



**Executive Committee
August 23, 2023**

**Hybrid Meeting In-Person at LOSRC office, 339 New Leicester Hwy, Suite 140, Asheville NC
28806 or Remote via Zoom**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order (11:00am)

2. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items are considered routine and noncontroversial in nature, and are considered and approved by a single motion and vote. If any member of the Executive Committee requests an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration and action that item will be placed under the Business, Updates and Discussion section of the agenda.

- A. June 28, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
- B. Budget Amendment #1

3. New Business

- A. Land of Sky Regional Council Compensation Overview
- B. French Broad River Tour
- C. SE4A Conference
- D. George Masa Award for Environmental Stewardship

4. Other Items

- A. Executive Director Report

5. Closed Session

The Executive Committee will go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss the performance and terms of employment individual personnel.

6. Adjournment



**2023-24 Officers/Executive Committee
(Terms Ending June 30, 2024)**

Chair: Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mayor, Town of Weaverville (Buncombe)

Vice-Chair: Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Brevard (Transylvania)

Secretary: Preston Blakely, Mayor, Fletcher (Henderson)

Treasurer: Matthew Wechtel, Commission Chair, Madison County (Madison)

County Delegate: Jason Chappell, Commission Chair, Transylvania County (Transylvania)

Municipal Delegate: Sandra Kilgore, Vice Mayor, Asheville (Buncombe)

Past Chair Delegate: Barbara Volk, Mayor, City of Hendersonville (Henderson)

Minority Representative Delegate: Burton Hodges, Exec Director, Transylvania Alliance (Transylvania)

Aging Representative: Bob Tomasulo, Chair, Aging Advisory Committee

**Land of Sky Regional Council
Executive Committee
Regular Meeting
June 28, 2023**

Minutes

Land of Sky Regional Council's Executive Committee held a meeting at the Land of Sky Regional Council office located in Asheville, NC that included access through the Zoom platform on Wednesday June 28, 2023. Executive Committee members participating in the meeting included Chair Fitzsimmons, Jason Chappell, Maureen Copelof, Bob Tomasulo, Barbara Volk, Matt Wechtel, and Sandra Kilgore constituting a quorum.

Land of Sky staff participating in the meeting included Nathan Ramsey, Patricia Rosenberg, Erica Anderson, Glenda Brown, Christina Giles (Zoom Host), LeeAnne Tucker, Tristan Winkler, and Zia Rifkin (Minutes). Land of Sky's Legal Counsel, Susan Russo-Klein was present, too.

Call to Order –Chair Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 am.

Approval of Consent Agenda – The consent agenda composed of items A. May 24, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes, and B. Budget Amendment #8 was presented for approval with no modification requested.

Barbara Volk moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jason Chappel seconded, and the motion was carried out unanimously upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

New Business

Request to Waive Land of Sky Regional Council Conflict of Interest Policy

Nathan Ramsey shared Section 3.07 of the Land of Sky Regional Council Personnel Policy prohibits conflicts of interest between employees and Land of Sky. Land of Sky employee Philip Cooper also operates Operation Gateway, a nonprofit dedicated to decreasing recidivism by addressing the social determinants of health of returning citizens. Philip Cooper created Operation Gateway in 2021 to provide direct assistance to recently incarcerated people reentering the region. Land of Sky hired Philip to lead INspire, our program to provide community-based peer support services for people reentering the workforce after being discharged from treatment or released from prison. Philip has since transitioned to GO PLACES to develop additional programs to provide violence prevention strategies and build economic opportunities for youth. Philip's career has been about serving people in need in our community. He is uniquely qualified to serve people who are re-entering the workforce to decrease recidivism. The Mountain Area Workforce Development Board received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for re-entry funding. We at Land of Sky believe that we can most effectively utilize this funding by contracting with Operation Gateway. We are requesting authority from NC Department of Commerce to enter into a sole source, non-competitive contract with Operation Gateway to provide these re-entry services. If Commerce grants this authority, Philip Cooper would resign from Land of Sky to avoid a conflict of interest and dedicate his time to Operation Gateway. We can still work together, but Philip and I agree that this is an opportunity to expand re-entry services using Philip's knowledge, skills, and talent. We are asking the Board to waive the conflict of interest pending Commerce's decision on the requested authority. This allows Land of Sky to continue to benefit from Philip's work until that decision has been made. GO PLACES will continue to move forward as we have a leadership succession plan in place.

Susan Russo-Klein shared that state law provides for this opportunity by waiving the conflict of interest policy.

Patrick Fitzsimmons moved that the Board authorize the Executive Director to waive any actual or potential conflict of interest under the Land of Sky Regional Council Personnel Policy between Land of Sky employee, Philip Cooper, and approval of Land of Sky's request to authorize sole source award of its ARPA grant funds to Operation Gateway, a nonprofit directed by Philip Cooper. Such a waiver is subject to approval of funds by third parties. Upon an award of such funds, Philip Cooper will be required to resign from Land of Sky to devote his full attention to Operation Gateway.

Discussion occurred regarding whether Philip Cooper would need to resign before the contract was awarded and it was shared that this would be the case. Should Commerce not approve a sole source contract, then competitive procurement would be undertaken to find an organization that would provide the work required by the ARPA Re-Entry grant. Additionally, Nathan Ramsey shared that Operation Gateway is focused on the reentry population to provide support for individuals reentering society focused on their unique needs. He noted that over 1000 formerly incarcerated individuals return to the community annually in the LOSRC region. Serving

this population is Philip Cooper's passion and the LOSRC administration believes that this is a pathway to provide the best services under the ARPA grant. Nathan Ramsey clarified that should the sole source procurement not be approved by Commerce, LOSRC would work with Philip through available programs to provide assistance, or he could remain an employee of LOSRC. Without approval from Commerce for a sole source contract, the organization could not enter into any contract without competitive procurement.

Barbara Volk seconded the motion, which was carried out upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

Clean Vehicles Coalition Community Engagement Liaison Position

Erica Anderson shared that Land of Sky Regional Council has received funding from the United States Department of Energy for two years to support a Community Engagement Liaison position. This position would work with a team of partners, LOSRC staff, and community stakeholders to help address energy, transportation, air quality, and the ways they intersect with elevating underserved and overburdened communities. This position would be at pay grade 24 and with a starting salary of \$50,000. This request is to add this position to the LOSRC pay and classification plan and to hire for this position.

Discussion occurred regarding the activities this position would undertake, and Erica Anderson shared that this is a liaison position that would specifically work with the City of Asheville and other partners to address transportation and other energy needs including energy efficiency. She noted that this position would also look at how to make electric vehicle usage more equitable among under served and overburdened populations, leading to more adoption of alternative fueled vehicles throughout the LOSRC region's urban and rural areas.

Sandra Kilgore moved to approve the addition of this position at the recommended pay grade and salary to the Land of Sky Regional Council pay and classification plan and to authorize that the position be hired for. Barbara Volk seconded the motion, which was carried out on a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

NCDOT Public Transportation Program Resolution

Erica Anderson shared that the NCDOT Public Transportation Resolution is in support of Land of Sky Regional Council's application for NCDOT ConCPT grant funds. ConCPT funds are State funds made available through the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division, to encourage coordination between transit providers. These funds would be used to fund a two-year pilot program for LOSRC to assist rural transit providers with grant administration and reporting. Work is already underway with Transylvania County and the RPO regarding the retention of staff of the rural transit providers. This program would provide the rural counties with assistance to support the needs of their public transportation systems. This is an effort to streamline the current processes in the rural areas.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the NCDOT Public Transportation Program resolution. Sandra Kilgore seconded, and the motion was carried out on a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

Other Items

Nathan Ramsey shared that the Board of Delegates meeting would have the FY 24 Budget Ordinance on their agenda for approval.

