



ECC August 2023 Newsletter

REGIONAL IMPACTS



ECC Welcomes the Town of Peletier as a New Member

The Town of Peletier was welcomed as ECC's newest member at the July 13th Executive Committee meeting! As of July 1st, ECC is providing zoning administration services to the town. We are excited to be working with Peletier! Pictured L-R are ECC Treasurer Bill Taylor, 1st V-P Arthur Robinson, President Ed Riggs, Peletier Mayor Dale Sowers, Peletier Commissioner Walter Vinson, and ECC 2nd V-P Frank Emory.



City-County Managers Meet at ECC on July 27th

We had a great regional City-County Managers Meeting today at our ECC office! Thanks to our presenters - Matt Zapp from Emerald Isle, Lou Bunch from the NC League of Municipalities, and Tommy Burns from Carteret County. We had an excellent discussion on a variety of topics. Thank you to all the managers who attended!



Regional Senior Center Directors Meeting

On June 27, 2023, Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging (ECCAAA) conducted a regional senior center directors' meeting at Wayne County Services on Aging. The meeting allowed senior center directors to share information, brainstorm ideas, and converse about programs. During the meeting, ECCAAA distributed Meeting Owl camera systems to providers to aid in the development of virtual programs in their communities. The Obie Interactive system was the focus of an interactive and information presentation given by Wayne Services on Aging, Onslow Senior Services, and ECCAAA staff.

FEMA Seeks Feedback on BRIC Grant Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program supports local communities as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

FEMA is holding a stakeholder engagement effort on the [BRIC \(Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities\) and Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs](#). Take the survey [here](#). Additional information and methods to provide feedback can be found [here](#). The deadline to respond is August 16, 2023.

International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Technical Assistance

ECC is helping connect communities in our region with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), which can assist communities evaluate specific economic development / community development opportunities and help provide recommendations at no cost to the community. Please contact Executive Director, Davie Bone, if you have questions or a potential project / issue.

Save the Date

ECC will be hosting a **Regional Transportation Summit** on **Thursday, Oct. 19th** at Craven County's Riverfront Convention Center. Thanks to Craven County for helping to sponsor this event!



Down East Rural Planning Organization

DERPO UPDATES

RPO Update: The Pollocksville and Atlantic Beach sidewalk projects have been awarded NCDOT Carbon Reduction Funds. The two projects together total up to nearly a million dollars, with CRP funds paying for most of the projects.



Eastern Carolina Rural Planning Organization

ECRPO UPDATES

Prioritization 7.0: P7.0 is ongoing. The ECRPO SPOT Subcommittee meets every other week to discuss potential project submissions. As of July 28th, NCDOT has not released holding tank and carryover scores from P6.0. Many of its projects will be used to fill in slots for P7.0. The project submittal deadline remains to be September 30th, 2023.

Greene County CTP: The County's CTP Steering Committee met in July and reviewed the County's 2012 CTP survey. Additionally, the Committee discussed questions to add to the upcoming public

survey. Once finalized, that survey will be released digitally and in paper copies throughout Greene County. Paper copies will be available at city and county offices, and at the beginning of the school year they will be distributed in Wednesday Folders.

RPO Funding Adjustments: NCDOT has increased the allocation for all RPOs across the state by 15%. Along with this, the local match required, (formerly 20%), is now dependent on county tier status within the RPO. All 4 counties in the ECRPO are Tier 1 counties; this means that these counties will only pay a 5% match to the LPA; whereas NCDOT will pay 15%, and the remaining 80% will come from the federal government. In short, this is an overall increase in RPO funding, and a reduction in cost to our member governments.

WEBINARS / OTHERS



REGISTER FOR A FAIR HOUSING WEBINAR CO-SPONSORED BY ECC. ECC is partnering with Legal Aid of NC to host a 1-hour webinar on Fair Housing on **Wednesday, August 23rd at 10:00 AM**. Topics to be covered include:

- HUD's fair housing requirements for CDBG and HOME funding recipients (Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and the history of fair housing),
- Zoning and fair housing, and
- Reasonable accommodations/modifications for people with disabilities.

