

LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I begin my tenure as the Chairman of the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) Board of Directors, I am proud to present the annual report for fiscal year 2023-2024. This year's annual report demonstrates the exceptional value of continuing collaboration, partnership, teamwork, and dedication that the LRCOG brings to all of its member governments and the entire population of the region.

Among the prime examples of the value and success that the LRCOG has brought to our region over the past year is the acquisition of almost \$1,000,000 to help support broadband access and education, 48 individuals trained in FEMA public assistance, and over 60 projects submitted for consideration in the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Plan. The Workforce Development Division has provided over 300 individuals with occupational skills support as well as on-the-job and work experience training for almost 80 of our region's job seekers. Finally, the Aging Division has saved our region's older adults almost \$350,000 on their prescription drug plans, while providing them almost 175,000 nutritious meals allowing the region's growing older adult population to age in the place of their choice.

The LRCOG is truly a unique place where we are able to bring together subject matter experts in workforce development, transportation, aging, local government services and many other areas to enable our individual communities and region as a whole to prepare for a bright and successful future.

Thank you for the opportunity to help lead the LRCOG into the future.

Angeline David, Chairman



Who are we

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.

Core Values

- COLLABORATION
- ENGAGEMENT
- INCLUSIVITY
- QUALITY
- RESILIENCY

2023-2024 LRCOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Chair (July - Dec.)	Robert L. Conoly - Raeford
Chair (Jan. - June)	James Leach - Hoke County
1st Vice Chair	Angeline K. David - Dobbins Heights
2nd Vice Chair	Owen Thomas - Lumberton
Treasurer	David Kirby - Dublin

County Representatives

Bladen County	Charles Peterson
Hoke County	James Leach
Hoke County(A)	Tony Hunt
Richmond County	Toni Maples
Robeson County	John Cummings
Scotland County	Tim Ivey
Scotland County(A)	Clarence McPhatter, II

