

Land of Sky Regional Council  
June 28, 2023  
Regular Meeting at Land of Sky Regional  
Council office or remote via zoom



When joining the virtual meeting, Delegates are requested to mute themselves and to un-mute for discussion or moving on orders of business. Delegates are requested to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

## AGENDA

- I. Call to Order (12:30pm)
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Modification/Approval of Agenda
  - B. Approval of the Previous Minutes (May 2023)
- VI. Public Hearing – FY 2023/24 Budget
- VII. Comments by the Chair and Delegates Roundtable (Topic this month is what economic development strategies does your local government utilize? What type of development are you trying to attract? What resources do you provide as incentives to attract it?)
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Presentations
  - A. Julie White, Deputy Secretary of Multi-Modal Transportation, NC Dept of Transportation
  - B. Scott Buchanan, CEO, WNC Bridge Foundation
- X. Old Business
  - A. Approval of FY 2024/24 Budget Ordinance
- XI. Executive Director's Report
- XII. Important Dates
  - A. WNC Regional Housing Forum, Hilltop Event Center, 21 Restaurant Court, Asheville, NC 28805, July 14, 2023, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.
  - B. Brownfields training session, Wednesday, July 19, 10:00 – 12:00 pm, Wells Event Center, Waynesville NC
  - C. Land of Sky BBQ at the Town of Fletcher Bill Moore Community Park on Tuesday, August 15 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm to thank our local governments and their employees.
  - D. Next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 23 at 12:15 pm either in-person at the Land of Sky Regional Council office or remotely via zoom.
  - E. Our regional conversation series Future Forward WNC 2050 will begin on Wednesday, August 23 at 1:15 pm with the Chairs of the County Commissioners from our region's four counties.

## XIII. Adjournment



## BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Consent Agenda
- Item Number:** V. Consent Agenda:  
A. Modification/Approval of the Board's Agenda for June 28, 2023  
B. Approval of Minutes from the May 24, 2023, Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the May 24, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Background:** Item B. May 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes Recap:  
Quorum was present to conduct business at the May 2023 meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the Chair's comments and Delegates' updates . Presentations included the Senior Tar Heel Legislators and the future of WNC's Economy featuring Jeff Debellis, Director of Economic and Policy Analysis, NC Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division. The proposed FY 24 Budget Ordinance was presented under New Business.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

**Land of Sky Regional Council  
Board of Delegates  
Regular Meeting**

**May 24, 2023**

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order – Chair Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Fitzsimmons led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Presentation
  - A. Trailblazer Award – Holly Jones, Sr. Policy Advisor and Program Mgr., NC Department of Justice presented the Trailblazer Award to Roxanne Sizemore, who recently retired as the director of Adult Services with Buncombe County Health and Human Services. Holly Jones shared highlights of Ms. Sizemore’s career in Adult Services, noting that she filled many roles during her tenure with BCHHS. She was the positive voice for Adult Services, the supporter of her staff, and the believer of her clients. Her impact reached tens of thousands and her experience was shared with numerous staff to develop and increase their skills. Ms. Sizemore had always been the go-to person for policy interpretation and her service included time on the State Adult Protective Board. Ms. Sizemore accepted her award and Holly read the dedication on the award, which cited her impact in the role as an Adult Protective Services worker and administrator. Ms. Sizemore shared that she was fortunate to have great leaders and social workers supporting the mission of Adult Services.
- IV. Roll Call – Nathan Ramsey called the roll. The following members were present: Matt Wechtel, Jason Chappell, Pam King, Maureen Copelof, Preston Blakely, Barbara Volk, Deb Bridges, Nathan Bennett, Daniel Cobb, Mason Blake, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Elisabeth Ervin, and Sheri Powers  
Guests Present – Jeff DeBellis, Holly Jones, Lydia Daniel, Roxanne Sizemore, Freddie Harrill, Neil Harrington, Stoney Blevins, Hazel Thornton, Shawn Slome, Sherrye Perry, Deanna Fox, and Karen Sanders
- V. Consent Agenda – The consent agenda, consisting of the Board’s May agenda, and the minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting was presented for approval.

Quorum was established by roll call.

***Mat Wechtel moved to approve the Consent Agenda including today's agenda and the previous minutes. The motion received a second, which was carried out upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.***

- VI. Chair’s Comments and Delegates Roundtable –  
Chair Fitzsimmons encouraged Delegates to share information of interest from their jurisdictions focused on the topic of jurisdictions’ FY23/24 budget update including proposed staff salary increases, tax rate changes, fund balance, and any other budget items relevant to share.

Delegates Roundtable –

Matt Wechtel – Shared that Madison County is neck deep in budget stuff and will keep moving on.

Council Member Pam King – Shared that the Town of Black Mountain is in budget process, too, and working to ensure that the Town continues to be a wonderful place to live and work.

Mayor Maureen Copelof – Shared that the City of Brevard is holding its White Squirrel Festival this weekend and everyone is invited to attend. On Memorial Day, a remembrance ceremony is planned to honor service members and provide a day of family fun.

Mayor Preston Blakely – Shared that the Town of Fletcher had its budget retreat that provided a tax rate of .28 cents with a 4% COLA and additional equipment for the Police Department.

Mayor Barbara Volk – Shared that the City of Hendersonville is holding its budget hearing next week. The Hendersonville Fire Department is now an ISO Class I designated organization. This should positively impact insurance rates in the City. The City is also finalizing a pedestrian plan, which is available online for the public to rank priorities. The Garden Jubilee is planned for this coming weekend.

Deb Bridges – Shared that the Town of Laurel Park is planning to conclude its stream project in June and Council is considering proposals for a new dot.com website. The Fire Department got a great rating up from a Class III to a Class II. The Town is also seeking a finance officer and a position is available in the Parks department. A strong infrastructure plan is under consideration. She noted that Council meetings have experienced increased public attendance and that is probably the best news to report for the Town.

Town Manager Daniel Cobb – Shared that the Town of Mills River is working through the budget process and the public hearing is scheduled for June 8. Investing the remaining \$2 million in ARPA funds and plans to provide a six percent COLA for Town employees. Significant improvements to the parks system are planned.

Mason Blake – Shared that the Town of Montreat is involved in the budget process and he extended gratitude to Tristan Winkler for his assistance in securing grant funds for a transportation project in the jurisdiction.

Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons – Shared that the Town of Weaverville is knee deep in the budget process and planning the purchase of vehicles for the Town including two new electric police cars.

Council Member Elisabeth Ervin – Shared that the Town of Woodfin is continuing to work on the budget and the Comprehensive Plan. She noted that the Town has taken over the stormwater plan from the County and is seeing decreasing numbers of STRs in the Town after the implementation of an ordinance.

VII. Public Comment –

Chair Fitzsimmons called for public comments. No public comments were made.

VIII. Presentations –

A. Senior Tar Heel Legislators (STHL) –

LeeAnne Tucker shared that the STH Legislators began service in 1993. She shared the level of older adults living in each county in the LOSRC region. The AAA has a staff of 18 who work diligently to service the aging population supplemented by many volunteers and community partners. Sherrye Perry was introduced to share more about the program in Madison County. Ms. Perry shared that she has been a delegate since 2018 and she explained who and what the Senior Tar Heel Legislators do for older adults in North Carolina. She noted that other states do not have an entity like the STHL and she shared that advocacy is so important for the needs of older adults. Ms. Perry shared that the needs of older adults are especially strong in the rural counties and education on available resources is important and she explained the importance of the legislative priorities and how those were determined, noting the importance of the GA receiving those. The State now has more people who are 60 and older than there are people under 18. Ms. Perry spoke of her experience as a patient advocate and how that has given her a window into the importance of advocacy. LeeAnne Tucker shared that Henderson, Transylvania and Buncombe counties are all in need of STHL advocates. Nominations for those positions can be made to her.

