



ECC'S AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

NEWS & EVENTS

Regional Digital Inclusion Plan Kick-Off Events - August 20 & 22

ECC is partnering with North Carolina State University's Institute for Emerging Issues (NCSU IEI) and the NCSU Friday Institute on a Regional Digital Inclusion Plan Initiative. Funding for this project is coming through a grant from the NC Department of Information Technology. Additional funding from the Camber Foundation will also be supporting this effort.

A digital inclusion plan is often the first formal 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, etc. The State's goal is for all 100 counties to have digital inclusion plans.

We will be holding 2 Kick-off events to support this effort. Information about the events is below:

REGIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN KICKOFF MEETINGS

Community and business leaders welcome!

The Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State, in collaboration with the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments, is hosting TWO Digital Inclusion Plan Kickoff meetings. Each meeting will be catered to a portion of the ECC region. The purpose of these meetings is to raise awareness about the importance of digital access and skills, gather information on existing digital inclusion efforts, identify gaps in access to digital services and education, and engage stakeholders to collaborate on effective solutions. These kickoff meetings are targeted towards community and business leaders, and listening sessions will be held in September for community members. If interested, please sign up at one of the links below.

Pamlico, Onslow, Jones, Carteret and Craven County Cluster:

When: August 20th, 2024 from 2:00-4:00pm

Where: Craven Community College, Nauman
Community Room, 800 College Street, New Bern

Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/qBY84cQHWHXcMvf49>



Duplin, Greene, Lenoir and Wayne County Cluster:

When: August 22nd, 2024 from 2:00-4:00pm

Where: La Grange Community Center, 410 East
Washington Street, La Grange

Registration

Link: <https://forms.gle/uuDTh3WmtQNQK9j76>



Digital Equity Survey & Asset Inventory Survey - please complete by August 20th

As part of the Digital Inclusion Planning process, please take the surveys mentioned below by August 20th.
Thank you for your help!

TAKE EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S DIGITAL EQUITY & ASSET INVENTORY SURVEYS

- The **Digital Equity Survey** focuses on the accessibility and affordability of digital devices and the internet as well as digital skills needed to safely access online resources. Your response will help ensure that we create an effective and comprehensive state digital equity plan that addresses the digital equity needs of all eastern North Carolinians.
- The **Asset Inventory Survey** aims to capture resources facilitating access to digital devices, the internet, and essential digital literacy skills required for device usage and internet navigation. Your participation will contribute to compiling a comprehensive list of resources aimed at addressing the digital divide in eastern North Carolina.
- **The Digital Equity Survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, while the Asset Inventory Survey will take approximately 3 minutes to complete.** All responses will be automatically captured as you work through the survey. No data from the Digital Equity Survey will be released or used that can identify participants. The Asset Inventory will include information about organizations offering digital inclusion services on a public facing website. Participation is voluntary; you may choose not to answer any or all questions and may stop at any time.
- **The data collected from these surveys will assist North Carolina in identifying priority areas for state funding investment.**

TO START THE SURVEYS

Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR codes to the right. Then, click on the links that appear to access the Digital Equity Survey or the Asset Inventory Survey.

or go to
[HTTPS://GO.NCSU.EDU/DESURVEY](https://go.ncsu.edu/desurvey)
&
[HTTPS://GO.NCSU.EDU/DEASSETS](https://go.ncsu.edu/deassets)



**DIGITAL
EQUITY
SURVEY**



**ASSET
INVENTORY
SURVEY**



Are You Prepared?

DISASTER RECOVERY TRAINING AVAILABLE ONLINE

Be better prepared for disasters by using Disaster Recovery training materials available online.

ECC and the other 15 councils of government in NC developed training materials to assist local governments in preparing for and responding to disasters. The focus of the training is preparing for and utilizing the FEMA Public Assistance program, which is often available to governments after a disaster.

Funding for this initiative was provided by the North Carolina General Assembly through the NC Office of State Budget and Management, with support from NC Department of Public Safety and NC Emergency Management.

ECC provided a condensed, one-day version of the training three times during the spring of 2024. In order to continue providing this information for the benefit of our members governments, we are continuing to provide resources from this training through this online means, including:

- Video Training Presentations
- PowerPoint slides
- Participant Guide

Individuals who were not able to take part in the on-site training can benefit from the resources on ECC's website. Those who participated in the on-site training can also benefit from the online resources as a refresher and reference.

To access the online resources, visit <https://eccog.org/disaster-recovery-resilience/>.

Check-out the Disaster Recovery - FEMA Public Assistance training online at <http://eccog.org/disaster-recovery-resilience/>.

ECC Welcomes Kinston as Our Newest Member!

On July 11th, the Eastern Carolina Council welcomed its newest member, the City of Kinston! Pictured L-R are ECC President Ed Riggs, Mayor Don Hardy, and Councilman Chris Suggs.



