

# WPCOG AMENDMENTS FOR 2019 CEDS UPDATE

CEDS Update – Job Creation

CEDS Economic Development Amendment:

**Strategy** – Work with federal, state and local officials to assist existing businesses with expansions while also recruiting new companies to the region in order to further the growth of diverse, well-paying jobs across a broad spectrum of industries.

**Responsible Parties** – WPCOG Staff, Economic Development Commissions, NC Commerce, Economic Development Partnership of NC, Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration

**Metrics** – The creation of at least 250 new jobs each year, Increased diversification of industries (manufacturing and nonmanufacturing) in the region, Wage growth higher than the rate of inflation

CEDS Update – Workforce Development

CEDS Workforce Amendment:

**Strategy** – Utilizing the concepts outlined in the EnVision Center Initiative, identify and assist individuals in overcoming barriers – such as housing, childcare, transportation, drug-abuse recovery, post-incarceration transition – that are precluding their entry or re-entry into the regional workforce.

**Responsible Parties** – WPCOG Staff, WPCOG Regional Housing Authority, Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board, NC Commerce

**Metrics** – Assist 50 screened applicants each year to participate in the program, Achieve funding for the EnVision Center Initiative

CEDS Update – Public Transportation  
CEDS Infrastructure Amendment:

**Strategy** – Promote the development of a comprehensive, affordable public transportation network in order to better serve individuals who face financial or logistical hardships within the contemporary mode of transportation throughout the region.

**Responsible Parties** – Greenway Public Transportation, Greater Hickory MPO, local governments, nonprofits, public/private partnerships, NCDOT and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

**Metrics** – Maintain Burke County transit routes, Promote additional fixed-flex routes in Catawba and Alexander counties. Explore fixed-flex route possibilities in Caldwell County.

CEDS Update – Housing Vouchers  
CEDS Housing Amendment:

**Strategy** – Work with community and regional partners, along with HUD, to expand the housing choice voucher options for the area and alleviate the waiting list of qualified program applicants.

**Responsible Parties** – HUD, WPCOG Regional Housing Authority, area nonprofits and community groups

**Metrics** – Secure at least 100 more housing vouchers in the Western Piedmont Region by 2022