Municipal Representatives

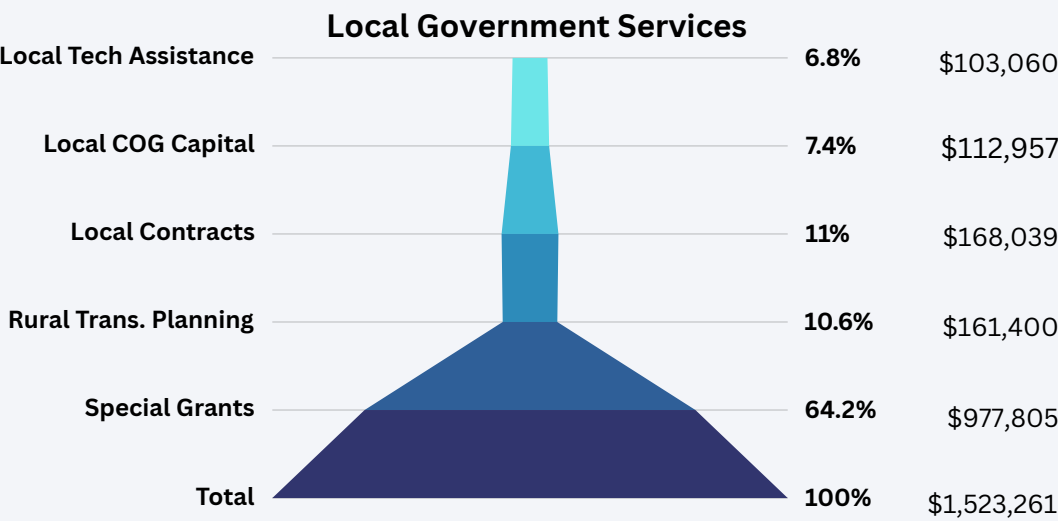
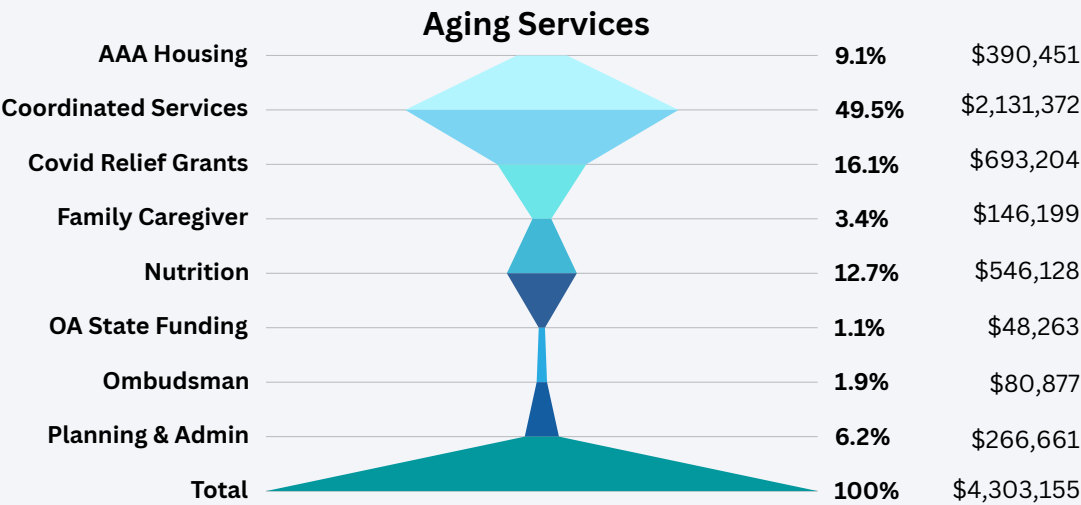
Bladenboro	Jeff Atkinson	Norman (A)	Tonia Collins
Clarkton	Linda Croom	Orrum	Jessie Stephens
Dobbins Heights	Angeline K. David	Parkton	Doris Underwood
Dublin	David Kirby	Pembroke	Larry McNeil (July - Dec.)
East Arcadia	Vacant	Pembroke	Theresa Locklear (Mar. - June)
East Arcadia (A)	Lillian Graham	Pembroke (A)	Ryan Sampson (Mar. - June)
Elizabethtown	Rich Glenn (July - Oct.)	Proctorville	Michael Sealey
Elizabethtown	Paula Greene (Nov. - June)	Proctorville (A)	Alphonso McRae
Elizabethtown (A)	Howell Clark	Raeford	Robert L. Conoly (July - Dec.)
Ellerbe	Elsie L. Freeman	Raeford	Johnny Boyles (Jan. - June)
Fairmont	J.J. McCree	Red Springs	Murray McKeithan
Fairmont (A)	Jan Tedders-Rogers	Red Springs (A)	Caroline Sumpter
Gibson	Eric Stubbs	Rennert	Vivian W. McRae
Gibson (A)	Adam Liles (July - Feb.)	Rockingham	Denise Sullivan
Hamlet	Maurice Stuart	Rockingham (A)	Eugene Willard
Hamlet (A)	Oscar Sellers	Rowland	Jean Love (July - Dec.)
Hoffman	Tommy Hart (June - Dec.)	Rowland	Jackie Davis (Jan. - June)
Hoffman	Karla Bostick (Jan. - June)	St. Pauls	Evans Jackson
Laurinburg	Mary Jo Adams	St. Pauls (A)	Jerry Quick
Laurinburg (A)	Mary Evans	Tar Heel	Samuel Allen
Lumberton	Owen Thomas	Wagram	Robert McLaughlin
Lumber Bridge	William Davis	Wagram (A)	Barbara Pierce (Jan. - June)
Marietta	Donna Stubbs	White Lake	Timothy Blount (July - Nov.)
Marietta (A)	Walter Powell	White Lake	Terri Hawley (Dec. - June)
Maxton	Virgil Hutchinson	White Lake (A)	Mike Suggs (July - Nov.)
McDonald	Dannie Bacot	White Lake (A)	Paul A. Evans (Dec. - June)
Norman	Nancy Paxton		