B. The Future of WNC's Economy –

Jeff DeBellis, Director of Economic and Policy Analysis, NC Department Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division and Neil Harrington shared a presentation that included an overview of the tasks of the Labor and Economic Analysis Division. The total nonfarm employment in the Asheville MSA from 1/2020 to 3/2023 was reviewed and it was noted that the employment recovery from Covid is occurring but is nearly 9000 jobs below trend. However, the labor force is larger today than pre-pandemic in every county in the region. Likewise, the total number of unemployed people is lower than pre-pandemic by eight percent and the unemployment rate is near record low levels, and it is a tight labor market. Changes to the economy since the pandemic include changes to jobs overall with most industries recovered from Covid losses. However, growth in the

hospitality and healthcare sectors has not all returned based on data from Q3 2019 to Q3 2022. Automation was mentioned, which could be a boon to industries that have lower wage jobs that could be automated. Remote work in Asheville is the fifth highest in the State but still low and likely more on a regional basis than an avoidance of a long commute. This region has the eighth highest average weekly wage rate, but is below the state rate, overall. It was noted that over an eight-year period, rent has increased an average of 77% in the region and wages have increased, too, but that is offset by the level of inflation. More jobs in low-wage industries in the LOS region than there are in other parts of the State. A review of the available newsletters and webinars was provided, and LEAD staff are always available to answer questions regarding labor market data and the economy. Analytics.NCcommerce.com is a new area profile dashboard and provides an occupational wage lookup tool. Jurisdictions can embed the area profiles web address on local government websites. Contact information and social media links were also provided.

Discussion occurred regarding whether NC Commerce was engaged with any of the housing data and how that relates to economic development, and it was shared that while not a lot of that data is available, individual requests for research on that topic is available. Additionally, discussion occurred regarding what is driving the upward trend in housing cost, and it was theorized that limited supply coupled with a high desire to live in certain areas combine to increase the cost of housing and there are more buyers who can spend more money for housing. Jeff DeBellis noted that it should be interesting over the next twenty years to see whether generational wealth provides additional impacts to the housing stock. Regarding the worker shortage, the labor shortage is anticipated to be around for a while; however, businesses are creative and investments in technology to reduce a reliance on labor may be a long-term trend.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business –

A. Land of Sky Regional Council Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget Presentation –

Patricia Rosenberg, Finance Director shared the highlights of the proposed FY23/24 budget for the organization including that the budget totals \$21,883,421. Some grants are estimated at this point as notice of allocations has not been received yet. In addition, the proposed budget includes a seven percent pay increase for all full-time employees. Regarding the retirement, fringe, and indirect rate, the LGERS retirement rate is increasing from 12.15% to 12.85%, the fringe rate is decreasing from 41.81% to 34.6%, and the negotiated indirect rate is increasing from 38.53% to 43.08% for staff salaries that are supported by grant funding. There is no proposed increase in local government dues, and local dues collected would continue to support matches for ARC, EDA, and Aging programs grants. She noted that the proposed FY 23/24 budget is balanced and prepared in accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Nathan Ramsey gave a shout-out to Patricia Rosenberg for her cash management expertise and the plan to transfer \$2 million in cash balance to the NC Capital Management Trust account in order to realize higher earnings on this interest-bearing account. This is another strategy to help LOSRC maintain the local dues at the current rate.

Discussion occurred regarding the ARPA funds that are currently included in the proposed budget and Patricia Rosenberg noted that those funds would continue to be part of the budget through FY 25.

A motion was requested to publish the notice for the public hearing for the FY 23/24 budget ordinance planned for during the June 28, 2023 Board of Delegates meeting.

***Chair Fitzsimmons moved to approve the publication of the notice for the public hearing and to open the public comment period beginning May 30, 2023 with a second to the motion provided by Barbara Volk. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was carried, without further discussion.***

XI. Executive Director's Report

Delegates and guests were encouraged to reach out to Nathan Ramsey with any questions or comments regarding the report, which is available in the meeting packet.  
Nathan

Nathan Ramsey shared that a flyer is included in the meeting packet regarding a regional housing forum scheduled for July 14. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

XII. Important Dates –

A. The next LOSRC Board of Delegates meeting is planned for June 28, 2023 at the Land of Sky offices and includes the Public Hearing for the FY23/24 Budget Ordinance.

XIII. Adjournment –

The meeting adjourned as there was no further business.

Respectfully submitted by Zia Rifkin



## **BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM**

- Subject:** Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Ordinance
- Item Number:** X. Old Business; Item A.
- Responsible Parties:** Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director  
Patricia Rosenberg, Finance Director
- Attachment(s):** Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Ordinance  
Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget by Line-Item
- Background:** The proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Ordinance reflects new and ongoing funding for the programs and operations of the Council. The proposed budget totals \$21,883,421.
- Staff Recommendation:** Approval of Budget Ordinance contingent upon recommendation from Executive Committee.
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Ordinance.

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**BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC):

SECTION I. The following amounts are appropriated in the General Fund for the operations of LOSRC and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

<u>General Fund:</u>	
Area Agency on Aging	\$ 7,650,080
Workforce Development	7,242,738
Economic & Community Development	4,509,721
Waste Reduction Partners	302,459
Transportation	1,949,895
General Operations	<u>228,528</u>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 21,883,421</b>

SECTION II. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024.

Federal	\$ 15,001,360
State	2,231,538
Local Dues	342,834
Local Government Contracts & Match	2,129,330
Private Grants, Contracts/Sponsors, Other	1,584,912
Fees	194,012
In-Kind	91,620
Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>307,815</u>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 21,883,421</b>

SECTION III. The Finance Officer is authorized to allocate the amounts of projects, programs, and functions to appropriate objects of expenditures in accordance with the requirements of the contract concerning each project, program or function. The Finance Officer is authorized to reallocate departmental appropriations among various line-item objects of expenditures and revenues as necessary during the budget year. However, any actual changes to salary or compensation of any employee, for any reason (except for salary adjustments made in this document) shall be approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee before such change takes effect.

SECTION IV. The Chairman and/or appropriate officers are authorized to execute all contracts or grants necessary to implement this budget, including federal and state grants, contracts for assistance to local governments and agencies, and subcontracts to local entities necessary to implement Council programs and activities.

SECTION V. Copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the finance/budget officer as directions in carrying out her official duties.

Adopted this 28th day of June 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patrick Fitzsimmons, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Nathan Ramsey, Attest



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## Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Highlights

- The FY23-24 proposed budget totals \$21,883,421. The first FY24 budget amendment will have actual amounts of grants and carryover.
- The proposed budget includes a 7% pay increase for all full-time employees.
- The LGERS retirement rate is increasing from 12.15% to 12.85%.
- The negotiated indirect rate is increasing from 38.53% to 43.08%.
- The fringe rate is decreasing from 41.81% to 34.60%.
- There is no proposed increase in local government dues.
- We will continue to use local dues to support matches for ARC, EDA, and Aging programs.
- The FY23-24 proposed budget is balanced and prepared in accordance with North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Land of Sky Region Council  
Revenue and Expenditures



Fiscal Year → **FY24**  
Amendment → **Start**

Amendment Date → **5/24/23**

Revenue and Expenditures

Program Area	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'Start'	Budget as of Previous Amendment -- 'Start'	Increase or (Decrease) between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current Amendment Proposed Budget and FY Begin
AAA - Area Agency on Aging	\$7,650,080	\$7,650,080	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
ECD - Economic and Community Development	\$4,509,721	\$4,509,721	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
MAWD - Workforce Development	\$7,242,738	\$7,242,738	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
MNG - General Operations	\$228,528	\$228,528	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
WRP - Waste Reduction Partners	\$302,459	\$302,459	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
TRAN - Transportation	\$1,949,895	\$1,949,895	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Land of Sky Regional Council</b>	<b>\$21,883,421</b>	<b>\$21,883,421</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

Revenue by Source

Funding Source	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'Start'	Budget as of Previous Amendment -- 'Start'	Increase or (Decrease) between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current Amendment Proposed Budget and FY Begin
Federal	\$15,001,360	\$15,001,360	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
State	\$2,231,538	\$2,231,538	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Local	\$2,472,164	\$2,472,164	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Dues	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Private	\$1,410,187	\$1,410,187	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Other	\$174,725	\$174,725	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
In-Kind	\$91,620	\$91,620	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Fees	\$194,012	\$194,012	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$307,815	\$307,815	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Land of Sky Regional Council</b>	<b>\$21,883,421</b>	<b>\$21,883,421</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start** Amendment Number  
**5/24/23** Amendment Date

