



# LAND of SKY

REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Who We Are





## Creative Regional Solutions

### Who We Are:

Land of Sky Regional Council is a multi-county local government planning and development organization. We reach across county and municipal boundaries providing technical assistance to local governments and administer projects and programs which benefit our region's citizens.

### Our Mission:

Our mission is to provide creative regional solutions to relevant and emerging issues in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties while providing a standard of excellence in the delivery of federal, state, and regional services for our member communities.

### What We Offer:

Land of Sky Regional Council offers services and programs through the following departments:

- Economic & Community Development
- Volunteer Services
- Area Agency on Aging
- Mountain Area Workforce Development

### Contact:

For questions and general inquiries about Land of Sky, please contact:



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# ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Creative Regional Solutions

Land of Sky is the local economic development district for our region, providing access to a wide variety of expertise, partnerships, and funding streams. Current efforts are focused on greater regional cooperation in the areas of job creation, job retention, quality of place, entrepreneurship, and economic competitiveness. Professionally trained and experienced staff diligently strives to improve economic, environmental, and social conditions in every program area and project. Services available to local governments and communities include quality facilitation, grant writing and management, project administration, data management, policy research and development, education, and training.

### **Economic Development:**

Supports and staffs various economic development efforts to carry out the mission as the region's Lead Economic Development Organization as designated by the Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson

### **Agriculture & Forestry:**

WNC has a rich agricultural and forestry heritage. Our Working Lands program assists local governments support the farmers, landowners, skilled craftsmen, and businesses reliant on the unique assets in our region.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson

### **Energy & Environment:**

Supports and administers programs and initiatives for energy and environment. Projects include, but are not limited to, Clean Vehicles Coalition and Clean Air Campaign.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson  
Bill Eaker

### **GIS & Technical Services:**

Supports internal programs and local governments – includes map production, GIS training, transportation mapping, data management, and demographic analysis.

**Contact:** Jon Beck

### **Infrastructure & Community Development:**

Supports and administers community infrastructure and local development initiatives.

**Contact:** Karen Kiehna

### **Land Use:**

Provides technical assistance and contract services for projects such as land use plans, small area plans, ordinance revisions, and community visioning.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson



**Land of Sky  
RPO:**

Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO) – a voluntary organization of local governments working cooperatively with the NC Department of Transportation and local officials to enhance transportation planning opportunities for rural areas in our region.

**Contact:** Vicki Eastland

**French Broad  
River MPO:**

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – responsible for carrying out continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multi-modal transportation planning in the Asheville Urbanized Area which includes portions of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.

**Contact:** Lyuba Zuyeva

**Regional  
Brownfield  
Initiative:**

Provides local governments, non-profits, and private developers with economic development technical assistance and grant writing services to assess and remediate underused, abandoned or vacant properties which have not been redeveloped due to real or perceived contamination.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson

**Waste  
Reduction  
Partners:**

A team of retired engineers who assist businesses and institutions with waste, water, and energy reduction assessments and utility cost-saving strategies.

**Contact:** Terry Albrecht

**Water  
Resources:**

Assists local governments and others in identifying key water issues, addressing water runoff, soil erosion, and watershed protection to protect existing and future drinking water sources.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson

**Transportation  
Resource  
Center:**

Manages the administrative functions of Land of Sky's Transportation Resource Center, which includes Mountain Mobility and Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation, Buncombe County's community public transportation systems. Mountain Mobility provides transportation services to clients of human service agencies, local governments, and qualified citizens. NEMT provides transportation services for qualified clients.

**Contact:** Erica Anderson

**Contact:**

For questions and inquiries about our Economic & Community Development menu of services, please contact:



**Erica Anderson**

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# MOUNTAIN AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Developing a Proficient Workforce

Land of Sky's Mountain Area Workforce Development (MAWD) designs and implements a strategic plan to meet the needs of the region's businesses for a skilled, reliable and proficient workforce; and meets the skill development and job acquisition needs of the region's jobseekers. MAWD is engaged in public/private partnerships that respond to emerging workforce issues and economic development opportunities.

**Business Services:** Offers many services to businesses through the NC Works system to address the workforce needs of the region's employers. Programs include Incumbent Workforce Development Training Program and On-the-Job Training.

**Contact:** Barbara Darby

**Adult Services:** Services are provided through the five Career Centers located in the four-county LOSRC region. WIA provides financial assistance with job training that prepares eligible individuals for full-time employment in jobs that are in demand.

**Contact:** Zia Rifkin

**Youth Services:** WIA In-School Programs are designed to help income-eligible youth with barriers to employment achieve high school graduation standards and develop career goals and are operated by the public school systems in the four-county LOSRC region.

**Contact:** Zia Rifkin

### Contact:

For questions and inquiries about our Mountain Area Workforce Development menu of services, please contact:



**Nathan Ramsey**

Mountain Area Workforce Development Director  
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# VOLUNTEER SERVICES

## Get Involved

Land of Sky's Volunteer Services involves, empowers, and enriches the lives of volunteers and those they serve within the community. We connect adults 55 years and older with the people and organizations that need them most. Become a mentor, coach, or companion to people in need, or contribute your job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations.

### **Foster Grandparent Program:**

Provides opportunities for seniors to impact the lives of children in their community. Foster Grandparents serve as mentors, tutors, and loving caregivers to children and youth with special needs. They also help children develop the skills, confidence and strength to succeed in life.

