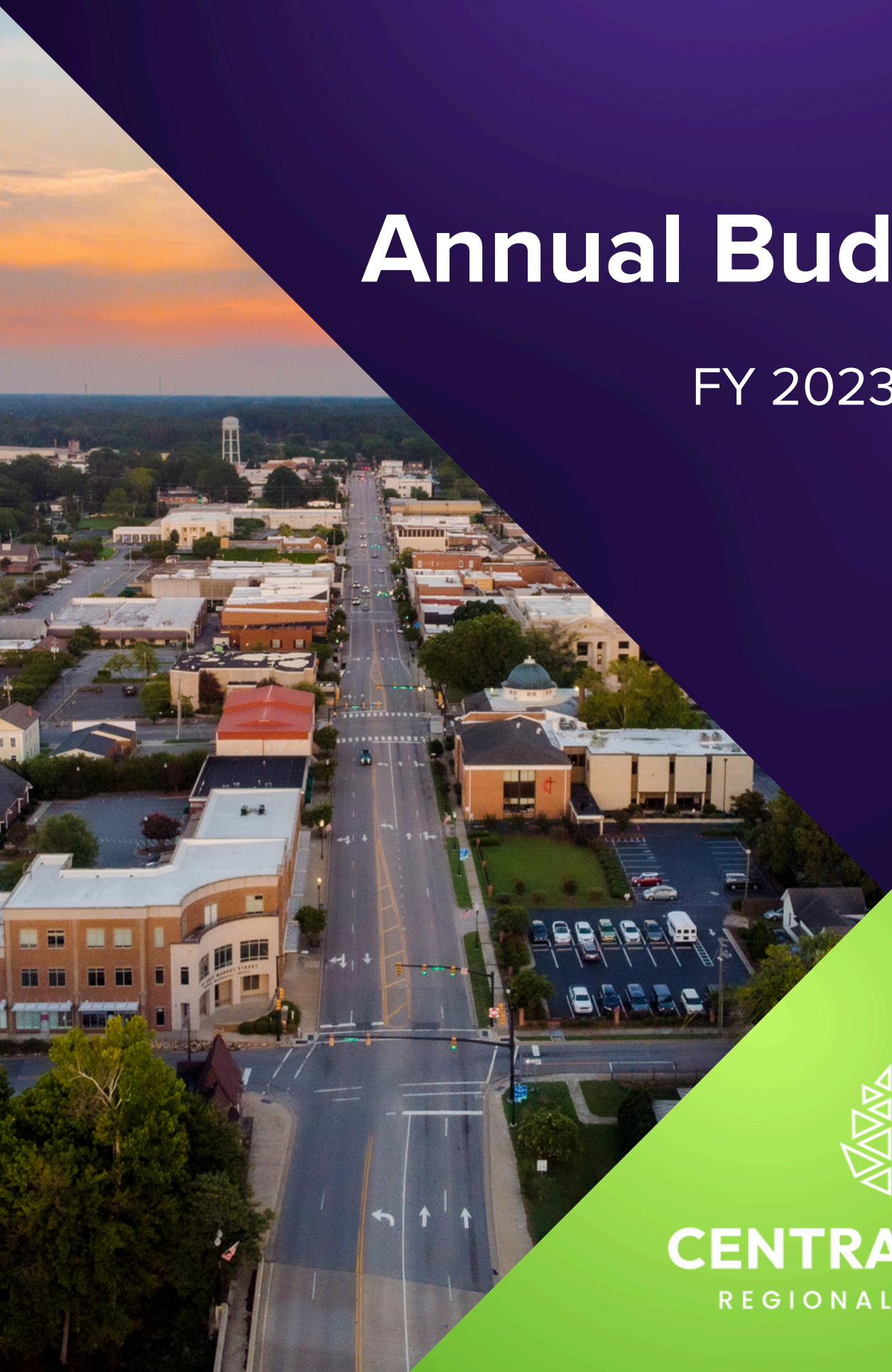


Annual Budget

FY 2023-2024

CENTRAL PINES
REGIONAL COUNCIL

A Year of Transition

Lee Worsley, Executive Director

I am pleased to submit my recommended Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, as our Charter requires. The year ahead will be one of transition for our organization as we continue to evolve to meet the needs of the region, reflected through many exciting changes, including:

Welcoming the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) to Triangle J on July 1, 2023. All eleven DCHC employees will become TJCOG employees, bringing our total number of employees close to 60. DCHC will remain policy independent and report to the DCHC Policy Board. This is important since there are two MPOs in our region and we serve both MPOs in other ways.

We are poised to kick off renovation and construction of our new and improved offices at 4307 Emperor Boulevard. We will increase our footprint from roughly 9,500 square feet to 21,000 square feet. The centerpiece will be an expanded meeting space that can accommodate over 100 people, enabling us to become the "Central" hub for local governments and stakeholders to convene and collaborate.

TJCOG will roll out a new brand, including a new name, logo, and style for the organization. You can see hints of the new brand in this budget message!

During Fiscal Year 2023-2024 we will build upon the Grant Assistance program's early successes in 2022-23 on behalf of fifteen member governments. The team reviewed 400+ funding opportunities, submitted 60 grant applications totaling $13M+, and received $3.03M in funding, and will administer $1.6M of awarded grants to mitigate local capacity concerns.

Our technical assistance to local government members continues. This includes intensive engagement in the Town of Micro (Johnston County) as they work through a Fiscal Accountability Agreement with the State Local Government Commission.

We have begun discussing the need for a Regional Vision & Strategy - our Connected Region Plan. We have received broad-based support for moving forward with this important planning process. I will discuss this more with the Board of Delegates during my budget presentation on April 20.

To a great year ahead,

The Budget

The recommended budget for TJCOG for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is $40,443,100. The budget reflects continued alignment between our budget and strategic focus areas, and a need for robust investment in our operations to maintain services to our local governments.

Member Investments

This year, member investments (dues) from local governments are recommended to increase from $0.39 to $0.41 per capita. This is the first dues increase in over 20 years. Additionally, the threshold for dues to decrease to $0.20 per capita is recommended to increase from 150,000 to 200,000. Member investments are calculated by the population of municipal members and the unincorporated population of county members.

Indirect Rate

TJCOG receives funding for our administrative functions through an indirect rate calculated on each program's salaries and fringe benefit costs. The indirect rate allows each program to pay its fair share of administrative costs and reduces the burden placed on flexible funds, such as member investments, that are essential for our proactive work.

The recommended indirect cost rate for 2023-2024 is 53.7071%. This is the first increase in our indirect rate percentage in 8 years, due primarily to the required furnishings and technology needed for our newly renovated space, as well as the need to replace our financial system. It is anticipated that this will be a one-year spike in the indirect rate and the 2024-2025 indirect rate will reduce to be comparable to recent years.

