

**Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates
Meeting
May 24, 2023
Regular Meeting at LOSRC office, 334 Leicester Hwy,
Suite 140, Asheville, NC 28806 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. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Presentation**
 - A. Trailblazer Award, Holly Jones, Sr Policy Advisor and Program Mgr., NC Department of Justice
- IV. Roll Call**
- V. Consent Agenda**
 - A. Modification/Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of the Previous Minutes (April 2023)
- VI. Comments by the Chair and Delegates Roundtable**
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. Presentations/Recognition**
 - A. Senior Tar Heel Legislators
 - B. Future of WNC's Economy, Jeff DeBellis, Director of Economic and Policy Analysis, NC Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division
- IX. Old Business**
- X. New Business**
 - A. Land of Sky Regional Council Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget Presentation
- XI. Executive Director's Report**
- XII. Important Dates**
 - A. Next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 28 at 12:30 pm either in-person at the LOSRC office or remote via Zoom. The public hearing on the FY23-24 budget will take place at this meeting.
 - B. WNC Regional Housing Forum, Hilltop Event Center, 21 Restaurant Court, Asheville, NC 28805, July 14, 2023, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- XIII. Adjournment**



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Consent Agenda
- Item Number:** V. Consent Agenda:
A. Modification/Approval of the Board's Agenda for May 24, 2023
B. Approval of Minutes from the April 26, 2023, Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the April 2023 Regular Meeting
- Background:** Item B. April 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes Recap:
Quorum was present to conduct business at the April 2023 meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the Chair's comments and Delegates' updates focused on the topic of jurisdictions FY23-24 budgets. Presentations were provided by Dr. Bill Hathaway, CEO MAHEC, Dr. Kelli Brown, Chancellor, WCU, and Kendra Straub, Great Smoky Mountain National Park.
- 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**

April 26, 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. Roll Call – Nathan Ramsey called the roll. The following members were present: Sandra Kilgore, Jonathan Kanipe, Pam King, Archie Pertiller, Maureen Copelof, David Dethero, Preston Blakely, Barbara Volk, Daniel Cobb, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Elisabeth Ervin, Justin Tyler, Burton Hodges, and Bob Tomasulo.
Guests Present – Representative Eric Ager, Kendra Straub, Karen Sanders, Robin Ramsey, Dr. Kelli Brown, Dr. Bill Hathaway, Michelle Wood, and Kim West
- IV. Consent Agenda – The consent agenda, consisting of the Board's April agenda, and the minutes of the March 22, 2023 meeting was presented for approval.

Quorum was established by roll call.

A motion was made and seconded approving the consent agenda including the March 22, 2023 minutes and today's agenda as presented. The motion was carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

- V. 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 including proposed staff salary increases, tax rate changes, fund balance, and any other budget items relevant to share.

Delegates Roundtable –

Vice Mayor Sandra Kilgore – Shared that the City of Asheville is working to increase salaries for staff of the Fire, Police and EMS squads as it is increasingly difficult to fill these positions. Otherwise, working to balance out the needs to the budget.

Town Manager Jonathan Kanipe – Shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest is planning for a COLA of five or six percent and targeted increases for public works and police department staff. No tax rate increase is planned, and sufficient fund balance is available to finish out some water/sewer projects.

Council Member Pam King – Shared that the Town of Black Mountain is working through cost issues for projects and working to increase police compensation. The Town is also working to increase investments in environmental concerns and planning for a communications department. A five percent COLA is planned for staff. She noted that the Town was able to expend or allocate ARPA funds for parks and recreation maintenance and to develop additional attractions at the parks.

Mayor Maureen Copelof – Shared that the City of Brevard is considering a 5% COLA and making market adjustments to many positions that equal a big increase for the City. Adding benefits including paid parental leave and Juneteenth as a paid City holiday. Determining the increases for water/sewer bills and planning to dedicate two-cents of every dollar in tax revenue to an affordable housing fund.