Finance

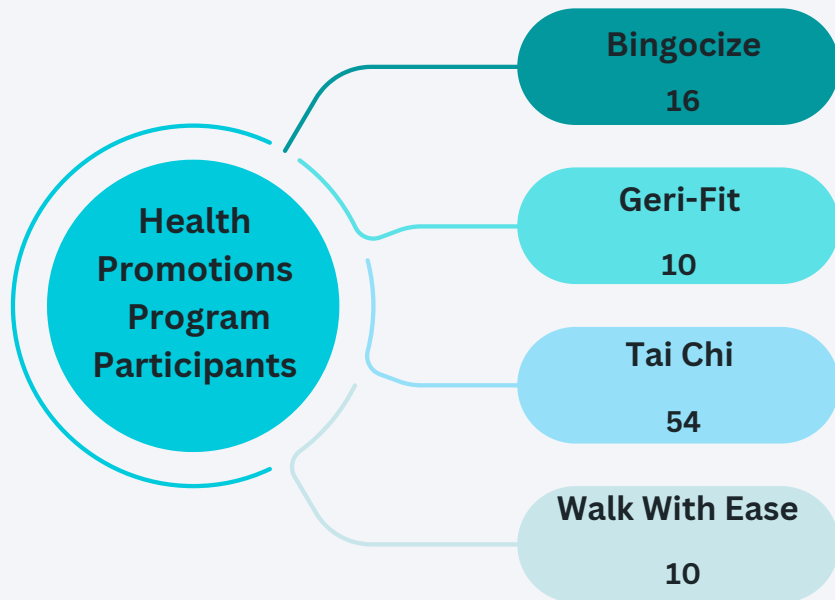
Revenues

Federal.....	\$5,896,442
State.....	\$ 1,862,115
Local.....	\$ 495,987
Total Revenues.....	\$ 8,254,544

Total Expenditures..... \$ 8,254,544 ***Unaudited**



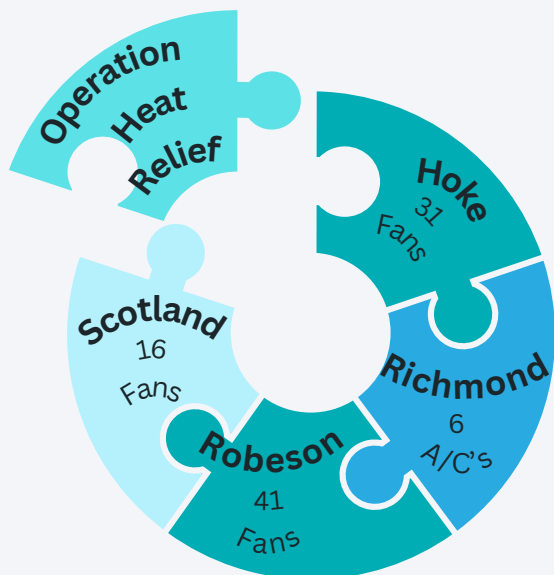
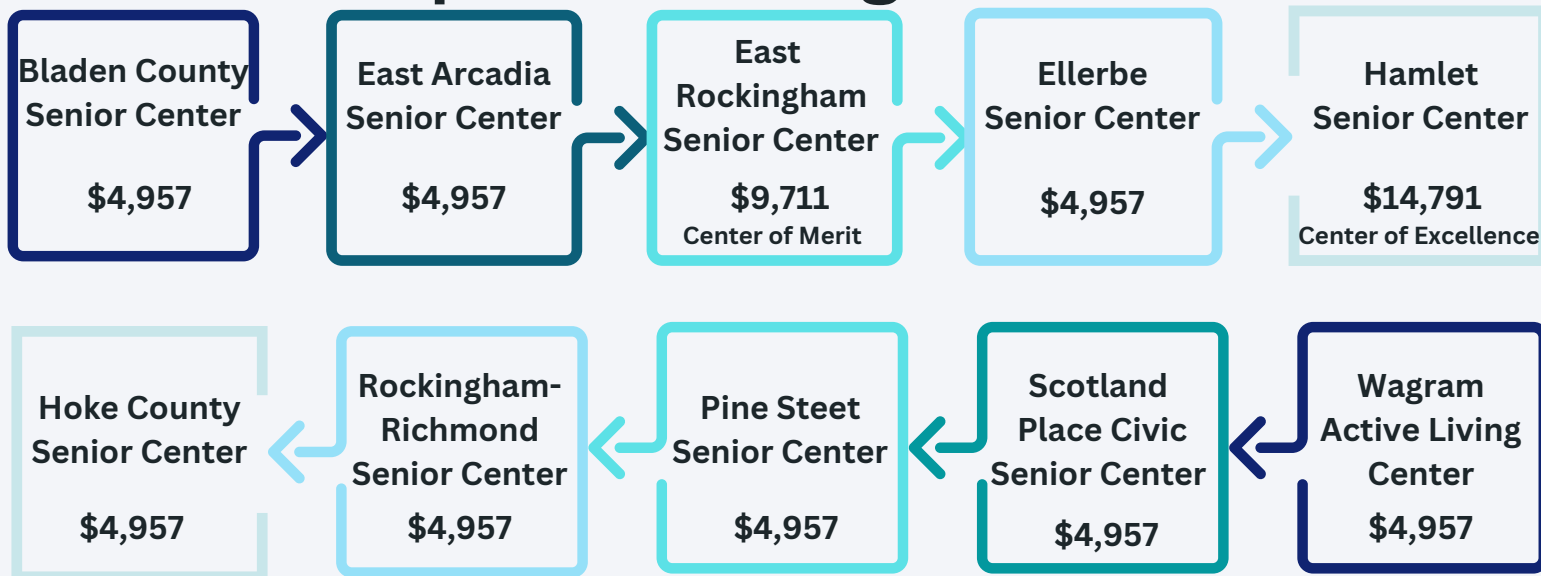
Area Agency on Aging