Budget Timeline

April 14, 2023

- TJCOG Board of Delegates, member governments, and TJCOG staff receive the recommended budget
- Budget is published on TJCOG website for review and public comment

April 20, 2023

- Presentation to TJCOG Board of Delegates & Public Hearing

Early May

- Budget meeting with TJCOG Board Officers

May 25, 2023

- Consideration of Recommended Budget Adoption

FY 2023-2024

Recommended Budget

Revenues by Source:

Federal	$6,572,219
Federal Pass Thru	$15,773,982
State	$1,600,010
Member Investment	$781,646
Special Local Dues	$997,560
Local Aging Share	$253,953
Project Income	$13,999,242
Assigned Fund Balance	$452,489
Other Revenue	$12,000
General Fund Total Revenues	$40,443,100

Expenditures by Division:

General Government	$193,773
Member Support & Strategy	$13,307,878
Transportation	$3,126,870
Durham MPO	$2,632,310
Community & Economic Development	$820,530
Housing	$1,982,967
Environment & Resilience	$2,345,004
Aging & Human Services	$16,033,768
General Fund Total Expenditures	$40,443,100

Recruitment & Retention

TJCOG continues to work to mitigate a tight job market for public sector employees and significant pressure on public sector salaries. Thanks to the Board of Delegates' support, we can continue providing attractive benefits. The recommended budget includes the following adjustments to salaries:

- A 3% market adjustment for all employees, effective at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023-24. The adjustment will also shift minimum salaries up by 3% for all positions in the Pay and Classification Plan.
- A 3% merit increase opportunity for employees not in a probationary period and in their position for at least one year. The 3% merit award is determined by supervisors and is based on the employee meeting expectations on their work plan. Merit increases are effective at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023-24.

The recommended budget includes 4 full-time new positions and 11 new MPO positions:

- A full-time Planner I to assist with Safe Routes to School Grant award
- An Accounting Technician II/HR Technician and Contracts/Procurement Specialist to assist with increased administrative requirements from DCHC transition and continued merger of finance operations with Mid Carolina Regional Council
- A UNC School of Government NC LEAD Fellow to assist the Town of Micro full time. The position will be reimbursed by the Town.
- 11 new MPO positions will transfer from the City of Durham to TJCOG. One staff member from the Transportation Focus Area will transfer to DCHC.
- The budget does not include the position at this point in time, but adding a full-time Principal Planner will be discussed with the Board on April 20. This position is needed to manage the Connected Region effort.
- With the additions and the one transfer, there is a proposed net increase of 14 new positions in the recommended budget. That will move to 15 new positions if the Principal Planner is added.

Our Board

TJCOG's Board of Delegates includes one elected official from each member county and municipality served by the organization. The full board sets policy, guides programming, and discusses regional challenges for TJCOG. TJCOG's Executive Committee includes all seven county delegates and one municipal representative from each county. The Executive Committee conducts business for the organization in months when the Board of Delegates does not meet.

Chair: DeDreana Freeman, City of Durham
1st Vice-Chair: Ken Marshburn, Town of Garner
2nd Vice-Chair: Wilma Laney, Town of Aberdeen
Secretary/Treasurer: Butch Lawtner, Johnston County

Aberdeen: Wilma Laney, Teressa Beavers (A)
Angier: Bob Smith
Apex: Brett Gantt
Archer Lodge: Mark Wilson, Mark Johnson (A)
Benson: Jerry Medlin, Cassandra Stack (A)
Broadway: Tommy Beal, Donald Andrews (A)
Cameron: David Seiberling
Carrboro: Randee Haven-O'Donnell
Carthage: Dan Bonillo
Cary: Jennifer Robinson, Lori Bush (A)
Chapel Hill: Michael Parker
Chatham County: Mike Dasher
Clayton: Jason Thompson
Durham County: Heidi Carter, Nida Allam (A)
Durham: DeDreana Freeman, Javiera Caballero (A)
Fuquay-Varina: Larry Smith, Jason Wunsch (A)
Garner: Ken Marshburn
Goldston: Vacant
Hillsborough: Kathleen Ferguson, Matt Hughes (A)
Holly Springs: Timothy Forrest, Aaron Wolff (A)
Johnston County: Butch Lawter
Kenly: Trinity Henderson
Knightdale: Jessica Day, Latatious Morris (A)
Lee County: Bill Carver
Micro: Vacant
Moore County: Frank Quis
Morrisville: Satish Garimella, Steve Rao (A)
Orange County: Earl McGee, Jean Hamilton (A)
Pine Level: Jeff Holt, Greg Baker (A)
Pinehurst: Jeff Morgan, Jane Hogeman (A)
Pittsboro: Pamela Baldwin, John Bonitz (A)
Princeton: Donald Rains
Raleigh: Jane Harrison
Robbins: Vacant, Nikki Bradshaw (A)
Rolesville: Ronnie Currin, Michelle Medley (A)
Sanford: Rebecca Salmon
Selma: Byron McAllister, Amy West Whitley (A)
Siler City: Bill Haiges, Lewis Fadely (A)
Smithfield: Andy Moore, John Dunn (A)
Southern Pines: Carol Haney, Bill Pate (A)
Vass: Al Mosley
Wake County: Susan Evans, Shinica Thomas (A)
Wake Forest: Chad Sary, Vivian Jones (A)
Wendell: Joe Deloach, Deans Eatman (A)
Whispering Pines: Linda Vandercook, Alexa Roberts (A)
Wilson's Mills: David McGowan
Zebulon: Larry Loucks, Beverly Clark (A)

A = Alternate

Our Work

Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) is a resource and support hub for local governments, community members, and partners across Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, and Wake counties. We are a member-driven organization that connects communities and enhances their strategic priority outcomes through regional policy, collaboration, and technical assistance at the local, regional, and state level.

Vision

The premier regional organization that addresses the needs of members by leading work focused on comprehensive, innovative, timely, and reliable solutions for the region.

Mission Statement

Triangle J COG is a member-driven organization serving as a leading resource to connect communities and enhance their strategic priority outcomes through regional policy, collaboration, and technical assistance at the local, regional, and state level.

Organizational Principles

- Service to Our Members
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Thought Leadership
- Strategic Alignment

Learn more about our Strategic Plan here.

