

Lumber River Council of Governments ANNUAL REPORT



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19

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Who We Are

We are one of North Carolina's 16 Regional Councils established to support community and economic development within the counties we serve. Our region - Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland counties - has a rich cultural heritage and history. We believe that the region's people are our most valuable regional asset. Through our programs and services, we seek to celebrate the uniqueness of our region while also focusing on its common community and economic future together.

Our Mission

In its dedication to regional excellence, the Lumber River Council of Governments is proactive in identifying local and regional needs and the resources to address those needs in an effective and fair manner.

LRCOG Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Chairman	Mary Jo Adams
Vice-Chairman	Rufus Duckworth
Second Vice-Chairman	Robert L. Conoly
Treasurer	David Kirby

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Bladen County	Charles Ray Peterson
Hoke County	James Leach
Hoke County	Tony Hunt (Alternate)
Richmond County	Jimmy L. Capps
Robeson County	Raymond Cummings
Scotland County	John Alford
Scotland County	Clarence McPhatter II (Alternate)

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES

Bladenboro	Rufus Duckworth	Maxton	Virgil Hutchinson
Bladenboro	Jeff Atkinson (Alternate)	McDonald	Dannie Bacot
Clarkton	Arthur Whedbee	Norman	Kenneth Broadway
Dobbins Heights	Angeline K. David	Norman	Cynthia Ingram (Alternate)
Dobbins Heights	Barbara Young (Alternate)	Orrum	Jessie Stephens
Dublin	David Kirby	Parkton	Robin Hill
East Arcadia	Perry Blanks	Pembroke	Larry McNeill
East Arcadia	Lillian Graham (Alternate)	Proctorville	Deborah Connor
Elizabethtown	Richard "Dicky" Glenn	Raeford	Robert L. Conoly
Elizabethtown	Howell Clark (Alternate)	Red Springs	Murray McKeithan
Ellerbe	Elsie L. Freeman	Red Springs	Caroline Sumpter (Alternate)
Fairmont	Charles Townsend	Rennert	Vivian W. McRae
Fairmont	Felecia McLean-Kesler (Alternate)	Rockingham	Denise Sullivan
Gibson	Ronnie Hudson	Rockingham	A. Eugene Willard (Alternate)
Gibson	Randy Pearson (Alternate)	Rowland	Jean Love
Hamlet	Maurice Stuart	St. Pauls	Debbie Inman
Hoffman	Tommy Hart	St. Pauls	Jerry Quick (Alternate)
Laurinburg	Mary Jo Adams	Tar Heel	Roy Dew
Laurinburg	Mary Evans (Alternate)	Tar Heel	Samuel Allen (Alternate)
Lumberton	Owen Thomas	Wagram	Robert McLaughlin
Lumber Bridge	William Davis	Wagram	Milton Farmer (Alternate)
Marietta	Donna Stubbs	White Lake	Timothy Blount
Marietta	Walter Powell (Alternate)	White Lake	Mike Suggs (Alternate)

Chairman Statement

As I begin my second year as Chair of the Lumber River Council of Governments Board of Directors, it is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for fiscal year 2018-2019. This year's annual report demonstrates not only the exceptional value that the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) provides to all of our member governments and the citizens of our region, but the ability of the organization to address both the known and emerging needs of the region.

In September 2019, our region was pummeled for four days by Hurricane Florence, now known as one of the most destructive natural disasters that our region has ever faced. Hurricane Florence caused historic flooding across the region, days of power outages, and weeks of school closures. However, our LRCOG was at the forefront of the recovery effort, immediately responding to the needs of its members. In connection with this disaster, the LRCOG has provided critical information and educational events, developed creative approaches to ensure the recovery of our region, and brought statewide attention to the challenges and successes in the region.

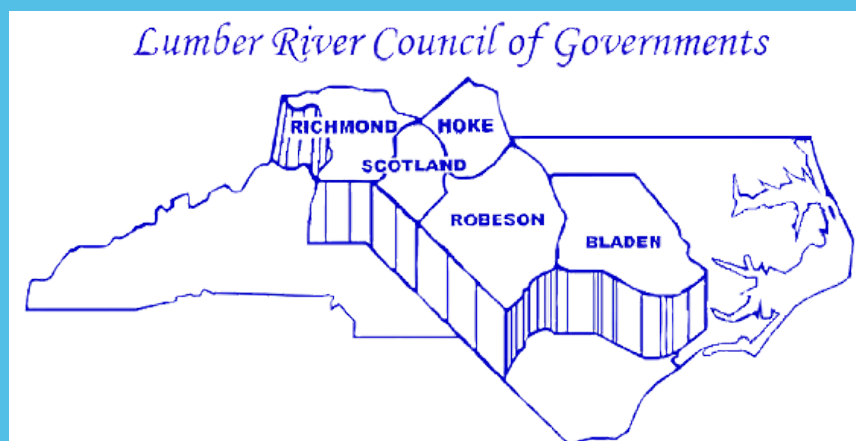
The LRCOG continues to add incalculable value to our region with its expertise in providing resources and services to our older adults, job seekers, employers, and local governments. Over the past year, our Area Agency on Aging has worked tirelessly to develop new projects and initiatives, such as the Regional Elder Abuse Walk and dedicated senior law attorney. Both of these were developed to address the needs of older adults in accessing basic services and preventing elder abuse and exploitation. The Workforce Development division has successfully implemented the new Finish Line program to ensure our region's community college students are able to finish their degree or certification. The workforce division also contributed to our region's hurricane recovery efforts by providing over 350 temporary employment positions. The Community & Economic Services division has continued its stellar work with our local governments through its water and sewer asset management work, while also working with multiple local governments to ensure that their current ordinances are in compliance with current law.

In the coming years, the LRCOG will continue to address the needs of our region while empowering its communities and supporting its citizens in the challenges of the present and the future.



Mary Jo Adams
Chairman

"Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve."

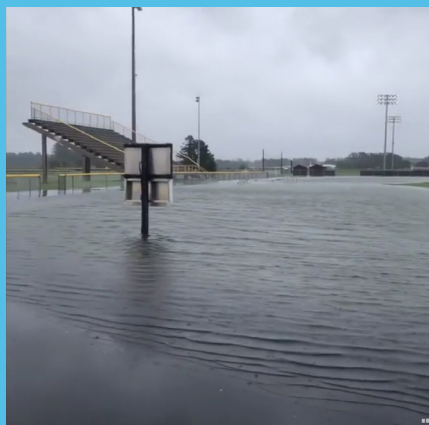


Hurricane Florence: Our Region's Second "Thousand-Year Storm" in Less Than Two Years

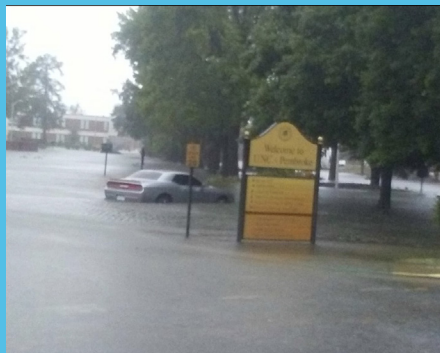
Less than two years after the havoc and devastation left by Hurricane Matthew, our region was once again impacted by a "once-in-a-thousand-year" storm, Hurricane Florence. Hurricane Florence ravaged our region with high winds and torrential rains from September 13 until September 17, 2018. The rains from Hurricane Florence produced more than 35.93 inches in Elizabethtown, setting the all-time record for rainfall in a storm in North Carolina. The extreme rainfall caused all three of our region's rivers, Cape Fear, Lumber, and Pee Dee, to produce major flooding at historic levels with storm waters not fully receding for months. The storm created power outages in our region that lasted for more than a week and left children out of school, in some cases, for more than a month.