Executive Director Report

Nathan Ramsey shared that his current report is included in the agenda packet, and he encouraged Executive Committee members to reach out with any questions or comments regarding the report.

Nathan Ramsey shared that the Town of Fletcher has graciously agreed to host the LOSRC BBQ on August 15 at the Bill Moore Community Park. More details to follow.

Nathan Ramsey shared that the community conversation series kicks off at the August meeting beginning at 1:15pm. Each month would have a different topic as the focus of the community conversation.

Patrick Simmons moved to enter Closed Session. Barbara Volk seconded the motion.

Closed Session

The Executive Committee entered closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss the performance and terms of employment for individual personnel.

Open Session resumed at 11:48am.

Commissioner Wechtel moved to approve a 7% COLA increase for Nathan Ramsey, retroactive to his anniversary date of February 28, 2023. Mr. Tomasulo seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Adjournment

Chair Fitzsimmons adjourned the meeting at 11:50am, as there was no further business.

Respectfully submitted by Zia Rifkin

BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION ONE, August 23, 2023

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing board of the Land of Sky Regional Council that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

SECTION I. To amend the appropriation as follows:

AAA - Area Agency on Aging	\$	76,649.00
ECD - Economic and Community Development	\$	263,042.00
MAWD - Workforce Development	\$	4,373,707.00
MNG - General Operations	\$	-
WRP - Waste Reduction Partners	\$	-
TRAN - Transportation	\$	2,026,287.00
Total Appropriations	\$	6,739,685.00

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.

Area Agency on Aging	Federal	\$	(72,525.00)
	State	\$	(11,179.00)
	Local	\$	113,249.00
	Dues	\$	-
	Private	\$	(15,114.00)
	In-Kind	\$	48,607.00
	Fees	\$	-
	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	13,611.00
Total Area Agency on Aging	\$	76,649.00	
Economic and Community Development	Carry-Over	\$	-
	Federal	\$	151,171.00
	State	\$	16,035.00
	Local	\$	73,011.00
	Dues	\$	-
	Private	\$	20,732.00
	In-Kind	\$	-
	Fees	\$	2,093.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	-	
Total Economic & Community Development	\$	263,042.00	

BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION ONE, August 23, 2023

Workforce Development	Federal	\$	3,597,358.00
	State	\$	440,033.00
	Local	\$	-
	Dues	\$	-
	Private	\$	336,316.00
	In-Kind	\$	-
	Fees	\$	-
	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	-
Total Workforce Development		\$	<u><u>4,373,707.00</u></u>
General Operations	Federal	\$	-
	State	\$	-
	Local	\$	-
	Dues	\$	-
	Private	\$	-
	In-Kind	\$	-
	Fees	\$	-
	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	-
Total General Operations		\$	<u><u>-</u></u>
WRP - Waste Reduction Partners	Federal	\$	-
	State	\$	-
	Local	\$	-
	Dues	\$	-
	Private	\$	-
	In-Kind	\$	-
	Fees	\$	-
	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	-
Total Waste Reduction Partners		\$	<u><u>-</u></u>

BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION ONE, August 23, 2023

<i>TRAN - Transportation</i>	Federal	\$	1,982,880.00
	State	\$	-
	Local	\$	43,407.00
	Dues	\$	-
	Private	\$	-
	In-Kind	\$	-
	Fees	\$	-
	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	-
<i>Total Transportation</i>		\$	2,026,287.00
Total Estimated Revenues		\$	<u>6,739,685.00</u>

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 changes to salary or compensation of any employee for any reason shall be approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee before such changes 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 23th of August, 2023.

Mayor Patrick Fitzsimmons, Chair

Nathan Ramsey, Attest

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



Fiscal Year → **FY24**
Amendment → **One**

Amendment Date → **8/23/23**

Revenue and Expenditures

Program Area	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'One'	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	\$7,726,729	\$7,650,080	\$76,649	1.0%	1.5%
ECD - Economic and Community Development	\$4,772,763	\$4,509,721	\$263,042	5.8%	10.8%
MAWD - Workforce Development	\$11,616,445	\$7,242,738	\$4,373,707	60.4%	182.6%
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	\$3,976,182	\$1,949,895	\$2,026,287	103.9%	188.0%
Land of Sky Regional Council	\$28,623,106	\$21,883,421	\$6,739,685	30.8%	58.6%

Revenue by Source

Funding Source	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'One'	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	\$20,660,244	\$15,001,360	\$5,658,884	37.7%	0.0%
State	\$2,676,427	\$2,231,538	\$444,889	19.9%	0.0%
Local	\$2,701,831	\$2,472,164	\$229,667	9.3%	0.0%
Dues	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Private	\$1,752,121	\$1,410,187	\$341,934	24.2%	0.0%
Other	\$174,725	\$174,725	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
In-Kind	\$140,227	\$91,620	\$48,607	53.1%	0.0%
Fees	\$196,105	\$194,012	\$2,093	1.1%	0.0%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$321,426	\$307,815	\$13,611	4.4%	0.0%
Land of Sky Regional Council	\$28,623,106	\$21,883,421	\$6,739,685	30.8%	58.6%

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24	Fiscal Year	0	1	1	
		One	Amendment Number		
		8/23/23	Amendment Date		
		FY24 Budget at Start; Total for AAA	Amendment One; Total for AAA	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for AAA	
	AAA	\$7,650,080	\$76,649	\$7,726,729	

Area Agency on Aging

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
AAA	507	Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers (MIPPA)	\$25,000	\$6,239	\$31,239
AAA	510	Aging Planning & Administration	\$362,975	\$113,249	\$476,224
AAA	520	Home & Community Care Block Grant (P/T)	\$1,710,590	\$1,130	\$1,711,720
AAA	541	Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Pilot	\$49,500	\$3,559	\$53,059
AAA	550	Ombudsman	\$388,215	\$43,062	\$431,277
AAA	551	Elder Abuse Prevention	\$6,490	\$721	\$7,211
AAA	554	Ombudsman Event	\$1,000	\$9,886	\$10,886
AAA	587	FGP - Pisgah Health Foundation	\$25,000	(\$11,389)	\$13,611
AAA	51A	ARPA Planning & Administration	\$220,000	\$10,647	\$230,647
AAA	52A	ARPA Home & Community Block Grant	\$1,110,000	(\$65,598)	\$1,044,402
AAA	53A	ARPA Family Caregiver Program	\$240,000	(\$31,333)	\$208,667
AAA	54A	ARPA Health Promotion	\$70,000	(\$2,394)	\$67,606
AAA	52L	Aging Legal	\$18,354	\$90,120	\$108,474
AAA	52I	Aging - In Home Services	\$570,734	(\$91,250)	\$479,484

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

0	1	1
One	Amendment Number	
8/23/23	Amendment Date	
FY24 Budget at Start; Total for ECD	Amendment One; Total for ECD	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for ECD
\$4,509,721	\$263,042	\$4,772,763