Aging & Human Services

Staff

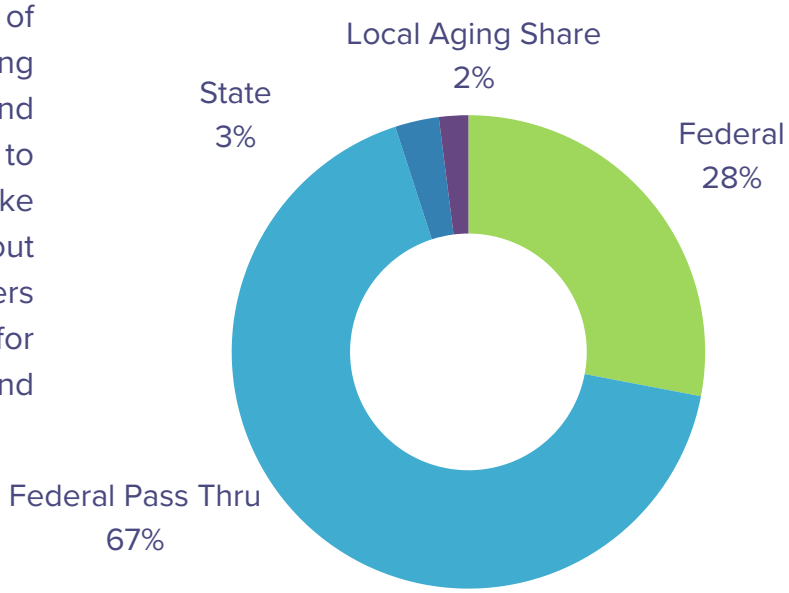
Mary Warren, Area Agency on Aging Director
Jenisha Henneghan, Area Agency on Aging Assistant Director
Autumn Cox, Regional Ombudsman
Aimee Kepler, Regional Ombudsman
Jennifer Link, Regional Ombudsman
Carolyn Pennington, Regional Ombudsman
Angela Woodard, Regional Ombudsman
Ashley Price, Aging Program Coordinator II
Kristen Jackson, Aging Program Coordinator
John DeNasha, Aging Program Specialist
Blake Matthews, Aging Program Specialist
Jacqlyn Holeman, Aging Program Associate
Ellison Jones, Family Caregiver Program Coordinator
Kris O'Keefe, Community Resource Connections - Chatham/Orange

Overview

A seamless network of information and supports is critical for the wellbeing of our region's rapidly growing older adult population. The Triangle J Council of Governments' Area Agency on Aging (TJAAA) administers funding and programs that connect older adults to resources, assists partners to make holistic and strategic decisions about aging services, and helps members design communities that are livable for community members of all ages and support aging in communities.

TOTAL FOCUS AREA BUDGET

$16,033,768



Aging & Human Services

The Year Ahead

TJAAA continues to utilize the American Rescue Plan funding and other special COVID-19 funding to assist the aging network and the older adults they serve with pandemic recovery. Enhancing long-term services and supports for vulnerable older adults, promoting awareness and prevention of elder abuse, and addressing social isolation are at the top of the AAA's priority list. Additionally, staff continue to administer the Older American's Act service funding, which includes providing reimbursement for services provided, reporting to the state and federal government, education and information, and technical assistance to its service network.

Aging & Human Services Focus Area projects included in the recommended budget:

Planning & Administration

Funding for the implementation of the Area Plan for Aging & Human Services and for the operational needs of the AAA in providing information brokerage, funds administration and quality assurance, and advocacy.
FTE Total: 4.63
Budget: $643,996

Family Caregiver Support Program

The TJAAA encourages the development of resources and services at the local level to support family caregivers of aging adults and persons with disabilities and provides administrative oversight and technical assistance on the use of the National Family Caregiver Support Program funds for education, resource information, support groups, counseling, outreach, and supplemental services.
FTE Total: .98
Budget: $753,083

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates for residents in nursing homes, adult care homes, and family care homes by investigating concerns from residents and family members related to care and treatment and assists residents in exercising their rights.
FTE Total: 3.8
Budget: $561,553

Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention

The TJAAA provides public education and outreach to raise awareness and to help identify and prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults and those with disabilities.
FTE Total: .1
Budget: $22,685

Aging & Human Services

Aging & Human Services Focus Area projects included in the recommended budget:

Home & Community Care Block Grant

Funding for direct services to eligible adults, aged 60 and older. Services are provided in accordance with the requirements of the federal Older Americans Act and the standards set forth by the NC Division of Aging & Adult Services. Examples include senior center services, in-home services, congregate and home-delivered meals, and transportation.
Budget: $9,756,104

Fans/Heat Relief

Energy companies provide box fans, on a limited basis, room air conditioners, to aging adults lacking sufficient home cooling.
Budget: $17,360

Local Contact Agency

The TJAAA provides assessment for eligibility for Money Follows the Person, a Medicaid waiver program that assists qualifying adults to transition from skilled nursing care to community living.
FTE Total: .06
Budget: $5,224

Legal Services Assistance

Funding provides for legal assistance services to adults, age 60 and older, especially for those who are institutionalized or medically fragile, low-income, rural, non-English speaking, or unable to leave their homes to receive services.
Budget: $49,585

Health Promotion/Disease Prevention

Funding for evidence-based programs addressing health promotion and disease prevention that have been proven to benefit aging adults by reducing injuries from falls, helping manage chronic conditions, and reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
FTE Total: .12
Budget: $123,476

Senior Center General Purpose

Senior Center General Purpose funding is provided to senior centers designated by the NC Division of Aging & Adult Services (NCDAAS) as meeting the requirements of a Multi-Purpose Senior Center. Funds may be used for personnel costs, building and maintenance, supplies, outreach, or education.
Budget: $156,830

Aging & Human Services

Aging & Human Services Focus Area projects included in the recommended budget:

MIPPA VI

The Medicare Improvements for Patient and Providers Act (MIPPA) makes grant funds available for targeted outreach to assist qualifying low-income individuals pay for Medicare premiums or prescription drug plan costs by providing targeted outreach.
FTE Total: .12
Budget: $95,551

ARP Planning & Administration

American Rescue Plan funding for the implementation of the Area Plan for Aging & Human Services and for the operational and capacity-building needs of the AAA..
FTE Total: 3.04
Budget: $466,708

Veteran Directed Home & Community Services

"My Care, My Choice" is a consumer-directed program, administered by the NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NC4A). The program serves adult veterans who are at risk for institutional placement by allowing the veteran to become the employer and to hire his or her own caretakers.
FTE Total: .04
Budget: $105,748

Aging & Human Services

Aging & Human Services Focus Area projects included in the recommended budget:

ARP Access, In-Home, Supportive Services (III-B)

American Rescue Plan funding to enhance capacity and infrastructure for Home & Community Care Block Grant-funded service provision and to pilot non-traditional services.
Budget: $1,287,927