The LRCOG's office was closed for almost a week and a half because of flooding and power outages; but even while Florence was still slamming our region, the LRCOG's employees and board members hit the ground running, volunteering at the emergency shelters, delivering food, performing wellness checks on our region's older adults, and working to bring in federal dollars to help with the Lumber River Region's recovery efforts. Throughout the storm and recovery process, our region's elected officials were quick to leap in, offer help and provide assistance to their neighboring jurisdictions.



The impacts of Hurricane Florence can still be seen in our region today. The LRCOG is still working with our member governments to be better prepared for the impacts that will come from storms in the future.



Disaster Roundtable

On April 9, 2019, the LRCOG partnered with the National Association of Counties, the International City Managers Association, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, University of North Carolina School of Government, Eastern Carolina Council of Governments, and Triangle J Council of Governments to host a disaster recovery training that focused on support for the recovery of both our region and the State of North Carolina from hurricanes Matthew and Florence. More than 120 leaders, from everywhere between the North Carolina Mountains to the Outer Banks, gathered at the LRCOG to learn best practices and network with colleagues to help rebuild our region and the state.



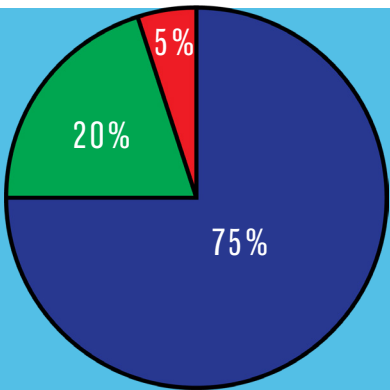
NC Impact

On May 8, 2019, in partnership with NCImpact, UNC-TV, and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, the Lumber River Council of Governments had the opportunity to celebrate our region's successful recovery efforts following hurricanes Matthew and Florence. The program, which has aired several times across North Carolina on UNC-TV, highlighted the resilient spirit of our region while also drawing attention to lingering recovery needs, reminding state leaders of the need for continuing financial support in order to rebuild from not one, but two "once-in-a-thousand-year" storms that struck our region in less than two years.



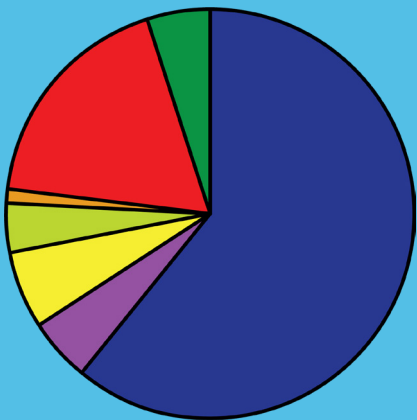
Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Revenues & Expenditures

Revenues



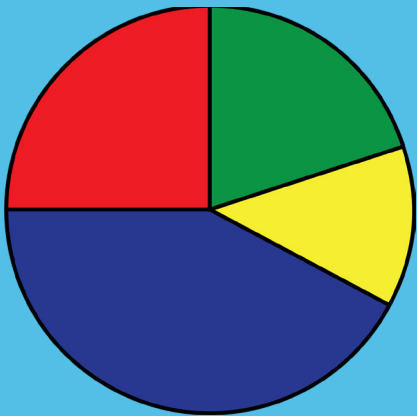
FEDERAL	\$10,150,590
STATE	\$2,768,816
LOCAL	\$727,102
Total Revenues	\$13,646,508

Expenditures



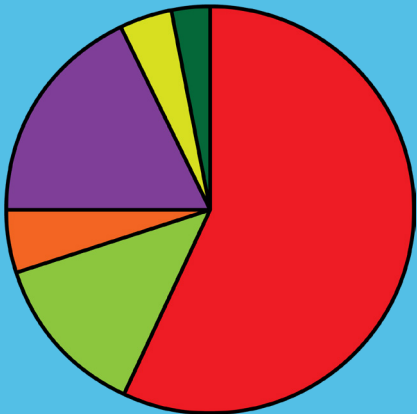
AGING

Planning & Administration	322,782
Ombudsman	181,311
Coordinated Services	2,253,526
AAA Housing	176,064
Nutrition	650,038
OA State Funding	48,262
Family Caregiver	148,049
TOTAL AGING	3,690,032



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC SERVICES

Local Technical Assistance	75,722
Local Contracts	233,227
Rural Transportation Planning	140,227
Local COG Capital	112,957
TOTAL LOCAL	562,133



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Administration	332,874
Adult	1,672,092
Dislocated Worker	485,782
Youth	1,255,959
National Disaster Relief	5,319,554
Statewide Activities	328,082
TOTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	9,394,343

Total Expenditures	\$13,646,508
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*Unaudited
*Does not include revenues and expenditures for Fairbluff Housing Complex

Area Agency on Aging

Family Caregiver Support Program

Providing support services to unpaid caregivers by planning, referring, coordinating, and delivering services that can assist them with their caregiver needs, when caring for an older adult or grandchildren.

11

Wheelchair Ramps

5

Caregiver-Directed
Vouchers

11

Incontinent Supplies

10

Support Group Members

2

Training Programs

General Purpose Funding for Senior Centers

Senior centers provide older adults with a broad spectrum of services, including health, social, nutritional, recreational, and educational services. General purpose funding allows centers the opportunity to expand or add needed services and programs for older adults.

	STATE FUNDING	LOCAL FUNDING	TOTAL
Bladen County Senior Center	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
East Arcadia Senior Center	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
East Rockingham Senior Center Center of Excellence	\$10,693	\$3,564	\$14,257
Ellerbe Senior Center	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
Hamlet Senior Center Center of Excellence	\$10,693	\$3,564	\$14,257
Hoke County Senior Center	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
Pine Street Senior Center Center of Merit	\$7,128	\$2,376	\$9,504
Rockingham Senior Center	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
Scotland Place Senior Center	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
Wagram Active Living	\$3,564	\$1,188	\$4,752
Total Budget	\$53,462	\$17,820	\$71,282

The Health Promotions program enables people to take control over their own health. It covers a wide range of social and environmental interventions that are designed to benefit and protect the individuals' health and quality of life by addressing their chronic diseases and help to prevent other health issues.

Health promotion classes are offered throughout Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland counties.

Arthritis Class

Hoke
Richmond
Robeson

Chronic Disease and
Self-Management

Bladen
Scotland

A Matter of Balance

Hoke
Richmond
Robeson

Powerful Tools for
Caregivers

Robeson

Tai Chi for Arthritis

Scotland

Walk With Ease

Robeson

141

Participants

5

Leaders Trained in
Walk With Ease

1

Leader Trained in
Tai Chi for Arthritis

1

Master Trainer Trained
in Matter of Balance

Home and Community Care Block Grant



769

Adult Day Care

Days of Care



166,969

Meals Served



249

Housing & Home
Improvement

Projects Completed



52,631

In-Home Aide
Services

Hours of Care



1,420

Legal Services

Hours of Legal Counsel

HCCBG
Regional Total
\$3,097,287



33,124

Transportation

Rides Provided

Housing and Home Improvement

The Housing and Home Improvement program assists older adults with minor home repairs or modifications necessary to improve the living conditions and functional accessibility of the home.



