



LAND of SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Who We Are





Creative Regional Solutions

Who We Are:

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

Our Mission:

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

What We Offer:

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

- Economic & Community Development
- Mountain Area Workforce Development & P20 Council
- Transportation Resource Center
- Area Agency on Aging
- Client Services
- Regional Transportation Planning

Our Commitment:

- We will treat all people with dignity, respect and compassion to foster a trusting and supportive working environment
- We will be honest, open and clear in our communication with our co-workers, member governments, funders, clients and our region
- We will respect diversity of opinion
- We are committed to a culture of personal responsibility with an appreciation for risk taking
- We will hold ourselves accountable to our co-workers, member governments, funders, clients and our region
- We will develop and implement policies and procedures that are fair, consistent and equitable.

Contact:

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



Nathan Ramsey
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Erica Anderson
Deputy Executive Director
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Creative Regional Solutions

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

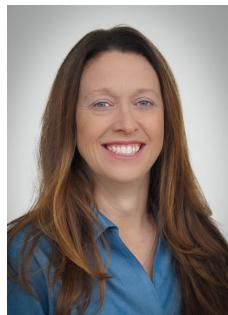
Broadband:	Supports and administers programs and initiatives	Contact: Sara Nichols
Community Services:	Land Use, Parks & Recreation, Contracting Services, Zoning, and Asset Inventory	Contact: Mary Roderick
Economic Development:	Supports and staffs various economic development efforts to carry out the mission as the region's Lead Economic Development Organization as designated by the Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission.	Contact: Erica Anderson
Energy & Environment:	Supports and administers programs and initiatives for energy and environment. Projects include, but are not limited to, Clean Vehicles Coalition and Clean Air Campaign.	Contact: Sara Nichols
Foreign Trade Zone:	Supports approved businesses to lower / eliminate / defer duties and provide benefits to companies operating in the U.S.	Contact: Erica Anderson
French Broad River MPO:	French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – responsible for carrying out continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive multi-modal transportation planning in the Asheville Urbanized Area which includes portions of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison counties.	Contact: Tristan Winkler
GIS & Technical Services:	Supports internal programs and local governments – includes map production, GIS training, transportation mapping, data management, and demographic analysis.	Contact: Nicole Samu

Housing:	Works directly with local governments, non-profits, and developers to enhance housing availability, and access in the region.	Contact: Paul Moon
Infrastructure:	Supports and administers community infrastructure and local development initiatives such as water, wastewater, and access roads.	Contact: Erica Anderson
Land Use:	Provides technical assistance and contract services for projects such as land use plans, small area plans, ordinance revisions, and community visioning, and zoning and code administrators	Contact: Mary Roderick
Land of Sky RPO:	Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO) – a voluntary organization of local governments working cooperatively with the NC Department of Transportation and local officials to enhance transportation planning opportunities for rural areas in Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, and Transylvania counties	Contact: Vicki Eastland
Regional Brownfield Initiative:	Provides local governments, non-profits, and private developers with economic development technical assistance and grant writing services to assess and remediate underused, abandoned or vacant properties which have not been redeveloped due to real or perceived contamination.	Contact: Erica Anderson
Waste Reduction Partners:	A team of retired engineers who assist businesses and institutions with waste, water, and energy reduction assessments and utility cost-saving strategies.	Contact: Jan Hardin

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



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Economic & Community Development Staff



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Economic & Community Development Staff



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Regional Transportation Planning Staff



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Waste Reduction Partners Staff



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Developing a Proficient Workforce

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

Employers:

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

Contact: Barbara Darby

Job Seekers:

NC Works Career Centers assist job seekers in every step of the job search process. They provide a number of services and referrals at no charge to help you find a job.

Contact: Barbara Darby

Youth:

The WIOA Youth Program, NEXTGEN, provides training and development services to eligible individuals ages 16-24. The major focus of the program is to connect in-school and out-of-school youth to career readiness, career guidance, remediation, community resources and employment and training opportunities.

Contact: Brandon Priester

Contact:

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



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Barbara Darby
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Mountain Area Workforce Development Board Staff



Brandon Priester

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Melissa Wright

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Fill the 10K Workforce Gap by 2030

The Land of Sky P20 Council fosters collaboration among employers, educators, and community members in the spirit of enduring economic prosperity, through the alignment of innovative cradle-to-career skills and resources that lead to life-sustaining job opportunities in our four county region of western North Carolina.