FY24 Budget  
 at Start;  
 Total for AAA

**AAA** **Area Agency on Aging** **\$7,650,080**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
AAA	502	MFP- Transition Coordination Services	\$273,131	\$273,131
AAA	507	Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers (MIPPA)	\$25,000	\$25,000
AAA	510	Aging Planning & Administration	\$362,975	\$362,975
AAA	511	Aging Planning & Administration State	\$60,515	\$60,515
AAA	513	Health Promotion	\$45,728	\$45,728
AAA	516	Local Contact Agency for NC Division of Aging	\$5,000	\$5,000
AAA	520	Home & Community Care Block Grant (P/T)	\$1,710,590	\$1,710,590
AAA	522	Project Fan/Heat Relief	\$5,429	\$5,429
AAA	530	Family Caregiver Support	\$315,130	\$315,130
AAA	531	Family Caregiver Event	\$200	\$200
AAA	534	Project Care (Administration)	\$132,730	\$132,730
AAA	541	Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Pilot	\$49,500	\$49,500
AAA	549	CDSM-UNCA	\$4,529	\$4,529
AAA	550	Ombudsman	\$388,215	\$388,215
AAA	551	Elder Abuse Prevention	\$6,490	\$6,490

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start** Amendment Number  
**5/24/23** Amendment Date

FY24 Budget  
 at Start;  
 Total for AAA

**AAA** **Area Agency on Aging** **\$7,650,080**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
AAA	554	Ombudsman Event	\$1,000	\$1,000
AAA	574	Donations	\$1,000	\$1,000
AAA	586	Foster Grandparent Program	\$416,435	\$416,435
AAA	587	FGP - Pisgah Health Foundation	\$25,000	\$25,000
AAA	595	Senior Companion Program	\$352,222	\$352,222
AAA	51A	ARPA Planning & Administration	\$220,000	\$220,000
AAA	52A	ARPA Home & Community Block Grant	\$1,110,000	\$1,110,000
AAA	53A	ARPA Family Caregiver Program	\$240,000	\$240,000
AAA	54A	ARPA Health Promotion	\$70,000	\$70,000
AAA	55A	ARPA Ombudsman	\$16,167	\$16,167
AAA	56i	MFP Community Inclusion Program	\$159,477	\$159,477
AAA	59A	SCP- PHF/Bridge Rural & Urban	\$192,036	\$192,036
AAA	52L	Aging Legal	\$18,354	\$18,354
AAA	52C	Aging - Congregate	\$369,593	\$369,593
AAA	52H	Aging - Home Delivered Meals	\$502,900	\$502,900

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start** Amendment Number  
**5/24/23** Amendment Date

FY24 Budget  
 at Start;  
 Total for AAA

AAA

Area Agency on Aging

\$7,650,080

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
AAA	521	Aging - In Home Services	\$570,734	\$570,734

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start** Amendment Number  
**5/24/23** Amendment Date

FY24 Budget  
 at Start;  
 Total for ECD

**ECD Economic and Community Development**

**\$4,509,721**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
ECD	420	Bunc Co Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT)	\$999,408	\$999,408
ECD	431	EDA Planning Grant - 1/1/21 - 12/31/23	\$15,000	\$15,000
ECD	449	Mars Hill Water/Sewer T/A	\$325,000	\$325,000
ECD	453	Rosman Parks and Rec Master Plan	\$45,000	\$45,000
ECD	462	Hendersonville CDBG	\$14,500	\$14,500
ECD	463	Stormwater Services	\$8,000	\$8,000
ECD	464	WNC 205j Stormwater Partnership	\$13,500	\$13,500
ECD	466	Weaverville Stormwater Inventory	\$45,000	\$45,000
ECD	467	319 Black Mtn	\$140,000	\$140,000
ECD	497	Montreat Planning & Zoning	\$71,112	\$71,112
ECD	666	Black Mtn EDA Water & Sewer	\$11,069	\$11,069
ECD	695	DHT-IEI Digital Inclusion Project	\$210,000	\$210,000
ECD	800	Clean Air Campaign	\$22,000	\$22,000
ECD	812	CMAC	\$21,000	\$21,000
ECD	827	DOE-NETL Clean Cities 4/1/21	\$43,000	\$43,000

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start** Amendment Number  
**5/24/23** Amendment Date

FY24 Budget  
at Start;  
Total for ECD

**ECD Economic and Community Development**

**\$4,509,721**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
ECD	830	Waste Reduction Education Program	\$13,000	\$13,000
ECD	900	Rural Planning Organization (RPO)	\$132,969	\$132,969
ECD	930	Bunc Co Mountain Mobility Administration	\$297,246	\$297,246
ECD	933	Bunc Co Transportation RIDE	\$100,000	\$100,000
ECD	938	Bunc Co Mountain Mobility Administration - RIDE	\$20,187	\$20,187
ECD	41B	City of Asheville - Swannanoa River Rd Pr	\$20,000	\$20,000
ECD	41C	DHT COG Capacity Building	\$235,000	\$235,000
ECD	41D	Buncombe Co. Covid 19 Connecting Communities	\$95,000	\$95,000
ECD	41E	NCARCOG ARPA T/A	\$385,000	\$385,000
ECD	41F	ARC Housing Assets	\$100,000	\$100,000
ECD	41G	NCARCOG Disaster & Recovery	\$340,000	\$340,000
ECD	41U	UNC - Building Capacity For Home & Community	\$149,822	\$149,822
ECD	44B	Mountain Biz Works	\$17,500	\$17,500
ECD	46A	ARP- Black Mtn.	\$43,500	\$43,500
ECD	49B	ARC LDD ends 12/31/23	\$249,808	\$249,808

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start**  
**5/24/23**

**Amendment Number**  
**Amendment Date**

FY24 Budget  
at Start;  
Total for ECD

**ECD Economic and Community Development**

**\$4,509,721**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
ECD	4A2	Mars Hill (ARP)	\$25,000	\$25,000
ECD	70A	Healthy Opportunities - Operations	\$205,000	\$205,000
ECD	70C	Healthy Opportunities - Capital	\$87,100	\$87,100
ECD	70B	Healthy Opportunities Education and Outreach	\$10,000	\$10,000



**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start**  
**5/24/23**

**Amendment Number**  
**Amendment Date**

FY24 Budget  
at Start;  
Total for MAWD

**MAWD Workforce Development**

**\$7,242,738**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
MAWD	210	Administration	\$259,022	\$259,022
MAWD	212	P20 Council (JMBE)	\$120,000	\$120,000
MAWD	220	WIOA - Adult	\$726,053	\$726,053
MAWD	230	WIOA - Dislocated Worker	\$396,966	\$396,966
MAWD	240	Youth - Out of School	\$658,162	\$658,162
MAWD	241	Youth - In School	\$272,885	\$272,885
MAWD	275	NDWG Admin	\$25,000	\$25,000
MAWD	276	NDWG	\$225,000	\$225,000
MAWD	620	Inspire- ARC/DHT/MAHEC	\$550,920	\$550,920
MAWD	62C	Accelerate Buncombe	\$93,000	\$93,000
MAWD	21A	P20 Council - Additional JMBE	\$53,565	\$53,565
MAWD	21B	P20 Council - DOL and Duke Energy	\$1,510,125	\$1,510,125
MAWD	630	DOL Growth Opportunities	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
MAWD	280	ARPA Work Based Learning	\$429,438	\$429,438
MAWD	281	ARPA Work Based Learning Admin	\$22,602	\$22,602

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start**  
**5/24/23**

**Amendment Number**  
**Amendment Date**

FY24 Budget  
 at Start;  
 Total for MAWD

**MAWD Workforce Development**

**\$7,242,738**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
MAWD	282	ARPA Reentry	\$95,000	\$95,000
MAWD	283	ARPA Reentry Admin	\$5,000	\$5,000
MAWD	284	ARPA Substance Use	\$95,000	\$95,000
MAWD	285	ARPA Substance Use Admin	\$5,000	\$5,000