91

Home Repair



117

Mobility &
Accessibility



82

Furnishings &
Appliances



Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP)

The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program counsels Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers regarding their options for Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and long-term care insurance. The counselors also offer information and strategies to avoid Medicare fraud and abuse.

876

Clients Served

\$1,222,154

Cost Savings

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman program provides a local voice for residents, family members, and citizens. The program attempts to resolve complaints to the resident's satisfaction, or, if they lack capacity, the satisfaction of the legally authorized representative. The Ombudsman utilizes various advocacy techniques to reach the desired outcomes, including negotiating, mediating, brokering and empowering. Advocacy is provided in skilled, adult care, and family care home settings.

During 2019, the Ombudsman Program investigated and closed 86 formal complaints of residents/family members in long-term care communities.



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members ensure residents and family members are aware of their rights while residing in long-term care communities. They receive training, education and support to extend the advocacy services of the Ombudsman Program. Committees conduct unannounced visits on a regular basis to ensure resident rights are upheld by interacting with residents and family members. These volunteers serve without compensation and provide an invaluable service to the ongoing success of the program.

97
Hours Volunteered

1,154
Miles Traveled

TRAININGS PROVIDED BY OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Residents Rights
344 Attendees

Aging Sensitivity/
Elder Abuse
203 Attendees

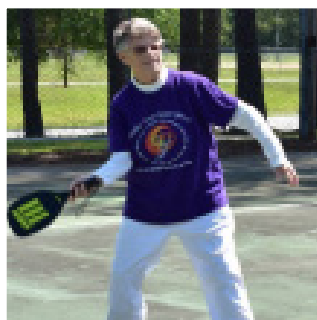
Dementia
101 Attendees

Ombudsman
Program
80 Attendees

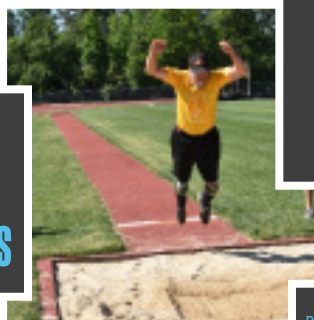
Meaningful
Activities in LTC
6 Attendees

734 = Total people trained

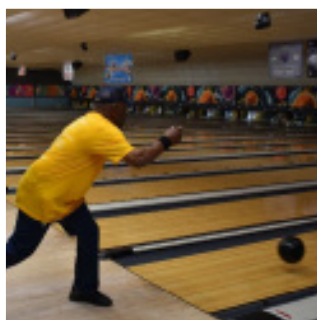
Lumber River Senior Games



235
PARTICIPANTS



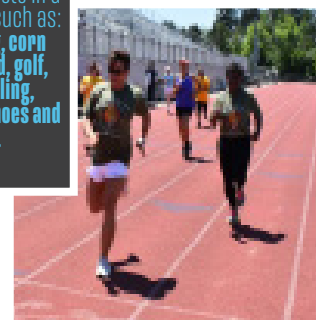
30
EVENTS



Silver Arts
is a way participants
celebrate their creative
expression. The Silver
Arts categories are:
Literary Arts
Visual Arts
Heritage Arts
Performing Arts



Participants compete in a
variety of sports such as:
Bocce, swimming, corn
hole, shuffleboard, golf,
basketball, bowling,
pickleball, horseshoes and
many more.



Community and Economic Services Division

The LRCOG's Community and Economic Services (CES) Division was involved in a number of key local and regional projects during the 2019 Fiscal Year. As the traditional federal and state funds to support planning efforts have been eliminated, this has resulted in both the LRCOG and its member governments finding different ways to support planning-related work. To respond, staff planners in the CES Division have developed contract relationships with member governments to address specific needs, while continuing to answer questions about planning and zoning, manager recruitment, and data services. More about this work is highlighted below.

Convene Groups and Partner Agencies

In FY 2019, the CES staff led three major efforts aimed at bringing together people in the region to share experiences, discuss challenges, and develop options for addressing those challenges. These efforts included the following:

- The Town of White Lake invited CES staff to join their efforts to address lake water quality. CES Staff was able to secure funding from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) to conduct lake water quality assessments and provide education and outreach to stakeholders and the public on the results. Specifically, the LRCOG is conducting a GPS geolocation of direct lake inputs (pipes draining to the lake), drainage ditches, and other significant surface water inputs into the lake. Results will be mapped and made available in a digital layer for future mapping and investigation work. The education and outreach efforts consist of a series of workshops both before and after the assessments are completed to provide information on the lake status. Specific topics include a session on stormwater and its water quality impacts, how municipalities can manage stormwater, and understanding Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater. Participating groups/agencies include NCDEQ, NCSU Biological and Agricultural Engineering Stormwater Program, NCDOT, NC Park Service, Bladen County, Bladen County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Limnoscience Company which is conducting the water quality assessments. This work will continue through FY 2020.
- In August 2018, CES staff completed the regional ground water level monitoring project, part of a long-term effort by multiple counties in the Southern Coastal Plain (SCP) to monitor ground water levels in the region's principle aquifers—the Black Creek, Upper Cape Fear, and Pee Dee. These aquifers represent the region's primary water sources for agriculture, industry, and public water supplies. Evidence of over-drafting of groundwater supplies began to surface in several areas within the region, most notably at the Smithfield Processing Plant in Tar Heel. The issue concerned not only local residents, but also the state, which was considering establishing another Capacity Use Area to limit groundwater withdrawals. A significant cone of depression was present at the Smithfield plant location and extended into both Columbus and Sampson counties.

Responding to this, the LRCOG, together with Bladen County, convened a group of stakeholders to evaluate and monitor groundwater levels as an alternative to the regulatory restrictions. The LRCOG signed agreements in 2004, and again in 2010, with the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission pledging to a plan of well monitoring and evaluations.

In this most recent round, Bladen, Columbus, Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland counties participated in this project. Richmond and Sampson counties were part of earlier monitoring efforts, but elected not to participate during this round of measurements.

Results of this round of well monitoring showed the following:

1. The cone of depression within the Upper Cape Fear aquifer around the Smithfield swine processing plant located in northern Bladen County is shrinking. This is due, in large part, to the switch from groundwater to surface water made by the Smithfield Plant to a surface water intake on the Cape Fear River managed by the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority. This new surface water source is now being used for the processing work at the Smithfield processing plant and this change is clearly reflected in the new water level map panels.
2. A small cone of depression around the City of Laurinburg's well field, with well locations in the Black Creek aquifer, appears to be expanding. While it was suspected that a cone existed, it was only in the 2008/2009 water level monitoring event that the cone became visible. This is due to the addition of the data from the LRCOG well monitoring. In this most recent monitoring project, it appears that the cone has expanded slightly. It will be worth observing over the coming years for any continued growth.

It cannot be stressed enough the impact that the local stakeholders, as well as local governments, had on this result. By working cooperatively through the LRCOG to recognize and understand the problem, they were able to demonstrate to the state that local management of this resource is not only desirable, but attainable. Just as important, is the benefit of having continuous snapshots being taken of the region's ground water levels. By tracking this information over time, problems like Smithfield plant's water usage can be identified and dealt with before becoming a serious problem.

