

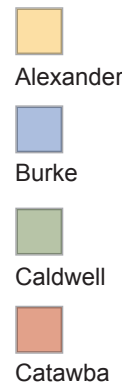
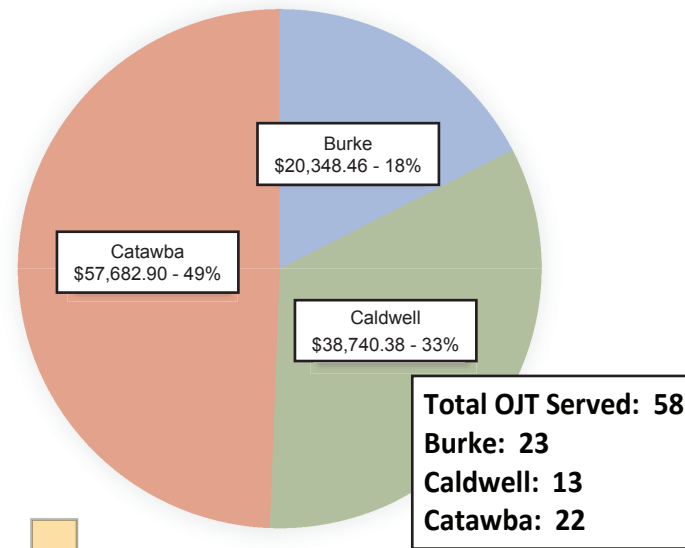
## Section 8 Housing

- Completed and implemented new Section 8 Administration Plan in May of 2014
- New preference given to veterans
- Received approximately 1,300 applications in 5 days
- Offer letters of Section 8 assistance to 427 families since July of 2014
- 396 families completed the verification process and received vouchers
- Total inspections completed: 2,042
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Expenses totaled \$3,818,883.00 in 2014
- Average Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) payment of \$334.75
- Total of 1,048 active families served, 561 of those being elderly/disabled
- Held the first ever landlord reception with approximately 100 landlords in attendance in November of 2014

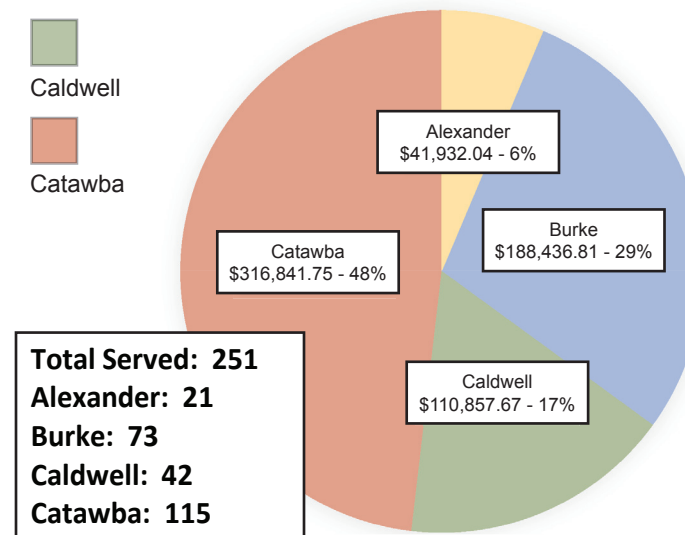
## Workforce Development

- The Workforce Investment Act funds are administered by the WPCOG, Workforce Development Staff and contracted service providers. Over \$650,000 dollars in WIA funding was spread into the four counties to cover the cost of post-secondary education and support services (assistance with transportation and childcare) for over 250 under/unemployed job seekers.
- The On-the-Job-Training (OJT) funds provided throughout the four counties equaled more than \$116,000 and provided immediate job training and placement to over 50 under/unemployed job seekers with up to 15 different employers. **Workforce Development is on track to double job training and placement for 2015.**
- Our Youth program provides In-School and Out-of-School youth intensive services focusing on youth with barriers to both education and employment. Youth are provided intensive stay in school services, GED obtainment, and work experience training, coordinated and supported by our WIA Youth service provider staff. WIA funding for Youth services targeting support and work experience, was a little over \$652,000.
- The Annual Youth Summit, sponsored and coordinated by Workforce Development was attended by more than 140 high school students from the local area. The focus this year was, "How to Prepare for, Get and Keep a Job". This day-long event is filled with impactful activities around work skills and personal development.
- Workforce Development created and launched a new website at [www.westernpiedmontworks.org](http://www.westernpiedmontworks.org), focusing on local job seekers and employers with the purpose of highlighting jobs listed through NCWorks, job seeker and business resources and, programs, recruitment events and training offered at the local Career Centers.