Family Caregiver Support

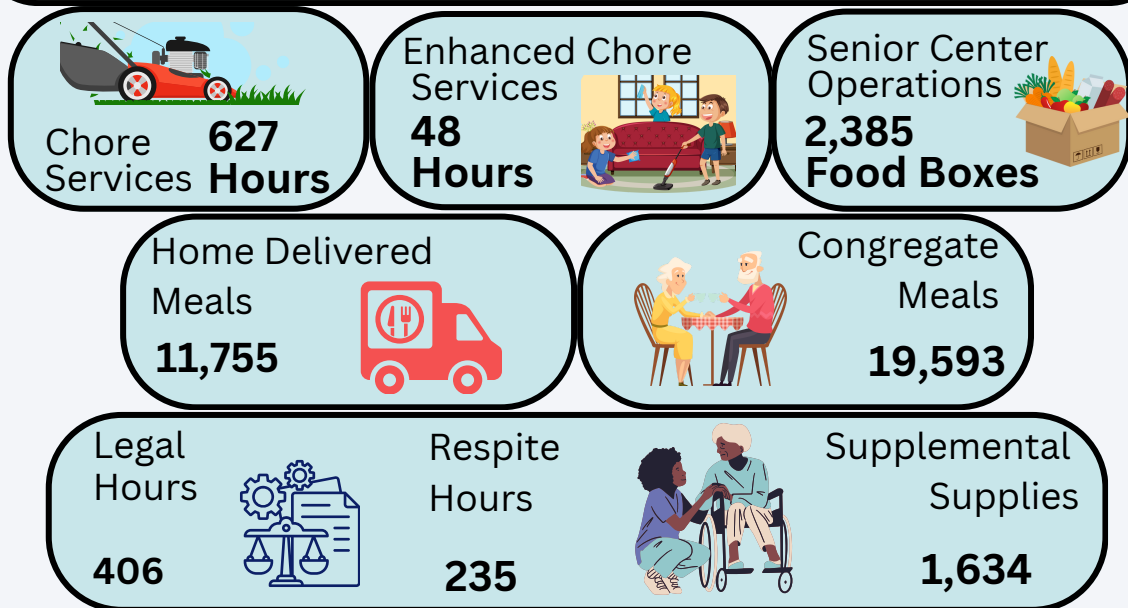


General Purpose Funding for Senior Centers



Area Agency on Aging

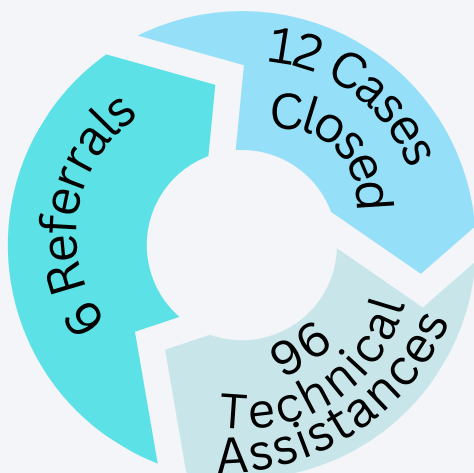
American Rescue Plan Act



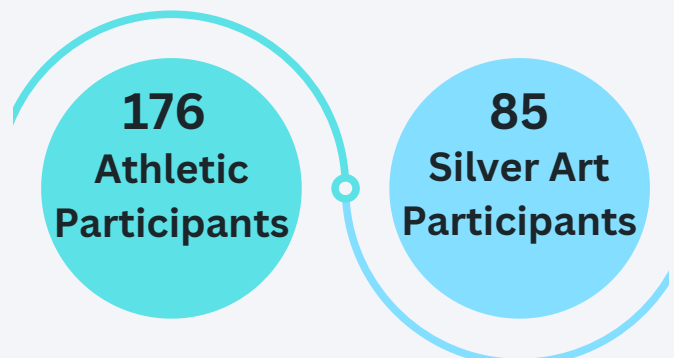
Home and Community Care Block Grant



Long-Term Care Ombudsman



Lumber River Regional Senior Games



Local Government Services

Grant Writing,
Administration,
& Support

17
Governments



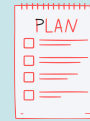
General Planning &
Technical Assistance

26
Governments



Policy
Development

11
Governments



Utility Rate
Education & Study

7
Governments



Manager &
Clerk
Searches

2



Zoning
Maps

1



160D Zoning
Ordinance Revisions

6



Comprehensive
Plans

6



Asset &
Inventory
Assessment

4



Financial
Administration
Assistance

4 Governments



Grants and Regional Studies

- \$800,000 - Digital Equity and Inclusivity Champion Grant
- NC State Data Center Affiliate
- Intergovernmental Review Coordination
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission:
 - \$440,000 - City of Lumberton
 - \$500,000 - Southeastern Regional Airport Authority

Resiliency

- Lumber River Wetlands Mitigation Study
- Lumber River Resilient Roads Study
- NC RISE Implementation

FEMA Public
Assistance Training



Convenings, Meetings, Trainings, & Workshops

- Basics of Economic Development