Village Commissioner David Dethero – Shared that the Village of Flat Rock supports three fire departments and has the most popular park in the county. Re-appraisal of properties and working to keep taxes down as much as possible.

Mayor Preston Blakely – Shared that the Town of Fletcher recently held a budget workshop and is working on the tax rate. A 4% COLA is planned for staff and some salary adjustments were just made. All staff received a raise, which was calculated in an interesting way to provide a larger percentage raise for lower paid staff and a lesser raise for those paid more.

Mayor Barbara Volk – Shared that the City of Hendersonville is working to determine the new tax rate. Some major raises were done over the past year and a proposed cola is planned for FY24. A lot of construction was done over the past year and capital improvements have been made. A focus next year would be on the Parks and Maintenance Division to improve parks and greenways. Four new staff are planned for this division. Proposing a two-percent 401K match for staff next year. Fund balance is very healthy (\$11 million by the end of the fiscal year) and some of the fund balance may be drawn down to support planned projects.

Town Manager Daniel Cobb – The Town of Mills River is working to determine the tax rate based on the re-appraisal numbers. Planning a significant investment in the park system to grow that and maintain current facilities. Fund balance is very healthy and looking forward to putting everything together.

Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons – shared that the Town of Weaverville is planning a 5% raise with no COLA. Planning on a 4% increase on the water rate.

Council Member Elisabeth Ervin – Shared that the Town of Woodfin is planning its third budget workshop. No change in tax rate and working to have a 50% fund balance. Some big budget items include the ongoing greenway/blueway capital project and working to determine stormwater fee structure. Winding down the streets capital project. The biggest unknow is the town hall feasibility study which may show the need for a new facility. Aging Programs Representative Bob Tomasulo – May is Older Americans Month. Activities planned to mark the month can be sent to LeeAnne.

VI. Public Comment -

Chair Fitzsimmons called for public comments.

VII. Special Recognition -

A. Kim West Honored as Transit Advocate of the Year by the NC Public Transportation Association –

Vicki Jennings recognized Kim West for her contributions to advocacy for public transit and her commitment to the transit system in Buncombe County. Kim has served on the CTAB for many years. The NC Public Transportation Association chose Kim for this honor from among 50 other nominees. Kim West shared that she is happy to receive this recognition and noted that she enjoys helping people and advocating for public transit.

VIII. Presentations –

A. Dr. Bill Hathaway, CEO, MAHEC –

Dr. Hathaway shared that he was happy to host LOSRC for this meeting and it is good to meet new people. He shared that he's been involved with MAHEC since he moved to Asheville as a surgeon. The Biltmore campus opened in 2011. MAHEC is a public/private partnership established to bring healthcare to underserved communities, especially rural communities. Its an independent nonprofit with the goal of collaborating with the health and wellness community. Currently engaged in a major workforce initiative to bring more healthcare workers to the region through its medical mentoring program (BIPOC students), Project Promise Program for rural students, the TEAM Health Career Club and the Health Careers Academy. MAHEC currently has 185 residents in 14 graduate medical education programs and over 700 medical and dental graduates to date. MAHEC offers ongoing educational and training programs for continuing professional development are offered through the Biltmore Campus. Dr. Hathaway noted the economic impact of retention of healthcare workers and doctors. MAHEC has academic partners throughout the UNC system including the School of Medicine, the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, the School of Dentistry, and the Gillings School of Global Public Health. MAHEC helps to solve healthcare problems through a collaborative approach and has many regional partners to provide local services. Locally, care is delivered in family medicine, OB/GYN, Dental health, Psychiatry and Mental Wellness and Internal Medicine. Patient care is hi-tech and personal. MAHEC operates Project Cara for pregnant, addictive birthing women. This project is heavily grant funded. MAHEC provides training, technical

assistance, and mentoring to develop Community Health Workers. Provides access to care for opioid response through training and care to affected individuals. MAHEC has grown tremendously over the past seven years and currently the focus is on growing the infrastructure of the organization.