ECD Economic and Community Development

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
ECD	407	Town of Woodfin - GIS TA	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
ECD	419	DIT MOA ARC Power	\$0	\$2,093	\$2,093
ECD	424	ARC READY Housing	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
ECD	431	EDA Planning Grant - 1/1/21 - 12/31/23	\$15,000	(\$2,281)	\$12,719
ECD	449	Mars Hill Water/Sewer T/A	\$325,000	(\$2,657)	\$322,343
ECD	453	Rosman Parks and Rec Master Plan	\$45,000	\$3,687	\$48,687
ECD	462	Hendersonville CDBG	\$14,500	\$71	\$14,571
ECD	463	Stormwater Services	\$8,000	\$2,030	\$10,030
ECD	464	WNC 205j Stormwater Partnership	\$13,500	(\$13,500)	\$0
ECD	465	Black Mountain Technical Assistance - GIS/GPS	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
ECD	466	Weaverville Stormwater Inventory	\$45,000	(\$15,590)	\$29,410
ECD	467	319 Black Mtn	\$140,000	(\$53,392)	\$86,608
ECD	471	Town of Fletcher - GIS	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
ECD	497	Montreat Planning & Zoning	\$71,112	\$6,704	\$77,816
ECD	642	Foreign Trade Zone	\$0	\$1,348	\$1,348
ECD	650	DHT Recovery Housing Project	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
ECD	695	DHT-IEI Digital Inclusion Project	\$210,000	\$11,535	\$221,535

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

One
8/23/23

Amendment Number
Amendment Date

FY24 Budget at Start; Total for ECD	Amendment One; Total for ECD	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for ECD
\$4,509,721	\$263,042	\$4,772,763

ECD Economic and Community Development

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
ECD	800	Clean Air Campaign	\$22,000	\$3,307	\$25,307
ECD	812	CMAC	\$21,000	\$45,103	\$66,103
ECD	813	Clean Cities Equity EJI	\$0	\$113,200	\$113,200
ECD	827	DOE-NETL Clean Cities 4/1/21	\$43,000	\$35,501	\$78,501
ECD	830	Waste Reduction Education Program	\$13,000	(\$7,063)	\$5,937
ECD	900	Rural Planning Organization (RPO)	\$132,969	\$20,031	\$153,000
ECD	41B	City of Asheville - Swannanoa River Rd Pr	\$20,000	\$2,543	\$22,543
ECD	41C	DHT COG Capacity Building	\$235,000	(\$37,756)	\$197,244
ECD	41D	Buncombe Co. Covid 19 Connecting Communities	\$95,000	(\$6,632)	\$88,368
ECD	41E	NCARCOG ARPA T/A	\$385,000	(\$24,206)	\$360,794
ECD	41F	ARC Housing Assets	\$100,000	\$438	\$100,438
ECD	41G	NCARCOG Disaster & Recovery	\$340,000	(\$85,195)	\$254,805
ECD	41T	Transylvania Co. Contract T/A	\$0	\$49,624	\$49,624
ECD	41U	UNC - Building Capacity For Home & Community	\$149,822	\$735	\$150,557
ECD	42B	Town of Marshall T/A	\$0	\$37,547	\$37,547
ECD	44B	Mountain Biz Works	\$17,500	\$205	\$17,705
ECD	46A	ARP- Black Mtn.	\$43,500	(\$2,490)	\$41,010
ECD	49B	ARC LDD ends 12/31/23	\$249,808	\$3,345	\$253,153

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

One
8/23/23

Amendment Number
Amendment Date

FY24 Budget at Start; Total for ECD	Amendment One; Total for ECD	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for ECD
\$4,509,721	\$263,042	\$4,772,763

ECD Economic and Community Development

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
ECD	4A2	Mars Hill (ARP)	\$25,000	\$678	\$25,678
ECD	70A	Healthy Opportunities - Operations	\$205,000	\$4,660	\$209,660
ECD	70B	Healthy Opportunities Education and Outreach	\$10,000	\$8,419	\$18,419

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

0 1 1
 One Amendment Number
 8/23/23 Amendment Date

FY24 Budget at Start; Total for MAWD	Amendment One; Total for MAWD	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for MAWD
\$7,242,738	\$4,373,707	\$11,616,445

MAWD Workforce Development

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
MAWD	210	Administration	\$259,022	\$75,874	\$334,896
MAWD	212	P20 Council (JMBE)	\$120,000	\$1,684	\$121,684
MAWD	220	WIOA - Adult	\$726,053	\$394,995	\$1,121,048
MAWD	230	WIOA - Dislocated Worker	\$396,966	\$160,896	\$557,862
MAWD	240	Youth - Out of School	\$658,162	\$176,150	\$834,312
MAWD	241	Youth - In School	\$272,885	\$36,413	\$309,298
MAWD	255	Employer Services	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
MAWD	273	Evergreen	\$0	\$444,797	\$444,797
MAWD	274	Evergreen Admin	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
MAWD	280	ARPA Work Based Learning	\$429,438	(\$12,600)	\$416,838
MAWD	620	Inspire- ARC/DHT/MAHEC	\$550,920	\$154,539	\$705,459
MAWD	621	Vaya Transitions Program	\$0	\$440,033	\$440,033
MAWD	630	DOL Growth Opportunities	\$1,700,000	\$2,208,097	\$3,908,097
MAWD	21B	P20 Council - DOL and Duke Energy	\$1,510,125	\$10,240	\$1,520,365
MAWD	62A	DHT-VAYA INSPIRE FY23	\$0	\$14,242	\$14,242
MAWD	62C	Accelerate Buncombe	\$93,000	\$2,311	\$95,311
MAWD	62E	ARC Power WNC Early Childhood Educator Workforce	\$0	\$196,036	\$196,036

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

0	1	1
One	Amendment Number	
8/23/23	Amendment Date	

FY24 Budget at Start; Total for MNG	Amendment One; Total for MNG	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for MNG
\$228,528	\$0	\$228,528

	MNG	General Operations	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name			

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

0	1	1
One	Amendment Number	
8/23/23	Amendment Date	

FY24 Budget at Start; Total for TRAN	Amendment One; Total for TRAN	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for TRAN
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TRAN	Transportation	\$1,949,895	\$2,026,287	\$3,976,182
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Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One
TRAN	952	French Broad Metro. Planning Org.	\$623,375	\$28,507	\$651,882
TRAN	953	French Broad Metro. Planning Org. -- Special Studies	\$684,000	(\$26,000)	\$658,000
TRAN	956	Safe Routes to Schools	\$127,320	\$170,929	\$298,249
TRAN	957	Safe and Accountable Trans Options	\$0	\$20,100	\$20,100
TRAN	960	Transportation Covid Planning	\$0	\$1,832,751	\$1,832,751

Land of Sky Region Council
Revenue and Expenditures



FY24 Fiscal Year

0	1	1
One	Amendment Number	
8/23/23	Amendment Date	

FY24 Budget at Start; Total for WRP	Amendment One; Total for WRP	FY24 Budget at Amendment One; Total for WRP
\$302,459	\$0	\$302,459

WRP **Waste Reduction Partners**

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY24 Budget at Start	Amendment One	FY24 Budget at Amendment One



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Item:	3A – Land of Sky Regional Council Compensation Overview
Nature of Item:	Information
Attachment(s):	N/A
Background:	This presentation will provide an overview of the Council's compensation plan and history of salary adjustments.
Responsible Staff:	Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director
Suggested Motion:	N/A



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Item:	3B – French Broad River Tour
Nature of Item:	Information
Attachment(s):	French Broad River Tour flyer
Background:	The Council will lead a French Broad River Tour in each of our four counties to explore the economic development, environmental, cultural, and other impacts of the river. The French Broad River bisects each of our four counties and is one of the many things we share together. .
Responsible Staff:	Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director and Dr. Mary Roderick, Planning Director
Suggested Motion:	N/A

FRENCH BROAD RIVER TOUR

MADISON



BUNCOMBE



HENDERSON



TRANSYLVANIA

The French Broad River is believed to be one of the oldest rivers in the world. The Cherokee referred to the river by different names: Poelico and Agiquc ("broad") in the mountains of the headwaters; Zillicoah upriver of the confluence at present-day Asheville; and Tahkæosteh (racing waters) from Asheville downriver. Europeans referred to the French Broad River as "French" as the river was located in French controlled territory and to distinguish this river from the Broad River in the foothills which was in British controlled territory.