**Land of Sky Region Council  
Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start**  
**5/24/23**

**Amendment Number**  
**Amendment Date**

FY24 Budget  
at Start;  
Total for TRAN

**TRAN Transportation**

**\$1,949,895**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
TRAN	952	French Broad Metro. Planning Org.	\$623,375	\$623,375
TRAN	953	French Broad Metro. Planning Org. -- Special Studies	\$684,000	\$684,000
TRAN	954	Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coord	\$115,200	\$115,200
TRAN	955	Safe Streets for All	\$400,000	\$400,000
TRAN	956	Safe Routes to Schools	\$127,320	\$127,320

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start**  
**5/24/23**

**Amendment Number**  
**Amendment Date**

FY24 Budget  
at Start;  
Total for WRP

**WRP Waste Reduction Partners**

**\$302,459**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
WRP	320	Contract Fees	\$282	\$282
WRP	345	WRP - City of Durham	\$20,000	\$20,000
WRP	346	WRP - NCDEQ-State Energy Program	\$50,000	\$50,000
WRP	350	WRP - NCDEQ - Solid Waste Management	\$50,000	\$50,000
WRP	353	WRP - City of Asheville-Water Quality	\$5,000	\$5,000
WRP	355	WRP - Private Contributions	\$4,177	\$4,177
WRP	357	WRP-ECU Energy Assessments	\$36,000	\$36,000
WRP	380	NCDEQ-PS-10/1/22-9/30/23	\$23,000	\$23,000
WRP	382	WRP -USDA REAP REDA, 4-1-2022	\$63,000	\$63,000
WRP	383	EPA Solid Waste Mgmt - Food Waste	\$8,000	\$8,000
WRP	37A	USDA/RUS Solid Waste 10/1/21-9/30/22	\$5,000	\$5,000
WRP	384	EPA Source Reduction Grant	\$38,000	\$38,000

**Land of Sky Region Council**  
**Revenue and Expenditures**



**FY24** Fiscal Year

**Start**  
**5/24/23**

**Amendment Number**  
**Amendment Date**

FY24 Budget  
 at Start;  
 Total for MNG

**MNG**                      **General Operations**

**\$228,528**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
MNG	403	Leicester Crossing Facility - Debt Service	\$124,725	\$124,725
MNG	410	Local	\$103,803	\$103,803

**Member Government Assessments - FY23-24**

Member Government	FY23-24				FY22-23		
	Total Dues	Regular Assessment		RPO Match	Total Dues	Regular Assessment	RPO Match
		Amount	Percent				
Buncombe County	\$ 122,804	\$ 118,482	60.7%	\$ 4,322	\$ 122,804	\$ 118,482	\$ 4,322
Henderson County	\$ 34,487	\$ 34,487	17.7%		\$ 34,487	\$ 34,487	
Flat Rock	\$ 1,558	\$ 1,558	0.8%		\$ 1,558	\$ 1,558	
Fletcher	\$ 3,595	\$ 3,595	1.8%		\$ 3,595	\$ 3,595	
Hendersonville	\$ 6,572	\$ 6,572	3.4%		\$ 6,572	\$ 6,572	
Laurel Park	\$ 1,091	\$ 1,091	0.6%		\$ 1,091	\$ 1,091	
Mills River	\$ 2,690	\$ 2,690	1.4%		\$ 2,690	\$ 2,690	
Madison County	\$ 15,114	\$ 10,137	5.2%	\$ 4,977	\$ 15,114	\$ 10,137	\$ 4,977
Transylvania County	\$ 26,690	\$ 12,502	6.4%	\$ 14,188	\$ 26,690	\$ 12,502	\$ 14,188
Brevard	\$ 3,806	\$ 3,806	2.0%		\$ 3,806	\$ 3,806	
Rosman	\$ 245	\$ 245	0.1%		\$ 245	\$ 245	
Haywood County	\$ 3,107		0.0%	\$ 3,107	\$ 3,107	\$ -	\$ 3,107
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 221,759</b>	<b>\$ 195,165</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 26,594</b>	<b>\$ 221,759</b>	<b>\$ 195,165</b>	<b>\$ 26,594</b>

Projected Use of Member Government Assessments			
Grant #	Program	Dues	Purpose
410	Local Funding	\$ 6,521	Council Meetings & Other LOSRC sponsored events
		\$ 12,000	Membership Dues
		\$ 10,500	Holiday Bonuses
	Other Sources	\$ -	Participation in regular activities not grant funded
		\$ -	Annual Dinner and Annual Report
		\$ -	Travel and Training
49B	ARC-LDD	\$ 121,384	Grant match
431	EDA Planning Grant	\$ 25,000	Grant match
510	Aging - Plan & Admin	\$ 19,760	Grant match
	Regular Assessment	\$ 195,165	
900	Rural Planning Org.	\$ 26,594	Match for DOT funding, allocation per capita
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 221,759</b>	



## **BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM**

- Subject:** Executive Director's Report
- Item Number:** XI. Executive Director's Report
- Responsible Party:** Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director
- Attachment(s):** Executive Director's Report for June 28, 2023
- Background:** The Executive Director's Report provides updates and relevant information regarding projects and initiatives for LOSRC Departments/Agencies.
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A.
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

Land of Sky Regional Council  
Executive Director's Report  
Respectfully submitted by Nathan Ramsey  
June 28, 2023

## 1. Finance

- FY23-24 budget will include no dues increase

## 2. Economic and Community Development

### Kudos!

- May 11, 2023, LOSRC staff Scott Adams and Paul Moon researched and presented on **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** to over 90 attendees (via Zoom) for a continuing education event sponsored by American Planning Association - North Carolina chapter (APA-NC).  
165 people signed up (received recording of meeting and slides), with attendees from all across NC and ten other states. (TN, MA, IL, WI, VA, GA, VT, SC, FL, CA)
  - **ADUs as a Housing Option for Older Adults**, etc. At min. 3:50
  - **Top 10 ADU Best Practices** at min. 32:00

1.5 hour recording of presentation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNZbVFrQKn0>

- June 12, 2023 – **Land of Sky Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ 301)** was approved by the US Secretary of Commerce under Board Order No. 2144 with a service area including all of Henderson County and portions of Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson and Transylvania counties. Please contact [Renee@LandofSky.org](mailto:Renee@LandofSky.org) for more information.

### Announcements

- EPA has a new regulation for **lead-based pipes** in water/sewer systems. Funding for replacement is available here: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/lead-service-line-replacement-funding>
- All inventories must be completed by Oct. 16, 2024. Please contact us if you would like assistance with more information. More information to complete an inventory is here: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/drinking-water/lead-service-line-inventory>
- We are assisting residents sign up for discounted internet service (ACP) in Buncombe County. Please contact [ian@landofsky.org](mailto:ian@landofsky.org) for more information.

### Upcoming Events

- 7/14 - Housing Forum – Save the Date!
- 7/19 - Brownfields Training – Free @ Wells Event Center in Waynesville, 10-12pm. Register here:  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3IF2etC5mkSFw->



## **Grants**

### **EDA Published Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity**

EDA has published a new Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The FY23 PWEAA NOFO outlines application submission requirements and review procedures for applications received under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs.

### **EDA invites application from communities who experienced a major disaster declaration (2021-2022)**

The Economic Development Administration is accepting applications to support the development or implementation of disaster recovery projects in communities that were adversely impacted by a major disaster declaration in 2021 or 2022. **In North Carolina, the following 9 counties currently meet these criteria based on impacts from Tropical Storm Fred: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Madison, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.** Funds can support a wide array of construction and non-construction projects that facilitate economic recovery. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the NC EDA Representative, Hillary Sherman, at [hsherman@eda.gov](mailto:hsherman@eda.gov) to discuss their project and program requirements. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information and to apply, applicants should access <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/funding-program/a2j3d000000twKAAQ/fy-2023-disaster-supplemental> to learn more and complete their application.

### **NC Division of Environmental Quality accepting applications for lead service line replacement projects**

The North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality (QEW) is accepting application for lead service line replacement projects. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis. To apply, applicants should complete the Project Solicitation Form for Lead Service Line Replacement projects and then submit the completed form online at the submittal portal. Both links to the form and the portal are available at: [Lead Service Line Replacement Funding | NC DEQ](#).