Discussion occurred regarding the need for a local physical therapy school and Dr. Hathaway shared that MAHEC is open to any reasonable needs for healthcare providers. He noted that the Nursing profession was hit very hard by the great retirement and currently the organization is focusing on growing the number of nurses in the region and working on resiliency efforts through development of an environment that fosters support for the needs of the profession.

B. Dr. Kelli Brown, Chancellor Western Carolina University –

Dr. Brown shared an update on the activities of WCU, noting that priorities include academic excellence, student experience, inclusive excellence, employee excellence, regional development and engagement, responsible stewardships, and vision advancement. WCU thrives in its role of graduating students that will staff many of the roles available with local jurisdictions. Currently, enrollment has increased over last year, and freshman retention rates are returning to normal levels (80%). Campus life has returned to vigor! Dr. Brown shared about NC Promise to encourage enrollment and decrease debt. Catamount Commitment is a WCU specific program that provides a cash award to students accepted into the university. WCU has been named to the 2022 Best By Employers List (in North Carolina) in Forbes. WCU is also making strides with its Nursing Program by partnering with Alleghany Health for internship opportunities to help address staffing needs. Summer internships are also available through a partnership with the Environmental Health Sciences program and local health departments. In response to regional needs, additional STEM academic pathways are being developed. WCU is poised to meet the needs of business and industry. Dr. Brown shared that she is proud of the university's partnership with LOSRC who has many WCU graduates on staff.

Discussion occurred regarding the programs offered through the University System, while there are fewer opportunities for tenured staff and instructors are paid poorly. What is the goal to retain talent? Dr. Brown shared that WCU has about 7 in 10 staff who are tenured/tenured earning. Also, instructor wages have been brought up significantly to a base level of \$50 thousand for a 9-month contract. Dr. Brown noted that the State, as a system, has been advocating strongly for increased compensation for teaching staff.

C. Great Smoky Mountains National Park –

Kendra Straub shared that parking tags are now required to park anywhere in the Park and sales of the tags have been strong (purchased through www.recreation.gov). The Park is also onboarding additional vendors and it's an exciting time for the Park, growing sustainable revenue streams. The Park is very engaged with boots on the ground to educate and provide that "Ranger Orientation" to visitors. There's a lot of work to be done on how revenues and spending are reported to the public. Visitation is higher than anticipated, compared to the ten-year average. Interestingly, Sugarland's visitor center has more than doubled its visitor count over the same time last year. Visitation patterns continue to shift along with management strategies. Kendra Straub shared an update around unsafe parking and noted that over five miles of roadside protections have been installed to increase safety and protect the environment. Another adaptive management strategy is the introduction of shuttle services to bring visitors into the Park. Kendra Straub shared that the African American Experience in the Smokies Project is an ongoing initiative to grow the knowledge of the history of the area. Electric bikes are being utilized for search and rescue. Lastly, acknowledged volunteerism in the Park. Kendra noted that the Park has synchronous fireflies that provide a wonderful display from June 4 - 11 (lottery entrance).

IX. 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 Ramsey shared that the Legislative Day is coming up and Delegates are encouraged to attend.

Nathan Ramsey gave a shout out to Stacy Friesland who appeared on WLOS on Tuesday to encourage seniors to volunteer for the Foster Grandparents program to mentor at-risk children.

X. Important Dates –

A. The next LOSRC Board of Delegates meeting is planned for May 24, 2023 at the Land of Sky offices.

XI. Adjournment –

The meeting adjourned as there was no further business.