The river bisects the Land of Sky Region beginning near Rosman close to the South Carolina border and it flows through the region to Hot Springs near the Tennessee border. Recent studies indicate that the French Broad River has an economic impact of over \$2 billion annually. The river is a drinking water source, recreational amenity, and it sustains life, industry and agriculture in our region. The river is in many respects cleaner today than at any time in the past 70+ years but the river also faces significant threats. Part of the river is classified as impaired and with population growth projected to be around 125,000 over the next 25 years, there will be more runoff and erosion unless we take action now.

Land of Sky Regional Council will offer a tour of each county in our region with a focus on how we can work together to protect the French Broad River while supporting the growth and development of region.

September 8, 2023: Transylvania County
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

September 15, 2023: Henderson County
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

September 22, 2023: Buncombe County
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

October 6, 2023: Madison County
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

You can sign up for one county tour or all four. There is no cost to participate. We are grateful for our sponsors for making this tour possible. Lunch will be provided along with snacks.

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BRONZE
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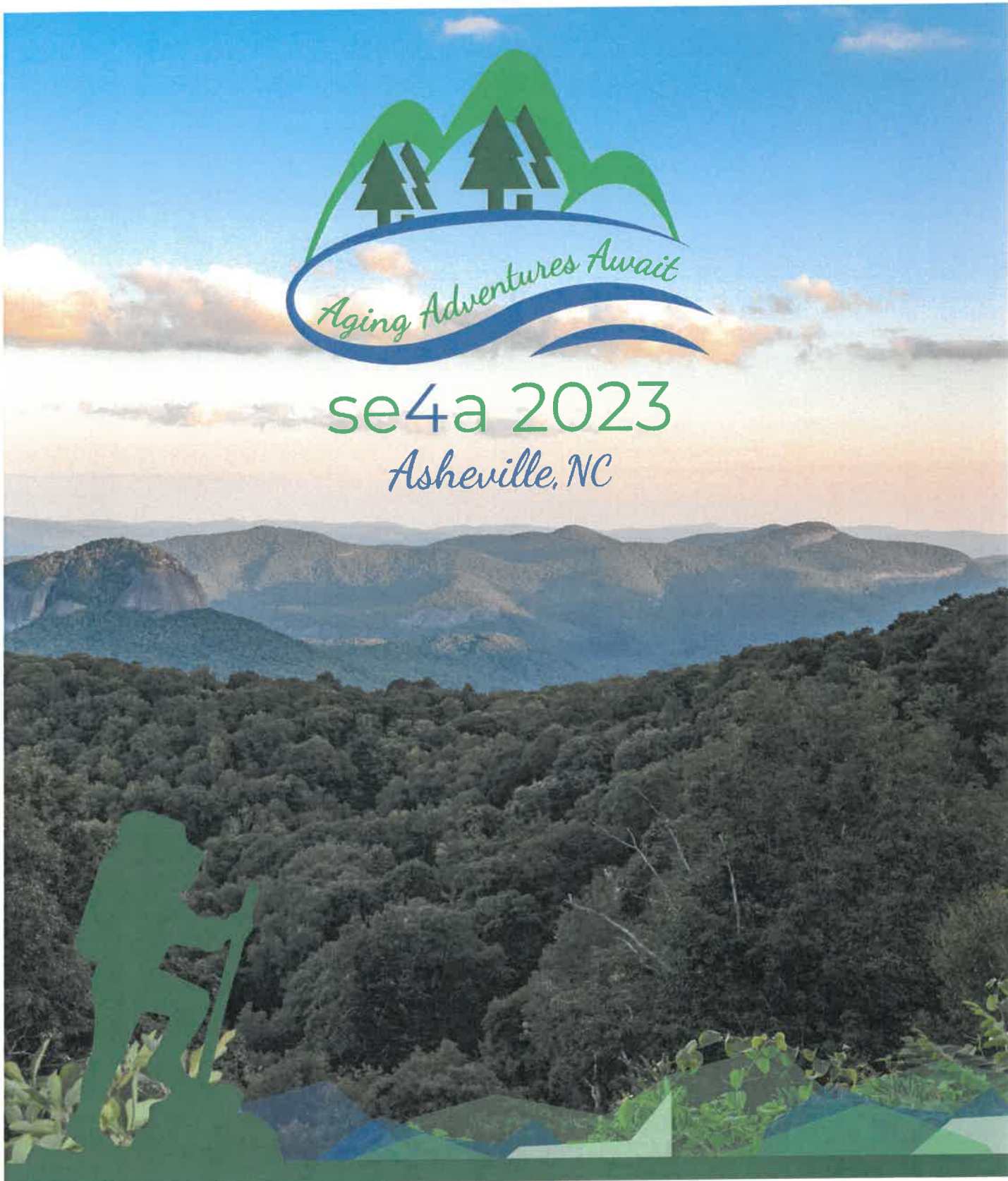


LAND of SKY
REGIONAL COUNCIL



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Item:	3C – SE4A Conference
Nature of Item:	Information
Attachment(s):	Conference Booklet pages 1-8
Background:	<p>Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) will hold their 2023 Conference “Aging Adventures Await” August 27 – 30 in Asheville at the Omni Grove Park Inn. LOSRC AAA staff have helped support the conference as the host AAA. Over 500 AAA representatives will attend the conference. This is the first time in many years that our region has hosted the conference.</p> <p>.</p>
Responsible Staff:	LeeAnne Tucker, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director
Suggested Motion:	N/A



se4a 2023
Asheville, NC



Presented by



NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)

Providing support to ensure the success of North Carolina's aging population

DAAS relies on a network of partners, including 16 Area Agencies on Aging and 100 county Departments of Social Services, to connect with older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers throughout the state.



Advocacy and protection programs inform individuals about their rights and how to address their concerns, which allow them to protect themselves against exploitation, neglect, and abuse.

Adult Protective Services | Guardianship Services | Long-Term Care Ombudsmen



Economic supports help ensure an individual's financial viability by supplementing discretionary income or by providing financial assistance for housing or shelter.

State/County Special Assistance | Special Assistance In-Home | Key Rental Assistance | Senior Community Service Employment Program | Emergency Solutions Grant Program



Home and community-based services include a variety of health and human services delivered in the home or community to address social isolation and other social determinants of health, and help people stay in their homes for as long as possible.