City-County Managers / Mayors Meeting Held July 31st

ECC hosted a quarterly gathering of city and county managers and mayors on July 31st. Thank you to the speakers who provided the program, including Tony McEwen and Jared Melville of the American Flood Coalition, Charlie Eaton of the NC Association of County Commissioners, Steve Harrell of the NC City/County Managers Association, and Swansboro Town Manager Jon Barlow. Also, thank you to the managers and mayors who attended the meeting. We had wonderful discussions, and it was a great networking event!



Complete the NC Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey



NC's Outdoor Recreation Plan, an updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP, will guide the state's strategic planning for the next 5 years, 2025-2030. Everyone benefits from outdoor recreation, and it is through the state's eligibility for federal grants that the state can provide more funding for the parks and recreation needs of NC communities.

NC is requesting public input on the State's Outdoor Recreation Plan through its online survey [through August 30, 2024](#). Click on the purple box

"Take the Survey" at

<https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/2025-2030-nc-outdoor-recreation-plan>

Save the Date - ECC Annual Membership Dinner Meeting - Oct. 3

ECC will hold an annual membership dinner meeting in the evening of Thursday, October 3rd at Craven County's Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. Scott Hamilton, President and CEO of Golden Leaf, will be the keynote speaker. Town/county officials are invited to attend. More information on this event will be shared in the coming weeks.



Apply for the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders Program in Kinston - Sept. 10-12

The NC Rural Center is bringing its Homegrown Leaders program to Kinston September 11-12. Come build your skills through one of the state's most respected community leadership development programs.

Homegrown Leaders is a 3-day regional leadership and community economic development training that equips existing and emerging leaders with the skills to plan for and lead by addressing long-term and sustainable economic advancement in their communities and the region.

Application process:

- August 13, 2024 | Application period closes.
- August 16, 2024 | Accepted applicants are notified, and registration opens.
- August 25, 2024 | Registration completed (\$350 registration fee is due*).
- September 10-12, 2024 | Homegrown Leaders Training.

Limited scholarships are available. For more information, visit <https://www.tfaforms.com/5133751>.



ECC ON FACEBOOK

The Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) is on Facebook. View our latest news and updates at <https://www.facebook.com/p/Eastern-Carolina-Council-100064819773188/>.

ECC HUMAN SERVICES - AGING

Dementia Live Training Available

ECC staff recently conducted a Dementia Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) presentation for seniors and caregivers in Wayne Community College. Attendees received valuable information and tips on how to effectively assist those with Dementia. If your organization is interested in receiving such a presentation, contact Human Services – Area Agency on Aging Director David Rosado at drosado@eccog.org.

New PACE Facility Being Constructed to Serve the Region

The Eastern Carolina Council Area Agency on Aging is excited to report that the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is projecting Certificate of Occupancy by early November and start of operation in the early of 2025. PACE is a comprehensive managed care program of services and support designed to help people remain living at home for as long as possible.

The State of North Carolina has supported PACE for a decade and a half. In 2004, the North Carolina General Assembly directed the NC Department of Health and Human Services to develop a pilot program to implement PACE. Elderhaus, located in Wilmington, NC, resulted from this pilot program. In 2008, the State amended its State Medicaid Plan to include PACE as a permanent option.

Eastern North Carolina organizations that provide services and support for older adults have rallied for many years to have a PACE center in our region of the state. With great support and advocacy from the community, as well as stakeholders, we will finally see the program here. The location of the PACE center operated by Carolina SeniorCare will be in New Bern, and it will serve many of the counties within ECC's region.

To qualify for the program, you must be:

- Age 55 or older.
- Reside in the PACE organization's service area.
- Able to live safely in a community setting at the time of enrollment.



Outside PACE New Bern site in July



Outside New Bern's PACE facility in July



Outside New Bern's PACE facility in July

On the map below, the red and yellow striped area of Eastern Carolina is designated as the service area for New Bern's PACE center. Soon more information will be made available about the new center and its services.



NEXT SCHEDULED MEEETINGS / EVENTS

No ECC Board Meeting in August.

Aug. 20 - Regional Digital Inclusion Plan Kick-off Event (for Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico counties) 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Craven Community College, Nauman Community Room

Aug. 22 - Regional Digital Inclusion Plan Kick-off Event (for Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne counties) 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., La Grange Community Center

Sept. 2 - ECC office closed for Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 9 - STHL Meeting, 10:00 AM, ECC offices

Sept. 10-11 - ECC Grant Writing Workshop, 9:00-4:30, ECC Board Room

Sept. 12 - ECC General Membership Board Meeting, 6:00 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Meeting, ECC offices

Sept. 17 - DERPO TCC Meeting, 10:00-11:30 AM, ECC Board Room

Sept. 19 - ECRPO TCC/TAC Meeting, 9:30-11:30 AM, La Grange Community Center (410 E. Washington St.)

Sept. 24 - DERPO TAC Meeting, 10:00-11:30 AM, ECC Board Room

Oct. 3 - Save the Date - ECC Annual Membership Dinner Meeting

Oct. 14 - RAAC Meeting, 10:00 AM, ECC offices

Oct. 14 - STHL Meeting, 11:00 AM, ECC offices



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