Respectfully submitted by Zia Rifkin



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Land of Sky Regional Council FY23-24 Budget Presentation
- Item Number:** X. New Business
- Responsible Party:** Patricia Rosenberg, Finance Director
- Attachment(s):** Land of Sky Regional Council FY23-24 Proposed Budget
- Background:** LOSRC is required by state law to adopt a balanced budget. The budget will be presented at the May board meeting and there will be a public hearing on the proposed budget at the June board meeting. The Board of Delegates may vote to approve the budget after the public hearing at the June 28 board meeting.
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A.
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

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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%
Land of Sky Regional Council	\$21,883,421	\$21,883,421	\$0	0.0%	0.0%

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%
Land of Sky Regional Council	\$21,883,421	\$21,883,421	\$0	0.0%	0.0%

**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 AAA**

Area Agency on Aging

AAA
\$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**

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
5/24/23

Amendment Number
Amendment Date

FY24 Budget
at Start;
Total for AAA

Area Agency on Aging

AAA
\$7,650,080

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
AAA	52I	Aging - In Home Services	\$570,734	\$570,734

**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	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
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	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

Workforce Development

MAWD

\$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**

Waste Reduction Partners

WRP

\$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 MING

MING General Operations

\$228,528

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY Start	FY24 Budget at Start
MING	403	Leicester Crossing Facility - Debt Service	\$124,725	\$124,725
MING	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
Totals	\$ 221,759	\$ 195,165	100.0%	\$ 26,594	\$ 221,759	\$ 195,165	\$ 26,594

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
	Total	\$ 221,759	

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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>
Total Appropriations	\$ 21,883,421

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>
Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 21,883,421

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

1. Finance

- FY23-24 budget will include no dues increase
- Finance staff participated in training conference on our finance system

2. Economic and Community Development

Kudos!

- Congratulations to the NC Apple Festival Board of Directors in Hendersonville for being recognized as a Main Street Champion by the NC Main Street Conference!

Announcements

- The Racial Disparity Analysis has been updated with current data: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/34c9390316874caeab288d332dac3b12>
- We are assisting residents sign up for discounted internet service (ACP) in Buncombe County. Please contact ian@landofsky.org for more information.
- Erica Anderson joined the Federal Reserve of Richmond for their District Dialogues panel on Resilient Communities on May 18.

Upcoming Events

- 7/14 - Housing Forum – Save the Date!

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 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/a2j3d0000000twKAAQ/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](#).

Healthy Meals Incentive Grants available from Action for Healthy Kids

The Action for Healthy Kids is offering competitive grants to small and/or rural School Food Authorities (SFA) to support efforts to improve the nutritional quality of school meals. Small and/or rural SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program and organizations who serve food to k-12 students are eligible to apply. For more information, please go to [Healthy Meal Incentive Application | Action for Healthy Kids \(healthymealsincentives.org\)](#).

New Publication from Main Street America: A Housing Guidebook for Local Leaders

The Guidebook is a practical and easily digestible report that incorporates the stories and expertise of Main Street Coordinators, local directors, and partners who have experience with housing. [Click here](#) to read more and download the report.

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.

June - TIPs and STIPs

July - Green Growth Toolbox, Wildlife Crossings, and Related Planning Efforts

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 IJA 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 6th 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 Alignment 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.

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

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 22nd in Hendersonville, and April 30th 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) and Ian Baillie (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 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 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 if you have questions or would like assistance updating your plans.

3. Aging

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Providers who are providing new ARPA services were sent out self-assessment monitoring documents with a deadline to turn them in by May 31, 2023.

Family Caregiver Support Program

- Staff helped facilitate in-person caregiver and care receiver support groups in Hendersonville. There were 2 caregivers and 2 care receivers who participated in 1 meeting.
- Staff continues to offer \$500-\$1,000 Respite Vouchers to family caregivers in Transylvania County. So far there are 13 caregivers who have received a total of \$13,500 in vouchers.
- Staff are collaborating with AARP, MountainCare, and others on presentations to give to employers on how they can assist their employees who are caregivers.
- Staff are working with Care Yaya, a program that helps family caregivers hire college students for help with respite, to bring the program to our region.

