinating Site Statistics:

- Total Events: 57
- Total Hours: 236
- 622,614 client out reach
- 3 New SHIIP Volunteers



Money Follows the Person Success Story

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 ensure 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.



At age 50, Ms. S. had a brain tumor removed which left her physically limited as well as cognitively impaired. She had also lost her ability to express herself through speech. She came to the nursing facility with extensive rehabilitation needs. Once rehabilitation services were maxed out, she continued to stay at the nursing facility, needing personal care, supervision, and medical services. When Andi Reese, Transition Coordinator met with her sister, Cathy, in early November of 2015, Cathy had been struggling to get more than just Ms. S.'s basic needs met. She was frustrated feeling that her sister could accomplish so much more if she could get her home with one-on-one care. She reported that her sister was often sleepy. When not asleep, she could usually be found walking the corridors. Cathy was very concerned for her quality of life.

The MFP program coordinated with CAP/DA (Medicaid Waiver) to approve personal care and nursing services. In addition, MFP was able to help secure some minor home modifications working with the Division of Vocation Rehabilitation and Independent Living that made basic tasks, such as toiletting and bathing easier and safer. We were also able to help get Ms. S. a communication tablet device to help her make her needs known.

Ms. S. transitioned out of the nursing facility and into her own apartment on May 25th. She receives 40 hours of personal assistance per week from an in-home aide provided through the Medicaid CAP/DA program. Her sister and other family members provide companionship and supervision when the aide is not there. Since returning home, Ms. S. has relearned some of her personal care skills, she helps make dinner and cleans up afterward, she has relearned how to write her own name and identify certain written words, and she is learning to use the communication tablet to express some of her thoughts and needs.

Cathy expresses that her sister now sleeps less, engages more, eats better and is generally happier and more content in her own home. Ms. S. can now participate in her teenage son's life in a way she could not have before. Cathy is pleased with the progress her sister has made since coming home, and is dedicated to her continued improvement, which might never have been possible without the resources of the MFP program.

Senior Centers Today

Since the birth of the first senior center in New York City in 1943, senior centers have continuously evolved to meet the needs of the older adults by providing valuable programs, services, and activities. The senior of yester-year is not too much different than the senior of today when it comes to seeking a place to socialize, find assistance, or just to eat a balanced meal. Today, our senior centers are a part of a much broader network providing vital long term services and support to older adults and adults with disabilities so that they can live in their homes and participate in their communities for as a long as possible.

In North Carolina there are 162 senior centers with 10 located right here in our region, offering a variety of programs, services and activities in order to engage older adults as well as help maintain their independence. The centers offer a variety of programs and choose which programs to fund based on the needs of the community. Below are programs that are typically offered in the senior centers within our region:

- Chronic Disease Self Management Education
- Diabetes Self Management Education
- Home Delivered Meals
- Congregate Nutrition
- Transportation
- In Home Aide Services
- Housing and Home Improvement
- Yoga
- Tai-Chi
- Technology Literacy
- Adult Basic Education
- Durable Medical Equipment Lending
- Laughter Yoga
- Information, Referral, and Case Assistance
- Consumer Directed Care
- Arthritis Exercise Programs
- Legal Assistance
- Support Groups
- Adult Day Care
- Group Respite
- Care Management
- Family Caregiver Support
- Nutritional Supplements
- Senior Companion

Region P Centers of Excellence:

Pamlico County Senior Services

Onslow County Senior Services

Lenoir County Council on Aging

Greene County Senior Center

Carteret County Senior Services
Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center