OJT Expenditures Jan - Dec 2014



Total Expenditures Adult & Dislocated Worker Jan- Dec 2014



# Western Piedmont Council of Governments

# WPCOG

## 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

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### Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging administers funding from the Older American's Act to provide services for older adults so they may age with choice in independence and dignity for as long as possible.

The AAA provided the following in 2014:

- 158,235 meals served
- 51,225 in-home aide hours
- 11,652 general and medical transportation trips (medical appointments, nutrition site, grocery shopping)
- 5,147 adult day care/health days of service
- 2,502 Family Caregiver Respite hours
- 162 home improvements
- 1,195 legal assistance hours
- 73 Reverse Mortgage Counseling sessions
- 67 older adults attended Health Promotion classes
- 260 visits to long term care facilities by Ombudsman
- 51 long term care resident complaint cases resolved by Ombudsman
- Over 10,000 reached in the community by AAA for training, advocacy, and outreach

### Community and Economic Development

In 2014, the Community Development staff was active in securing over \$8.5 million in grant funding for the region.

Highlights for 2014 include:

- Counseling 571 homeowners in jeopardy of losing their home
- EDA awarding \$1.5 million to rehab a building in Alexander County for furniture manufacturing and metallurgy training
- Conversion of a vacant building owned by Taylorsville into the Town's only Urgent Care facility
- Rhodhiss received notification from DENR of a \$3 million grant award to rehabilitate water & sewer lines throughout the Town
- 104 new homeowners used the Unifour Consortium's down-payment assistance program to purchase their new home in 2014
- 36 homes in the region received needed repairs
- Projects funded in 2014 will produce 548 new jobs

#### Glossary of Acronyms

DENR - Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 CDBG - Community Development Block Grant  
 EDA - Economic Development Administration  
 NCHFA - North Carolina Housing Finance Agency  
 NCDCC - North Carolina Department of Commerce  
 PARTF - Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
 ARC - Appalachian Regional Commission



## Community and Economic Development Continued

Unifour Projects 2014	Grant Amount	Jobs	Housing Units Addressed	Private Sector Investment	Date of Award
Taylorsville NCDOC Building Reuse	\$50,000	5		\$219,500	03/27/2014
Town of Valdese PARTF	\$215,600				05/01/2014
Caldwell County NCHFA Single Family Rehab	\$170,000		3		04/11/2014
WPCOG NCHFA Urgent Repair	\$150,000		22		04/11/2014
Catawba County NCHFA Uregent Repair	\$75,000		11		04/11/2014
Alexander County EDA	\$1,500,000	327		\$13,040,000	04/28/2014
WPCOG NCHFA NFMFC 8	\$105,660		255		05/05/2014
Hildebran ARC	\$59,500	10			05/05/2014
Hickory NCDOC Building Reuse	\$500,000	50		\$7,500,000	05/15/2014
WPCOG DHUD Counseling Grant	\$15,608		244		05/22/2014
City of Morganton CDBG	\$153,487	6			07/01/2014
City of Lenoir CDBG	\$155,004				07/01/2014
City of Lenoir HOME	\$816,600		104	\$8,500,000	07/01/2014
Town of Rhodhiss CDBG Infrastructure	\$3,000,000		414		07/15/2014
Burke County NCDOC Building Reuse	\$500,000	100		\$4,000,000	08/01/2014
Alexander County ARC	\$100,000	50			11/01/2014
Mortgage Payment Program NCHFA	\$1,013,818		72		
	<b>\$8,580,277</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>\$33,259,500</b>	

