

## Southwestern Commission (Region A)

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## Land-of-Sky Regional Commission (Region B)

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## Western Piedmont Council of Governments (Region E)

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## Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (Region K)

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## Region M Council of Governments (Region M)

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## Lumber River Council of Governments (Region N)

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## Mid-East Commission (Region Q)

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## Top Regional Priorities for 2007

### > Funding for Regional Planning Services:

Increase state funding for the 17 Regional Councils to carry out community and economic development activities for local governments.

The objective for 2006-07 is to increase funding to \$100,000 per region, or \$1.7 million.

### > Funding to Assist Tier One Counties

Seek new funding for Regional Councils to provide technical assistance to local governments in Tier 1 counties.

Regional Councils seek \$800,000, or \$20,000 for each of the 40 Tier 1 counties, to carry out local and regional economic development strategies to foster job growth in North Carolina's most distressed areas.

### > Funding for Regional Water Resource Management

Seek funding for Regional Councils to develop and implement multi-jurisdictional water resource management planning and programs in every region through the cooperation of local governments, water users, and other stakeholders.

Regional Councils will seek an appropriation of \$1.4 million in the 2007 Session. Regional Councils will work in partnership with DENR and other agencies to secure this funding and will support other legislation that fosters regional planning for water, sewer and storm water infrastructure.

### > Water Quality/Supply and Infrastructure:

Support funding from a dedicated funding source, legislative appropriation, and/or bond funds to improve infrastructure and enable local governments to meet increasingly stringent water quality and storm water requirements.



"North Carolina's Councils of Government are an invaluable resource to local governments across our state. Their work on important initiatives such as economic development, land use planning and regional collaboration is critical to strengthening North Carolina's economy and making our state an even better place to live."

— U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole



### > Helping Meet Aging Citizen's Needs

Regional Councils' Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) coordinate and advocate for consumers and their caregivers for a comprehensive system of care to maintain dignity and independence. Their programs include Long Term Care Ombudsman, Family Caregiver Support Program; and support for programs like the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature and enrollment of North Carolinians in the Medicare Part D program.



### For additional information, contact:

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# NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL COUNCILS

## Building Regional Solutions for Local Governments



North Carolina's Regional Councils of Governments are highly successful in leveraging the state appropriations they receive each year into an impressive level of state and federal grants that benefit citizens across the state.

In recent years, the Councils have used the \$832,150 received in state appropriations to obtain more than \$44 million in state and federal grants, a Return on Investment of approximately \$52 for every dollar spent.



### Delivering Results to Local Governments

Authorized by the General Assembly in 1969, North Carolina's Regional Councils bring counties, towns and cities together to address common concerns on a regional basis. Regional Councils serve local governments in all regions of the state as multi-county planning and development agencies.

Some are formally organized as Councils of Governments (COGs) and others as Regional Planning and Development Commissions. But all of North Carolina's 17 Regional Councils deliver results to local governments and their citizens that no other agency can provide.



### Regional Councils provide comprehensive services to the State and to local governments, benefiting North Carolina and its citizens by:

- Helping local governments confront economic and environmental challenges;
- Providing effective regional action on issues bigger than any single government can address on its own;
- Planning and coordinating state and federal programs, projects and grants;
- Securing funds for sound economic and community development;
- Promoting intergovernmental cooperation on a regional basis, among local governments and between state, federal and local governments;
- Assisting local governments in meeting state and federal regulations.

### Meeting Common Needs on a Regional Scale

North Carolina's Regional Councils have a proven track record of bringing local governments together to deal with economic growth and other common needs on a regional scale. As local governments' needs have expanded, especially in economically distressed counties and in growth areas on the fringes of major cities, Regional Councils play an even more valuable role in bridging the gaps between rural and urban areas.



Regional approaches are essential for economic development; they hold the most promise for making regions competitive and for improving infrastructure systems that support business expansion and job creation. Smaller local governments, however, lack the

resources to deal with many community and economic development issues on their own. Large scale projects, moreover, require regional cooperation among many local partners. This is where Regional Councils serve the greatest needs.

