

Submitted by the Executive Director's office.

Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (ECCOG) would love to share your news with the Region. Email your stories to eccadmin@eccog.org

Visit our Website

COVID-19 Related

Article highlights risks and opportunities as more companies abandon office space amid push for more permanent remote and telework

A recent New York Times article highlights the growing push amid corporate America to shrink office space and the implications that this is having on communities. While these trends are still shaking out, the ramifications of this have profound implications for large and small communities along. To read the article, please go to: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/08/business/economy/office-buildings-remote-work.html>

Grant Opportunities

EDA invites applications for economic development grant opportunities

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) invites applicants to submit applications under its Public Works program and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs. Through these programs, EDA invites applications to request grant assistance for clearly defined construction or non-construction assistance projects that will advance job creation, job retention and private investment or enhance economic development decision-making, respectfully.

Through EDA's grant programs construction may support the construction of new public assets or the renovation of existing public assets, which include but are not limited to water/sewer lines, tanks, systems, pumps; incubators; access roads; workforce training facilities; commercialization centers; port improvements; and other similar projects. EDA's non-construction projects can support a wide array of activities, including highest and best use analysis, cluster and supply chain mapping studies, and regional technical assistance projects. Matching share funds are required and must be committed at the time of the project and for the same scope of work. For Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs the match is generally 50 percent, although communities may qualify for a higher grant rate. To learn more and to discuss potential projects, please contact Hillary Sherman at hsherman@eda.gov. To access

the funding notice and application forms, please go to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=321695>.

National Endowment for the Humanities accepting applications under Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants

The National Endowment for the Humanities is accepting applications to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. **Applications are due May 18, 2021 and September 28, 2021.** To learn more, please go to: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/infrastructure-and-capacity-building-challenge-grants>

Duke Energy Foundation accepting grants through the Hometown Revitalization Grant

The Duke Energy Foundation is accepting applications through the Hometown Revitalization Grant Program to support small businesses in pivoting to be competitive in response to changing business conditions. This grant program is open to nonprofits classified as 501(c)(3) organizations and 20 awards will be made to communities to help them support small businesses. **Applications are being accepted through May 31, 2021.** To learn more, please go to: https://www.duke-energy.com/community/duke-energy-foundation/state-strategic-impact/hometown?_ga=2.217379158.1590349379.1617980701-28646775.1593027453.

USDA accepting applications for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The US Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for Distance Learning and Telemedicine program grants to provide educational and medical services in rural areas. **Applications are accepted through June 4, 2021.** To learn more, please go to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=330807>.

NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative

The N.C. Department of Transportation is accepting applications from communities for the 2021 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The program provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian plans. There are several plan options available to meet specific community needs.

All North Carolina municipalities are eligible to apply for a standard bike or pedestrian plan (application). Additionally, the following options are available:

- Counties with population of less than 50,000 may apply for a bicycle or pedestrian plan.
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- Municipalities of less than 5,000 population may apply for a project acceleration plan (application) – an abbreviated plan primarily focusing on priority project identification and implementation.
- Municipalities (and counties with populations of less than 50,000) who currently have bicycle plans and/or pedestrian plans, either through this grant program or otherwise, may apply for a plan update (application) provided the existing plan is at least five years old.

The deadline for application, to be submitted electronically, is Wednesday June 30 at 5 p.m. Award recipients will be notified by September 2021. [Click here for more information.](#)

EPA accepting applications through Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

EPA is accepting applications under the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program to provide resources that will improve the environmental and public health conditions of low-income communities and communities of color through the advancement of racial equity and environmental justice. **Applications are due May 7, 2021.** To learn more, please go to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331855>.

Webinars

Older Americans Month Webinars

It is May- which means it is **Older Americans Month (OAM)**! Governor Roy Cooper has also proclaimed May as Older Americans Month in North Carolina and commends its observance to all citizens. Please see the attached proclamation from Governor Cooper.



The theme for 2021 is "**Communities of Strength**". From the OAM website: "*Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. This OAM, we will celebrate the strength of older adults and the aging network, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in*

HERE. There are proclamation and article templates, along with artwork, posters, logos, activity ideas, and social media graphics- all available to you at no cost!