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.: 2 potential new volunteers are currently completing the application process; 4 volunteers are waiting for their school to reopen to volunteers so that they can return to service.
- 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) staff running weekly PSAs and ads in local media and 3) we just received the new rack cards that we designed and had printed and are ordering promotional materials for recruitment and 4) had small segment run on WLOS.
- In-service/training update: On April 18, 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.
 - Ten Foster Grandparent volunteers are participating in the Circle of Security Parenting Training program, an 8 week training held for 1.5 hours per week for 8 weeks. This training program helps 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.
 - June 2, 2023 all Foster Grandparent Program volunteers will participate in CPR training from the American Red Cross and will earn certification in Childrens' CPR.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- Staff worked closely with volunteers to complete several A Matter of Balance Programs with community partners including Asheville Community Yoga and St Barnabas Catholic Church, a Walk with Ease Program in partnership with Western Carolina University and Givens Gerber Park and Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls class at the Linwood Crump Shiloh Community Center.
- Staff began delivery of the Living Health with Chronic Conditions at the Mars Hill Library.
- Staff is working closely with the North Carolina Center of Health and Wellness to deliver the Pilot Program A Matter of Balance for Parkinson's Disease in the region.
- Staff are working to train additional A Matter of Balance Coaches in July working closely with Buncombe County Council on Aging to expand reach.
- Staff are working closely with Buncombe County Council on Aging staff to maximize volunteer resources for health program delivery.
- Staff will begin A Matter of Balance programming in the Candler Area in June, as well as upcoming programming in the Fairview area.
- Staff worked on the planning team and exhibited for the Area Agency on Aging for Older Americans Month "What does Life Without Ageism Look Like?"
- Staff will be presenting on DEI in Evidenced Based Health Programming at the 2023 National Council on Aging Age + Action Conference in Arlington Virginia
- Staff attended and exhibited for the Area Agency on Aging at the 2023 MAHEC pain conference.
- Staff is working closely with Vanderbilt Apartments to expand the Community Health Program.
- Staff is facilitating a spring Health event at Asheville Terrace for May Older Americans Month "Aging Unbound" on May 25th.
- Asheville Community Health workers, Neighbor Knock Volunteers, and staff received certification in Adult First Aid/CPR/AED.
- Asheville Community Health workers, Neighbor Knockers and Staff will be receiving Narcan training in June.
- Staff and Asheville Terrace Community Health Workers continue to partner with MANNA, Trader Joe's, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) volunteers to bring nutrition to residents. In April, 98 bags of groceries were distributed to residents. Additionally, 471 "Neighbor Knock" visits were conducted in April.

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

- **Adult Day Care/Health Days = 2,527**
- **Meals – delivered/congregate =163,880**
- **In-home Aide hours = 12,628**
- **Legal Services hours = 1,644**
- **Transportation trips = 35,493**
- **Home Improvement Projects = 63**

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 Lincoln, Cleveland, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Rowan, Iredell, Catawba, Mecklenburg, Union.
- Webinar training for Money Follows the Person completed with 18 attendees including Skilled Nursing social workers.

- Staff participated in the 2023 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Walk planning meetings.
- Staff hosted the monthly Professional Social Workers in Long-term Care organization (PSWLTC) meeting.
- Staff provided training for 5 social workers at the Black Mountain Neuro Medical Treatment Center.

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

- The western region has a caseload of 14.
- Currently, 10 clients are waiting for housing, and some have been on the caseload for at least one year waiting for affordable, safe housing.
- One client has secured housing through the Targeting Housing Program and will transition 6/2023.
- Now that the covid restrictions have been lifted, the Transition Coordinator has been able to make more visits to the homes and facilities.

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

- The central region has a caseload of 13; 4 are in the follow along phase, having transitioned in the past couple of months; 6 are waiting/looking for safe, affordable housing; 3 others are working on finding sufficient friend and family supports to ensure their safety at home when staff cannot be present.
- The Transition Coordinator just completed another round of visits to the facilities and homes. It is helpful to see them in person to both cheer them up and cheer them on, as well as to gain deeper understanding of their overall health and environment.