Register in advance for this webinar at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_POg0ZdcoQWmjnhLV0ZynZg . After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



NCLM ARP WEBINAR ABOUT NCLM'S NEW ARP SERVICES FOR MUNICIPALITIES: The NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) is unveiling some new American Recovery Plan (ARP) service lines for towns and cities and will explain more about the services it will fund in an upcoming webinar titled, "ARP Service Line: Resources Designed for NC Cities and Towns." The webinar is free and

will be held on **Wednesday, August 30th from 10:00 to 11:30 AM**. The webinar will include a panel from the NCLM ARP team. Through a robust in-house staff and a network of statewide partnerships, NCLM is prepared to assist local governments with a suite of services in conjunction with their ARP spending. The resources available will shore up capacity questions, link local governments to additional funding, and address specific needs.

Do you have questions or concerns related to any of the following?

- Legal assistance.
- Strategy and approach.
- Need for additional grant funding.
- Eligibility and compliance guidance.
- Cybersecurity.
- Planning and engineering.
- Communication with your citizens.

Even though the webinar is free, **you must register** at [Meeting Home Page \(nclm.org\)](#). Registrants will have to have (or create) an NCLM account. That process is simple and free. If you do not have an account, you will be triggered to do so when following the registration link. If you need help remembering how to access your account and have difficulties registering for this event, please email arp@nclm.org.

NC DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY: The State of NC is seeking input on the accessibility and affordability of digital devices and the internet, as well as the public's digital skills; the survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and is online at https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9EpNXtAhUn7IOQS .



ECC GRANT WRITING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE: ECC provides grant writing services to member communities. We are taking on grant writing projects on a case-by-case basis, based on availability and other considerations. If you are interested in ECC helping your community with grant writing, please contact Community Planner, Holly C. Lippitt, (hcraighead@eccog.org, 252-638-3185, Ext. 3021) or Executive Director, David Bone, (executivedirector@eccog.org, 252-638-3185, Ext. 3005).



UNC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT CLASS – “LELA 301: EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE” on September 13th - The UNC School of Government will be offering a workshop entitled, “LELA 301: Emotional Intelligence: A Key to

Extraordinary Leadership,” at the Chapel Hill School of Government. This class is ideally suited for anyone who is interested in improving their self-awareness in interactions with others and in becoming a positive influence on others in their communities. Included is a confidential personal assessment of your emotional self-awareness, and breakouts include personal coaching that is unique to the individual. Registration information is available at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/lela-301-emotional-intelligence-your-key-extraordinary-leadership>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION’S (SCRC) STATE ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (SEID) GRANT PROGRAM, which resulted from the Commission’s 5-year Strategic Plan (2023-2028) is to revitalize/stimulate AL’s, GA’s, MS’, NC’s, SC’s, and VA’s public infrastructure improvements and economic development projects for

telecommunications, transportation, high-quality health care, access to affordable housing, business and workforce development, resource conservation and preservation, and tourism and recreation. Sixty-nine NC counties will be eligible for \$4,466,111; Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties are included in the funding notice. The goals are: 1) Invest in Critical Infrastructure; 2) Improve Health and Support Services Access and Outcomes; 3) Strengthen Workforce Capacity; 4) Expand Affordable Housing Stock and Access; and 5) Promote Environmental, Conservation, Preservation, and Access. The deadline for pre-applications was July 21, 2023, **the full application portal opens on Aug. 7, 2023, and the full application is due Sept. 15, 2023.** Notification of SEID Awards will be announced on Nov. 14, 2023.

Local governments (village, town, city, and county) and non-profits (IRS designated 501 (c)(3) and 501 (a)) are eligible. \$20M-\$500M is the award ceiling. The federal cost share for projects: may not exceed 50% - in transitional counties or isolated areas of distress for projects in distressed counties, may not exceed 80% in distressed counties, and can be increased by 60-90% for multi-county or multi-state. Visit <https://scrc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SCRC-SEID-Grant-NOFA-06082023-release.pdf> and <https://scrc.gov/southeast-crescent-regional-commission-scrc-announces-20-million-in-new-funding-through-the-state-economic-and-infrastructure-development-seid-grant-program/> .