Health and Wellness Programs | Supportive Services (i.e., home-delivered meals, in-home assistance, transportation, etc.) | Family Caregiver Resources



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Aging and Adult Services

919-855-3400
www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/aging-and-adult-services



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR



Dear Conference Participants:

Welcome to North Carolina! We are honored to host this year's Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference in the lively and scenic City of Asheville. North Carolina's majestic mountains, beautiful beaches, vibrant cities and charming rural towns draw visitors from across the world. We are proud of our top-rated universities, quality healthcare systems, vibrant diversity, and strong economy—including our ranking as America's Top State for Business in 2022.

North Carolina is the third-fastest growing state in the nation, with a rapidly growing and diverse population of adults over age 65. We want people of all ages and abilities across the state to have opportunities to live their lives to the fullest. That's why I recently signed Executive Order 280: North Carolina's Commitment to Building an Age-Friendly State. With this order, North Carolina became the 10th state in the country to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. The order also launched the development of a multisector plan for aging, titled *All Ages, All Stages NC: A Roadmap to Aging and Living Well*, to guide our work as our population ages.

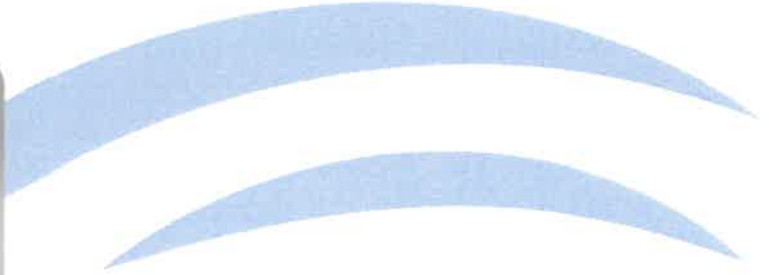
The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services has served North Carolina's older adults for more than 50 years. The Division is regarded as a national leader for its many initiatives, including the 1993 creation of the Home and Community Care Block Grant to streamline processes and promote local decision making, as well as its senior center certification program and training institute. North Carolina was the first in the nation to have an adult protective services statute and the Division of Aging and Adult Services leads efforts to make improvements to it as the number of adults continues to grow. The Division is also a leader in developing the *All Ages, All Stages NC: A Roadmap to Aging and Living Well* plan, fostering collaboration among government, communities, and individuals for the well-being of North Carolina's seniors.

We hope you enjoy your time in North Carolina. Each southeastern state attending this conference brings unique experiences and strategies to share. This conference is a valuable opportunity for our region to learn and enrich our work together to improve the lives of older adults.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



Welcome to the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina, for the SE4A conference and celebration of the 50th anniversary of AAAs! While here, enjoy the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville's vibrant arts scene, historical architecture, the many fine dining establishments, and maybe even the Grove Park Inn's unique subterranean spa!

The North Carolina Area Agencies on Aging Association has put together an extensive conference program focusing on many topics. Together, we will learn from experienced speakers in the general and breakout sessions, and from each other.

Networking is one of the most important aspects of our conference. Learn from different regions to see what has been successful, and also what challenges they have faced. Find out about the many collaborations that have taken place to make their communities a better place for seniors. Visit with the sponsors and exhibitors to see what resources may be available in your region.

The SE4A board of directors is made up of three board members and one alternate from each state: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. This board works closely with the hosting state to produce an informative, entertaining, and innovative conference. If you see one of these board members, or someone from the North Carolina AAA Association, thank them for the volunteer work they have done on our behalf to host this conference!

The theme for SE4A's 2023 conference is "Aging Adventures Await." Take home with you the lessons learned from this conference and make the upcoming year an adventure for your office, your programs, and ultimately, your seniors.

Thanks to each of you for attending the SE4A conference. We certainly hope that you are inspired and energized by learning, sharing, and making new friends.

Sincerely,

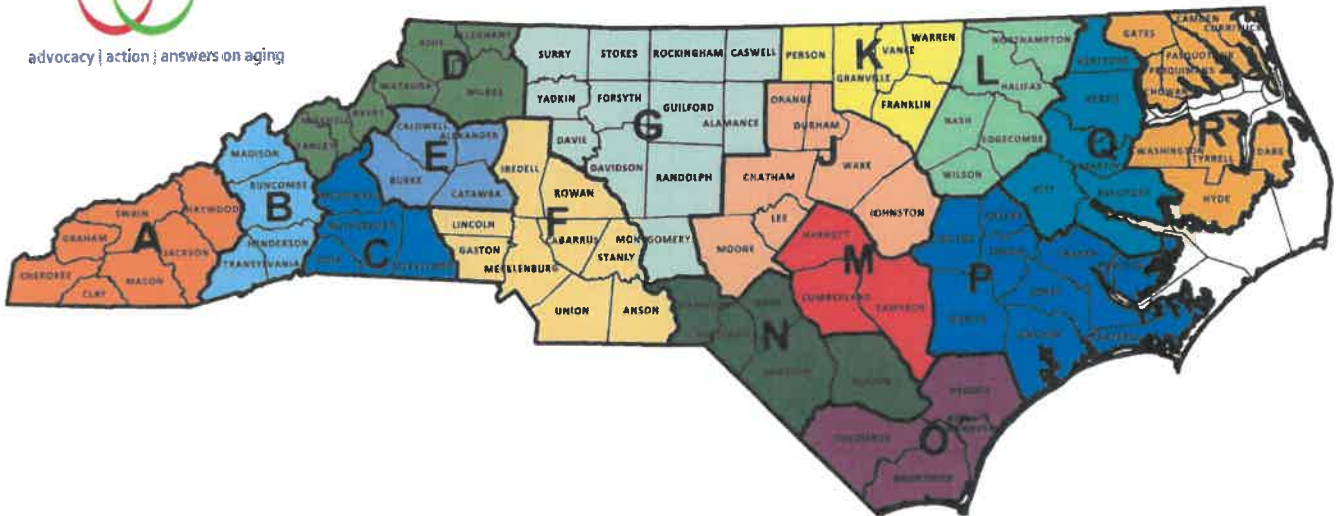
Tim Womack
SE4A Board President





advocacy | action | answers on aging

North Carolina Area Agencies on Aging



- Region A – Southwestern Commission**
 Sarajane Melton, Area Agency on Aging Administrator
 828-586-1962 x220, sarajane@regiona.org

- Region B – Land of Sky Regional Council**
 LeeAnne Tucker, Area Agency on Aging Director
 828-251-7436, leeanne@landofsky.org

- Region C – Foothills Regional Commission**
 Laura Lynch, Area Agency on Aging Director
 828-351-2336, llynch@foothillsregion.org

- Region D – High Country Council of Governments**
 Zack Green, Area Agency on Aging Director
 828-265-5434 x122, zgreen@hccog.org

- Region E – Western Piedmont Council of Governments**
 Tina Miller, Area Agency on Aging Director
 828-485-4212, tina.miller@wpcog.org

- Region F – Centralina Regional Council**
 Linda Miller, Aging Program Director
 704-348-2712, lmiller@centralina.org

- Region G – Piedmont Triad Regional Council**
 Adrienne Calhoun, Area Agency on Aging Director
 336-904-0300, acalhoun@ptrc.org

- Region J – Central Pines Regional Council**
 Jenisha Henneghan, Area Agency on Aging Director
 919-558-2708, jhenneghan@tjcog.org

- Region K – Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments**
 Nancy Francis, Area Agency on Aging Director
 252-436-2040 x2047, nfrancis@kerrtarco.org

- Region L – Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments**
 Mary Marlin, Area Agency on Aging Program Director,
 252-234-5956, mmarlin@ucpcog.org

