



ECC APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL UPDATES



DISASTER RECOVERY / FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRAINING PLANNED FOR APRIL 16th from 9:00 to

4:00: The North Carolina General Assembly provided funding in Session Law 2021-180c to support local governments effectively to manage disaster recovery funding and build capacity essentially to recover from disasters. This program is being administered through each of the 16 councils of government (COGs) in each NC

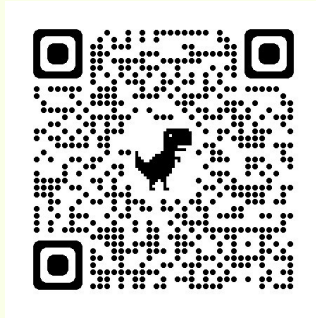
region. The focus of the training is to utilize the FEMA Public Assistance program, which is often available to governments after a disaster.

ECC plans to provide its first Disaster Recovery training here at ECC on April 16th. Suggested attendees include Managers, Finance Officers, Clerks, Emergency Mgrs., Public Works Dir., Fire Chiefs, especially those new to their roles. To register for the event, click here

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/4mg4zp5> or use the QR Code, below.



ECC TO OFFER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP ON APRIL 30th AND MAY 1st: Once again ECC Community Planner and Grant Writer/Administrator, Holly Lippitt, will offer the 2-day Grant Writing Workshop in the ECC Board Room on Tuesday, April 30th and Wednesday, May 1st from 9:00-4:30. We look forward to continuing to teach grant writing skills and assist with the creation of individual grant applications for members within our region. More information will be forthcoming concerning registration, although space will be limited to 35 individuals. To register click here, <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tgbunch>. For questions, feel free to contact Holly at hlippitt@eccog.org.



ECC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DAVID BONE, FACILITATED RETREATS IN MAGNOLIA AND HOLLY RIDGE: ECC Executive Director, David Bone, facilitated retreats for the towns of Magnolia and Holly Ridge last week. These two towns took an important step taking this time to strategically plan for 2024-25 and beyond! Also, thanks to the towns for asking ECC to facilitate the retreats. If other communities are interested in this service, please reach out to David Bone at dbone@eccog.org.



ECC MOVING FORWARD WITH REGIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN INITIATIVE:

ECC is in partnership with North Carolina State University's Institute for Emerging Issues (NCSU IEI) to develop a Regional Digital Inclusion Plan that will include sections for each of the 9 counties.

A digital inclusion plan is often the 1st step for a community to reduce the digital divide and prioritize digital equity for their residents. Developing a digital inclusion plan will help support the county's efforts to increase broadband access and use, computer literacy, and needed information technology capacity. The goal is for all 100 counties to have digital inclusion plans.

Through this partnership with NCSU IEI, we anticipate developing one regional plan, with specific sections for each county. Several counties already have digital inclusion plans. However, even though they already have their plans, updated information on these counties would be helpful, and therefore, **we anticipate including all 9 counties in the regional plan.**

As part of this effort, ECC will be coordinating public engagement opportunities with our county partners. This digital inclusion planning process should provide a great, free resource for our counties.

ECC / INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (IEDC) TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS APRIL 10th -11th TO DEVELOP REGIONAL MILITARY RETENTION STRATEGIES / ACTION PLAN: ECC has a strategic partnership with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), which is a non-profit, membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind.

In the coming months, IEDC will be assisting the ECC region achieve economic resilience through three strategies that are incorporated into our 2023 – 2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) regional plan (available online at <https://eccog.org/economic-development-planning/>)

- Development of Regional Military Retention Strategies/Action
- Workforce Housing Strategies
- Talent Attraction and Retention Strategies

DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY RETENTION STRATEGIES: Our region benefits from its 4 main military facilities, as well as a large number of military members retiring on an annual basis. Our goal with this project includes the identification of regional military retention strategies and development of an action plan to retain these talented workers and potential future entrepreneurs.

A team of 2 IEDC volunteer economic development professionals will be in our region April 10th and 11th to conduct stakeholder interviews / focus groups. For convenience, many of these conversations can be held virtually. Information learned during these visits will form the basis for the identification of regional military retention strategies and the development of an action plan to implement those strategies.

