

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Western Piedmont Council of Governments. Don't forget to add [jason.toney@wpcog.org](mailto:jason.toney@wpcog.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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# WPCOG - Newsletter

October 2019

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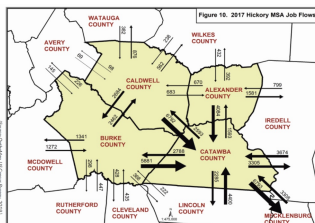
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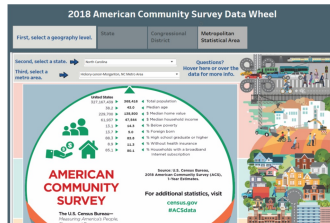
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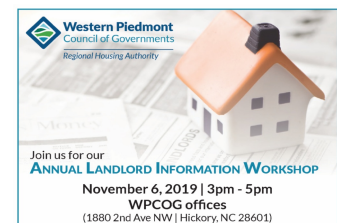
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## Transportation

### NCDOT Updates Complete Streets Policy

The Complete Streets Policy is North Carolina's approach to designing and planning multi-modal networks that safely accommodate access and travel for all roadway users. At their August meeting, the NC Board of Transportation adopted a newly updated Complete Streets Policy. This policy update results from nearly two years of careful analysis, engagement, and collaboration to better understand and address the challenges of NCDOT delivering Complete Streets. NCDOT planners and designers are required to consider and incorporate multimodal facilities in the design and improvement of all appropriate projects to encourage non-vehicular travel without compromising the safety, efficiency, or function of the facility.

Later in August, NC Transportation Secretary Trogdon issued an Implementation Guide for the new policy update. Highlights of this directive include no longer requiring a local cost-share for bicycle-pedestrian facilities on NCDOT-led projects, where a locally adopted plan called for bicycle-pedestrian facilities, so long as an environmental document hasn't yet been completed. Even without a local plan, requested bicycle-pedestrian facilities would now have a sliding percentage as low as 5% for local cost-share, depending upon that community's population. Granted, a local maintenance agreement would still be required, and any locally administered project would still require a local match, typically of 20%.

WPCOG has helped multiple local governments in our region develop local plans that would align with Secretary Trogdon's new directive. These plans include the newly adopted Bethlehem Community Plan, which supports the incorporation of bicycle-pedestrian facilities along the funded widening of NC 127, as well as the new Catawba River Bridge linking Bethlehem with Hickory. Past plans would also now have more weight, including the Western Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan. In all, this new policy update continues to support local governments seeking to retrofit and expand their multimodal networks in coordination with state-maintained facilities.

**Article by Brian Horton**

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## Workforce Development Board