- Region M – Mid-Carolina Regional Council**
 Tracy Honeycutt, Area Agency on Aging Director
 910-323-4191 x27, thoneycutt@mccog.org

- Region N – Lumber River Council of Governments**
 Twilla Allen, Aging Program Administrator
 910-775-9781, tca@lrcog.org

- Region O – Care Fear Council of Governments**
 Holly Pilson, Area Agency on Aging Director
 910-274-0339, hpilson@capefearcog.org

- Region P – Eastern Carolina Council of Governments**
 Heather O'Connor, Area Agency on Aging Director
 252-638-3185 x3012, hoconnor@eccog.org

- Region Q – Mid-East Commission**
 Annette Eubanks, Area Agency on Aging Director
 252-974-1835, aeubanks@mideastcom.org

- Region R – Albemarle Commission**
 Laura Alvarico, Area Agency on Aging Director
 252-426-5753, lalvarico@accog.org

nc4a.org

SE4A 2023 Conference At-A-Glance

Sunday, August 27

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Exhibitor Set-up (Grand Ballroom A)
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration (Conference Center Lobby)
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Opening Session (Grand Ballroom BC) The Funny Thing About Stress with Kay Frances
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Opening Reception (Grand Ballroom A)
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Lounge (Skyline/Mountain View Terrace)

Monday, August 28

6:15 am - 7:00 am	Tai Chi (Skyline/Mountain View Terrace)
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Registration (Conference Center Lobby)
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast with Exhibitors (Grand Ballroom A)
8:30 am - 10:00 am	General Session (Grand Ballroom BC) Real Talk with Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break (Grand Ballroom A)
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Session 1 Workshops Creating a Dementia Friendly Community (Coolidge) Looking Under the Hood of CBO Networks: How CBO Networks are Formed and Maintained (Eisenhower) BE - The Change You Want to See (Hoover) Care Navigation Adventures Along the Care Continuum (Roosevelt) Your Community: Collective Action for Deep and Durable Impact (Taft) Enriching Mental Health and Complementary Treatments (Wilson)
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	SE4A Awards Luncheon (Grand Ballroom BC)
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Session 2 Workshops The Importance of Coordinated Community Response in Responding to Abuse Against Older Adults (Coolidge) North Carolina Multisector Plan for Aging (Eisenhower) Caregivers and Basketball: What Do They Have in Common? (Hoover) Filling in the Gaps for Mental and Oral Health Disparities Among Older Adults (Roosevelt) What's Unique in the Southeast? Trends from USAging's National AAA Survey Reopening Congregate Meal Sites: A National Survey of the Nutrition Provider Network (Wilson)

Conference At-A-Glance Continued

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Break (Grand Ballroom A)
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Session 3 Workshops Legal Remedies for Victims of Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation (Coolidge) Savvy Caregiver: Exploration into Becoming Savvy Caregivers and Savvy Providers (Eisenhower) Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens CARES - Caregiver Assistance & Relief Education (Hoover) Navigating Long-Term Care: Placement and Advocacy (Roosevelt) BLENDing Innovative Approaches to Older Adult Services to Leverage Funding Opportunities (Taft) Leveraging the Power of a Virtual Team to Provide Access to Nutrition and Wellness Programs (Wilson)
	Dinner on your own - visit the Explore Asheville table for restaurant ideas
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Lounge (Skyline/Mountain View Terrace)

Tuesday, August 29

6:15 am - 7:00 am	Tai Chi (Skyline/Mountain View Terrace)
7:30 am - 1:00 pm	Registration (Vanderbilt)
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast with Exhibitors (Grand Ballroom A)
8:30 am - 10:00 am	General Session (Grand Ballroom BC) Aging Adventures: Re-Imagine Aging Panel with Robert Blancato, Vickie Bradley, and Sandy Markwood
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break (Grand Ballroom A) ~ exhibitor hall closes at 12:00 pm
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Session 4 Workshops How to Eat an Elephant: The Path to APS Improvement (Coolidge) Telling Your Story: Education and Advocacy for Programs (Eisenhower) Spilling the T.E.A. with Family Caregivers Advocates (Hoover) Setting the PACE for Aging (Roosevelt) Innovation Through Partnerships and Voucher Programs to Strengthen Older American Act Programs (Taft) Fall Prevention Classes in the High Country, NC: Exploring a Model Focused on Collaboration, Outreach, Effectiveness, and Sustainability (Wilson)
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own - visit the Explore Asheville table for restaurant ideas



Conference At-A-Glance Continued

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	<p>Session 5 Workshops</p> <p>Start the Conversation: Advance Directives and Advanced Care Planning (Coolidge)</p> <p>Managed LTSS: Getting Your AAA Ready for Business Transformation (Eisenhower)</p> <p>Why Independence is Important for Seniors: The Unfortunate Loss of Individuality and Autonomy (Hoover)</p> <p>Juntas Somos Mejores/Together We Are Better: Interdisciplinary Collaboration Spanish Focused Vaccine Outreach (Roosevelt)</p> <p>H2H: Alabama Hospital to Home Transition Program (Taft)</p> <p>Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness: Resources from USAging and NCBAM (Wilson)</p>
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Break (Conference Center Lobby)
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	<p>Session 6 Workshops</p> <p>Responding to Elder Abuse: Bridging the Gap Between Aging and Victim Services (Coolidge)</p> <p>Volunteer Engagement Strategies for Program Success (Eisenhower)</p> <p>Meeting People Where They Are: Grandparents and Caregivers (Hoover)</p> <p>Live From DC: What Advocates Need to Know Now About Federal Aging Policy (Roosevelt)</p> <p>The Critical Need for and Potential Power of Vision Rehabilitation Services for Older People with Vision Loss (Taft)</p> <p>B-4, I-26, N-41, G-59, O-74...Now Let's Warm Up Our Muscles and Get to Moving! (Wilson)</p>
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Buses leave for Taylor Ranch (Atrium Lobby - 7th Level of the Vanderbilt Wing)
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	SE4A Party at Taylor Ranch

Wednesday, August 30

8:30 am - 11:30 am	Breakfast and Closing General Session (Grand Ballroom BC) After Further Review - Adventures in Aging and Athletics with Brad Allen
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Workshop Tracks Key

Elder Rights - Justice - Ageism
Business Development - Acumen
Caregiving
Health - Long Term Care - Technology
Access to Services & Support
Senior Centers - Wellness - Evidence Based



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Item:	3D – George Masa Award for Environmental Stewardship
Nature of Item:	Information
Attachment(s):	Draft Award Certificate
Background:	First Tennessee Development District and East Tennessee Development District in Tennessee and High Country Council of Governments and Land of Sky Regional Council in North Carolina are joining together to present the George Masa Environmental Stewardship Award. The award will rotate among the states. Tennessee will make the first presentation to Dr. Michael McKinney with the University of Tennessee. George Masa traveled to WNC from his native Japan and he was a prolific photographer, and his work led to the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian Trail. He passed away in 1933 and is buried in City of Asheville Riverside Cemetery.
Responsible Staff:	Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director
Suggested Motion:	N/A

2023
GEORGE
M A S A
ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
A W A R D

This award is to recognize

Dr. Michael McKinney

For his demonstrated impact on environmentalism, conservation, and outdoor resources
in the Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina region.



Land of Sky Regional Council
Executive Director's Report
Respectfully submitted by Nathan Ramsey
August 23, 2023

1. Finance

- FY23-24 budget will be over \$28 million after Budget Amendment #1.