P20 Council Staff



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Katlen Smith

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Providing Transportation Options

Land of Sky's Transportation Resource Center handles the administration of Mountain Mobility and Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation for Buncombe County. Mountain Mobility provides transportation services to clients of human service agencies, local governments, and qualified citizens. NEMT provides transportation services for qualified clients.

Mountain Mobility:

Through a contract with Buncombe County, Land of Sky manages the administrative functions of Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County's community public transportation system. Mountain Mobility provides transportation services to clients of human service agencies, local governments, and qualified citizens who reside in the Buncombe County service area.

Contact: Vicki Jennings

Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation:

When a Medicaid beneficiary has access to a suitable mode of transportation, but lacks the means to use it, the county must assist with the means through gas vouchers, mileage reimbursement, etc. or when the beneficiary lacks both means and mode, the county is responsible for arranging transportation at a cost within allowable Medicaid regulations.

Contact: Glenda Brown

Land of Sky's Transportation Resource Center has collaborated with Buncombe County DHHS to arrange and approve Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) to Medicaid beneficiaries in Buncombe County for their necessary health care needs.

Contact:

For questions and inquiries about our Transportation Resource Center menu of services, please contact:



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Transportation Resource Center Staff



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Buffey Smith
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Aging in Place

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

Long Term Care Ombudsmen:

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

Contact: Cori Search
Donna Thomason
Donna Case

Family Caregiver Support Program:

Provides information, assistance and support to family members and friends who are caring for a frail elderly person or someone with Alzheimer's disease or another type of dementia. Grandparents and older relatives age 55 and older who are raising a child are also eligible for assistance. Counseling, support groups, education, and respite are also offered.

Contact: Edward Jones

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

Assists caregivers of people with dementia by providing information, assistance and referral services as well as care consultation and respite funding to eligible caregivers.

Contact: Nancy Hogan

Foster Grandparent Program:

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

Contact: Stacy Friesland

Senior Companion Program:

Provides opportunities for seniors age 55+ to make a difference in their communities. Volunteers provide support services to older persons aging in place including transportation, socialization, and respite.

Contact: Dee Heinmuller & Kelly Morgan

Health Promotion & Disease Prevention:

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

Contact: Brea Kuykendall

Senior Tar Heel Legislature:

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

Contact: LeeAnne Tucker

Home & Community Care Block Grant:

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

Contact: Zack Schmitt

Contact:

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



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Area Agency on Aging Staff



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Donna Case

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Connecting People to Resources

Land of Sky's Client Services was developed ...

INspire: Recovery to Careers

Provides community-based peer support services for people reentering the workforce after being discharged from treatment or released from prison. This program covers the 11 most western counties in North Carolina.

Contact: Brandon Manson
Dillon Moss

GO PLACES

Growth Opportunities: Peer Leaders Activating the Community for Employment Success - Introduces and prepares youth and young adults ages 18-24 for the world of work through placement into paid work experiences and on a path to more equitable career opportunities with their peers. This program is focused on three priority regions: Asheville, NC; Cocke County, TN; and Knoxville, TN.

Contact: Gene Ettison

Contact:

For questions and inquiries about our Client Services, please contact:



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ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Creative Regional Solutions

Administrative Services:

Provides administrative support to all internal programs and LOS staff.

Contact: Christina Giles

Communications and Website:

Responsible for web design and coordination of LOSRC branding.

Contact: Christina Giles

Board of Delegates:

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

Contact: Asha Rado

Finance:

Performs accounting and finance functions for LOS staff and Council.

Contact: Mike Blount

Strategic Initiatives:

Coming Soon

Contact: Vicki Jennings

Contact:

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



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Administration and Finance Staff



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Phyllis Utley

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LOS Acronyms

AAA Area Agency on Aging
C.A.R.E. Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty
ECD Economic & Community Development
FBRMPO French Broad River MPO
FCSP Family Caregiver Support Program
FGP Foster Grandparent Program
GIS Geographic Information Systems
HCCBG Home and Community Care Block Grant
HPDP Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
LTC Long Term Care
MAWD Mountain Area Workforce Development

MFP Money Follows the Person
MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization
NCDEQ NC Department of Environmental Quality
NEMT Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation
RBI Regional Brownfields Initiative
RIDE Ridership Independence for the Disabled
RPO Rural Planning Organization
SCP Senior Companion Program
STHL Senior Tar Heel Legislature
WIA Workforce Investment Act
WRP Waste Reduction Partners



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