ARP Family Caregiver Support

American Rescue Plan funding to enhance capacity and infrastructure for services and support of family caregivers.
Budget: $419,950

Consumer-Directed In-Home

Provides consumer-directed in-home aide services in Chatham and Johnston Counties by allowing the older adult to become the employer and to hire his or her own caretakers.
FTE Total: .08
Budget: $107,093

ARP Health Promotion (III-D)

American Rescue Plan funding to enhance capacity and infrastructure for select evidence-based health promotion programs.
FTE Total: .9
Budget: $179,288

ARP Nutrition (III-C)

American Rescue Plan funding to enhance capacity and infrastructure for congregate and home-delivered meals and provide supplemental food.
Budget: $933,965

ARP LTC Ombudsman

American Rescue Plan funding to enhance capacity and infrastructure for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.
Budget: $39,112

HDC5 Nutrition Services

Provides additional congregate and home-delivered or supplemental meals through September 30, 2024 for those age 60 and older with nutritional needs.
Budget: $7,004

Community & Economic Development

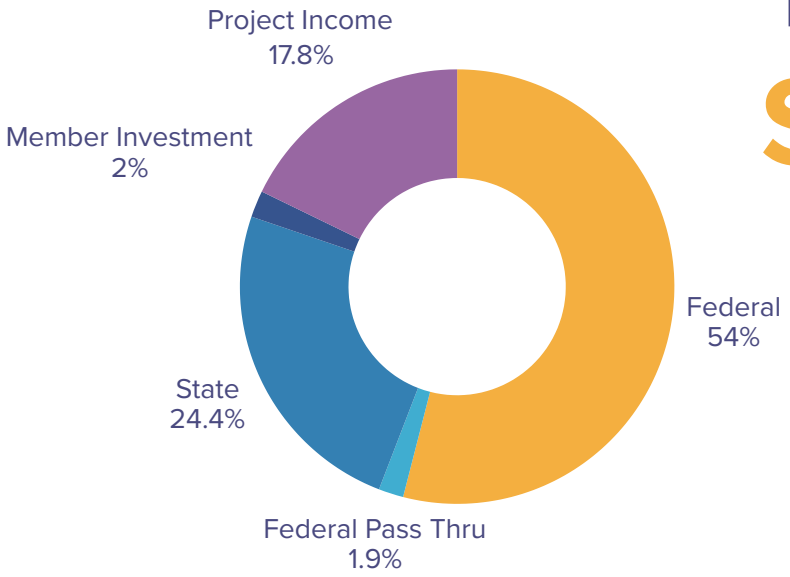
TJCOG's economic development program facilitates coordinated regional projects and builds capacity for local economic development activities that attract investment in large, small, urban, suburban, and rural communities. Through the implementation of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Strength in Numbers, TJCOG also develops and monitors a sustainable regional vision for development.

Staff

Lindsay Whitson, Community & Economic Development Director
Alex Halloway, Planner II

Highlights in the Coming Year

Community & Economic Development staff are administering a recently awarded EPA Brownfields grant in the amount of $500,000, to support Phase I and Phase II assessments in Fuquay-Varina and Wake Forest. These assessments can lead to clean up efforts, alleviating relevant soil, air, and water contaminants, while fostering redevelopment and economic activity. A new partnership with North Carolina Biotechnology Center will support their Ambassador Program which aims to create opportunity for historically excluded populations to gain access to careers in life sciences. This effort is funded by an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build Back Better award.



Focus Area Budget

$820,530

New Program Income

$32,672

Community & Economic Development

Community & Economic Development projects included in the recommended budget:

Foreign Trade Zone

The Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) #93 program allows companies importing and exporting products to reduce or delay custom duties or taxes on products received within the zone and increases international trade in the region.
FTE Total: .52
Budget: $70,925

CORE

Programming and convenings for elected officials, staff and regional partners along the Wake & Durham border to improve coordination of development, infrastructure, and green space.
FTE Total: .33
Budget: $58,928

Haw River Specialist

Administering an EDA Travel, Tourism, & Outdoor Recreation grant award to create more prosperous and resilient trail towns along the Haw River and develop a corridor feasibility study and economic impact analysis.
FTE Total: .07
Budget: $139,317

Economic Development District

Through a designation by US Economic Development Administration, staff work to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) through partnerships and grant funding.
FTE Total: .34
Budget: $85,735

Community & Economic Development Strategy & Technical Assistance

Providing technical assistance on an as-needed basis, building/strengthening partnerships, and bolstering TJCOG's Community & Economic Development Focus Area.
FTE Total: .15
Member Dues: Yes
Budget: $24,905

ESHPF Addor Community School

Administration of an Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF) grant award to rehabilitate the Addor Community School, located in Pinebluff.
FTE Total: .05
Budget: $8,611

Community & Economic Development

Community & Economic Development projects included in the recommended budget:

ESHPF Lee County

Administration of an Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF) grant award to rehabilitate the Historic Lee County Courthouse, located in Sanford.
FTE Total: .05
Budget: $8,611

Tri-COG FEEDS

In partnership with Upper Coastal Plain COG (lead applicant) and Kerr-Tar COG, this project aims to address agriculture supply chain gaps and strengthen the purchasing power of rural farmers.
FTE Total: .1
Budget: $12,783

EPA Brownfields

Administration funding awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to conduct Phase I and Phase II assessments in Fuquay-Varina and Wake Forest.
FTE Total: .07
Budget: $218,066

Morrisville Small Business Grant*

Administration of funds from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide micro-grants to small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
FTE Total: .02
Budget: $2,433

ESHPF Princeton Grade School

Administration of an Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF) grant award to rehabilitate the Princeton Grade School in Princeton.
FTE Total: .06
Budget: $10,233

Saralyn

Administration of a stream restoration and culvert replacement grant award for the Saralyn Homeowners Association (located in unincorporated Chatham County).
FTE Total: .04
Budget: $208,580

NC Biotech Ambassador Program*

Contract by NC Biotech to support their Life Sciences Manufacturing Ambassador Program, providing marketing, communications, and ambassador engagement support to increase awareness of education and job opportunities in the life sciences industry.
FTE Total: .17
Budget: $30,329