**Contact:** Stacy Friesland

### **Senior Companion Program:**

Provides opportunities for seniors to make a difference in their communities. Senior Companions help senior adults by providing part-time, paid volunteer community service opportunities for low-income people age 55 and older. Volunteers provide support services to older persons who have unmet physical, mental, or social needs.

**Contact:** Ann Whisenhunt

### **Retired & Senior Volunteer Program:**

Connects today's over 55s with the people and organizations that need them most. Their contributions of skills, knowledge, and experience make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations.

**Contact:** Jeralie Andrews

### **Contact:**

For questions and inquiries about our Volunteer Services menu of services, please contact:



**LeeAnne Tucker**

Director of Aging and Volunteer Services  
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## Aging in Place

Land of Sky's Area Agency on Aging is a leader and catalyst in helping older adults in our four county region lead more independent, vibrant lives. Part of a national network of aging agencies established by the Older Americans Act, we work to strengthen home and community care for older adults.

### Long Term Care Ombudsman:

Serves as an advocate for residents' rights and is responsible for investigating complaints made by, on behalf of, nursing and adult care home residents. They work with residents, family members, concerned citizens, facilities, and public or private agencies to enhance the quality of care and life for residents in long term care facilities.

**Contact:** Ruth Price  
Julia Gibson  
Turkessa Baten

### Senior Community Services Employment Program:

Provides short-term training and job placement services for older adults seeking suitable part-time or full-time employment.

**Contact:** John Connell

### Family Caregiver Support Program:

Provides information, assistance and support to these family members and friends who are caring for a frail elderly person or someone with Alzheimer's disease. Grandparents and older relatives age 55 and older who are raising a child are also eligible for assistance. Also provides counseling, support groups, education, respite, and short term or one time only services.

**Contact:** Carol McLimans

### Project C.A.R.E.:

Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty (C.A.R.E.) - Assists caregivers of people with dementia by providing a Family Consultant to help resolve caregiving issues. Project C.A.R.E. also provides NC REACH (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health), a personalized program for caregivers of persons living at home with dementia or Alzheimer's.

**Contact:** Nancy Hogan

### **Health Promotion & Disease Prevention:**

Assists in the coordination, development and administration of health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. The purpose of this service is to support older adults in maintaining optimal physical, mental and emotional health. This includes physical activity, Active Aging Week, Evidence Based Health Promotion Programs, and WNC Fall Prevention.

**Contact:** Stephanie Stewart

### **Senior Tar Heel Legislature:**

Provides information to senior citizens on the legislative process and matters being considered by the North Carolina General Assembly. Promotes citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues before the North Carolina General Assembly. Assesses the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a forum modeled after the North Carolina General Assembly.

**Contact:** LeeAnne Tucker

### **Home & Community Care Block Grant:**

HCCBG services are provided by local agencies within the community and are available to people ages 60 and older who are socially and economically needy. Responsible for contracting, monitoring, and providing administrative and ARMS support.

**Contact:** Sherry Christenson

### **Aging & Disability Programs:**

Coordinate programs for the aging & disability seniors such as Community Resources Connections, Nursing Home Transitions, and MIIPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act).

**Contact:** Rebecca Chaplin

### **Administrative Support:**

Provides administrative support to all Aging and Volunteer Services staff.

**Contact:** Janice Payne

### **Contact:**

For questions and inquiries about our Area Agency on Aging menu of services, please contact:



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# ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

## Creative Regional Solutions

### Administrative Services:

Provides administrative support to all internal programs and LOS staff.

**Contact:** Danna Stansbury

### Communications and Website:

Responsible for web design and coordination of LOSRC branding.

**Contact:** Christina Giles

### Board of Delegates:

Provides varied administrative support to Council Board. Works in cooperation and compliance with Council's mission and other policies and procedures as applicable.

**Contact:** Zia Rifkin

### Finance:

Performs accounting and finance functions for LOS staff and Council.

**Contact:** Vickie Thomas

### Contact:

For questions and inquiries about our Administration and Finance menu of services, please contact:



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**Vickie Thomas**  
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## Our Commitment

LOS employees are committed to: (1) Treating people with dignity, respect and compassion to foster a trusting and supportive working environment (2) Honest, open and clear communication (3) Respect for diversity of opinion (4) A culture of personal responsibility with an appreciation for risk taking (5) Holding ourselves accountable to our co-workers, member governments, funders and clients; (6) Developing and implementing policies and procedures that are fair, consistent and equitable.



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## LOS Acronyms

AAA	Area Agency on Aging	MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
ARMS	Aging Resources Management System	NCDENR	North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources
BRBP	Blue Ridge Bike Plan	NC REACH	Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health
CAC	Clean Air Campaign	NEMT	Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation
C.A.R.E.	Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty	OJT	On-The-Job Training
CRC	Community Resource Connections	RBI	Regional Brownfields Initiative
CVC	Clean Vehicles Coalition	RIDE	Ridership Independence for the Disabled
ECD	Economic & Community Development	RPO	Rural Planning Organization
FBRMPO	French Broad River MPO	RSVP	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
FCSP	Family Caregiver Support Program	SCP	Senior Companion Program
FGP	Foster Grandparent Program	SCSEP	Senior Community Services Employment Program
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	STHL	Senior Tar Heel Legislature
HCCBG	Home and Community Care Block Grant	WIA	Workforce Investment Act
HPDP	Health Promotion & Disease Prevention	WRP	Waste Reduction Partners
LTC	Long-Term Care		
MAWD	Mountain Area Workforce Development		
MIIPA	Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act		
MIS	Management Information System		

\*NCDENR - Employees of NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources





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