In addition, DAAS is hosting the following:

- Friday, May 7th, 12 PM- **OAM Sharing Ideas!** Webinar to hear ideas from others in the senior center network about how they are observing OAM.
- Friday, May 14th, 11:30 AM- Webinar to hear **A Message from Governor Roy Cooper**
- Tuesday, May 25th, 1 PM- Special Video Presentation: **Older Voices: Celebrating Communities of Strength Through the Voices of Experience and Change**

Essentials for Social Servicers Governing Boards Webinar

Join the School of Government for the Essentials for Social Services Governing Boards Webinar, a five-hour program spread over two days that will serve as an orientation for individuals who serve on social services governing boards.

[To register click here](#)



Resources

Resources to understand the American Rescue Plan

The American Rescue Plan has a tremendous amount of resources available to communities, their partners, and states to foster economic and community recovery from the coronavirus. There are a range of great resources available summarizing the numerous forthcoming resources that may be of interest to you and your partners, including: the NC League of Municipalities NC and the American Rescue Plan Hub available at <https://www.arp.nclm.org/> and the National Association of Regional Councils' Analysis of the American Rescue Plan available at: <https://narc.org/2021/03/15/narc-analysis-american-rescue-plan/>.

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Compliance Update – COBRA Premium Subsidies

On April 7, 2021, the U.S. Department of Labor (“DOL”) issued initial regulatory guidance regarding the implementation of these subsidies, including model notices for eligible individuals. Employers administering COBRA internally or through another vendor should ensure these latest updates are implemented. Below is additional information for employers utilizing MedCost’s COBRA Administration Services.

[To read more click here](#)

Regional Happenings

Save the Date for the NC Rural Center’s Homegrown Leaders training on July 20 – July 22, 2021 in New Bern, NC. This training is for leaders and emerging leader that live in or work in the following counties: Bertie, Carteret, Beaufort, Craven, Greene, Lenoir, Pamlico, and Pitt.

Homegrown Leaders is a regional leadership and community economic development training that develops and supports highly-skilled, highly-motivated leaders who are committed to regional collaboration. Homegrown Leaders addresses the need for high-quality, professional leadership and economic development training that equips community leaders with the skills they need to lead long-term economic advancement in their community and region and seeks to increase cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across a broad array of organizations and sectors. The application period will open during the week of May 10th, so please save this link and check the page for the application.

<https://www.ncruralcenter.org/leadership/homegrown-leaders/>

HomegrownLeaders
PRESENTED BY THE NC RURAL CENTER

May is Older Americans Month

This year, Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging will celebrate Older Americans Month by

encouraging community members to share their experiences. Together, we can find strength, and create a stronger future. [To read more click here](#)



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

2021

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina values the wisdom, experience, and contributions of older Americans who enrich and strengthen our communities, in part through their passion for improving opportunities for future generations; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina continues to be listed as one of the best states for retired people to live, and is estimated to have more residents above the age of 60 than under the age of 17; we rank ninth in the nation for number of residents aged 65 and over; and

WHEREAS, the Administration on Aging has designated the 2021 theme for Older Americans Month as *Communities of Strength*, recognizing older adults and the people who support them as essential contributors to the strength of our communities; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina, through the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, promotes the awareness of issues surrounding aging and advocates programs for aging members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Aging and Adult Services is committed to monitoring and assessing aging services programs funding through the Older Americans Act and State Allocations, and providing training on the various needs of an evolving aging community; and

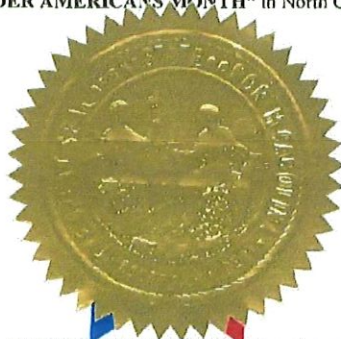
WHEREAS, older adults in North Carolina are an increasingly diverse population that is involved in every aspect of society, including the workforce, educational system, and political structures; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina benefits when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are included and encouraged to share their successes and stories of resilience; and

WHEREAS, all people can participate in enriching the lives of individuals at every age by promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living; involving older adults in community planning, events, and other activities; and providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is committed to engaging and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers; to protecting and safeguarding the rights of older and aging individuals in our state; and to preventing discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2021, as "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



A handwritten signature of Roy Cooper in black ink.

Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-third day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.



National Elder Abuse Awareness Month

May 9, 2021 to June 20, 2021



**Are you an advocate for older adults?
Join Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging in
building awareness in your community about Elder Abuse.**

Pinwheel gardens represent our efforts to focus on community Elder Abuse Awareness. Join us in building community awareness, education, and information on Elder Abuse. Pinwheels represent a world free from elder abuse. It is your world, our world, free from elder abuse.

If you suspect Elder Abuse is occurring, contact your local Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services Department TODAY!

#WEAAD & #ECCAAA

For more information, local resources, and services contact:

***Eastern Carolina Council
Area Agency on Aging
252-638-3185***



See It, Report It, Stop It!



Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization

Next Scheduled Meeting:
TCC & TAC - May 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.



Down East Rural Planning Organization

Next Scheduled Meeting:
TCC - May 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
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[DERPO Newsletter](#)

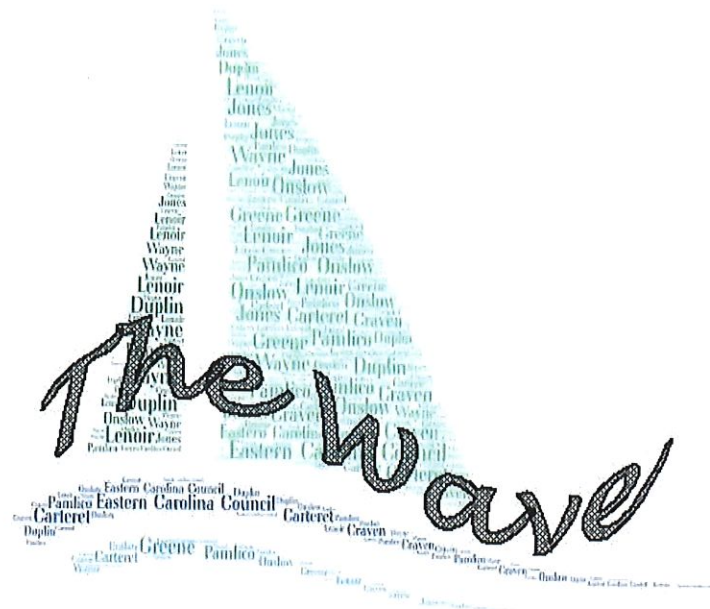
Next Scheduled Meetings



Executive Committee Board
May 13, 2021
3rd Floor Conference Room at ECC



[Visit our YouTube Channel](#)



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Webinars



Join us

HOMEGROWN LEADERS

**BEAUFORT, BERTIE, CARTERET, CRAVEN, GREENE,
LENOIR, PAMLICO, AND PITT.**

JULY 20-22, 2021

Application Deadline June 11, 2021

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See It, Report It, Stop It!



World Elder Abuse Awareness

The ECC Area Agency on Aging put out flower containers to help bring awareness to elder abuse out in front of the O'Marks building in New Bern.



Every year an estimated 5 million, or 1 in 10 older Americans experience elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Working together, we can build the social supports that can prevent this abuse and keep everyone safe as we age. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is commemorated on June 15th every year. This is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to take action to protect older people. We can act collectively to support justice for all. Let's raise awareness about elder abuse, why it occurs, and what we can do to stop it. ECCAAA challenges you to "Post It In Purple," educate yourself on the signs of elder abuse, and how to report abuse. Grab your family, your friends, or co-workers and show your advocacy. Dress up in purple, make a sign, take a picture, challenge someone, and post it on social media.