*Denotes new projects

Environment & Resilience

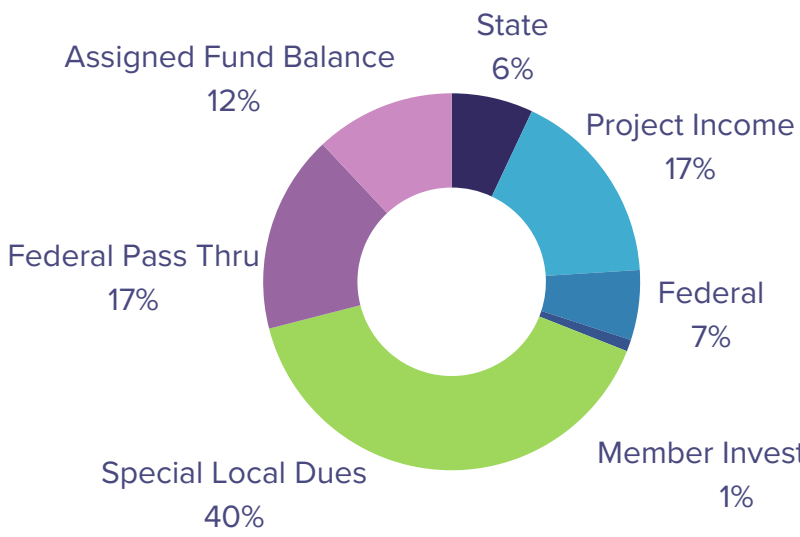
Resilient communities are defined by their ability to bounce back from acute disasters or long-term stressors by actively influencing and preparing for economic, social, and environmental change. However, every community is only as resilient as its neighbors. TJCOG is building an environmentally healthy, sustainable, and resilient region through relationship-building, resource prioritization, and projects that improve the efficiency and sustainability of community design and services.

Team

Emily Barrett, Environment & Resilience Program Manager
Taylor Weddington, AmeriCorps CWEP

Highlights for the Year Ahead

The program is looking forward to building on the success of the Solarize the Triangle Program through a second round, called Solarize the Triangle '23, and implementing rooftop solar grant programs for low to moderate income residents. A new staff member will focus on leading regional recovery and resilience efforts and working with local partners to address episodic events like severe storms and help communities adapt to our changing climate - anticipated extreme heat, more flooding, and more risk of drought. Finally, we plan to begin leading our communities through the first regional climate plan, which will make participating communities eligible for competitive federal implementation funding and identify ways we can work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Focus Area Budget

$2,245,005

New Program Income

$716,851

Environment & Resilience

Environment & Resilience projects included in the recommended budget:

Environment & Resilience Strategy & Technical Assistance

As-needed member assistance, grant writing assistance, and regional relationship building.
FTE Total: .13
Member Investment: Yes
Budget: $23,352

Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Project

A collaboration with the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), this project allows local communities to measure water quality conditions and records long-term trends in water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes that feed water supply sources.
FTE Total: .11
Budget: $434,548

Triangle Water Supply Partnership

Formed in 2018 by 13 jurisdictions and water systems in the Triangle, this partnership conducts planning and coordination for the Jordan Lake Watershed, including an important interconnection model.
FTE Total: .26
Budget: $326,326

319 Septic

This partnership with the NC Department of Environmental Quality and Rebuilding Together of the Triangle, a nonprofit serving low income residents of our region, allows repair of failing septic systems for low income residents which improves local water quality and adds to home value.
FTE Total: .1
Budget: $74,426

Clean Water Education Partnership

A cooperative effort between local governments, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to protect water quality in the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear River Basins through public education and outreach.
FTE Total: .53
Budget: $199,076

Raleigh Watershed Protection

Joint administration of Raleigh's Watershed Protection Program and Durham's Source Water Protection Program, to protect water quality through land preservation, streambank restoration, reforestation, removal of abandoned animal waste lagoons and stormwater improvements in urban areas within the watersheds.
FTE Total: .26
Budget: $302,500

Environment & Resilience

Environment & Resilience projects included in the recommended budget:

Upper Cape Fear River Basin

Water quality monitoring and improvements to water use and water quality management of the Deep River, Haw River, and new Hope Creek subbasins on behalf of local governments and industry in the Upper Cape Fear River Basin.
FTE Total: .16
Budget: $23,000

Triangle Region Solid Waste Consortium

A partnership of city and county solid waste departments aimed at developing strategies and regional approaches in the areas of solid waste collection and disposal, recycling, biosolids, composing, yard waste, and household hazardous materials.
FTE Total: .2
Budget: $34,564

JLOW Membership

A stakeholder-driven effort to integrate innovative One Water approaches to nutrient management across the Jordan Lake Watershed.
FTE Total: .2
Budget: $60,750

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant*

Administration of $1M in formula funds through the Inflation Reduction Act to develop a regional climate plan to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
FTE Total: .24
Budget: $78,851

North Carolina Recovery & Resilience

Funded by the NCGA, this project will focus on coordinated disaster planning and recovery, proactive planning for grant submittals, and regulatory work.
FTE Total: 1.08
Budget: $147,612

Triangle Sustainability Partnership

A partnership of 11 local governments to conduct joint purchasing, outreach, and education on clean energy issues, including building on the record breaking Solarize the Triangle campaign in 2022-2023.
FTE Total: .01
Budget: $2,000

LMI Solarize*

As part of the Solarize the Triangle effort some participating communities have allocated funding to grant rooftop solar photovoltaic systems to be installed on the homes or rental units of low to moderate (LMI) residents in their communities. These solar systems will reduce the electricity usage and bill by approximately 50% for a typical household. TJCOG is working with nonprofit community partners who serve the LMI residents of the Triangle to identify possible recipients for these solar photovoltaic systems.
FTE Total: .14
Budget: $231,000

*Denotes new projects

Member Support & Strategy

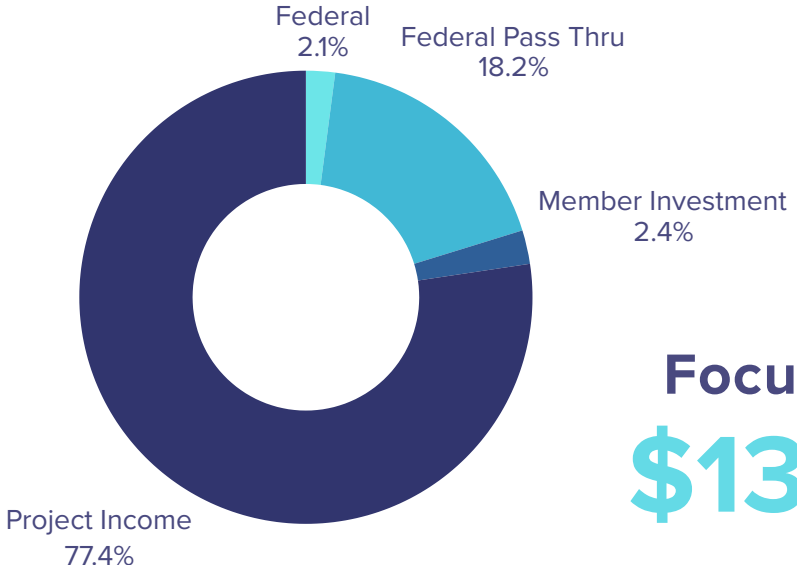
Local governments are navigating rapid changes that are vastly impacting how we operate. Meeting the demands of the public in a cost-efficient and forward-thinking manner is a daunting task. TJCOG is committed to helping the region respond to new realities through expertise and assistance that is accessible to organizations of every size and structure. We provide a comprehensive array of strategic and technical services to help member governments address evolving public sector workplaces, and make data-driven, strategic decisions amidst an ever-changing region.