### **Our Town Applications Open Until August 3**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town program supports projects that advance local economic, physical, or social outcomes that contribute to long-term systems change within communities. Guidelines and instructions for the Our Town grant program are now available online. The application is submitted in two parts; the Part 1 deadline is August 3. [Click here](#) to learn more and apply. An opportunity to connect with Our Town staff includes a webinar on June 15 at 2 p.m. ET. Registration information is on the [Our Town Applicant Resources page](#).

### **FEMA Seeks Input for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program**

FEMA has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to identify sources that can provide support for the BRIC program's non-financial Direct Technical Assistance initiative. FEMA seeks to

learn from organizations of different sizes and reach who may be a good fit to meet all or some of its needs. Click [here](#) to access the RFI.

### **USDA Rural Development's Resource Guide for Rural Entrepreneurs**

USDA Rural Development has a new resource out for rural entrepreneurs that is full of insights, with excellent case studies and information for rural entrepreneurs on starting and growing their business. [CLICK HERE](#) to download the guide and share with your business community.

### **U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Program Now Accepting Applications**

The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) program is now accepting applications for its next set of peer-learning cohorts. Applicants may apply to one (or more) of three cohort topic areas: electric vehicle infrastructure planning, municipal clean energy procurement strategy, and community inclusion in clean energy planning. Applications are due Monday, May 8 and selected participants will begin their engagement in July 2023. Find additional cohort descriptions, eligibility details, and the online application on the [C2C peer-learning cohorts website](#).

### **The AIEI Releases an Investment Playbook for Rural Areas**

The [Appalachian Investment Ecosystem Initiative](#) (AIEI) released a [resource playbook](#) on investments and economic development opportunities in rural areas. The playbook focuses on Appalachia.

**COGWorks:** Please visit <https://www.landofsky.org/cogworks.html> for more information and registration links. Courses are added as details become available.

August - Ethics Cases of the Year  
October - Rural Road Safety

### **Transportation**

1. MPO & RPO staff continue to work with local partners and NCDOT on project design and development.
2. Staff is assisting in TAB, STIP and CTP development and Board meetings.
3. RPO, MPO and ECD staff are assisting several communities write grants for transportation projects, including RAISE, FLAP, and the IJJA Discretionary Funds.
4. MPO and RPO staff are serving on the state's Prioritization Workgroup with other representatives from MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT.
5. The MPO is providing funding to several special studies in the region getting ready to begin in FY 2024: The Woodfin-Weaverville Trail Connection Study and the Fletcher Cane Creek Greenway Study.
6. Haywood County adopted their Greenway Master Plan at their February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting
7. The MPO is providing funding for on-going studies at the City of Asheville, including the purchase of bicycle and pedestrian counters, the Reed Creek Greenway Extension Study, and the East Patton Avenue Corridor Study.
8. MPO & RPO staff are serving on a Locally Administered Projects Program committee with NCDOT to provide policy recommendations to achieve better success rates and more on-time delivery of LAPP projects.

9. MPO & RPO staff continue to update local governments on NCDOT's financial situation and the Draft 2024-2033 STIP. A public survey is planned to be distributed by the MPO in November.
10. The MPO & RPO were awarded a Safe Streets for All Planning Grant from USDOT to cover Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties
11. The City of Hendersonville was awarded a feasibility study grant through the NCDOT Paved Trail Study program for the Above the Mud project.
12. The City of Brevard was awarded a feasibility study grant through NCDOT Paved Trail Study Program for the Old Hendersonville Hwy Shared Use Path.
13. The MPO was awarded a feasibility study grant through the NCDOT Paved Trail Study program for a small section of the Swannanoa Greenway near Meadow Road
14. RPO staff assisted local partners in applying for NCDOT's first rural Carbon Reduction program CRP, call for projects. The Carbon Reduction program is a new formula program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. RPO staff submitted three projects for local partners, totaling approximately \$1.2 million, with additional projects being developed for future calls.

### **Broadband**

1. LOS partnered with NC DIT and the Division of Rural Health to distribute hotspots with 12 months service and digital literacy training for telehealth programs in WNC. To date 146 hotspots have been distributed to programs in three counties.
2. LOS is partnering with the Institute of Emerging Issues and Dogwood Health Trust to assist development and implement Digital Inclusion Plans in WNC with COGS across the region.
3. LOS received funding from Buncombe County to provide Wi-Fi in several Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (HACA) residential buildings. Staff received an update from the sub-consultant, Elawuit, that installation is proceeding as scheduled.
4. LOS is working with NEMAC to develop a broadband planning tool. The tool is aimed to consolidate many of the various data sources into a project planning catalyst for future broadband projects in the region.
5. LOS staff worked to set up public WIFI in the Broad River area of Buncombe County. Staff partnered with fire department and Skyrunner to implement this project.
6. LOS staff supported providers in the region with GREAT grant assistance leading to 21 applications across the region. To date award announcements in Madison, Transylvania, Buncombe, and Henderson have been made. We are hopeful to gain additional awards in the coming weeks. If your community wants to start working on CAB, please get in touch with Sara Nichols.

### **Community Development/Water, Sewer, Stormwater Infrastructure**

1. Submitted a GoldenLEAF grant for Brevard for Times Arcade Alley stormwater drainage improvements, and developing a second application for a stormwater masterplan update.
2. Developing a riparian area management plan with Hendersonville.

3. Supported a community rain garden workshop in Black Mountain at Lake Tomahawk Park. Also, put the TOBM Public Works bioretention project out to bid, and updating the Upper Swannanoa Rivery Watershed Restoration Plan.
4. Updating the WNC Stormwater Partnership website and working with partners on a regional stormwater-focused public education media campaign.
5. Completed the stormwater infrastructure inventory for Weaverville, and started working on concept designs for green infrastructure improvements in the Nature Park and at the Community Center.
6. Completed the environmental review for the ARC-funded water/sewer extension in Mars Hill.

## **Housing**

1. Staff submitted two pre-applications to Dogwood Health Trust for housing programs. One was invited for a full application, and one was deferred to the next round.
2. Staff continues to lead the 15-county Housing Asset Inventory project and has begun reaching out to Local Governments and Housing nonprofit providers to gather information. The project is a multi-COG effort funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Dogwood Health Trust.
3. LOSRC was awarded a grant from Cares at the UNC-CH School of Social Work in partnership with North Carolina Money Follows the Person (MFP), for the initiative titled Building Capacity for Home and Community Based Services through Collective Impact. The project is called Remain at Home - Accessibility Assessment Program, in partnership with the Institute for Preventative Care and Advocacy, Mountain Area Health Education Center, RL Mace Universal Design Institute.
4. Staff is researching best-practices in consideration of formation of a regional housing trust fund.
5. Staff is continuing to book speakers and a venue for an all-day LOSRC Housing Forum - July 14, 2023
6. Staff is updating the Housing page on the website.

## **Economic Development/Workforce**

1. Staff are working with several jurisdictions to develop and submit applications for economic development projects.
2. Staff is developing an ARISE application for the WNC Innovation Park in collaboration with Upstate South Carolina's Appalachian COG and Southwestern Commission.
3. Staff submitted the I26 Interchange/Access Road application to EDA to request \$2 million in funding on behalf of NCDOT. Staff assisted NCDOT receive \$2.5 million from ARC's Access Road fund.
4. The Creative Manufacturing Sector Development plan is final! Please contact us for a copy of the plan.
5. The reports for the Regional Economic Collaboration and Analysis led by the Region's Chambers of Commerce and business sector are complete:
  - a. Regional Resiliency and Strategic Plan Alignment Presentation
  - b. Regional Resiliency and Strategic Plan Alignmen Report

c. Labor Shed and Target Industry Analysis

6. We continue to partner with the Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Support Agencies, nonprofits, and economic developers to assist small businesses through COVID-19 impacts.
7. The TDM Coordinator is working with Workforce, Inspire, and employers to develop a vanpool for under-resourced individuals to access job sites.
8. LOSRC's Waste Reduction Partners program is providing free water-use management assessments for large customers of the City of Asheville's Water Resources Department. These on-site assessments help identify utility costs savings for the City.