We want to make the most of this opportunity and visit, and we will be inviting military, business, education, workforce leaders and partners and others engaged in this subject. **If you know specific individuals that need to be a part of this conversation, please send their names, positions, organizations, and contact information to David Bone at dbone@eccog.org.**

ECC CONTINUING TO CONNECT COMMUNITIES TO FREE IEDC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

ECC helps link communities in our region with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), which can conduct technical assistance visits for communities to evaluate specific economic development / community development opportunities. The IEDC member volunteers provide free recommendations to the community (through funding from US EDA). Some current / planned IEDC projects in the ECC region include:

- Helping a community evaluate options for the highest and best use for a building owned by the town.
- Assisting a county with developing strategies for business promotion, such as corridor beautification along a key corridor.
- Assisting several communities with downtown redevelopment strategies.
- Helping a city evaluate opportunities to redevelop two properties.
- Assisting a town in developing an economic development vision.

These efforts are providing technical assistance with a value of \$10,000-\$40,000 for communities, which will vary depending on the number of professionals involved and the amount of time they spend in the community. Please contact Executive Director, David Bone, at dbone@eccog.org, if you would like to propose a potential IEDC technical assistance project for your community.

HELP FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY WITH A CLEAN ENERGY AND RURAL SOCIAL MOBILITY SURVEY:

You are invited to complete an anonymous survey on the impact of clean energy technologies on upward social mobility of rural residents and communities in eastern NC and SC. The survey is being conducted by researchers at Fayetteville State University and will be important in advancing the life and welfare of rural communities. To access the survey, click on the link

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/fa09cd2805b84da0b631cce40bc53acb>

OR the Q-code.

Please share this survey in your communications / social media and feel free to forward this survey invitation to other residents of rural communities that you know who are aged 18 and above. *Thank you for your assistance with this survey!*



NC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RELEASES NEW DATA SHEET TO ASSIST WITH UNDERSTANDING THE OPERATION OF NC'S 100 COUNTIES:

NC Association of County Commissioners has added a data sheet derived from the 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture, which provides extensive county-level data about farming and ranching. The Association collects and publishes survey data from counties and compiles county-level data from myriad state and federal agencies. The newest data sheet focuses on the status of agricultural land and farming by county and provides insights on the number of acres and number of farms that are active per county. To access any of the available data sheets, please go to <https://www.ncacc.org/research-and-publications/research/>.

STATE ENERGY CONFERENCE OF NORTH CAROLINA: CONNECTING NC'S DIVERSE ENERGY ECONOMY: It will be held on April 23-24

at McKimmon Center, NC State University, Raleigh. The 2024 State Energy Conference provides actionable insight into the business of energy, connecting technical innovation, diverse resources, and industry opportunity to help drive NC's regional energy economy forward with national impact. Come to network, learn best practices, hear about successful case studies, engage in important energy discussions and more, search <https://www.ncenergyconference.com/>.

Advance registration ends April 17th. Potential attendees include: Government and state agencies, small businesses, developers, innovative firms, energy companies, colleges and universities, corporations, and nonprofit organizations.

SUSTAINABLE FLEET TECHNOLOGY & EXPO CONFERENCE: Discover the latest and greatest in sustainable fleet technology, operations, and implementation on **August 13-15, 2024**, at the Durham Convention Center.

Exhibitors and sponsors are essential partners in the success of the Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference. The in-person, full-day event includes keynote presentations, 50+ panelists, 16 breakout sessions, an expo hall with ample space for indoor vehicle/equipment display, and an opportunity to network with 300+ attendees. Contact Heather Brutz, NC Clean Energy Technology Center, hmbritz@ncsu.edu, for additional event information.

Clean Transportation Demonstration Days: Registration is open for 2 Demonstration Days -**Mon., March 18th** from 10:00-1:00 or 1:00-4:00 at NC Highway Patrol Training & Driving Facility, 308 E. Tryon Rd., Garner, NC 27529 OR **Tues., March 19th** from 1:00-1:00 or 1:00-4:00 at Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, 421 W. Twenty-Seventh St., Winston-Salem, NC 27501.

ECC HUMAN SERVICES / AGING

MONITORING OF ARPA PROGRAMS: ECC Human Services AAA staff started monitoring regional providers ARPA funded programs throughout the month of March.