- Basics of Procurement
- Brownfield Grants
- Flood Resiliency Conversation
- Host NC Rural Center Home Grown Leaders
- Host School of Government Leadership Development
- Municipal & County Association of Bladen
- NC General Assembly Legislative Update
- North Carolina Flood Blueprint Support
- Region N Managers Association
- Regional Legislative Dinner
- Robeson Clean & Green
- Robeson County & Municipal Association
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Grants
- Zoning Law Update

Local Government Services

American Rescue Plan Act

**137
Assists**

Policy development
and implementation



**833
Technical
Engagements**



**83 Plans
188 Assists**

Spending plans or budget
ordinances developed



**38 Meetings
532 Individuals**

Education events held



**36 Governments
833 Engagements**

Local governments
engaged



**189
Strategy
Development
Meetings**



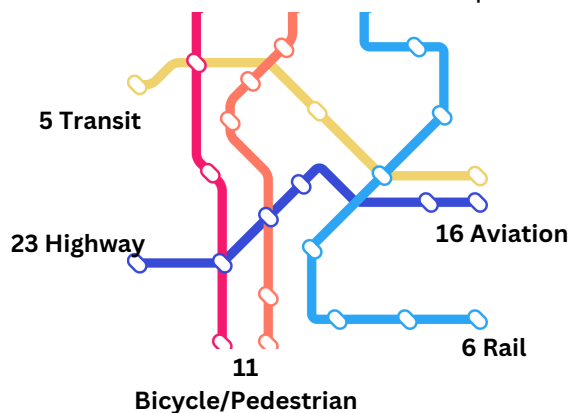
**20
Grants
Supported**



Lumber River RPO Activities

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Submitted projects to NCDOT for consideration for
inclusion in the 2026-2035 plan



Committee Participation

- Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Resilient Routes Study
- SEATS Micro-Transit Feasibility Study
- Communicated National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program requirements
- Vision Zero