Ombudsman Program

- Ombudsman Program hosted an Older Americans Month event with Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Buncombe County Health and Human Services and Blue Ridge Pride on May 18 at the East Asheville Library.
- Ombudsmen are beginning to plan Community Advisory Committee Retreat which will provide education, socialization and best practices.
- Ombudsman is Co-Chair for the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Committee. The event is scheduled for June 15 at Carrier Park.
- Ombudsman provided Aging Sensitivity Class to a class of Certified Nursing Assistants at the Applied Technology Center in Brevard, NC.
- Ombudsmen attended the North Carolina Long Term Care Ombudsman Association Meeting on May 16.
- Ombudsman attended the Quarterly Training with the State Ombudsman in Raleigh on May 24

Outreach and Assistance

- Happy Older Americans Month! All AAA staff have been busy taking part and enjoy Older American Month events and activities throughout the region.
- Staff highlighted Older Americans Month with multiple Facebook post highlighting the work we do for Older Americans
- Staff have assisted with phone calls and emails asking for help with things like housing, and other aging resources.
- Staff continued to work on regular communication through Facebook post and WNC Aging Newsletter
- Staff is working on preparing for the Networking and Lunch event hosted by the AAA on June 6 at the WNC Ag Center.
- Staff is also preparing to highlight the AAA 50th anniversary in the region!

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

- 96% of the \$42,854 allotted by the State for dementia caregiver respite has been utilized by caregivers in the 15-county Project CARE region. The remaining 4% is expected to be utilized by June 15.
- Of the \$42,854, \$15,122 was distributed in varying amounts to twenty caregivers. A little more than half went to ten caregivers in Buncombe County, roughly a fourth went to five caregivers in Henderson Co., and the balance went to Madison and Transylvania County caregivers in nearly equal amounts.
- An additional \$26,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds has been distributed to forty dementia caregivers in the Land of Sky region.
- Most caregivers who received respite funds used their funds to hire someone (a self-employed care provider, a friend, another family member) to provide in-home respite care. Other options for respite care include home care agencies, adult day care programs, and short-term stays in assisted living or skilled nursing care facilities.
- As an example of how Project CARE helps caregivers, consider this. In Madison Co. a 41-year-old woman and her husband who works full-time are caring for their three young boys as well as her mother and both of his parents. Her mother lives in the home. His parents live in their own home which is not far away. All three of the oldest generation have dementia to varying degrees. Finances are tight. The woman who is a Project CARE client uses her respite care funds to hire a private individual to provide a few hours of weekly care for her in-laws. Otherwise, she and her husband are watching them with cameras, taking all their meals to them, doing their laundry, cleaning their house, making sure that their bills are paid, getting them to their medical appointments, assisting them with their medications, and assisting them with personal care...all while raising their children and caring for third parent in their home.

Senior Companion Program

- **April 1, 2023, stipends through AmeriCorps Seniors was raised to \$4.00 an hour.**
- **Mileage reimbursement is now \$0.58 per mile and could possibly rise after July 1, 2023.**
- **The AmeriCorps Seniors grant for FY24-26 has been fully submitted and awaits approval.**
- **The Senior Companion Program Manager will attend a conference in May in Washington, D.C. to meet with other Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs.**

New recruits who have become full volunteers: 4

New recruits who are in pre-service training: 3

We have retired four volunteers who combined served with us for over 30 years.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature is celebrating its 30th anniversary! There will be a special event in Raleigh on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. This group of dedicated volunteers are 100 strong, with two representatives for each county in North Carolina. They meet twice a year, in person, to create priorities that advocate at the State Capital for older adults in North Carolina. They also meet with their respective Representatives and Senators to present priorities. They meet with the Governor's task force and NC Department of Health and Human Services to consider pressing issues.

The Senior Tar Heels, from Region B, went to the State Capital in Raleigh in March 2023.