- Working with the UNC School of Government, the LRCOG helped plan and carry out a town hall on Disaster Recovery in May 2019. The CES staff, together with Workforce Development Staff, partnered with UNCTV and the NC Impact Initiative to provide the town hall, which included video interviews and a live panel session. The purpose of the effort was to focus attention on the challenges of recovery from significant natural disasters and to highlight specific efforts that had been successful in helping the region and its people recover. A video of the Town Hall can be viewed at <https://video.unc.tv/video/town-hall-challenges-of-long-term-disaster-recovery-72uugt/>.

OUR 2018-2019 PARTNER AGENCIES

County Economic Developers
EDA- Economic Development Administration
Member Governments
NC Department of Commerce
NC Department of Emergency Management
NC Department of Environmental Quality
NC Department of State Treasurer

NC Regional Councils of Government and NC Tomorrow
NCDOT- North Carolina Department of Transportation
Non-profit Agencies
Southeastern Economic Development Commission
UNC School of Government
USDA- United States Department of Agriculture

Planning Assistance

Most of our local government members do not have a planner on staff that can cover things like zoning, updating ordinances, and interpreting regulations related to running a local government. Yet, they all have times when they need the help of a professional planner. LRCOG planners continue to provide on-the-spot services to answer immediate questions from members. However, with funding sources for more extensive work no longer available from the state and federal government, the CES staff works on contract with local governments to update ordinances, redraft entire codes, tweak zoning and subdivision ordinances, and work through Comprehensive Land Use Plans. Through these contracts, local governments have access to the valuable expertise of the COG planners, as well as access to the GIS mapping services.

Develop and Administer Projects

Each of our member governments has their own, unique set of infrastructure needs. Some need to assess the condition of their assets and make a plan for better managing those so that the system gets the most use out of their assets before replacing them. Other member governments have already done those assessments and need assistance with developing loan and grant applications for specific projects. Whether it is water and sewer, housing or transportation, LRCOG planners can help.

In Fiscal Year 2019, the state did not have available funding for the Asset Inventory and Assessment (AIA) program. However, there were two applications not funded in FY 2018 that were brought forward and funded. This added AIA projects in Pembroke and Ellenbe, bringing the total of funded projects for the LRCOG region to 12. In addition, the CES staff has written and administered four projects in the neighboring Cape Fear Region.

Asset management planning involves the development of an asset inventory, a condition assessment of that inventory, maps, analysis, and recommendations concerning fiscal and operational management of each system and an action plan that reflects the priority needs of the community.

In recent years, the LRCOG planners have been extensively involved in assisting members with issues revolving around their water and sewer utilities. Assistance with operational and management issues, developing customer profiles, fiscal management, and rate studies are several of the services the LRCOG has provided directly or through workshops and training opportunities.

Lumber River Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

During FY 2018-19, the Lumber River RPO coordinated the prioritization of projects for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). One of the RPO's main priorities continues to be the completion of Interstates 73 and 74 through our area. The Draft 2020-2029 STIP includes new funding for constructing I-73/74 around Rockingham and I-74 in Scotland and Robeson counties. Other projects that received new funding in the Draft STIP include the improvement of US 401 in Hoke and Scotland counties and seven highway projects located within municipalities. In addition, five pedestrian and six aviation projects were funded.

The Census 2020 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) was implemented. The Census Bureau had provided proposals for new 2020 Census Tract and Block Group boundaries to meet the population and housing unit guidelines. The proposed changes were reviewed and needed modifications were made. The Census Bureau will use the defined statistical areas to tabulate data for the 2020 Census, American Community Survey (ACS), and the Economic Census.

The RPO is working on the update of the Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). A CTP is a multi-modal plan that looks at long range transportation needs and is developed cooperatively among local governments and stakeholders, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and the RPO. This plan will follow the NCDOT's new practice of including all municipalities within a County Plan. It will incorporate and update the five municipalities that previously had separate plans (Fairmont, Lumberton, Maxton, Pembroke, and Red Springs).

Other activities undertaken by RPO staff in FY 2018-19 included serving on the Sandhills Regional Bicycle Plan steering committee, the Fayetteville Area MPO Transportation Coordinating Committee, and the Executive Committee and Administrative Documents Committee for the NC Association of RPOs.

Workforce Development

Business Services

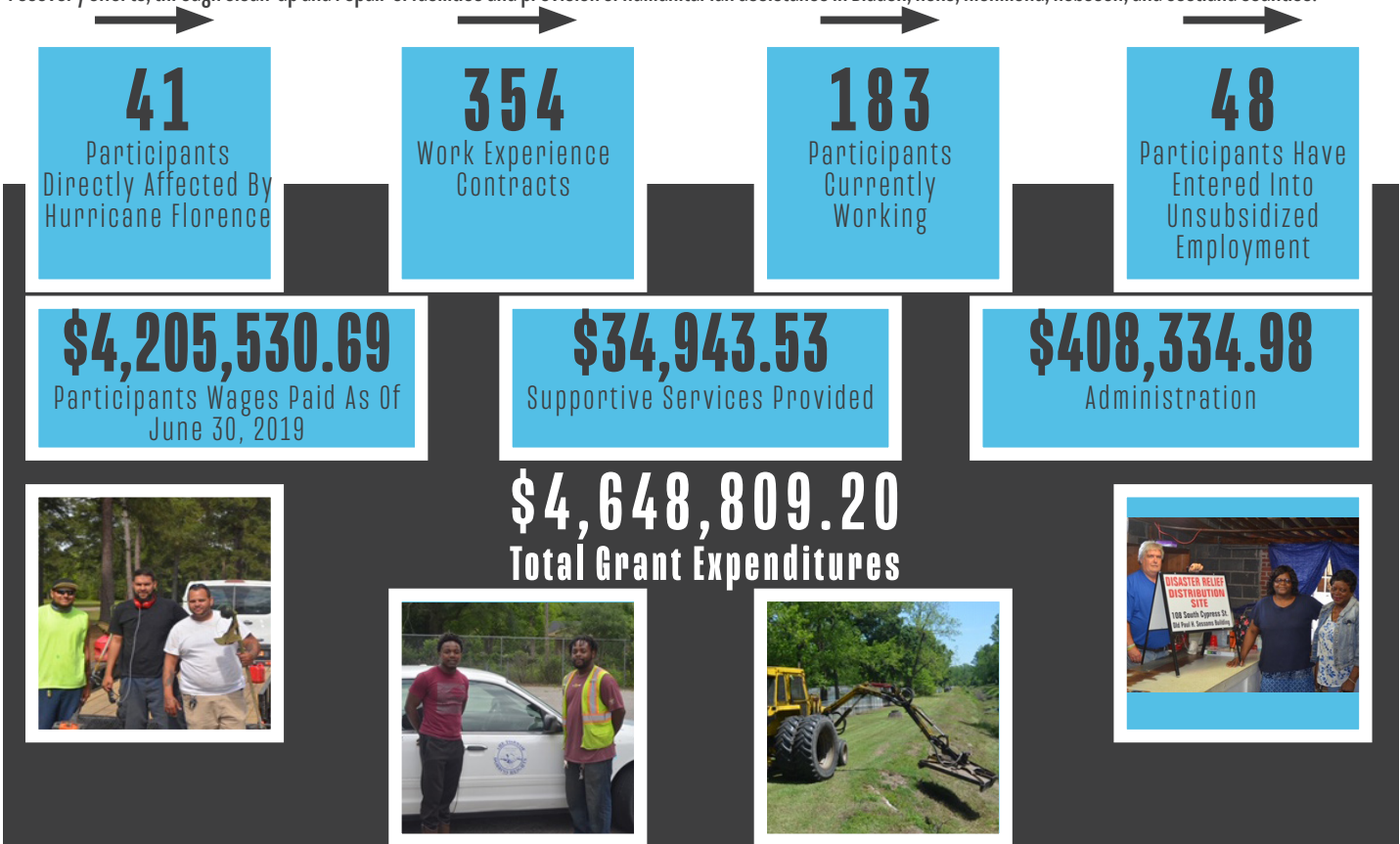
Number of Employers Served	Number of Employer Services Provided	Number of Hiring Events Conducted
Bladen 106	Bladen 3,597	Bladen 23
Hoke 258	Hoke 4,092	Hoke 120
Richmond 235	Richmond 6,179	Richmond 162
Robeson 401	Robeson 13,611	Robeson 98
Scotland 399	Scotland 6,326	Scotland 53
1,399 Total number of employers served	33,805 Total number of employer services provided	456 Total number of hiring events conducted

