NC ARCOG
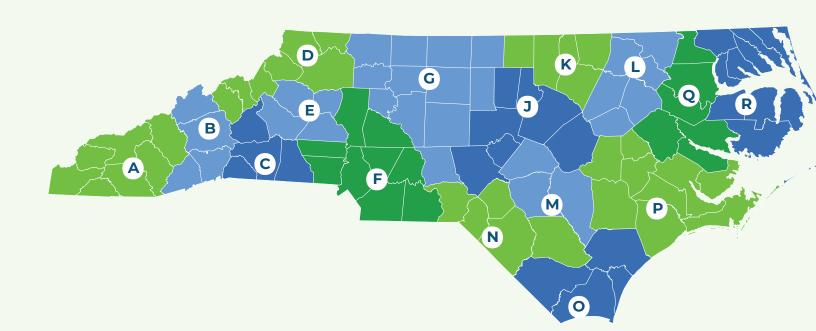ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

Supporting Local Recovery Through Regional Collaboration.

A **Southwestern Commission**

B **Land of Sky Regional Council**

C **Foothills Regional Commission**

D **High Country Council of Governments**

E **Western Piedmont Council of Governments**

F **Centralina Regional Council**

G **Piedmont Triad Regional Council**

J **Triangle J Council of Governments**

K **Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments**

L **Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments**

M **Mid-Carolina Council of Governments**

N **Lumber River Council of Governments**

O **Cape Fear Council of Governments**

P **Eastern Carolina Council**

Q **Mid-East Commission**

R **Albemarle Commission**

1 PLANNING FOR IMPACT

We assist local governments in effectively planning for federal COVID-19 response and recovery funding to ensure this once-in-a-generation investment brings meaningful impacts to North Carolina communities.

Through a range of planning support services, we work alongside local governments as they make decisions on how to spend ARPA funds on eligible uses in their communities and with the development of required internal systems and controls to manage federal funds efficiently and transparently.

690
planning meetings held with local governments

282
total local government spending plans developed with assistance

Impact Highlights

Mid-East worked with a regional Advisory Committee comprised of 46 public and private sector representatives to add specific recovery investments to the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mid-Carolina and the Southwestern Commissions facilitated Board retreats in their regions to assist local elected officials in their decision-making processes.

Centralina led an ARPA Peer Consortium composed of leaders from 10 local governments who met over 6 months to effectively plan for over $62 million in ARPA funds and set up their internal controls.

High Country assisted 8 municipalities and 2 counties prepare grant project ordinances, required policies and procedures, monitoring systems, and reporting guidelines.

> " Doing the right thing for citizens with opportunities like the American Rescue Plan and the Opioid Settlement is a challenge within itself. Thanks to the support from the High Country Council of Governments the challenges become achievable. "Together we are Avery County" is the county's motto, but 'Together with the COG,' anything is possible!"
>
> **Phillip Barrier,** Avery County Manager

2 BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY

We build capacity to guide the successful implementation of local investments funded by ARPA and other federal recovery funds.

COGs are invested in supporting the long-term recovery and resilience of communities in our regions, but we recognize not every local government has the internal capacity to meet this challenge. We work hand in hand with local leaders to administer ARPA funds, write and administer grants, provide project management services, and support ARPA reporting to the U.S. Treasury.

228
local governments received one-on-one technical assistance

208
grant applications supported

1,295
times communicated on federal guidelines and reporting requirements

83.5M
dollars awarded with grant assistance

Impact Highlights

Coordinated statewide outreach and local support for the required April 2022 and 2023 U.S. Treasury Reporting.

Western Piedmont wrote three CDBG-NR applications with two receiving grant awards totaling $5,635,044 and wrote seven Rural Transformation Grant applications with two receiving grant awards totaling $1,220,000.

Triangle J Council of Governments augmented Wake County's capacity by overseeing the deployment of $20 million in pandemic-related funding to community organizations, which according to the Deputy County Manager was significantly faster than if the county had undertaken the project alone.

Albemarle Commission focused on connecting state and federal grants for housing, broadband, and economic development to a regional recovery agenda.

Land of Sky's partnership with one town on ARPA administration led to two successful Rural Transformation Grant awards.

Upper Coastal Plain's ARPA administration services led to a better understanding of the distinction between the role of the administration and that of the elected boards.

Lumber River's ARPA administration services led to the adoption of improved financial controls and policies in several communities, which empowered elected boards with a more robust understanding of budgeting and financial oversight responsibilities.

3 FACILITATING REGIONAL COLLABORATION

We convene our members in regions across the state to collaborate and share resources generated by COGs, Statewide Partner Organizations, NCPRO, and U.S. Treasury.

We also leverage our strong networks of local government administrators and elected officials to understand the unique needs of our local governments and adjust our ARPA programming accordingly.

" The regional ARPA meeting the Upper Coastal Plain COG arranged for all Wilson County governments was especially helpful. We were not only able to obtain one-on-one advice from the COG, NCLM, and NCPRO all in one location, but we also were able to discuss our issues with our neighboring municipalities and get suggestions from them."

Miranda Boykin, Mayor, Town of Sims

Impact Highlights

Cape Fear maintains a regional database of local government ARPA expenditures and key data points to facilitate information sharing and collaboration.

Eastern Carolina and Foothills conduct regular surveys with members to receive feedback on their ARPA programming needs and make adjustments accordingly.

Kerr-Tarr developed a dedicated ARPA resource page on their website and quarterly grant newsletter with available training, tools, and open grants.

Piedmont Triad pivoted to educating and supporting local governments in selecting revenue replacement in their 2023 U.S. Treasury report after identifying a pattern among local governments in their hesitation to select this expenditure option.

3,420
total individuals engaged

258
ARPA-related meetings/convenings/ outreach activities