2. Economic and Community Development

Kudos!

- July 14, 2023, LOSRC staff Traci Thompson facilitated a Regional Housing forum to over 110 attendees. There were numerous speakers and information exchanged. Materials will be shared on the updated housing webpage.
- 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.
- July 19, 2023, LOSRC and Southwestern Commission held a joint Brownfields training in Waynesville. Presentations were made by NC Department of Environmental Quality staff and can be shared upon request. They have limited funding for brownfields assessments for properties in specific counties. Please contact erica@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 for more information.

Upcoming Events

- Register here:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=31F2etC5mkSFw-zCbNftGdUTtyHrASFPudSbBde1UhtUNFFZVEQwV1YxMVFPN1VIV1RGNjRQO-Tc0Uj4u>
-

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](#).

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.

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 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. 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).
1.5 hour recording of presentation here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNZbVFrQKn0>
2. A Recovery Housing grant was awarded by Dogwood Health Trust to develop a regional program. Additional grants will be sought from HUD and NC Commerce to further fund and develop the program.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Staff is researching best-practices in consideration of formation of a regional housing trust fund.
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.

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
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~~ 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 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)

- Here is the current FY24 aging-related ARPA funding for Region B:

ARPA Funding Source	Initial ARPA Allocation	FY23 Spending	FY24 Remaining
Home Delivered Meals	\$468,723	\$169,296	\$299,427
Congregate Meals	\$290,898	\$116,358	\$174,540
Supportive Services	\$691,123	\$183,263	\$507,860
Family Caregiver	\$272,833	\$63,505	\$209,328
Health Promotion	\$84,119	\$16,065	\$68,054
Ombudsman	\$16,167	\$0	\$16,167
Planning and Admin	\$266,076	\$35,430	\$230,646

Family Caregiver Support Program

- Staff updated the Caregiver Resource Directory and started distributing them throughout the region.
- Staff in collaboration with AARP will present Powerful Tools for Caregivers online. On average, there are 8 caregivers participating in each session.
- Staff co-presented with MountainCare a webinar for the series: “Helping the Helper” on the topic of Caregiver Resources to employees of Champion Credit Union. There were 24 participants in the webinar.

Foster Grandparent Program

- Currently, 32 volunteers work one-on-one with children ages infant to 8 years old. Four new volunteers are in the process of completing their criminal history checks.
- Staff is focused on recruitment efforts to build volunteer capacity with the goal to recruit ten volunteers by the end of the calendar year.
- Staff is preparing for a Technical Assistance visit from our AmeriCorps Seniors Portfolio Manager.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

- Evidence-based program offerings continue to increase with nine new A Matter of Balance coaches trained in July and several current active programs including A Matter of Balance and Walk with Ease.
- Staff partnered with AARP and Blue Ridge Pride Generation Plus to deliver the monthly segment of Rainbow Inspirations in July.
- 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 July, 79 bags of groceries were distributed to residents, and 553 "Neighbor Knock" visits were conducted.

Home and Community Care Block Grant: FY23 end of year services report:

- Adult Day Care/Health Days = 3,324
- Meals: Delivered/Congregate = 191,704
- In-home Aide Hours = 15,511
- Legal Services Hours = 2,270
- Transportation Trips = 40,800
- Home Improvement Projects = 64

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Community Inclusion (serves 37 western counties):

- Staff Completed 56 in-person facility visits (July/August). Provided training, materials and support as needed.
- Staff provided program training to Buncombe County Department of Social Services – Aging Programs. 24 Aging Programs staff attended and completed training.
- Staff provided program training to Lincoln County Department of Social Services – Aging Programs. 17 Aging Programs staff attended and completed training.

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

- The central region has a caseload of 12 older adults.
- One client is preparing to transition September 1. Three others are hoping to transition October 1 he assessments with the Program for All Inclusive Care (PACE) can be completed in time to be officially enrolled in their services and have plans of care completed. The others continue to look for affordable housing and family and friends who can provide the necessary support when in home aide services cannot be present.
- Not included in the caseload numbers, the central region had four withdrawals from the project. Two withdrew because their needs exceeded what their supports could provide, and two withdrew because they discharged from the facility before home and community services could be established.

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

- The western region has a caseload of 22.
- The western region has completed two transitions.
- Out of the 22 Money Follows the Person clients currently being served, 19 are waiting for safe, affordable housing before they can transition.

Ombudsman Program

- From April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023, the Ombudsman Program provided General Information and Advocacy to 507 people.
- The Ombudsman Program attended both the North Carolina Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman and the North Carolina Long Term Care Ombudsman Association Quarterly Meetings. Topics such as facility construction and voting rights were discussed.
- The Ombudsman Program is planning the Community Advisory Committee Retreat which will be taking place in September 2023.

Outreach and Assistance

- Staff continues to highlight important dates, events, and information on the Area Agency on Aging Facebook page. Reaching over 1,500 Facebook users each month. As well as sending out the WNC Aging Updates Newsletter twice a month reaching around 1,000 individuals.
- Staff is coordinating outreach opportunities throughout the region. Examples Asheville Newcomer Club, Bounty and Soul Food Market, MedAssist Madison County, UNETE, and many other opportunities that are coming up this fall.
- Staff have assisted with phone calls and emails asking for help with things like housing, transportation, and other aging resources.

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

- Staff has distributed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds (\$12,500 thus far) to 21 dementia caregivers in the LOS counties allowing caregivers who received these funds last fiscal year to keep their respite care services in place for a little while longer.
- Staff has distributed \$500 vouchers for respite care services using Project C.A.R.E. funds (i.e. NC funds) to 12 caregivers in 8 of the 15 counties of the Western PC region.
- Staff is traveling to caregivers' homes for enrollments again after having taken a pause from doing so during the pandemic.

Senior Companion Program

- We have launched internally our new database with AirTable. This is an interactive database that has organized our volunteers, stations, clients, and referral wait list. It has the capability to be linked to our website so that referrals can be made directly to our program, it will also allow for paperwork for our stations to be linked, and it will be able to email and contact folks. This is very exciting.
- We now have 62 active volunteers and have received 4 more recruits. We will be placing these new recruits on a wait list until the first of the year once we have had a quarter to consider our budget. We will be seeking opportunities with AmeriCorps Seniors for more funding to increase our volunteer pool.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature

- Senior Tar Heel Legislature liaison, Dee Heinmuller, met with other Area Agencies on Aging that support Senior Tar Heel Legislatures via zoom to discuss recruitment and other retention strategies for volunteers.
- The Buncombe County Delegate presented Senior Tar Heel information at a local senior center.
- The Senior Tar Heel Legislator information will be shared in August at the SE4A conference at Grove Park Inn, in concert with the topic of advocacy.