Incumbent Worker Training

Specialty Product Technologies of Elizabethtown, NC submitted and was approved for a new Incumbent Worker Training Grant in the amount of \$8,000 for six employees to complete training and receive IPC-J-STD 001 CIS/CIT Certifications in soldering technology. This certification will provide these employees with opportunities for upward mobility within the company, as well as allowing SPT to maintain compliance with its current business contracts and offers the potential to secure additional contracts from the Department of Defense in the future, stimulating company growth and job creation.

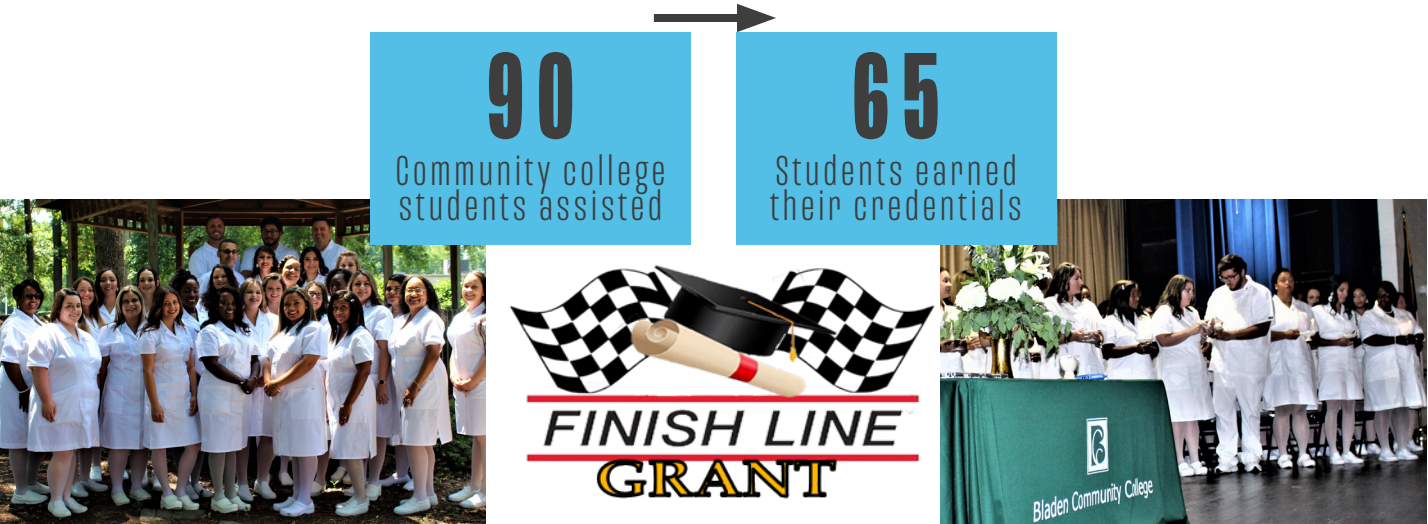
Disaster Relief Employment Grant

The Lumber River Council of Governments received the National Dislocated Worker Disaster Relief Employment Grant in October 2018 to provide temporary jobs to those individuals who have become unemployed, temporarily or permanently, as a result of Hurricane Florence, or who are long-term unemployed. The jobs assisted in local recovery efforts, through clean-up and repair of facilities and provision of humanitarian assistance in Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland counties.



Finish Line Grant

The Finish Line Grant program helps students complete their education when facing unforeseen challenges that can often hinder program completion.