**Foreign-Trade Zone**

1. May 11, 2023 - hosted a Basics of FTZs seminar at the NCSU Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, NC. Approximately 45 attendees heard from companies using the FTZ program in upstate SC, consultants in the FTZ field, US Customs and Border Protection officers from the Greenville-Spartanburg Port of Entry, and LOSRC staff.
2. June 6, 2023 – presented FTZ information at the Buncombe County Business Response Workgroup meeting.
3. June 8, 2023 – presented FTZ information at the Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development Transportation Components Clusters Meeting.
4. Finalized Zone Schedule and Operator Agreement template to reflect recent Board Order.
5. Met with various stakeholders, including US CBP Headquarters staff, potential FTZ users and potential program sponsors.

**Resilience/Hazard Mitigation**

1. Supported Pew Charitable Trust in the organization of the WNC Resilience Symposium and presented LOS Regional Resilience Program to community and state representatives.
2. Completed an introductory webinar tutorial for AccelAdapt, and testing new tool features. Also organizing a summer AccelAdapt User Group meeting.
3. Continuing to develop the DPR9 THIRA/SPR with Buncombe County.

**Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles**

1. Clean Cities Program is assisting local governments prepare for VW Settlement projects. During the first round of settlement funding released in 2020, the Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition helped the region bring in more than \$4.1 million in grant funding to support purchases of new clean vehicles and EV infrastructure. During the second round of funding, all of the applications that LOS staff assisted with under the Level 2 Public Access Program were funded. Staff also assisted with applications for the DC Fast Chargers and Level 2 Multi-Unit Dwelling programs. Please contact Sara Nichols with questions on how to apply for more than \$68 million in state funding available for clean fleets: [sara@landofsky.org](mailto:sara@landofsky.org)
2. LOS received CMAQ funding to continue support of air quality outreach initiatives in WNC.

3. Staff supported applications for the EPA school bus rebate for Buncombe and Madison County Schools.
4. Staff are partnering with the Blue Ridge Electric Vehicle Club to host an electric vehicle car shows on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Hendersonville, and April 30<sup>th</sup> in Asheville.
5. Staff are working on developing a EV planning map for the region.
6. Staff are working on their annual clean cities report for the region. This report quantifies the grant funding, public engagement, and greenhouse gas emission reductions in the region for 2022. Please contact Sara Nichols ([sara@landofsky.org](mailto:sara@landofsky.org)) and Ian Baillie ([ian@landofsky.org](mailto:ian@landofsky.org)) if your municipality or organization use an alternative fuel vehicle or equipment, replaced any diesel vehicle or equipment, implemented any idle reduction technology, and/or have a work from home policy.

### **Waste Reduction Partners**

1. WRP staff is assisting Buncombe County Schools to submit a full application for a \$3.8 million grant through the US Department of Energy Renew Americal School program to upgrade HVAC systems at 4 elementary schools. (Initial Concept Paper was approved February.)
2. WRP staff is assisting Tri-Hishtil an industrial greenhouse in Mills River with energy use analysis to support Duke Energy's incentive programs.
3. WRP staff performed a "greening assessment" for Wicked Weed Brewing's Brewpub in support of two state environmental recognition programs.
4. WRP staff complete energy assessment report for Congregation Beth Ha Tephila in Asheville.
5. WRP engineers complete an energy assessment for White Labs in Asheville.

### **Planning Services**

1. Staff continue to work with area communities providing land use planning and zoning assistance. Towns include Hot Springs, Mars Hill, Marshall, Montreat, Woodfin, Flat Rock, Maggie Valley, Montreat, Clyde, Canton, and Andrews. Note that we are partnering with Southwestern Commission, Region A staff to assist with communities in their region as well.
2. Staff will begin working with Rosman on a ~~Parks and Recreation Plan~~ Park Master Plan and Pedestrian Bridge to connect their school with the town park and downtown.
3. Staff are assisting Madison County identify Parks and Recreation priorities with their P&R Board.

### **Grants & Project Development**

1. Staff are working with several jurisdictions to support ARPA projects and administration. Please connect with Erica if you would like to learn more: [erica@landofsky.org](mailto:erica@landofsky.org) ARPA information can be found here: <https://www.nc.gov/agencies/pandemic-recovery-office/american-rescue-plan-act-information-and-resources>
2. Staff have been working with Sister Councils of Government on ARPA, Resilience and Multi-regional projects. Partnerships include sharing ARP policies, ordinances, and guidance; grant development; developing scopes of work and project

delivery for ARPA State funds; budgeting and project development for housing, transportation and broadband tech assistance.

3. Staff continues working with several local governments and partners on applications for economic development, community development, transportation, and infrastructure implementation with BRIC/FEMA, EDA, and foundations. These projects will support transportation connections, resilience, job growth, industry expansion, and place-based development.

4. The NCGS 160D requires all Comprehensive Plans be updated to meet the new guidelines by July 1, 2022. (i.e. Municipalities and Counties must have a “reasonably-maintained” [updated within last 5-10 years] Comprehensive Plan in effect in order to legally continue having local zoning/development regulations. At minimum, a reasonably updated Land Use Plan must be in place by July 1, 2022 as a rational nexus to zoning/development regulations. (see Town of Canton’s phased-approach, Phase 1: Land Use Plan by July 1, 2022; Phase 2: Other Comprehensive Plan elements to be included after July 1, 2022)

Please contact [erica@landofsky.org](mailto:erica@landofsky.org) if you have questions or would like assistance updating your plans.

### **3. Aging**

#### **Family Caregiver Support Program**

- Staff helped facilitate in-person caregiver and care receiver support groups in Hendersonville. There were 3 caregivers and 1 care receiver.
- Staff continues to offer \$500-\$1,000 Respite Vouchers to family caregivers in Transylvania County. There are 13 caregivers who have received a total of \$17,000 in vouchers.
- Staff is collaborating with AARP, MountainCare, and others on presentations to give to employers on how they can assist their employees who are caregivers.
  - In August, staff will give a presentation with MountainCare to Campion Credit Union on resources available to assist family caregivers.
- Staff is working with Care Yaya, a program that helps family caregivers hire college students for help with respite, to bring the program to our region.
- Staff volunteered with MedAssist at a free over the counter medication giveaway event in Brevard.
- Staff is updating Caregiver Resource Directory..
- Staff assisted with Western North Carolina Aging Networking Event
- Staff participated in Older Americans Month celebration at East Asheville Library.

#### **Foster Grandparent Program**

- Number of active volunteers: 32 volunteers are working one-on-one with children ages infant to 8 years old.
- Number of volunteers waiting on paperwork, placement, etc.: 6
- Number of active stations (schools, day cares, etc.): 11

- Number of stations waiting to sign MOU, volunteer placement, etc.: 1 childcare center has not yet allowed volunteers to return to service.
- Recruitment efforts (press releases, presentations, etc.): Recruitment efforts include: 1) a recruitment bonus offered for FGP volunteers that refer someone and 2) Aging network and WEAAD events and 4) short 30 second commercial on WLOS began mid-June and 5) Ad ran in the Urban News.
- In-service/training update: At our June in-service meeting on 6/13, Foster Grandparent volunteers attended in-person in-service training at Land of Sky Regional Council. Volunteers began a dive into an in-depth evaluation of areas the volunteers feel most satisfaction within the programs and areas that can see improvement.
  - On June 8, 10 Foster Grandparent volunteers completed the Circle of Security Parenting Training program, an 8-week training held for 1.5 hours per week for 8 weeks with the goal to help improve the developmental pathway of children through their parents and helps strengthen a caregivers' abilities to observe and improve their caregiving skills as well as discover new ways to help children connect, restore and grow.
  - On June 2, all Foster Grandparent Program volunteers participated in Child and Adult CPR training from the American Red Cross. Fifteen earned certifications in Adult and Child CPR.
- Other updates: Foster Grandparent Program manager attended the National AmeriCorps Seniors Convening as well as the AmeriCorps Seniors Professional Network Board meeting in DC the last week of May. Staff also attended the 2023 Points of Light Conference in Chicago.

#### Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- *A Mater of Balance* program will begin at Hominy Baptist Church in Candler and resume at Asheville Community Yoga in June.
- *A Matter of Balance Coach* training is being offered to continue to increase the volunteer base for program delivery.
- Steff presented at the National Council on Aging (NCOA) Age + Action Conference: *Mission Matters: DEI in Evidence-Based Programs*.
- Staff will present on Fall Prevention in the Advent Health Age Friendly Speaker Series in Henderson County.
- Staff is presenting an educational presentation on Fall Prevention for the Asheville Buncombe Black Elders in Buncombe County.
- Staff facilitated the Senior Tarheel Legislator to provide a presentation to Senior Center attendees at the Lakeview Center for Active Aging
- Staff are working with the Fall Prevention Awareness Week committee to complete the conference agenda.
- Staff participated in Asheville Terrace Resident Appreciation Day and Asheville Terrace Community Health Workers are heavily represented in the Asheville Terrace elections for the newly formed Resident Association.



- Staff and Asheville Terrace Community Health Workers continue to partner with MANNA, and volunteers to bring nutrition to residents. In May, 102 bags of groceries were distributed to residents. Additionally, 459 “Neighbor Knock” visits were conducted.

Home and Community Care Block Grant: May 2023 Report of Services Provided

- Adult Day Care/Health Days = 2,909
- Meals – delivered/congregate = 179,641
- In-home Aide hours = 14,239
- Legal Services hours = 1,933
- Transportation trips = 37,495
- Home Improvement Projects = 64

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Community Inclusion (serves 37 Western Counties):

- Staff completed in-person skilled nursing facilities providing training and materials as needed. Counties completed include: Haywood, Jackson, Burke, Caldwell, Alexander, Ashe, Wilkes, Alleghany, Buncombe (North/East only).
- Webinar training for Money Follows the Person completed with 16 attendees including Skilled Nursing social workers and County DSS.
- Staff assisted in the set up and registration of the 2023 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Walk.
- Staff hosted the monthly Professional Social Workers in Long-term Care organization (PSWLTC) meeting.
- Staff assisted with the Annual WNC Aging Networking Event.

Money Follows the Person Transition Coordinator - Western counties: Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, Mitchell, Yancey

- The western region has a caseload of 18.
- Currently, 16 clients are waiting for housing, and some have been on the caseload for at least one year waiting for affordable, safe housing.
- One client transitioned June 2023, bringing the total transitions in 2023 to only two clients. The Transition Coordinator is finalizing a transition for the month of July.
- The Transition Coordinator is currently participating in the Money Follows the Person Institute. The Institute consists of four different sessions.

Money Follows the Person Transition Coordinator - Central counties: Forsyth, Davidson, Surry, Davie, Stokes, Yadkin

- The central region has a caseload of 14; 4 of whom have transitioned in the past few months and are in the follow along stage, another 4 have housing but transition home is delayed by lack of caregiver support at home for their medical conditions, 1 person we are very hopeful will be securing a targeted housing property soon, and 5 who are still looking for safe affordable housing, as well as caregiver support in some cases.
- The transitions coordinator attended the second session of the MFP Summer Institute, which was two days of Person-Centered training.

Ombudsman Program

- Ombudsman Program hosted the Buncombe County World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk with Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services. The event was held at Carrier Park.
- Ombudsmen attended the Land of Sky Area Agency on Aging Networking event.
- Ombudsmen continue to provide Community Advisory Committee volunteers with educational opportunities to enhance their understanding of aging, facility information and best practices.
- Ombudsmen Program purchased promotional items with program logo to provide to attendees at health fairs, events, volunteers and others.
- Elder Abuse Awareness promotional information was purchased to provide to facility residents, staff and community partners.

#### Outreach and Assistance

- Happy Elder Abuse Awareness Month! World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was June 15<sup>th</sup>, Buncombe County was the only County to hold a Walk for WEAAD. Some staff helped to plan, and many more staff showed up at the event. It was a great turn out and lots of fun and information shared!
- Staff put on a lunch and networking event at the WNC Ag Center. We had 100 aging providers throughout the region join for lunch.
- Staff continues to highlight important dates, events, and information on the Area Agency on Aging Facebook page.
- Staff have assisted with phone calls and emails asking for help with things like housing, wills, and other aging resources.
- Staff continue to send out the WNC Aging update every 2 weeks.
- Staff is also preparing to highlight the Area Agency on Aging 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the region!

#### Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty)

- 100% of the funds allocated by the State to dementia caregivers in the 15-county Western region have been utilized.
- Approximately half of the \$52,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to Project CARE for caregiver respite in the Land of Sky region have been utilized in the current fiscal year. The balance is currently being distributed for use in the new fiscal year that begins July 1.
- Here is an example of how respite funds help caregivers. A married and employed woman who grew up in Asheville has moved back home to care for her parents. She has taken family leave and left her husband behind in South Carolina to do this. She is living in her parents' home along with her sister (who works full-time from the home) and her 22-year-old son who is employed outside the home. Her father has dementia and has been the victim of a financial scam targeting the elderly. They have lost \$100,000+ to the scammers. The father still believes that the scammers are his friends and that he needs to send more money to them. The caregiver is pursuing every law enforcement avenue there is to catch and prosecute the scammers. The caregiver's mother was recently diagnosed

with pancreatic cancer and is not expected to live. She is at home receiving hospice services. The funds that this caregiver receives for respite care services through Project C.A.R.E. enable her to hire a helper to come on Fridays to give the family a break. Each family member knows that Fridays are days that they can schedule activities for themselves such as medical appointments and shopping trips. Caring for the two elders is a team effort in this case.

### **Senior Companion Program**

- Number of active volunteers: 60
- Number of volunteers waiting on paperwork, placement, etc.: 1
- Number of active stations (schools, day cares, etc.): 7
- Number of stations waiting to sign MOU, volunteer placement, etc.: 1
- Recruitment efforts (press releases, presentations, etc.): Aging network event, June 6, 2023
- In-service/training update: On June 19, 2023, we will have a celebration of our volunteers with a luncheon
- Other updates:
  1. We hired a temporary employee who is building a new database for our volunteers, clients, and volunteer stations. This is in process and will be a great addition to our management of the program.
  2. We have paused taking new referrals at this time due to then over 250 referrals we currently have on a waiting list.
  3. We have been awarded our FY24 grant with AmeriCorps Seniors that begins on July 1, 2023.

**Senior Tar Heel Legislature – Region B’s** Senior Tar Heel Legislature has recently interviewed a new alternate for Buncombe County. The Senior Tar Heel Legislature celebrated 30 years this month in Raleigh.

### **4. Administration**

- Nathan, Erica and Chairman Fitzsimmons attended COG Legislative Day on May 17
- Nathan attended a broadband forum at WCU Biltmore Park
- Nathan attended the Southeast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) Training Conference in Savannah GA
- Nathan presented at a Recovery To Work webinar hosted by Development Districts Association of Appalachia (DDAA)
- Nathan and Erica attended the FTZ Seminar hosted by LOSRC on May 10
- Nathan attended the AgHC Farmers & Friends Gathering in Hendersonville
- Nathan and Erica attended the Appalachian Regional Commission Transportation Summit
- Nathan attended Rural Rise NC small business event in Brevard hosted by the NC Secretary of State
- Mandatory staff strategic planning meeting scheduled for May 31

- Nathan and Erica attended the WNC meeting of the NC Economic Developers Association (NCEDA)
- Nathan made a presentation on behalf of LOSRC to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on May 16
- Planning is underway for the French Broad River tour
- Planning underway for “Future Forward WNC 2050” which will be a monthly series of regional conversations about how our region can prepare for the future.