### Coordinating Funding and Assistance

Each year, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriates funds to Regional Councils "to assist local governments in grant applications, economic development, community development, support of local industrial development activities, and other activities as deemed appropriate by the member governments."



North Carolina Regional Councils Federal Grant Relationships						
Region	Name	EDA	ARC	EPA	HUD	Labor-Workforce
A	Southwestern Commission	X	X		X	X
B	Land of Sky Regional Council	X	X	X	X	
C	Isothermal Planning and Development Commission		X		X	X
D	High Country COG	X	X		X	X
E	Western Piedmont COG	X	X	X	X	X
F	Centralina COG	X		X	X	X
G	Piedmont Triad COG			X		
I	NW Piedmont COG	X	X		X	X
J	Triangle J COG			X		
K	Kerr-Tar COG	X			X	X
L	Upper Coastal Plain COG	X			X	X
M	Mid-Carolina COG			X		X
N	Lumber River COG				X	X
O	Cape Fear COG	X			X	X
P	Eastern Carolina Council	X				
Q	Mid-East Commission	X			X	X
R	Albemarle Commission	X			X	X
Subtotal		12	6	6	13	13

### Boosting Regional Competitiveness

With governing boards made up of local elected officials, Regional Councils know their regions' local governments and their economic development needs. The Councils do not compete or conflict with Regional Economic Development Partnerships, whose main role is marketing and recruiting major industry. Regional Councils help boost regional competitiveness by assisting local governments with economic development strategies, infrastructure, workforce, rural transportation and other quality of life improvements.

- Twelve Regional Councils are designated by the federal Economic Development Administration to prepare comprehensive regional economic development strategies. Last year alone, these Regional Councils brought \$10 million in EDA funds to North Carolina.
- Thirteen Regional Councils provide Workforce Development services in their regions. Most recently Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments developed a system to recruit and screen people applying for jobs with Dell in Forsyth County. Two years ago Centralina Council of Governments helped mobilize services for laid-off workers when Pillowtex closed.

Regional Councils have extensive experience soliciting and receiving grants from many sources, including EDA, HUD, the NC Commerce Department, EPA, NC Rural Center, foundations and other funding sources. They keep up with application processes, deadlines and changing federal and state criteria. In short, they know where the money is and how to get it.

### Helping Distressed Rural Counties

Regional Councils also are in an ideal position to help local managers, mayors and commissions implement projects that could change conditions, build momentum and restore hope in distressed areas.

Many economically distressed – or Tier 1 -- counties have strategic plans and recommendations that they have been unable to move forward, often because local government managers and staff cannot devote the time needed to organize allies and pursue funding. North Carolina's Regional Councils have a strong track record of securing grants and packaging financial support for local government and multi-jurisdictional projects in their regions.

### Regional Solutions for Water Quality

North Carolina's Regional Councils provide local governments in every part of the state with regional means to address vital water quality issues that stretch beyond any one local government's capabilities or boundaries.

Safe and reliable water is critical to every community's economic development potential, as well as serving existing citizens and businesses. Almost all water supply and quality issues cross local boundaries, calling for regional cooperation and coordination to assure that water will remain available. Working in concert with DENR, Regional Councils bring local governments together to address critical infrastructure needs at a regional scale.



Regional Councils are in a unique position to help local governments deal collectively with water resource issues, identifying solutions that are tailored to conditions and water needs in each region, especially those struggling to meet infrastructure and environmental challenges. Our services include:

- organizing multi-jurisdictional coalitions to manage water resources within river basins and major aquifers, involving public utility providers and major water users
- facilitating connections between public utility systems and other alliances between water providers to achieve system efficiencies
- assisting local governments with developing regional drought response plans and regional arrangements to prevent water crises
- implementing multi-jurisdictional strategies to reduce water pollution, protect watersheds and restore degraded streams and wetlands.