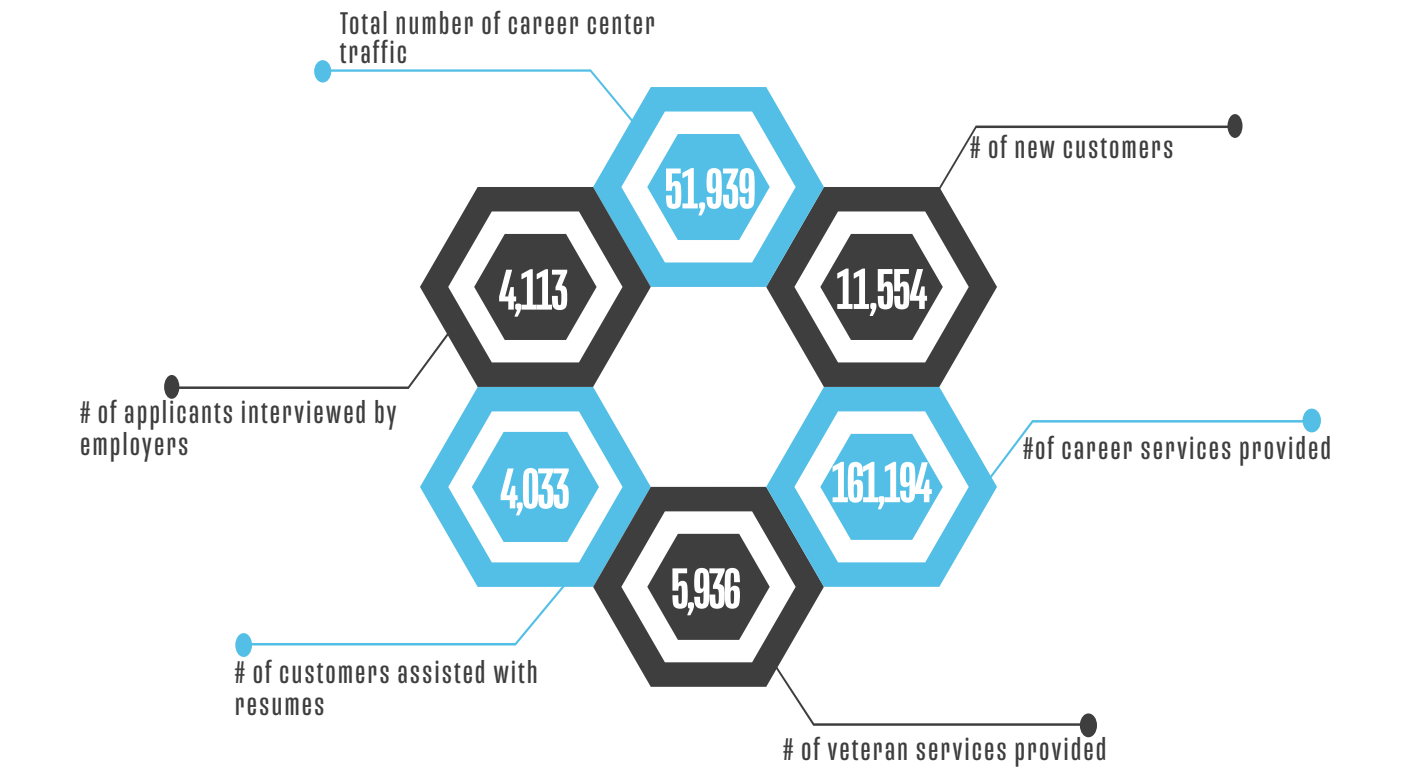


Approved Finish Line Grant Disbursements



Local Area NCWorks Career Center Services

Over the past year, services through the local NCWorks Career centers have focused on providing career planning and development, employment counseling, resume preparation, job search assistance, business services, and employer engagement. Services provided lead to sustainable employment.



NCWorks Career Centers

Bladen County Elizabethtown, NC (910) 862-3255	Hoke County Raeford, NC (910) 875-5059	Richmond County Rockingham, NC (910) 997-9180	Robeson County Lumberton, NC (910) 618-5500	Scotland County Laurinburg, NC (910) 276-4260
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NCWorks Career Center Impact



NCWorks Robeson County Participant

In January of 2019, Mr. Dustin Chavis was connected with NCWorks Career Center in Robeson County through a partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation. During his internship at the career center, Mr. Chavis has been able to gain in-depth knowledge and insight of the career center experience. He has developed impeccable customer service and interpersonal skills, building a rapport with each of his customers. Mr. Chavis has endured a unique set of challenges in his career path; he was born with Cerebral Palsy, a group of disorders that affect muscle movement and coordination. His condition has confined him to a wheelchair for most of his life. Despite his disability, he has turned his challenges and obstacles into opportunities. His coworkers at the career center were fortunate enough to witness Dustin's perseverance, tenacity, and optimism. Thanks to the soft skills Mr. Chavis was able to gain through the career center, he plans to one day attend medical school and become a psychiatrist.

"I will not let my disability define who I am, I do not question God, for he has a reason for everything he does."

"As a single mother, without the support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), I would not have been able to successfully complete my Respiratory Therapy degree or obtain my license. WIOA also helped me to obtain full-time employment to allow me to successfully support my family."

NCWorks Hoke County Participant

NCWorks Bladen County Participant

"The ongoing support of the NCWorks Career Center has assisted me in improving my skills and finding employment. Through the support of WIOA On-the-Job Training, I have been able to transition into a long-term employment situation with a livable wage."

"The NCWorks Career Center provided me with unwavering assistance with developing my resume, completing job applications, and interview preparation. Thanks to the job preparation services of the NCWorks Career Center, I have been able to obtain a full-time position as a Utility Operator that allows me to put my skills to work."

NCWorks Richmond County Participant

NCWorks Scotland County Participant

"Struggling to overcome past legal difficulties, the NCWorks Career Center provided me with job placement assistance and On-the-Job Training that allowed me to obtain not only one, but two simultaneous full-time positions. Not only did the NCWorks Career Center assist me in finding employment, they helped me to achieve my long-term dream of starting my own business."

Lumber River Youth Services



NC Youth Summit

Lumber River Workforce Development Board WIOA participants, including chap-erones and young adults, attended the NC Youth Summit on April 12 and 13, 2019. The NC Youth Summit was held at the Embassy Suites in Cary, NC. The summit provided young adults the opportunity to come together as "One Voice." Young adults were able to collaborate, learn from others, and exchange ideas on issues relating to workforce development in North Carolina.



Academic Achievement Banquet

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, over 70 youth graduate participants and guests within our region came together to celebrate their educational accomplishments during our Academic Achievement Banquet at the Lumber River Council of Governments. The theme for the occasion was "A World of Opportunity Awaits." The event was in recognition of our upcoming youth participants that will be obtaining secondary and post-secondary credentials.



Real World Summit

On Tuesday, June 25, 2019, over 70 youth came together for a hands-on experience at the Real World Summit 2019 at Scotland High School, in Laurinburg, NC. The theme was "A World of Opportunity Awaits." This event is a one-day simulation program that offers our youth hands-on practice with financial decision-making pertaining to education, careers, and lifestyle choices as they transition into the adult world.

WIOA Customers Served Report

Adult and Dislocated Workers Program

Providers: Bladen Community College & Two Hawk Workforce Services

Occupational Skills Training (OST)	On-the-Job Training (OJT)	Work Experience (WEX)	Supportive Services
291 Total # of placements	69 Total # of placements	27 Total # of placements	1507 Total # of participants receiving supportive services
\$551,103.61 Total training cost	\$285,020.76 Amount reimbursed to businesses	\$166,899.45 Amount reimbursed to employee	\$143,633.88 Total cost
\$1,893.83 Average amount paid per participant	\$15.50 Per Hour Average hourly wage paid to employee	\$12.00 Per Hour Average hourly wage paid to employee	\$95.31 Average amount paid per participant

WIOA Adult & Dislocated Worker Contractors

BLADEN COUNTY	Bladen Community College Bladen County NCWorks Career Center- (910) 862-3255	ROBESON COUNTY	Two Hawk Workforce Services Robeson County NCWorks Career Center- (910) 618-5500
HOKE COUNTY	Two Hawk Workforce Services Hoke County NCWorks Career Center- (910) 875-5059	SCOTLAND COUNTY	Two Hawk Workforce Services Robeson County NCWorks Career Center- (910) 618-5500
RICHMOND COUNTY	Two Hawk Workforce Services Richmond County NCWorks Career Center- (910) 997-9180		

Youth Programs (In and Out of School)

Providers: Bladen Community College, Hoke County Schools, Partners in Ministry, Scotland County Schools & UNC-Pembroke

Occupational Skills Training (OST)	On-the-Job Training (OJT)	Work Experience (WEX)	Supportive Services
42 Total # of placements	11 Total # of placements	220 Total # of placements	177 Total # of participants receiving supportive services
\$23,863.00 Total training cost	\$34,043.00 Amount reimbursed to businesses	\$481,341.00 Amount reimbursed to employee	\$39,159.00 Total cost
\$568.17 Average amount paid per participant	\$12.50 Per Hour Average hourly wage paid to employee	\$11.00 Per Hour Average hourly wage paid to employee	\$221.24 Average amount paid per participant

WIOA Youth Contractors

BLADEN COUNTY	Bladen Community College Bladen County NCWorks Career Center- (910) 862-3255	ROBESON COUNTY	University of North Carolina-Pembroke- (910) 775-4000
HOKE COUNTY	Hoke County Schools- (910) 875-2156	SCOTLAND COUNTY	Scotland County Schools- (910) 276-7370
RICHMOND COUNTY	Partner's In Ministry- (910) 277-3355		