Wayne County Services on Aging
Peggy Seegars Senior Center

Havelock Senior Center has
achieved **Center of Merit**

Financials

EXPENSES

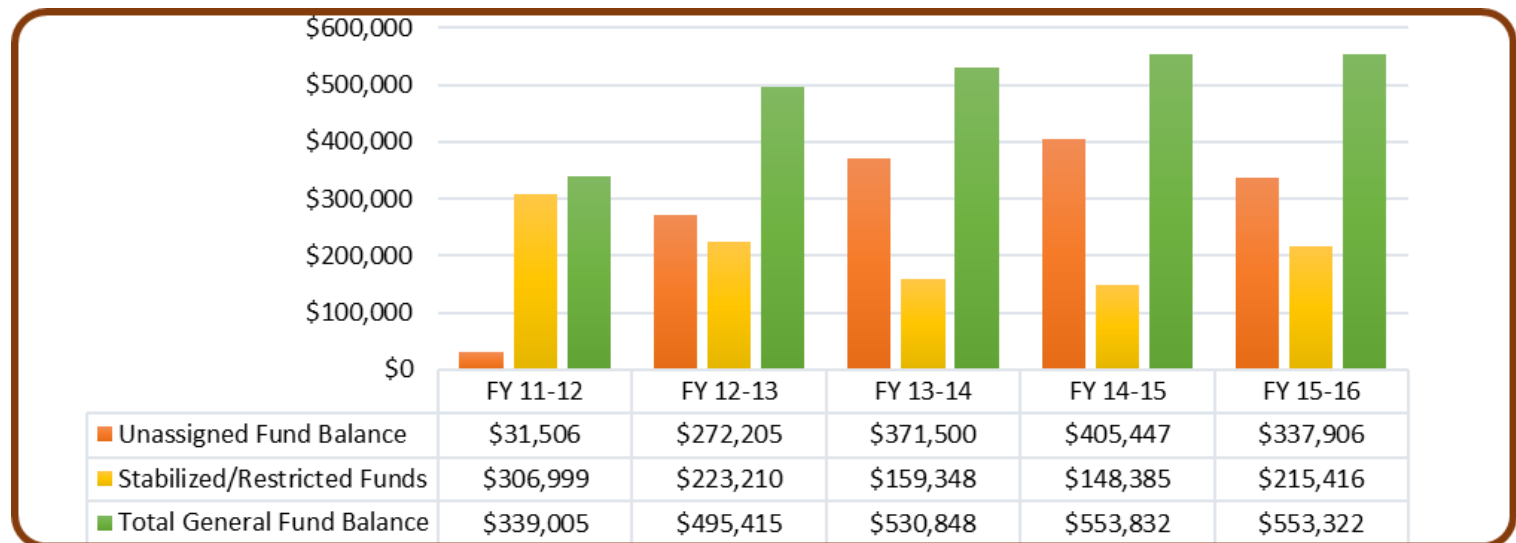
Department	Total Expenses	Percentage
General Government	\$94,883	7%
Transportation	\$237,253	18%
Economic Development	\$97,373	7%
Environmental Protection	\$48,499	4%
Human Services**	\$863,109	64%
Total	\$1,341,117	100%

REVENUES

Source	Total Revenues	Percentage
Federal	\$3,112,317	55%
State	\$2,255,530	40%
Local Dues	\$195,709	4%
T/A Contracts	\$76,866	1%
Total	\$5,640,422	100%

****Human Services percentage does not include \$4,314,468 (HCCBG Pass Thru Funds)**

5 Year History of General Fund Balance



Jenny Miller
Finance Director

Leighann Morgan
Administrative Assistant

2015-2016 General Membership Board

Carteret County

Robin Comer—Carteret County *

John Lotspih—Town of Atlantic Beach

Marianna Hollinshed—Town of Beaufort

Elizabeth Sweeney—Town of Bogue

Michael Curtis—Town of Cape Carteret

John Nash—Town of Cedar Point

Candace Dooley—Town of Emerald Isle

Pete Wylie—Town of Indian Beach

William Taylor—Town of Morehead City *

Dominick Spadaro—Town of Newport

Clarkson Edwards—Town of Pine Knoll Shores

Craven County

Scott Dacey—Craven County *

Alan Welch—Town of Bridgeton

Barbara Jones—Town of Cove City

John Wetherington—Town of Dover

Frank Bottorff—City of Havelock

Victor Taylor—City of New Bern

Pat Yocum—Town of River Bend

Shane Turney—Town of Trent Woods *

Richard Bowers—Town of Vanceboro

Duplin County

Jesse Dowe—Duplin County *

Kenneth Smith—Town of Beulaville

Carolyn Kenyon—Town of Faison

Diane Brown—Town of Greenevers

Woody Brinson—Town of Kenansville *

James Whitehead—Town of Magnolia

Tyrone Fennell—Town of Rose Hill

Warren Hepler—Town of Wallace

Shawn Condon—Town of Warsaw

Greene County

Bennie Heath—Greene County *

Arthur Robinson—Town of Hookerton *

Edward Waltz—Town of Maysville

James V. Bender, Jr—Town of Pollocksville *

Darlene Spivey—Town of Trenton

Lenoir County

Roland Best—Lenoir County *

William Barnes, Jr—Town of Grifton *

Veronica Lee—Town of LaGrange

Onslow County

Pamala Hall—Town of Holly Ridge

Walt Yurek—Town of North Topsail Beach

McKinley Smith—Town of Richlands *

Frank Tursi—Town of Swansboro

Pamlico County

Pat Prescott—Pamlico County *

Edward Riggs, Jr—Town of Alliance *

Julia Lee—Town of Grantsboro

Booker T Jones—Town of Mesic

Allen Price—Town of Oriental

Wayne County

Ray McDonald—Town of Mount Olive *

J.D. Booth—Town of Eureka

Michael Hunt—Town of Pikeville

Pete Benton—Village of Walnut Creek

* Denotes Executive
Committee Member

Officers

Shane Turney
President

Jay Bender
1st Vice President

Robin Comer
2nd Vice President

Edward Riggs, Jr.
Treasurer