## 5. Strategic Initiatives

- **NEMT**  
For May 2023 Total Active Cases 1276 and Total Number of Trips 7898.
- **Mountain Mobility**  
Mountain Mobility showed strong gains in passenger trips over April with an increase of more than 16%. Our paratransit/ADA trips, provided through a contract with the City of Asheville, had the most gains of all trip types, while trips for senior medical appointments and trips for seniors to adult day facilities rounding out the top three. We are expecting a strong finish to FY23 with trip numbers bringing us back to within pre-pandemic levels.
- **INspire**  
Our Certified Peer Support Specialists assisted 11 people with entry costs for sober living spending a total of \$4,880 in May. We also enrolled 27 participants (24 in Recovery to Careers and 3 as part of our Reentry Program funded by the NC Department of Commerce). Eighteen (18) are actively employed. We also distributed 20 cell phones to active participants in need. INspire success story – Toni Brewer. Originally from Macon County, Toni completed treatment and transitioned to Asheville to continue her recovery. She has accumulated 6 months of recovery. We assisted her with sober living funds, a phone, employment assistance, and supported her on her court dates with transportation and speaking on her behalf. In those 6 months, she has secured employment (2 jobs), handled her driving issues, had her license reinstated, and got a vehicle. She has also rekindled her relationship with her daughter. She is doing very well.
- **Accelerate Buncombe Success Story – Kelby Benjamin**  
Kelby has been setting goals and knocking them down time and time again since I’ve had the pleasure to engage with him. Kelby and I met a few months ago shortly after his release from federal prison, and we immediately connected. His desire to learn how the world, with new technology has been moving since his incarceration seems to have been a driving factor in all of his accomplishments. Kelby’s curiosity and willingness to allow me to help navigate his desires led us to talking about the Accelerate Buncombe program. Since he was new to the field of manufacturing, we figured that the Certified Productions Technician Training would help better his understanding of the trade. Kelby then decided to add CPT to his plate of goals to strive for and to challenge his mind. Kelby has let me know that committing to AB has served to develop other life skills like discipline, time management, prioritizing life routines, and other activities. Kelby’s ability to adapt to whatever challenges or circumstances is one that is amazing to witness. With his calm-natured personality, one would think that nothing would get to him anyway, but that is far from the truth. He has such tunnel vision, focus and drive on what’s important to his

future, not to mention the path that he's paving for any individuals that may be able to follow in his footsteps, that he disciplines his mind to focus on the goal to get it done. Today, Kelby has obtained his drivers license and has his own vehicle, is active in his recovery, an outstanding member of his halfway house, and over halfway done with his CPT training. We stay engaged on a regular basis.

- **GO PLACES**

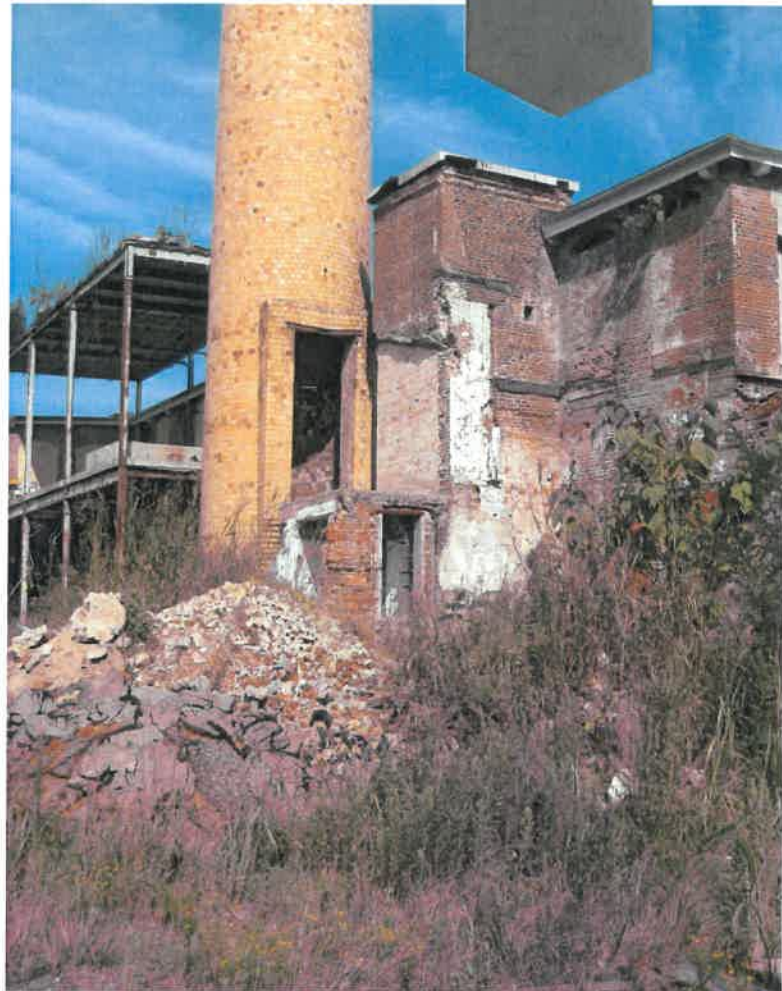
GO PLACES has been working closely with Buncombe County, building a multisector Violence Prevention Coalition. Buncombe County declared June Gun Violence Awareness Month. We are working with the YWCA and interviewing applicants for their CHW Role. We presented to the Buncombe County Justice Resource Advisory Council, and they agreed to use our program for alternatives to incarceration.

## **6. Workforce**

- Our region continues to have the lowest unemployment rate in NC at 2.5% for April 2023. The May 2023 data will be released on June 28. Our region added 4,885 jobs in the past year with the highest total labor force in history.
- We will be receiving \$500,000 from USDOL ETA for National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) funding to support Evergreen Packaging workers. Southwestern Workforce Development Board will be receiving \$6 million. We are working closely with SWDB to help Evergreen workers and local businesses. There will be funding for worker re-training, education and on-the-job training contracts. Employers who hire a dislocated worker may receive a reimbursement for the employee's wages of up to 75% for up to six months depending on the skills gap. Contact the MAWDB and SWDB business services staff to learn more.
- Our WIOA formula funding for PY23 increased by 1.3% to \$1,818,515 from \$1,795,330 for this current year. Our funding is less today than it was a decade ago when our funding peaked at \$2,471,449. Largely the funding allocations from USDOL ETA are based on our relative unemployment rates at the state and local level. We have been very aggressive to pursue other funding sources in addition to our WIOA formula funds.
- "\$19 per hour and beyond" career fair is planned for Thursday, June 29 at the WNC Ag Center's Expo Building. Over 100 employers will be participating offering more than 4,000 jobs. We are focusing outreach in Haywood County with ads in The Mountaineer, Smoky Mountain News, WPTL radio station in Canton, targeted facebook ads and ads on the Asheville Radio Group stations
- Career pathways outreach project for Mountain Area Careers is underway with Amplified Media focusing on the Construction/Skilled Trades and Tech/IT sectors with a goal of completing the project by June 30.
- We released a RFP for On-the-Job training provider and the closing date for proposals is June 2. This RFP was released at the direction of the NC Department of Commerce as their monitors instructed us that our board staff could not handle all aspects of an OJT including case management pursuant to WIOA. A-B Tech was the only proposal and their contract will be on this board meeting's consent agenda. A-B Tech will serve the four-county region for OJTs.
- We had industry visits at IPEX and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

- We are far above the 20% federal mandate for work experience expenditures in our youth programs. Our board has failed to meet this threshold for the past two years although we have been very close to 20%.
- MAWDB PY23-24 Local WIOA Title I Plan has been approved by the NC Department of Commerce. I want to thank Melissa Wright, Workforce Operations Director, for her hard work and commitment to write this plan. This was a major undertaking as the plan is around 100 pages in length and very detailed.
- Workforce staff attended the Mill Town Strong hiring event in Waynesville on June 16 presented by the Southwestern WDB.
- Our pre-application to Dogwood Health Trust for a youth transportation project to support youth serving groups connect 16 – 24 year old youth to education and employment was not approved. We will continue searching for solutions as transportation has been cited as the top priority and barrier for youth accessing education and employment. Even for youth who live near a transit stop, it is very challenging to do what is needed within the current routes and schedules

**SPONSORED BY:**



## **BROWNFIELDS TRAINING**

This session will cover the types of environmental assessment, due diligence, risk evaluation, vapor intrusion, EPA and DEQ Brownfields programs, and grant funding availability.

**July 19, 2023**

10 AM – 12 PM

Wells Event Center

33 Wells Events Way

Waynesville, NC

**REGISTER BY CLICKING [HERE](#) OR SCANNING THE QR CODE**