WIOA Performance Report

	Performance Measure	Negotiated Performance	Actual Performance	Percent of Goal	Performance Average for PY18
ADULT	Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	70.00%	84.93%	121.33%	105.04%
	Employment Rate 4th Quarter	70.00%	77.98%	111.41%	
	Median Earnings	\$4,200.00	\$5,362.05	127.67%	
	Credential	63.00%	37.65%	59.76%	
DISLOCATED WORKER	Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	74.00%	72.78%	98.36%	87.14%
	Employment Rate 4th Quarter	75.00%	69.07%	92.10%	
	Median Earnings	\$5,300.00	\$5,400.46	101.90%	
	Credential	70.00%	39.34%	56.21%	
YOUTH	Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	73.00%	72.78%	98.36%	80.83%
	Employment Rate 4th Quarter	74.00%	69.07%	92.10%	
	Credential	56.00%	36.36%	64.94%	
WAGNER-PEYSER	Employment Rate 2nd Quarter	70.00%	71.66%	102.37%	101.19%
	Employment Rate 4th Quarter	70.00%	70.03%	100.05%	
	Median Earnings	\$4,200.00	\$4,248.06	101.14%	
Overall Average				93.55%	

Award Winners

Leon Maynor Award Local Leadership

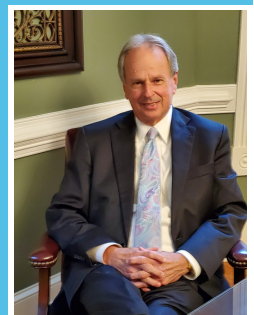
This award is named in honor of former long-term Lumber River Council of Governments Board member and Lumberton City Councilman, Leon Maynor, who passed away during his service on the LRCOG Board of Directors. Mr. Maynor was a fierce advocate for his community of West Lumberton, and strived to improve the lives of his constituents on a daily basis. This award is given in recognition of the efforts of one of our elected officials, who, like Mr. Maynor, has provided extraordinary leadership within their local community in order to improve and protect the quality of life in their community.

This year's winner of the Local Leader of the Year award has served as the mayor of his town since 1985, making him the longest-serving mayor since the incorporation of the town. The 2019 winner of the Leon Maynor Local Leader of the Year award is Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr., of the Town of White Lake.

In the early 1990s, Mayor Womble led the Town of White Lake to complete major infrastructure improvements to its water and wastewater system; he was instrumental in building a residential themed town hall and fire department municipal complex in 2001; and, in 2010, his vision to build the town's first medical facility became a reality. Recently, he has led the Town of White Lake to participate in a study to examine the quality concerns of the lake and has facilitated the construction of a multi-use path around the lake. Using his financial acumen, Mayor Womble has been able to raise the town's fund balance from \$30,000 in 1985, to \$2,000,000 in 2019.

Mayor Womble holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his law degree from Cumberland Law School at Samford University. He is a husband to his wife, Faye, a proud father to his daughter, Lauren, and the proud grandfather of four.

Congratulations Mayor Womble!





Calvin Haggins Award Outstanding LRCOG Board Member of the Year

Named in memory of the late Calvin Haggins, this award recognizes a member of the LRCOG Board of Directors who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to the LRCOG during the past year. Mr. Haggins was a member of the Fairmont Town Council and a devoted member of the LRCOG Board of Directors. The recipient of this award is decided by a vote of the LRCOG Board of Directors.

This year's winner of the Lumber River Council of Governments' Board Member of the Year award can be described as a dedicated leader, a fierce advocate, and a staunch supporter of our region. Over the years, she has demonstrated not only her commitment to the LRCOG, but also to the City of Laurinburg. This year's Board Member of the Year is Mary Jo Adams.

Ms. Adams currently serves as the chair of the LRCOG Board of Directors. She has also been a member of the Lumber River RPO Transportation Advisory Committee since 2012. Ms. Adams' dedication to improving her community continues through her service on the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport Commission, Richmond Community College's Board of Trustees, and the Scotland County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Ms. Adams is a founding member of Scots for Youth and is actively involved in her church, St. David's Episcopal in Laurinburg. She has also been a member of the Laurinburg City Council, where she currently serves as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Ms. Adams received a Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University and a Master of Education from Campbell University. For five years, she worked as a guidance counselor for the Marlboro County school system; she then became a guidance counselor, dean of students, and, eventually, principal with the Scotland County school system for 20 years. She also worked with the Scotland County Juvenile Court as a counselor for over eight years.

She and her husband, David, are the proud parents of two sons.

Congratulations Mary Jo!

John K. McNeill Jr. Award

Region N Manager of the Year

This award, named in honor of Mr. John K. McNeill, Jr. is presented annually to a manager within Region N demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities. Mr. McNeill was serving as Mayor of the City of Raeford and also as a LRCOG Board member at the time of his death in 1990.

For almost 40 years, this year's Manager of the Year has supported local governments in various roles. She served the entire region as the Lumber River Council of Governments' Housing Coordinator before becoming a town manager in 2016. This year's Manager of the Year is Katrina Tatum, from the Town of Fairmont.

Over the course of her tenure as Fairmont's manager, she has strived to improve the quality of life and economic condition of the Town of Fairmont. During the past two years, she has skillfully lead the Town of Fairmont's recovery from both hurricanes Matthew and Florence, while working to improve its underlying infrastructure, including the town's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Ms. Tatum holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She has also completed UNC-Chapel Hill's Community Development Academy and the Public Executives Leadership Academy.

Congratulations Katrina!



Regional Aging Advisory Council Member of the Year

The Regional Aging Advisory Council Advisory (RAAC) Member of the Year award is presented each year to an outstanding RAAC member.

Mr. Dennis Holloway is the 2019 Regional Aging Advisory Council Member of the Year. Mr. Holloway has been an active member, representing Richmond County since 2017. More recently, he completed an assignment in Robeson County, in which he oversaw rebuild efforts with NC Baptist on Missions after Hurricane Florence, which devastated our region in 2018. He is known for his ability to multitask, overseeing several work projects and still finding time to attend a council meeting all in the same day.

Mr. Holloway is a true servant and works across county lines to assist older adults and those in need. Within the past year, he and his crew built over 50 wheelchair ramps in Richmond and Scotland counties in order for older and disabled adults to safely enter and exit their homes.

Mr. Holloway was also a U.S. Army paratrooper; he suffered a debilitating injury during a jump, which he survived and, after an honorable discharge, began a 30-year career as an enforcement officer with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. He retired in 2005, after patrolling an area stretching from the southeastern North Carolina coast to Scotland County. He is also an active member of NC AMVETS Post 316 in Richmond County.

Mr. Holloway calls Richmond County home, along with his wife, Deborah. They are active members of First Baptist Church, where he serves as a Deacon. They have two sons and one daughter. Our region is fortunate to have such a strong advocate working on behalf of older adults and their caregivers!

Congratulations Dennis! Thank you for dedication to the older adults in our region!

Annie Kohen Award

Regional Clerk of the Year

Since 1999, this award has honored those clerks who demonstrate the true spirit of public service exemplified by "Miss Annie"; named in honor of Annie Kohnen, longtime Scotland County Clerk, this award is given in recognition of the relentless work performed by clerks in each of our municipalities and counties.

Elected officials and supervisors have described this year's Clerk of the Year as dedicated, loyal, trustworthy and welcoming. This year's winner of the Clerk of the Year award is Jennifer Tippet of the City of Laurinburg.