- Met with Senator Hise, to discuss the 5 priorities that the Senior Tar Heels created.
- Met with Representative Pless, to speak about Madison County.
- Need several representatives to Senior Tar Heels:
 1. Transylvania County needs 2 representatives
 2. Henderson County needs 2 representatives
 3. Buncombe County has 1 representative and interviewing another.

4. Madison County has 2 representatives.

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

- **Mountain Mobility** April trips were down by almost 13% from March – which had the highest totals since the COVID-19 pandemic began back in 2020. April’s totals were still strong compared to the earlier months of the 3rd quarter January – March.
- **GO PLACES** – we are still taking advantage of our 6-month planning window and putting together our multi-sector coalition and gathering partners in the Justice, Violence Prevention and Employer arenas. We are also asking for a modification of our service area. Currently, activities focus on two areas in West and Central Asheville, but we are asking to include other census tracts that will encompass the Deaverview and Hillcrest neighborhoods. Both of these areas are high crime/high poverty, and this addition will allow us to serve more clients.
- **Other news** - We are close to signing a contract with VAYA to be the contractor for the Transition to Community Living program in the region. This is a state-mandated program that assists people with mental health issues who have been living in a care facility to transition back into the community with the help of supportive services. This contract would allow LOS to hire four additional Certified Peer Support Specialists who would work in tandem with our current CPSS in the **INspire** Program. Brandon Manson, INspire Coordinator, will oversee this new scope of work. The state has accepted our budget, and we hope to have this finalized to begin providing service by July 1, 2023.
- **NEMT** - For March 2023 Active cases (final numbers are not available for April) 1267, Clients Utilized Services 661, Total Number of Trips 6740

6. Workforce

- We are awaiting notice on our grant application to USDOL ETA for National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) funding to support Evergreen Packaging workers.
- Region's unemployment rate continues to be the lowest in NC at 2.9%.
- "\$19 per hour and beyond" career fair is planned for Thursday, June 29 at the WNC Ag Center's Expo Building. More details will be shared soon. This job fair aligns with the closure of Evergreen Packaging. Multiple job fairs will be held in Haywood County for these workers.
- The Board will be increasing the long-term training limits to \$10,500 for two-year degree, \$5,250 per year.
- Career pathways outreach project for Mountain Area Careers is underway with Amplified Media focusing on the Construction/Skilled Trades and Tech/IT sectors.
- Our region's IT career pathway was endorsed by the NCWorks Commission at their May 10 meeting.
- 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.
- Assistant Director Barbara Darby made a presentation at the NC Small Business and Entrepreneurship convening at Research Triangle Park. Barbara shared her work to support upskilling workers at Devils Foot Beverage with a Business Accelerator Grant.
- I visited Avery Dennison/Smartrac in Fletcher along with the Western Prosperity Zone representative from the Economic Development Partnership of NC
- I attended multiple P-20 Council meetings in support of our region's postsecondary credential attainment effort.
- We transferred \$100,000 in Out-of-School (OSY) Youth funds to Southwestern Workforce Development Board. These funds expire on June 30 and we could not spend the funds by this date while maintaining a youth work experience number above 20% of total expenditures. WIOA requires at least 20% of our youth funding be spent on youth experience (WEX). Our board is working on efforts to increase youth WEX.
- Outside of the youth funds the board transferred to Southwestern WDB, we will have fully expended our PY21 funding. Workforce boards have two years to expend our funding, the state has three years. It is important that the board has sufficient funds to carry-over to the next year as we anticipate a sizable reduction in our formula funding allocation.
- ChatGPT AI forum at UNC Asheville was a great success held in partnership with Guided Compass, Digital Nomads and Meet the Geeks.
- MAWDB PY23-24 Local WIOA Title I Plan is available for public comment
- Madison County Career Fair was held on May 12



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Hosted by Land of Sky Regional Council

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July 14, 2023



09.00 am - 05.00 pm



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