Workforce Development

Lumber River NCWorks Career Center

12,461

Individuals Received Services

106,853

Number of Services Provided

On-the-Job Training
16

Placements

\$42,244.26

Reimbursement
to Employer

Work Experience
15

Placements

\$106,919.31

Employee
Wages

Bladen
Community College

Adult & Dislocated Worker Program

Two Hawk
Workforce Services

Occupational Skills Training
257

Placements

\$299,172.67

Supportive Services
139

Provided

\$76,051.42

Job Fair Services

Mass Recruitment

Candidate Pre-Screening

Employment Matching

Incumbent Worker Training

Job-Order
Follow-ups & Assistance

On the Job Training Services

Business Services

Job
Orders
Created

2,653

Job
Referrals

3,574

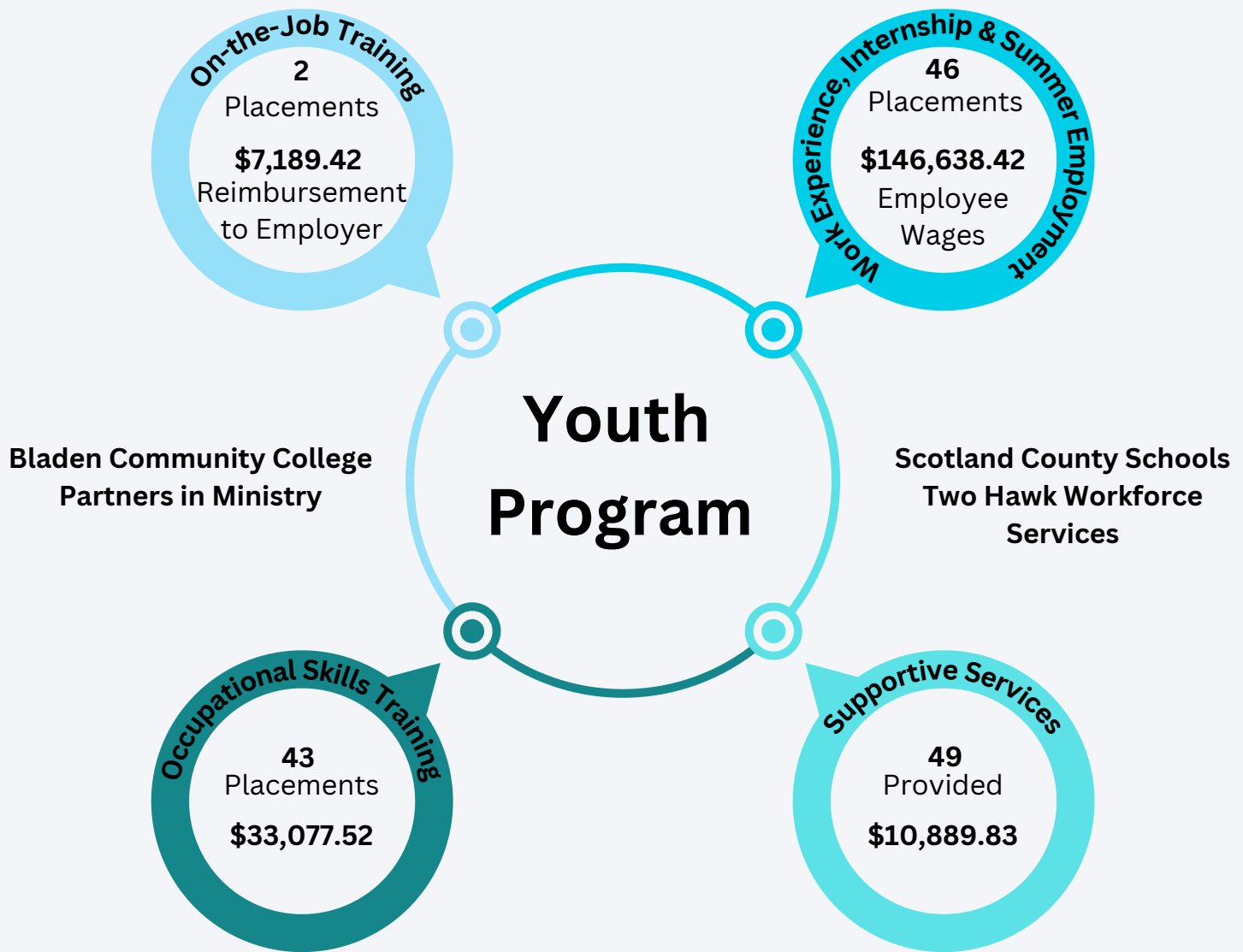
Hiring
Results

826

Services
Provided to
Employers

8,049

Workforce Development



The Lumber River Council of Governments received three NADO Impact Awards for the following programs:



NADO recognizes member organizations that demonstrate valuable and effective approaches to regional economic and community development and improved quality of life.

Lumber River
Wetlands
Restoration
Study

Lumber River
Resilient Roads
Study

Lumber River
Supplemental
Services
Subscription
Program

Our Team

ADMINISTRATION

David Richardson, JD/MBA

Executive Director

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FINANCE

Jo-Annah Sinclair Samantha James

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Accounting Clerk

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Yvonne Isidro

Assistant Finance Director

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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Regional Planner

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Organization Coordinator

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Workforce Development

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Workforce Development Administrator

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Alice Williams, MBA

Workforce Development Services Director

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AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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Markalya Foote

Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman

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Nutrition

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Camisha Laws

Nutrition Coordinator

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Nutrition Site Managers

Bonnie Flantos

Fairmont

Joann Jacobs

Laurel Hill

Phyllis McLean

Lumberton

Barbara Bullard

Pembroke

Joseph Ray

Red Springs

Daris Hunt

Rowland

Penny Hammonds

St. Pauls

Janice Leviner

Wagram

Virginia Nicholson

Home Delivered

Meals Driver



Lumber River Council of
Governments
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COMtech Park
Pembroke, NC 28372

(910) 775-9700
www.lrcog.org
Equal Opportunity
Employer