

WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022



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SAVE THE DATE

2022 ACAP

ADULT CHILDREN OF AGING PARENTS

CAREGIVER SYMPOSIUM

I'm Tired. Please Help!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

1:00-4:00PM

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

Don't miss this FREE virtual caregiver event! Leading experts will provide practical insights, resources and effective ideas for navigating all stages of caregiving!



GUEST SPEAKERS:

AMY GOYER-AARP FAMILY AND CAREGIVING EXPERT AND AUTHOR OF *JUGGLING LIFE, WORK AND CAREGIVING*

DONNA THOMSON & ZACHARY WHITE, PH.D -CO-AUTHORS OF *THE UNEXPECTED JOURNEY OF CARING: THE TRANSFORMATION FROM LOVED ONE TO CAREGIVER*

Registration opens October 3, 2022
www.ACAPcommunity.org to register

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE EVENT CONTACT MARY MITCHELL
828.485.4256, MARY.MITCHELL@WPCOG.ORG

WPCOG Assisting Construction of Family Apartments in Hudson

Article by Paul Teague

The WPCOG – through its administration of the Unifour HOME Program – is leveraging financial assistance to develop a family apartment complex in the Caldwell County community of Hudson.

The KirkWood Grove Apartments, expected to be completed in early 2023, will offer 70 units – including 11 that will be rented to families at or below 50 percent of the area median income as defined by the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year. In addition, the rent rates for the 11 units are not allowed to exceed levels established by HUD's HOME Investment Partnership Program.



WPCOG Staff administer HOME program funding on behalf of the four-county Unifour Consortium. The City of Lenoir serves as the lead agency for the grant program.

The WPCOG is leveraging a 20-year, \$300,000 loan toward the estimated \$10.5-million project. Per HUD rules, the 11 designated units must comply with HUD's 20-year Period of Affordability.

Mainstream Waitlist Remains Open for Applications

Article by Stephanie Godfrey

The waitlist for regular HCV applicants closed August 15, 2022. So far, in 2022, the Regional Housing Authority (RHA) has received 2,936 applications. In 2021, the RHA received 1,317 applications. The waitlist for the mainstream voucher program remains open for applications. Mainstream vouchers assist individuals between the ages of 18-61 with a disability. Aside from serving a special population, the administration of mainstream vouchers adheres to the same rules as other housing choice vouchers. Funding and financial reporting for mainstream vouchers is separate from the regular tenant-based voucher program.

We are encouraging families who have at least one household member who is disabled AND between the ages of 18-61 to apply for our waitlist at housing.wpcog.net.

Mainstream Voucher Program

Affordable Housing
for Disabled
Families!

A member of the household
MUST be between the age of
18-61 **AND** Disabled

Apply Online at [Housing.wpcog.net](https://housing.wpcog.net)

For questions about the waitlist, please contact us at
828.322.9191 or housing@wpcog.org



2021 (1-Year) American Community Survey Data Now Available

Article by Taylor Dellinger

On September 15, 2022, the US Census Bureau released data from the 2021 (1-Year) American Community Survey (ACS) for all areas in the United States with populations greater than 65,000. ACS results for 2020 were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 40 topics are available from the 2021 ACS, including educational attainment, housing, employment, commuting, language spoken at home, nativity, ancestry, and selected monthly homeowner costs. The 2021 ACS data can be found on the US Census Bureau website (www.census.gov). In addition, 2021 American Community Survey data summaries for the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir MSA, Burke County, Caldwell County, and Catawba County are also available for download in the data services (regional data) section of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments website (www.wpcog.org). For more information about the 2021 American Community Survey, contact Senior Data Analyst Taylor Dellinger at 828.485.4233 or taylor.dellinger@wpcog.org. Five-Year (2017-2021) ACS data for all areas in the region is scheduled to be released in December.



Workforce Development Board - Success Story

Article by Charity Patterson Hamber

Over the last several months, the United States Postal Service (USPS) - Lenoir has held three recruitment events at NCWorks Career Center - Caldwell. USPS has also attended two off-site job fairs hosted by NCWorks in partnership with Caldwell County Public Library, Lenoir Branch.

Ms. Jaco, with USPS, mentioned that the application process could be difficult, and many applications get denied because of simple errors. During the onsite recruitment events, job seekers were able to use computers to complete applications and get technical assistance from Career Center staff. In addition, USPS staff were able to answer specific questions on the application process.

When asked about the services she received from NCWorks, Ms. Jaco stated, "NCWorks has been a key instrument in providing the Lenoir USPS with Job Fairs that have produced applicants that have resulted in quality employees. The whole process with Caldwell County NCWorks has been professional. The advertisement that they have provided has been helpful in reaching potential applicants. When job fairs are conducted, the process is seamless. We are able to use the onsite computers to assist applicants in applying for the jobs they are interested in. The experience that the Lenoir Post Office has had with the Caldwell County NCWorks has been an example for all NCWorks in the area. We thoroughly enjoy working with their team and hope to continue to work with them in the future."