Staff

Alana Keegan, Member Engagement Manager
Beth Davis, Communications Coordinator
Tara Nattress, Management Analyst
Andrew McGannon, Management Analyst
Michaela Abbott, Strategy & Policy Intern
Lisa West, Analyst
Renee Paschal, Analyst

Highlights for the Year Ahead

Our focus for 2023-2024 will continue to be on organizational sustainability for our local governments. Challenges with recruitment and retention, financial expertise and staffing, and federal grant management will take center stage. Through a growing bench of retired and part-time analysts with immense local government experience, we will be able to work with local governments of any size to address their internal concerns and provide on-site technical assistance.



Focus Area Budget

$13,307,878

Member Support & Strategy

Member Support & Strategy projects included in the recommended budget:

Member Support & Strategy Technical Assistance

Direct outreach to member governments and supplements the cost of technical assistance to ensure affordability.
FTE Total: 1.09
Member Dues: Yes
Budget: $348,062

Grant Assistance

Participating communities receive help from dedicated staff to track grants, develop projects and grant proposals, and engage federal and state funders.
FTE Total: .85
Budget: $152,515

Wake County Non-ARPA

Administration of Wake County's Elevate Wake initiative using local funding to support 71 nonprofits conduct a range of grassroots and locally driven projects across the county.
FTE Total: .2
Budget: $10,038,489

Drug Alcohol Testing Program

Assists member governments and partner agencies comply with the testing program requirements of the US Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Federal Transit Administration.
FTE Total: .06
Budget: $15,200

American Rescue Plan

Day-to-day support to local governments as they navigate spending their local allocations of the American Rescue Plan, leveraging other funding sources for high-priority projects, and help with a strategic and effective COVID-19 recovery.
FTE Total: 1.50
Budget: $263,731

Mid Carolina Finance

A partnership with Mid Carolina Regional Council to establish a joint finance operation to increase internal capabilities, control costs, and our ability to respond to growing finance needs. Includes a cost-share agreement for Mid Carolina to pay for a portion of additional staff capacity.
FTE Total: 0
Budget: $0

Member Support & Strategy

Member Support & Strategy projects included in the recommended budget:

NCARCOG Sub-recipient Process

Programmatic administration and sub-recipient monitoring for the NC Association of Regional Councils of Government $10 million American Rescue Plan allocation.
FTE Total: .16
Budget: $25,028

Member Assistance

TJCOG will be ramping up financial and administrative assistance for small local governments through a fabulous line-up of retired local government experts. Day-to-day and financial assistance for the Town of Micro as they work to ensure long-term financial stability and sustainability.
FTE Total: 1
Budget: $25,000

*Denotes new projects

Wake ARPA

Administration of Wake County's Elevate Wake initiative using American Rescue Plan and local funding to support 71 nonprofits conduct a range of grassroots and locally driven projects across the county.
FTE Total: .3
Budget: $2,454,839

Sanford RTGF*

Administration of the City of Sanford's Rural Transformation Grant Fund grant award for the Agricultural Center.
FTE Total: .02
Budget: $10,013

Housing

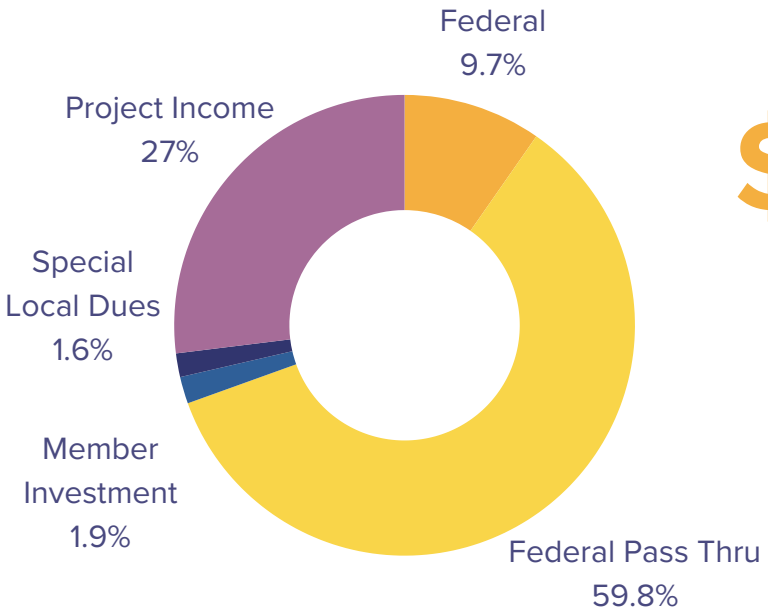
Every individual in our region deserves access to stable housing. This belief guides TJCOG's housing program, which works directly with local governments, community organizations, and developers to preserve, improve, and build quality, affordable housing. TJCOG helps structure a regional housing approach that embraces the continuum of housing needs – from homelessness to homeownership. Staff provides a variety of education, technical assistance, facilitation, research & data analysis, and fund administration to meet communities where they are in their housing efforts.

Staff

Jack Watson, Housing Planner
Sharon Hartwell, Street Outreach Coordinator

Highlights in the Coming Year

Through our long-standing partnership with Chatham County, we were able to secure an Emergency Solutions Grant to fund a part-time Street Outreach Coordinator. Their efforts will help to connect housing insecure individuals and families in Chatham County to resources in the community, with the goal of finding permanent housing. Staff also continue to grow our home repair program, now administering Essential Single Family Home Repair (ESFR) funding for six counties.