ECC WELL REPRESENTED AT SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE MEETING (NCSTHL) IN

RALEIGH: ECC representatives attended the NCSTHL meeting in Raleigh on March 6th and 7th. The NCSTHL advocates for seniors in the Legislature. About 85 attendees from across the state participated in the meeting. They heard from NC DHHS Human Services Director and Deputy Secretary regarding transition of Adult Services from NCDAAS to DSS. Also, Patrick Wood, President and CEO from the Rural Center, Kevin Leonard, Executive Director from NC Association of County Commissioners, and a representative from Foundation Forward, LLC gave a presentation regarding the Charters of Freedom project that is taking place throughout NC.



CONGRATULATIONS TO PROVIDERS FROM CRAVEN AND CARETERT COUNTIES WHO RECEIVED AWARDS AT NC ASSOCIATION ON AGING CONFERENCE:

ECC Human Services-AAA staff and regional providers attended the North Carolina Association on Aging Conference on March 13th and 14th at the River Front Convention Center in New Bern. Participants attended informational sessions to include innovative programs, older adult services, fraud, caregiver respite and nutrition programs, elder abuse awareness, and housing.

Two providers from our region received awards at the conference. Congratulations to Alyssa Andrews-Brown, from the Craven County Senior Center, for receiving the "Guiding Star" award, which honors a provider manager's excellence. Also, congratulations to Lakisha Williams, of the Leon Mann, Jr. Enrichment Center of Carteret County, for receiving the "Reaching for the Stars" Innovative Program Award.



Alyssa Andres-Brown received the Guiding Star Award which honors a supervisor or manager for quality supervisory skills in the management of programs, staff, and/or volunteers and the services they provide that benefit older adults.



Lakisha Williams received the Reaching for the Stars Innovative Program Award which honors an agency that has a working innovative and creative program to enrich the lives of older adults.

ECC PARTICIPATED IN RESOURCE FAIR IN BEAUFORT ON MARCH 16TH: ECC Human Services-AAA staff participated in the Senior Resource Fair at Beaufort by the Sea Community Church in Beaufort, NC. Vendors: Home health agencies, DSS, senior services, Carteret Health Care (wellness) checks.

PRESENTATION AT CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MARCH 18TH: ECC Human Services-AAA staff provided the large group Dementia Live Simulation, dementia basics, and elder abuse presentation

to first year RN students at Craven Community College on March 18, 2024.

PRESENTATION IN HARLOW - MARCH 23RD: ECC Human Services AAA staff on March 23, 2024, from 10:00-11:30 AM presented the large group Dementia Live Simulation, aging vs. not normal aging, and older adult services.



**North Carolina
Senior Games**

SENIOR GAMES IN THE REGION – There are a number of offerings for seniors to participate in the Senior Games in our region:

- **Carteret Senior Games will be held from March 26-April 30, 2024.** For further information and to register visit

<https://ccpr.recdesk.com/RecDeskPortal/Portals/87/37th%20Annual%20SG%20Packet.pdf>.

- **Neuse River Senior Games (Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, and Pamlico County) 2024** participant registration is available on February 1, 2024. **The Neuse River Senior Games will run from April 8-May 24, 2024.** For further information and to register visit <https://www.ncseniorgames.org/neuse>.
- **Onslow Senior Games will be held from April 13-May 6, 2024.** For further information and to register visit <https://www.onslowcountync.gov/1683/Senior-Games>.
- **Wayne County Senior Games will be held from April 1-April 30, 2024.** For further information and to register visit <https://www.ncseniorgames.org/wayne>.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS / EVENTS

Regional Aging Advisory Community (RAAC) Meeting, April 8, 10:00 AM, ECC Offices.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature Community (STHL) Meeting, April 8, 11:00 AM, ECC Offices.

NCLM Regional Town & State Dinner, April 10, 5:15-8:00 PM, The Firehouse, Goldsboro.

ECC Executive Committee Meeting, April 11, Dinner 6:00 PM, Meeting 6:30 PM, ECC Offices.

ECC County Managers Advisory Meeting, April 12, 11:00 AM, ECC Offices.

ECC Disaster Recovery / FEMA Public Assistance Program Training, April 16, 9:00-4:00, ECC Offices.

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