NEW ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING FOR FEDERAL GRANTS: Allow 2-3 weeks’ time to successfully register with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) then grants.gov . For registration information visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html> .

ARPA RESOURCES



ARP/CSLFRF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – UNC, CHAPEL HILL, SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT ARP OFFICE HOURS: Kara Millonzi hosts weekly ARPA office hours to help answer eligibility, compliance, and reporting questions related to the ARP/CSLFRF award. If needed, email Rebecca Badgett for the Zoom link: rbadgett@sog.unc.edu .

Preparing for the Audit. As the fiscal year closes out this week, it's a good time to focus on the upcoming annual audit. Most local governments spent at least some of their ARP/CSLFRF funds this fiscal year, which may trigger additional audit scrutiny. There are things you can do now to prepare for a successful audit. This [blog post](#) provides (hopefully helpful) guidance on preparing you (and your auditor) to audit ARP/CSLFRF funds.

ARPA Flex. "Any day now....." It seems like a running joke now that we are still waiting on ARPA Flex regulations that were due back in February, but we keep hearing "any day now." For those wondering what ARPA Flex is, Congress authorized some additional expenditure options for local governments who received over \$10 million in ARP/CSLFRF and must expend funds outside of the revenue replacement category. The new expenditure options relate to certain transportation projects, CDBG projects, and disaster recovery projects. But we need to wait for the US Treasury to issue regulations interpreting the flex provisions. Any day now....."

Upcoming Office Hours. Note that several of these are focused on special topics, including ARP BASICS, which is a 2-hour session targeted to those new(er) to ARP/CSLFRF.

1. Wednesday, August 2, 8:30-9:30am
2. Friday, August 11, 8:30-10:30am -- ARP BASICS
3. Wednesday, August 16, 12-1pm – Focus on Property Management
4. Friday, August 25, 8:30-9:30am

ZOOM LOG IN

Here is the new Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYtJqEzTzTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95481909044# US

+19292056099,,95481909044# US (New York)

FREE COURSE: [Using ARPA Funds to Directly Fund a Capital Project](#) (launched August 2022)

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

"FAIR HOUSING" WEBINAR

Aug. 23rd 10:00 AM

Virtual - co-hosted by ECC and Legal Aid of NC

NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Wake County, Aug. 24-26th. For more information, visit

<https://www.ncacc.org/events/116th-annual-conference/>.

AAA SE4A REGIONAL AGING CONFERENCE (This is for 9 states and NC is hosting!)

Aug. 27-30, 2023

Ashville, NC

NCLM WEBINAR – ARP SERVICE LINE: Resources Designed for NC Cities and Towns (registration required).

Aug. 30th 10:00 AM

Virtual

ECC OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY HOLIDAY, Mon., Sept. 4th.

FEMA "FLOOD INSURANCE AND THE NIFP" TRAINING

Presenter, David Holcomb, FEMA ISO/CRS Specialist

Sept. 14 – time TBD

ECC Conference Room

ECC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Thurs., Sept. 14th, 6:00 PM Meeting, 6:30 Dinner,

ECC Conference Room

DERPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC) MEETING

Sept. 19, 2023 – 10:00 AM
ECC Conference Room

ECRPO TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC) & TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

Sept. 21, 2023 – 9:30 AM
LaGrange Community Center

DERPO TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Sept. 26, 2023 – 10:00 AM
ECC Conference Room

TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

Guest Speaker, Secretary J. Eric Boyette and Panel Discussion
Oct. 19, 2023 – 9:30-3:00
New Bern Riverfront Convention Center

Eastern Carolina Council | PO Box 1717, New Bern, NC 28560

<https://eccog.org>



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