4. Administration

- Land of Sky Regional Council Summer BBQ was held on August 15 at Town of Fletcher Bill Moore Community Park. Around 350 people attended, this was our largest BBQ ever. We also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Land of Sky Area Agency on Aging at this event. We received many compliments from the community about the event, food and the fellowship. Special thanks to Western Carolina University as our presenting sponsor. This event was a team effort but appreciate the leadership of Christina Giles, Administrative Services Director, for her leadership and work to make this BBQ possible. The Town of Fletcher was a gracious host and we appreciate their Parks and Recreation staff for supporting us.
- French Broad River Tour is scheduled for September and October in each of our counties. The presenting sponsor is UNC Asheville. Special thanks to Dr. Mary Roderick, Planning Director for her work to organize these tours. There will be no cost to attend. The Madison County tour will include a float tour at Hot Springs.
- Nathan attended UNC School of Government Basics of Economic Development course in Chapel Hill.
- Nathan attended the NCARCOG Forum meeting at Tryon International Equestrian Center hosted by Foothills Commission. Erica attended the COG Directors meeting as Nathan was at the UNC SOG course in Chapel Hill.
- We will be hosting a Recovery To Work forum presented by the Development Districts Association of Appalachia (DDAA) in early October.
- The inaugural George Masa Award for Environmental Stewardship will be conferred this year. The award is a partnership between North Carolina and Tennessee development districts: Land of Sky Regional Council, High Country Council of Governments, First Tennessee Development District and East Tennessee Development District. The award will rotate among the two states with Tennessee selecting the recipient this year.
- Nathan attended the Development Districts Association of Appalachia (DDAA) board meeting in Tannersville, Pennsylvania. Nathan is the NC representative and DDAA represents the region served by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).
- Congressman Chuck Edwards held a staff meeting at the LOSRC office and Nathan was able to share about the work of the Council.
- Nathan attended the NC Workforce Credentials Advisory Council meeting in Raleigh.
- LOSRC Leadership Team held a half-day retreat about the Council's strategic plan. We appreciate Erica for leading our strategic planning process.

- NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Secretary Elizabeth Biser and her staff met with Nathan and Erica as well as Tracy Wahl, DEQ Regional Brownfields Manager at the LOSRC office.
- Nathan attended the NC Board of Science Technology and Innovation (NCBSTI) meeting in Asheville.
- LOSRC hosted a table at the Asheville Chamber WomanUp event.
- Nathan attended the NC Military Business Center meeting at AB Tech.
- Nathan and Erica attended the Asheville Regional Airport groundbreaking event on their new terminal.
- Nathan attended the WNC Communities Hall of Fame luncheon.
- Nathan attended tour of the new Mission Health Behavioral Health and Wellness Center.

5. Strategic Initiatives

- **Mountain Mobility** – Mountain Mobility finished FY23 in a strong position with passenger trips up almost 10% from FY22. This has been our strongest year since the unofficial end of the pandemic. Of those trips, most of the increases were found in our Trailblazer services. Black Mountain Trailblazer trips were up more than 68% over FY22, with Enka-Candler coming in strong at 18% higher, and North Buncombe finishing with close to FY22 totals.
- **INspire** – Land of Sky increased the scope of the reentry/recovery work in July by adding an additional service funded by VAYA Health. **Transitions to Community Living (TCL)** is a new program offered to assist people with mental health challenges who live in facilities transition back into the community with social supports. VAYA Health asked Land of Sky if we would be willing to take on this work, and Brandon Manson, INspire Program Manager, was excited to accept the challenge. We have hired four Certified Peer Supports to carry-out this important work in our region. Currently, the TCL Peer Supports are in a series of trainings and hope to begin this work in earnest in August. INspire has applied for funding for additional Peer Supports from VAYA Health and Dogwood Health Trust. Additionally, we may have an opportunity to begin contracting our Peer Support services to other entities in Western North Carolina. We supplied a proposal to Cherokee Indian Hospital to provide two Certified Peer Supports to assist their patients battling substance abuse disorder. If we are successful in this proposal, we may look at ways to sustain INspire by providing these types of contracted services to other organizations in our region.
- **GO PLACES** – The GO PLACES team has begun accepting participants on the North Carolina side of the project and is continuing to work with the Eastern Tennessee Development District to get staff in place there. Philip Cooper, original Project Director for GO PLACES, transitioned to become the full-time Executive Director of Operation Gateway in June, and Gene Ettison has taken over as Project Director. We have also hired Erika Bowman as Project Coordinator for the NC side of the project. Erika has

lived experience and comes to Land of Sky from the YWCA of Asheville. We're excited to welcome her to the team.

- **Healthy Opportunities** – The HOP staff has been very busy working with car repairs for Medicaid clients. Since the first of May, Land of Sky has provided more than \$50,000 in car repair assistance to eligible clients. This has been a needed service in our area as not many organizations have the capacity to provide this level of assistance.
- **NEMT** – Active cases 1262, Clients Utilized Services 545, Total number of trips 4,221 (this number is low as several vendors didn't submit their trips in July until August, those trips will be reflected in the August numbers)

6. Workforce

Labor Market Update

Unemployment rate in Mountain Area region was **2.9%** as of June 2023. As of June 2023, **4,724 more** people working compared to June 2022. **1,100 more** people working compared to May 2023. Unemployed Individuals by month (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties): June 2023 7,551

Total Labor Force **227,882**

Total Employed Labor Force **221,288**

As of June 2023, the Asheville metro has a record number of jobs, people working and the number of people in the labor force. Asheville metro now (as of June 2023) the lowest unemployment of any NC metro at **2.9%**. This rate is down 0.5% from the metro unemployment rate of **3.4%** of one year ago. All counties in our region have an unemployment rate lower than the statewide rate of **3.4%**. Buncombe has the #2 lowest unemployment rate of any NC county at **2.8%**, Henderson has the #3 lowest unemployment rate of any NC county at **3.0%**.

Buncombe **2.8%**

Haywood **3.1%**

Henderson **3.0%**

Madison **3.3%**

Transylvania **3.3%**

Asheville ranked #3 for monthly job growth by metro at 0.5%.

Mountain Area WDB Labor Market Overview:

[Mountain Area WDB Overview | LEAD Analytics \(ncommerce.com\)](#)

- We have received \$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. **This funding can serve dislocated workers beyond Evergreen workers.** We have \$6.5 million for the next two years through this grant. Our #1 priority is to expend these funds to benefit our region's employers and dislocated workers. Contact the MAWDB and SWDB business services staff to learn more.

- "\$19 per hour and beyond" career fair was held on Thursday, June 29 at the WNC Ag Center's Expo Building. Over 350 job seekers attended with 100+ employers participating offering more than 4,000 jobs. We ran ads in The Mountaineer, Smoky Mountain News, WPTL radio station in Canton, targeted facebook ads and ads on the Asheville Radio Group stations in an effort to attract Evergreen workers.
- Career pathways outreach project for Mountain Area Careers is underway with Amplified Media focusing on the Construction/Skilled Trades and Tech/IT sectors.
- We are far above the 20% federal mandate for work experience expenditures in our youth programs for PY22-23 at 268% of the goal. This performance was the highest in NC. Our board has failed to meet this threshold for the past two years although we have been very close to 20%. We appreciate the hard work of our board staff and youth contractors to exceed the 20% WEX mandate.
- We are working with the NC Department of Commerce on the Fierce Fellows program to support former offenders.
- Southwestern WDB OJT staff will be working in our region to support employers who are hiring dislocated workers.
- We will be working with Asheville Chamber to support MFG Day.
- WNC Career Expo is scheduled for October 25 at the WNC Ag Center..
- We are evaluating a regional talent analysis focused on engineering and perhaps other occupations/sectors as follow-up to last year's WNC Talent.
- We are working to set up a career fair in early September with possible locations at Asheville Outlets or Biltmore Church. The goal is to locate the career fair as close as possible to Haywood County.
- Engaged with Explore Asheville regarding Leisure & Hospitality workforce development task force
- We are in discussions about a follow-up to last year's WNC Talent labor market study with special focus on engineering and other high tech/innovation occupations