Focus Area Budget

$1,982,967

New Program Income

$22,938

Housing

Housing Focus Area projects included in the recommended budget:

Chatham Housing Project

A long-standing partnership to assist and increase capacity for housing related efforts in Chatham County.
FTE Total: .29
Budget: $45,000

Housing Strategy & Technical Assistance

Providing housing technical assistance on an as-needed basis and supplement efforts derived from Triangle J's Strategic Plan.
FTE Total: .21
Member Investment: Yes
Budget: $36,876

ESFR 2021 Wake County

Administration of Wake County's Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program for substantial rehabilitation for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose incomes are below 80% Area Median Income.
FTE Total: .12
Budget: $242,124

USDA Rural Development HPG

Administration of a US Department of Rural Development's Housing Preservation grant for areas of western Chatham County and eastern Wake County.
FTE Total: .04
Budget: $189,612

URP Orange County

Assistance with funding administration and day-to-day management of Orange County's home repair and rehabilitation programs, including the Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program and Urgent Repair Program.
FTE Total: .22
Budget: $32,520

ESFR 2021 Chatham County

Administration of Chatham County's Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program for substantial rehabilitation for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose incomes are below 80% Area Median Income.
FTE Total: .09
Budget: $239,013

Cary CDBG

Administration of Cary's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Entitlement funds.
FTE Total: .31
Budget: $64,350

FHLB Chatham County

Home preservation and rehabilitation, comprehensive referral services, and homeowner education and financial literacy for at least 22 homeowners in Chatham County over a three-year time frame.
FTE Total: .06
Budget: $327,317

Housing

Housing Focus Area projects included in the recommended budget:

ESFR 2022 Durham County

Recipient and administration of Durham County's Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program for substantial rehabilitation for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose incomes are below 80% Area Median Income.
FTE Total: .11
Budget: $299,254

Emergency Solutions Grant

Used to hire a part-time Street Outreach Coordinator to support housing insecure individuals and families in Chatham County.
FTE Total: 0
Budget: $25,708

ESFR 2021 Lee County

Administration of Lee County's Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program for substantial rehabilitation for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose incomes are below 80% Area Median Income.
FTE Total: .13
Budget: $59,521

ESFR 2022 Harnett County

Recipient and administration of Harnett County's Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program for substantial rehabilitation for homeowners who are elderly or have specials needs and whose incomes are below 80% Area Median Income.
FTE Total: .12
Budget: $299,254

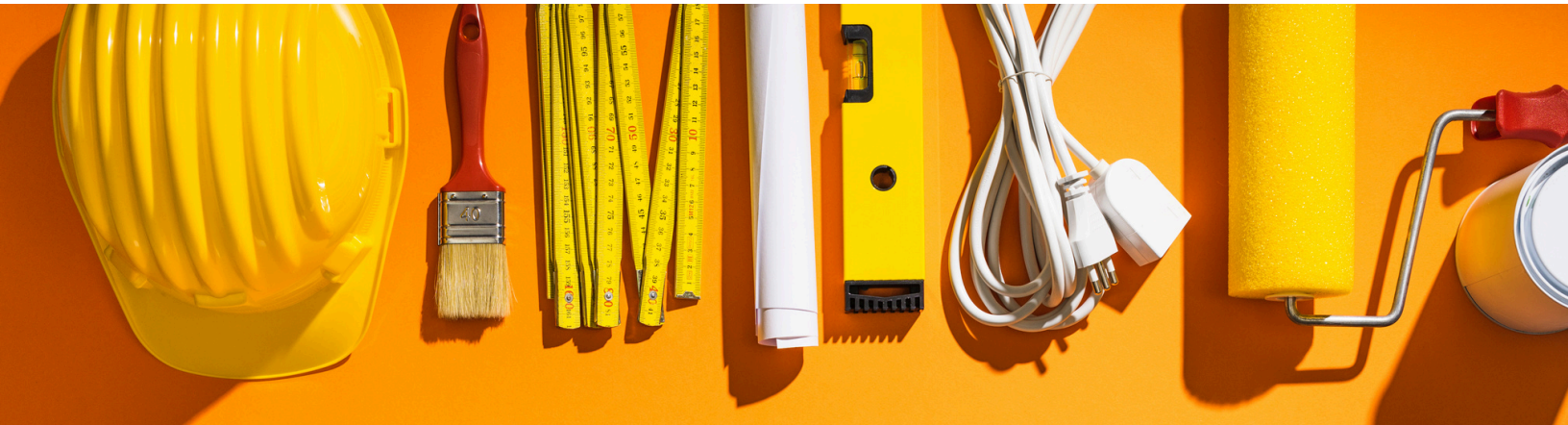
Duke Affordable Housing Study*

Land inventory project to include high-level analysis used to identify potentially suitable properties for housing development across Durham.
FTE Total: .09
Budget: $12,938

URP 2022 Lee County*

Staff administers the Urgent Repair Program on behalf of Lee County for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose incomes are below 50% Area Median Income.
FTE Total: .02
Budget: $10,000

*Denotes new projects



Mobility & Transportation

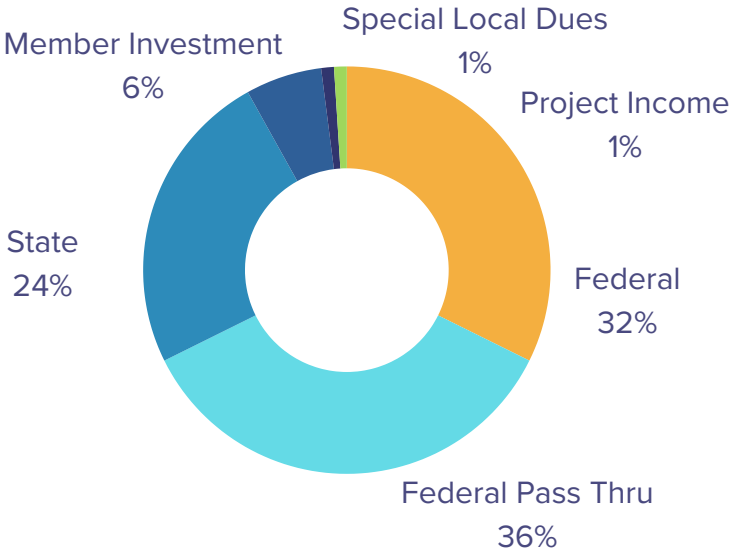
Mobility and transportation planning naturally affect multiple communities at once. Coordinated approaches to this work ensure seamless travel across communities for residents living and working across the region. TJCOG provides technical support and guidance on long-term, largescale, and community-specific plans while stressing an approach that considers investment impacts in the broader community context of growth, economic development, sustainability, and housing availability.