## Information Technology / Geographic Information Systems Services

2014 highlights include:

- Alexander County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Study, received NADO Innovation Award
- Burke County - Provided GIS assistance for the Burke County Student Growth Estimation Model
- Town of Valdese - GIS/GPS support, assisted Public Works Director in updating various utility related data
  - Provided GIS Support to various planning efforts
- Conducted an update of the utility GIS for the City of Claremont
- Provided GIS Support to various planning efforts for:
  - Town of Rutherford College
  - Town of Sawmills
  - Town of Drexel
  - Town of Taylorsville
- Catawba County - Provided GIS assistance for the Newton-Conover Student Growth Estimation Model, including elementary school redistricting
  - Provided management assistance in extending the existing Wide Area Network (WAN) agreement between Catawba County, WPCOG and numerous local government members, for an additional year
- City of Hickory Contracted GIS Services
  - Assisted the City Planning Department in the successful submittal of a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Grant
  - Staff assisted with the implementation and maintenance of approximately 19 GIS related applications, produced 44 project level maps and filled 66 data requests
- Provided GIS Assistance to CDBG grant efforts and the WPCOG Planning and Transportation Division in relation to: the Regional Bike Plan, Source Water Area Protection Plan and Greenway Transit
- Created online GIS system for fixed-route bus stops for Greenway Transit
- Conducted Fixed-Route Passenger Sampling and extended client data for Greenway Transit
- Completed Industrial Growth Analysis - presented to Workforce Development and local governments
- Early Head Start Community Assessment was completed and presented
- Participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program

## Planning

- Participated in Drexel, Rutherford College and Sawmills Strategic Planning Sessions
- Served on Small Town Main Street Steering Committee
- Co-sponsored Sustainable Trail Workshop
- Eleven local governments staffed with WPCOG planners. Work performed: zoning permits, code enforcement, subdivision review and plan updates
- Participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program

## Data Analysis

- Completed over 500 data requests for local governments, non-profits, students and private sector
- More than a dozen presentations on demographics and economic data
- Hickory Economic Indicators Newsletters (4)
- Greenway Transit Passenger Sampling - methodology and total estimated passenger calculations
- Economic Indicators Newsletters (EIN) (4)
- 2014 NADO Award for the EIN
- Catawba School Growth Estimation Model
- Burke Schools' Growth Estimation Model
- Catawba Early Head Start Report – Community Assessment
- 2014 Western Piedmont Industry Growth Analysis
- Catawba Young Professional Survey
- Elementary School Redistricting Project for Newton-Conover School System

## Natural Resources

- Administered the Unifour Septic Tank Repair Program – 63 repairs in the four county area
- Completed a regional Source Water Protection Plan
- Continued as Air Awareness Coordinator for the region
- Continued education programs with local schools
- Held 1st Annual Water Quality and 8th Annual Air Quality Conference at Lenoir Rhyne University
- Participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program
- Staffed Unifour Air Quality Meetings

## Transportation

Work continues on the Western Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan (WPRBP). The WPRBP is intended to improve safety, access, and mobility for bicyclists by developing a network of designated routes that connect municipalities and other major destinations in the region. The WPRBP will identify needed improvements to existing roadways, prioritize the improvements, and develop a signage plan to mark the identified routes. The plan will also make program and policy recommendations and outline action steps for future implementation.

- Served on Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
- Served as secretary for NCAMPO
- Monthly MPO/RPO TAC and TCC Meetings
- Developed scoring methodology and scored transportation projects for SPOT (project prioritization) for inclusion into the STIP
- Held 1st Annual Water Quality and 8th Annual Air Quality Conference at Lenoir Rhyne University
- Developed Congestion Management Plan
- Collected Passenger Sampling Data for Greenway Transportation
- Developed 5310 Management Plan (Transit) for the Elderly and Disabled
- Application for NCDOT Pedestrian Grant for Valdese and Rutherford College – received pedestrian grant for Valdese and Rutherford College
- Staffed Unifour Air Quality Meetings