**We can take action to protect each other from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
Let's stop elder abuse together!**

#ECC. #WEAAD (World Elder Abuse Awareness Day)

ECCAAA Regional Social Isolation Project

Even before the pandemic older adults and caregivers were at an increased risk of being socially isolated. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about one-third of all seniors live by themselves. This close to 13.8 million seniors that are aging alone. Since March 2020, the Centers for



seniors throughout the pandemic, it has limited their interaction with friends and family. Research suggests that this isolation can lead to depression, weight loss, cognitive decline, and other medical complications.

ECCAAA is working at meeting the need of socially isolated older adults and caregivers throughout the region by providing them with interactive activities, resources, and information. ECCAAA has assembled over 1,800 isolation bags that included brain puzzle books, adult coloring books and pencils, a bookmark magnifier, natural disaster information, elder abuse awareness brochure, an inspirational pair of socks, and much more. ECCAAA staff have been delivering the isolation bags to county providers and will be delivering some to long term care facilities for residents.

Know the risk facts, risk factors, resources and strategies to combat social isolation among old adults and their caregivers. For further information and resources visit the National Institute on Aging at

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/social-isolation-loneliness-older-people-pose-health-risks>.

For local resources for older adults and caregivers contact ECC Area Agency on Aging at 252-638-3185 or at www.eccog.org.

12 Things Everyone Can Do to Prevent Elder Abuse

Our communities are like buildings that support people's wellbeing. Sturdy buildings ensure that people are safe and thriving at every age. We all have a part to play in this construction project.



Here are 12 things everyone can do to build community supports and prevent elder abuse.

- > **Learn the signs** of elder abuse and neglect and how we can collectively solve the issue.
- > **Talk to friends and family members** about how we can all age well and reduce abuse with programs and services like improved law enforcement, community centers, and public transportation.
- > **Prevent isolation.** Call or visit our older loved ones and ask how they are doing regularly.
- > **Send a letter** to a local paper, radio or TV station suggesting that they cover World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) or Grandparents Day in September.
- > **Join Ageless Alliance**, an organization that connects people of all ages, nationwide, who stand united for the dignity of older people and for the elimination of elder abuse. Visit agelessalliance.org.
- > **Provide respite breaks** for caregivers.
- > **Encourage our bank managers** to train tellers on how to detect elder financial abuse.
- > **Ask our doctors** to ask all older patients about possible family violence in their lives.
- > **Contact a local Adult Protective Services or Long-Term Care Ombudsman** to learn how to support their work helping older people and adults with disabilities who may be more at-risk.
- > **Organize an "Aging with Dignity" essay or poster contest** in a local school.
- > **Ask religious congregation leaders** to give a talk about elder abuse at a service or to put a message about elder abuse in the bulletin.
- > **Volunteer** to be a friendly visitor to a nursing home resident or to a homebound older person in our communities.

It is up to all of us to prevent and address elder abuse!

For more information on elder abuse prevention, please visit ncea.acl.gov.



This material was completed for the National Center on Elder Abuse situated at Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California and is supported in part by a grant (No. 90ABRC000101-02) from the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official ACL or DHHS policy. LAST DOCUMENT REVISION: DECEMBER 2017

**Keck School of
Medicine of USC**

Round About to be installed near New Bern airport

NEW BERN – A new roundabout is expected to improve traffic conditions near the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport in Craven County.

The N.C. Department of Transportation opened a roundabout on Terminal Drive between Williams and Airport roads on Tuesday afternoon. Airport Road will now be a state-maintained road.

Roundabouts not only improve mobility, but also safety. To read more and watch a video about how to navigate a roundabout, go to this [NCDOT webpage](http://www.ncdot.gov/roundabouts).

In addition to serving airport traffic, the department also expects this roundabout to be used as a cut through once the [U.S. 70 James City project](http://www.us70.com) begins in a couple of months.

Motorists should use caution as they drive through the new traffic pattern.



ecrpo

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[ECRPO Newsletter](#)

derpo



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[DERPO Newsletter](#)

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EasternCarolinaCouncil

General Membership Board
June 10 ,2021
3rd Floor Conference Room at ECC



Visit our YouTube Channel