Team

Matt Day, Director of Transportation
Sean Flaherty, Transportation & Energy Program Manager
Ben Bearden, GIS Analyst
Karyl Fuller, Senior Planner
Shuchi Gupta, Senior Planner
Jenna Kolling, Senior Program Analyst
Annie Lee, Planner II
Julio Rosado, Planner I
Josh Michael, Transportation Program Analyst

Highlights in the Year Ahead

This will be an exciting year for our Mobility & Transportation focus area. Thanks to additional funding from NCDOT, we will be expanding our Safe Routes to School program by creating a new dedicated staff position focused on this work. Our work in clean transportation continues to grow, with two new projects focused on electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles. Through a Federal "Safe Streets for All" grant, we will be working on regional data collection on road safety and the development of pilot road safety plans for the Town of Morrisville and Lee County/City of Sanford/Town of Broadway. And we welcome the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO to our team as we will become the MPO's new lead planning agency.



Focus Area Budget

$3,126,870

New Program Income

$147,000

for safety and Zero-Emission projects

Mobility & Transportation

Mobility & Transportation projects included in the recommended budget:

Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization

Transportation planning to communities outside the region's Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Chatham, Lee, Moore, and Orange Counties. Major tasks will include ongoing work on the Lee County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and preparation of projects for NCDOT funding prioritization.
FTE Total: .99
Budget: $146,486

Transportation Strategy & Technical Assistance

This project includes activities to address TJCOG's strategic plan goals related to transportation, and to provide transportation technical assistance to members and partners on an as-needed basis.
FTE Total: .35
Member Investment: Yes
Budget: $79,342

Triangle Clean Cities

The Triangle Clean Cities Coalition program leverages Department of Energy partnerships and resources to work with a network of local stakeholders to advance alternative fuels, energy-efficient mobility, and fuel-saving technologies.
FTE Total: .8
Budget: $118,330

Regional Data Center

The Regional Data Center serves as a resource on data for our region, including census data and a variety of TJCOG program-related datasets, for both internal and external users including members and the general public.
FTE Total: .15
Member Investment: Yes
Budget: $30,253

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Triangle Transportation Choices, our region's transportation demand management (TDM) program, aims to reduce commuter reliance on single-occupancy vehicles by encouraging alternative options such as carpool, vanpool, public transit, biking, walking, teleworking, and flexible work weeks. The program links state policy and funding with local and regional service providers.
FTE Total: 3.05
Budget: $1,936,019

CFAT

The Clean Fuels Advanced Technologies program supports efforts to reduce transportation-related emissions in counties that are eligible for federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funding (areas with a history of exceeding federal air quality pollutant standards) and is funded through the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center.
FTE Total: .35
Member Investment: Yes
Budget: $45,000

Mobility & Transportation

Mobility & Transportation projects included in the recommended budget:

Safe Routes to Schools

TJCOG's Safe Routes to School program partners with schools throughout the region to encourage K-8 students to bike and walk to school through educational and fun campaigns, programs, and activities.
FTE Total: 1.35
Budget: $164,036

EFC - Extreme Fast Charger

Triangle Clean Cities will support the NC State University FREEDM System Center with communications and stakeholder engagement efforts as part of a research project aimed at reducing the cost of direct current fast charging equipment for electric vehicles.
FTE Total: .05
Budget: $10,000

Safe Streets for All*

This project will create a regional dataset of transportation safety data and work with two subareas within our region (Morrisville and Lee County/Sanford/Broadway) to develop specific safety action plans that could also serve as a template/pilot for safety plans elsewhere in the region.
FTE Total: .5
Budget: $100,00

City of Raleigh EV Study*

TJCOG is serving as a subconsultant to ICF on a study of electric fleet vehicles for the City of Raleigh.
FTE Total: .1
Budget: $22,00

Drive EV USA

Drive Electric USA is a multi-state initiative of clean cities coalitions that is working to develop state-based "drive electric" programs for removing barriers to electric vehicle adoption and accelerating plug-in vehicle use. The state program for NC is known as "Plug-in NC."
FTE Total: .3
Budget: $77,000

Urban Transportation Support & Regional Planning Coordination

We serve an important role in coordinating regional transportation planning activities with our region's two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (CAMPO & DCHC MPO) and our regional transit provider GoTriangle. This includes support for the development of the MPOs' joint Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the regional CommunityViz land use forecasting model, and other coordination, data, and transportation analysis activities.
FTE Total: 2.16
Member Investment: Yes
Budget: $373,405

CALSTART East Coast ZEV Plan*

TJCOG is part of a partnership of entities up and down the I-95 corridor working on planning for zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure in the corridor.
FTE Total: .15
Budget: $25,000

*Denotes new projects

Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro (DCHC) MPO provides transportation planning services within the urban portions of Chatham, Durham, and Orange Counties. This includes the development of Metropolitan Transportation Plans, Transportation Improvement Programs, corridor studies, congestion management studies, and other plans. DCHC also administers federal funding for local transportation projects.

Staff

Doug Plachcinski, Executive Director
Colleen McGue, Planning Manager
Yanping Zhang, Planning Manager
Filmon Fishastion, Transportation Planner
Kelly Fomenko, Transportation Planner
Adam Spillman, Data Strategy Coordinator
Dale McKeel, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator
Dolly Hall-Quinlan, Transportation Modeler
Casey Chae, Business Systems Administrator
David Miller, Business Systems Administrator
Andy Henry, Principal Planner
Jean Debnam, Administration Coordinator

DURHAM · CHAPEL HILL · CARRBORO
DCHC
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Focus Area Budget

$2,632,310*

*Only for personnel (fringe & indirect); costs will change once operational expenses are brought in

Administration

TJCOG's Administrative Team manages the executive and administrative operations of the organization. This includes overall leadership of the organization, human resources, finance, and office management. The executive staff works with the Board of Delegates, local government members , and staff to ensure that the organization's mission is being carried out. The finance team fairly and transparently reports and represents financial reports and statements to all stakeholders while upholding a financial code of ethics, serves as a collaborative internal resource for focus areas to achieve regional goals, and serves as a leader in immerging government financial issues through providing resources for member governments. The human resource team works with focus areas to recruit and retain diverse and talented staff and ensures that TJCOG is an employer of choice in the region through enhanced engagement and development of our core values and organizational principles.

Staff

Lee Worsley, Executive Director
Jenny Halsey, Assistant Executive Director / HR Officer
Hope Tally, Chief Finance Officer
Nancy Medlin, Finance Manager
Caleb Register, Accounting Coordinator
Roshanda Paige, Accounting Technician II

Highlights for the Year

Key goals for the Administrative Team for Fiscal Year 2023-24 include identifying and procuring a new finance and HR system for Triangle J, ensuring a smooth transition to a new legal name for the organization, managing the renovation of Triangle J's offices from 9,500 square feet to 21,000 square feet, effectively managing organizational growth with transitioning as the Lead Planning Agency for the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO and leading and holding the organization accountable for continued implementation of Triangle J's Strategic Plan.

TOTAL BUDGET

$193,773