Jenny excels in all aspects of her position as clerk for the City of Laurinburg, from supporting its elected officials to interacting with the public. Over the past few years, Jenny has also embraced the grueling task of moving the City of Laurinburg's records, dating back from 1877, to a new location not only once, but twice, while ensuring the continual day-to-day operations of the clerk's role are fulfilled.

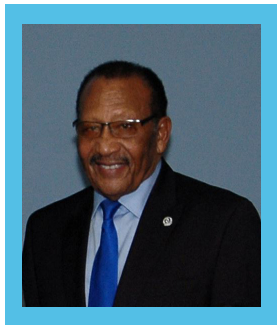
Congratulations Jenny! Your contributions and dedication to your City are greatly appreciated.



L.E. McLaughlin, Jr. and Bob Gentry Award This award honors the leadership of two dedicated former members of the LRCOG Board of Directors, Mr. L.E. McLaughlin, Jr. and Mr. Bob Gentry. While both members served with honor, they also served as friends, putting aside the often strained relationships between jurisdictions. Both men, while dedicated to their respective local governments, realized that successful endeavors often cross geographic boundaries. Their friendship became indicative of relationships made and strengthened at the LRCOG table and still serves as a wonderful example of regional partnerships.

This year's Regional Leadership Award recognizes an individual who has been a strong supporter of regionalism and an advocate for the Lumber River Council of Governments for many years. He truly sees the value of regional solutions and their benefit to the long-term health and economic prosperity for his local community. He strives to ensure that the greater good is achieved and that the rural voice is heard. This year's winner is Mr. John Alford of Scotland County.

Mr. Alford started his service on the Lumber River Council of Governments' Board of Directors in 2005, and has tirelessly advocated for the work and programs of the LRCOG throughout his tenure. In addition to representing Scotland County on the LRCOG's Board of Directors, he currently serves on the Lumber River Development Corporation Board of Directors, Lumber River COG Housing Board of Directors, Lumber River Workforce Development Consortium Board, Lumber River Workforce Development Board, and is an alternate delegate to the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils' Forum. Mr. Alford has also previously served as the first vice-chair of the Lumber River Council of Governments Board of Directors and as the LRCOG Forum representative.



Through his work with the forum, Mr. Alford advocated on behalf of all the elected officials and communities within the Lumber River region to ensure that our region's unique needs and concerns were heard in Raleigh and beyond, while also ensuring that the information he learned from leaders was communicated to our region.

In his work as a Scotland County Commissioner, he has also guided his county through one of the most difficult financial crises it has faced in more than 70 years. He helped to provide budgetary policy that allowed Scotland County to sustain services and to recover afterwards. Mr. Alford has also ensured that the voice of his home county is heard on a national level through annual participation in the NACo Legislative Conference.

Congratulations Mr. Alford! Thank you for your continuing dedicated service, not only to Scotland County, but to the entire Lumber River region.



Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Member of the Year

The Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee Member of the Year award is presented each year to an outstanding TAC committee member.

The 2019 Lumber River Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) member of the year is Hamlet Mayor Bill Bayless. Mayor Bayless has been an active member of the TAC since 2015 and currently serves as the Chairman. He is a strong advocate for the RPO goal of involving local public officials and citizens in transportation planning, which gives rural areas a formal voice in the transportation planning process.

In addition to serving on the TAC, Mayor Bayless serves his community in numerous other ways. He has been the Mayor of Hamlet since 2013 and was a Hamlet Council Member from 2003 to 2011. He is a member of the East Rockingham Volunteer Fire Department and currently serves as the Fire Chief. He has spent time working with the Lions Club, the Seaboard Festival, the Boy Scouts, and the Hamlet Senior Center Advisory Board.

Mayor Bayless retired from the NC Highway Patrol after serving for thirty years. A father of two sons, he is married to wife Linda and is an active member of the Fellowship United Methodist Church.

Congratulations Mayor Bayless!

Dr. Stanley Richardson Award Workforce Development Board Member of the Year

This award is named in honor of the late Dr. Stanley Richardson, a devoted board member and a longtime educator from Bladen County. He was an avid advocate for youth and education during his tenure. The Dr. Stanley Richardson award is presented each year to an outstanding Workforce Development Board member.

The winner of the Lumber River Workforce Development Board Member of the Year is its chairman, Mr. Jay Todd.

A Laurinburg native, Jay currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer and Managing Partner for Service Thread, where he is responsible for leading, managing, and developing business strategy for the organization's workforce. Jay also serves his community as Chairman of the Laurinburg/Scotland Chamber of Commerce and the City of Laurinburg's Downtown Advisory Board. He also serves on the Cape Fear Boy Scouts Executive Council, RCC Foundation Board, and Scotland Memorial Foundation Board, among others.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from St. Andrews University, and an MBA from Elon University. Jay is married to his wife, Julieann, and has three children.

Congratulations Jay!



LRCOG Years of Service

Barbara Locklear
20 Years

Kendrick Thomas
5 Years

OUR TEAM

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Tina Hammonds, Lumberton Nutrition Site Manager

Joann Jacobs, Laurel Hill Nutrition Site Manager

Janice Leviner, Wagram Nutrition Site Manager

Barbara Locklear, Union Chapel Nutrition Site Manager

Reda Locklear, Red Springs Nutrition Site Manager

Annie M. Malloy, Rowland Nutrition Site Manager

Catha McLean, Fairmont Nutrition Site Manager

Virginia Nicholson, Home Deliver Meals Driver

Selma Rozier, St. Pauls Nutrition Site Manager

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Region N Committees and Boards

Lumber River Council of Governments
Board of Directors

Lumber River Rural Transportation Advisory
Council

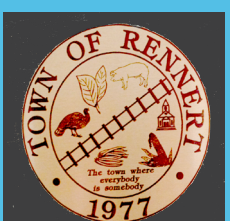
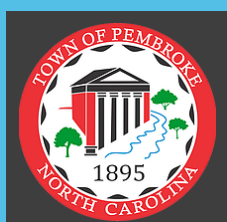
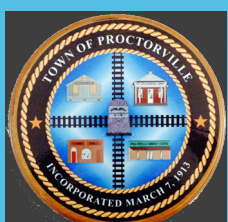
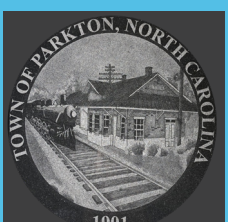
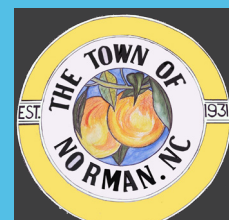
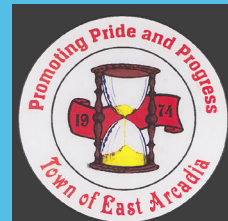
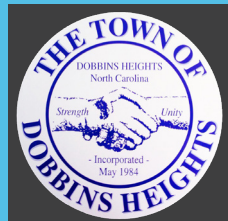
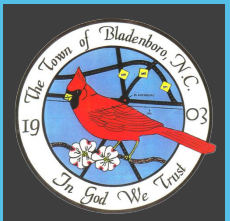
Lumber River Council of Governments Housing
Corporation Board of Directors

Lumber River Rural Transportation Coordinating
Committee

Lumber River Development Corporation
Board of Directors

Lumber River Workforce Development Board

Lumber River Regional Aging Advisory Council



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