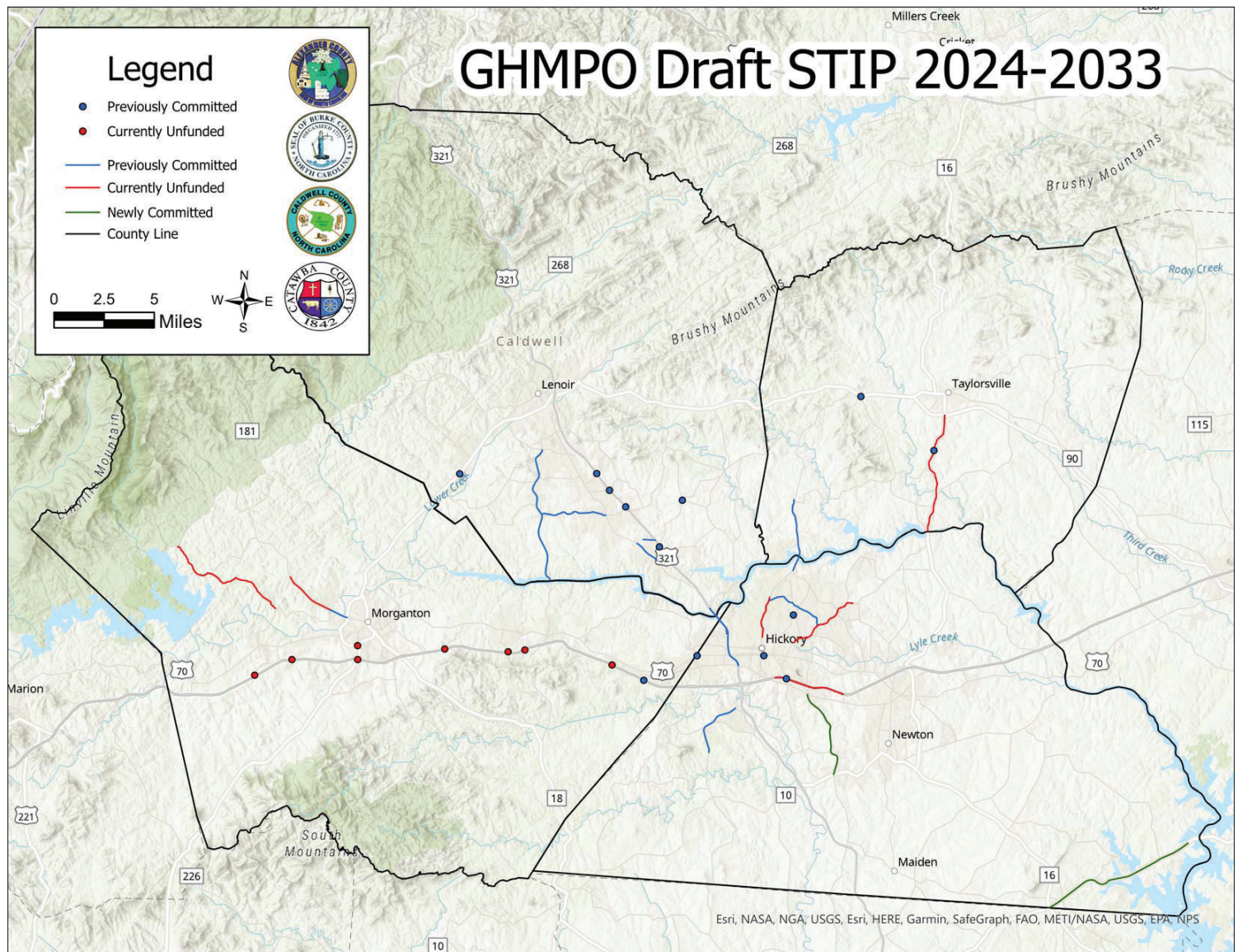
Ms. Jaco shared her experiences with other postmasters in other counties, and this has sparked many other postmasters to contact their local NCWorks to get assistance.

USPS - Lenoir plans to schedule more recruitment events at NCWorks in the future for their recruiting needs.



New Projects for Greater Hickory MPO in Revised 2024-2033 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program

Article by Daniel Odom



NCDOT recently released a revised draft of the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Despite rising project costs, recent revisions to the draft STIP now include two additional projects scheduled for delivery for the Greater Hickory MPO Planning Area.

The two newly committed projects included are NC Highway 150 and Startown Road. The NC Highway 150 project is planned to widen the highway to four lanes from NC-16 to east of Greenwood Road. This project will also include a bypass of Terrell's Historic District. The NC Highway 150 project is scheduled to begin right-of-way acquisition in the late 2020s, with construction beginning in the early 2030s. The Startown road project is also scheduled to begin right-of-way acquisition in the late 2020s, with construction in the early 2030s. In addition, Startown Road is planned to be widened to multi-lane from US-70 to NC-10.

It is anticipated that in May 2023, the draft STIP will be presented to the Board of Transportation for approval. Until then, all aspects of the draft, including projects, timelines, and details, are subject to change. Please see the map below for all currently committed (scheduled for delivery) and unfunded projects included in the draft STIP for the Greater Hickory Planning Area.

For more information on the STIP development process, please visit: www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/stip/development/Pages/default.aspx



2022

WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA

WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 7th

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

The 2022 Western NC Water Quality Conference will be held virtually.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE
October 7th, 2022 from 8:45 AM until 3:45 PM

REGISTRATION

You may register for the conference [HERE](#).

The last day for registration is October 6th, 2022.

A webinar invitation link will be emailed to you prior to the start of the conference.

AICP CREDITS WILL BE AVAILABLE

THE AGENDA IS ATTACHED.

CONTACT: Caren Shorthouse, Natural Resources Administrator, Western Piedmont Council of Governments - 828.485.4276



CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone: 828.322.9191

Fax: 828.322.5991

Email: jason.toney@wpcog.org

Mailing: P.O. Box 9026 | Hickory, NC 28603

Location: 1880 2nd Avenue NW | Hickory, NC 28601

www.wpcog.org



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