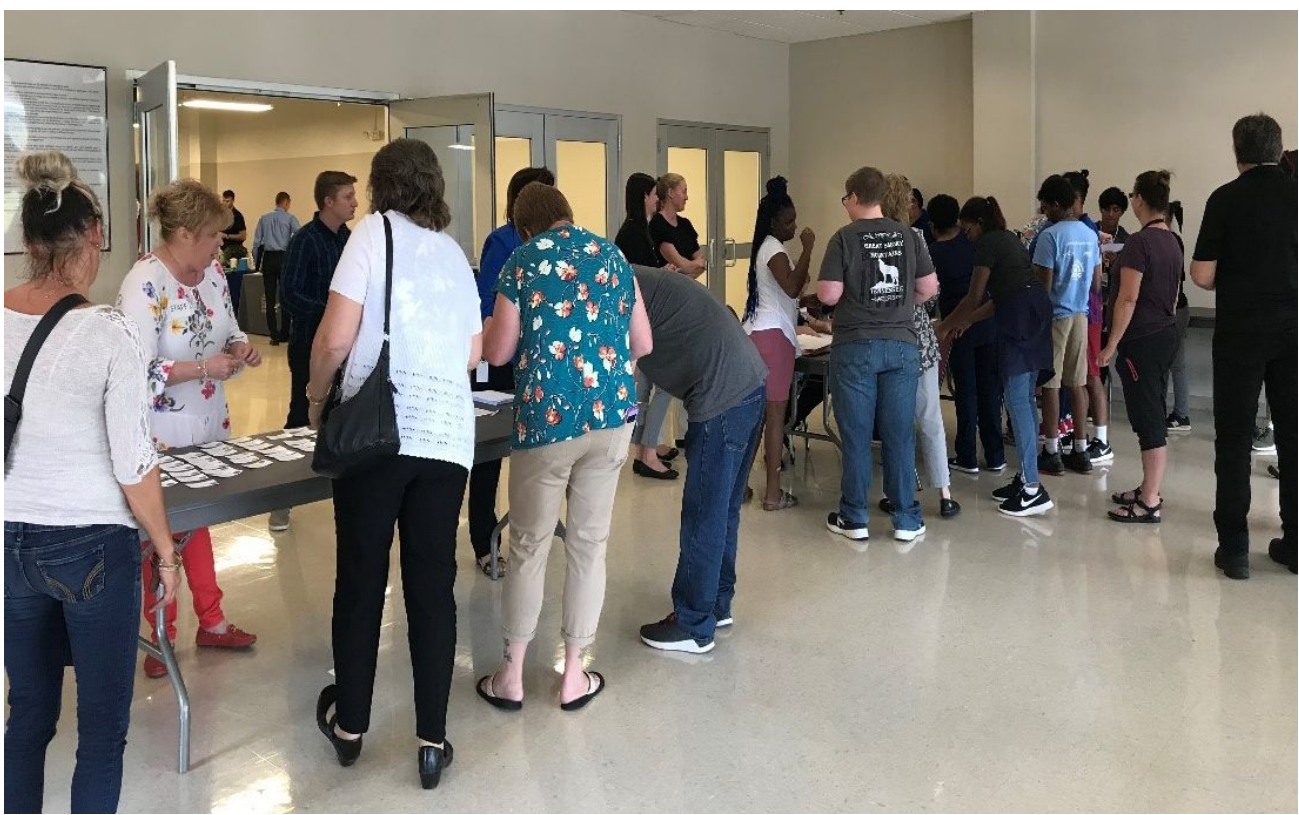
### Burke County Job Fair a Success

This year's Burke County Job Fair was seen as a success with 76 employers and resource partners participating and approximately 325 job seekers applying for job openings throughout the region. The Burke County Job Fair planning team worked hard for several months to make this event a value-add for the whole community. You can see from the pictures the people were engaged and ready.









Article by Wendy Johnson

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## Area Agency on Aging I Stand for Quality!

October is Resident's Rights Month! This year's theme is "I stand for Quality." The theme highlights the resident's right to receive quality care in our long-term care facilities. Resident's right month not only serves to educate the resident of their right to quality care but also educates residents about what to expect from their long-term care facility. The following are the rights established by the Residents' Bill of Rights:

- To be treated with consideration, respect, and full recognition of personal dignity and individuality.
- To receive adequate care, treatment, and services that are adequate and appropriate, and in compliance with relevant federal and state rules.
- To receive at the time of admission and during stay, a written statement of services provided by the facility and of related charges. Charges for services not covered under Medicare and Medicaid shall be specified.
- To have on file a physician's orders with proposed schedule of medical treatment. Written, signed evidence of prior informed consent to participation in experimental research shall be in patient's file.
- To receive respect and privacy in his medical care program. All personal and medical records are confidential.
- To be free of physical and mental abuse. To be free of chemical and physical restraint unless authorized for a specific period of time by a physician according to clear and indicated medical records.
- To receive from the administrator or staff of the facility a reasonable response to all requests.
- To receive visitors or have access to privacy in phone use at any reasonable hour. To send and receive mail promptly and unopened, with access to writing materials.



- To manage his/her own financial affairs unless other legal arrangements have been so ordered.
- To have privacy in visits by the patient's spouse.
- To enjoy privacy in his/her own room.
- To present grievances and recommend changes in policies and services without fear of reprisal, restraint, interference, coercion, or discrimination.
- To not be required to perform services for the facility without resident's consent and written approval of the attending physician.
- To retain, to secure storage for, and to use his personal clothing and possessions, where reasonable.
- To not be transferred or discharged from a facility except for medical, financial, or their own or other patient's welfare. Any such transfer shall require at least five days' notice, unless the attending physician orders immediate transfer, which shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
- To be notified when the facility's license is revoked or made provisional. The responsible party or guardian must be notified also.

This month is an opportunity for nursing homes, adult care homes, and family care homes to recognize and celebrate the rights of residents. It is a time to focus on resident directed care. If you have questions about resident's rights, contact your regional Ombudsman at (828) 485-4213 or (828) 485-4265.

Article by Christina Franklin

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## Community & Economic Development

### Appalachian Regional Commission Names Erin Schotte as Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow



The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) named Erin Schotte, Community Development Administrator, to participate in the inaugural class of the Appalachian Leadership Institute.

As a Fellow, Erin will participate in the Appalachian Leadership Institute, an extensive nine-month program of skill-building seminars, best practice reviews, field visits, mentoring, and networking. The curriculum will be anchored by six multi-day seminars around the region with the first sessions taking place in Morehead, Kentucky, October 21-24, 2019. Subsequent training sessions will be held in Dalton, Georgia; Starkville, Mississippi; Beckley, West Virginia; Boone, North Carolina; Jamestown, New York; followed by a capstone graduation in Washington, DC in July 2020.

As part of the Appalachian Leadership Institute, Ms. Schotte will work directly with public policy, community development, education, investment, and other

professionals who live and/or work in the Region to:

- Design effective economic development project proposals
- Integrate community assets into long-lasting economic development strategies
- Identify resources available to spur economic development
- Locate and access investment capital from a variety of public and private sources
- Prepare competitive applications for public grant opportunities
- Use expanded leadership skills to create strong coalitions

Upon completion of the program, Erin will automatically become part of the Appalachian Leadership Institute Network, a peer-to-peer working group committed to Appalachia's future.

"Our hope is that the Appalachian Leadership Institute will help develop leadership and problem solving, bring advancement, and grow greater prosperity in the Region," said ARC Federal Co-Chairman Tim Thomas. "Leadership is the essential foundation on which all of our collective efforts to enhance Appalachia rest."

Ms. Schotte was selected via a competitive application process. ARC received 180 applications for the 2019-



2010 Appalachian Leadership Institute class, resulting in an acceptance rate of 22 percent. Applications for the 2020-2021 class will open in March 2020.

The Appalachian Leadership Institute is a comprehensive regional leadership training program developed by the Appalachian Regional Commission in partnership with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; The Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy; Tuskegee University; and Collective Impact. More information about the Appalachian Leadership Institute is available at [www.arc.gov/leadershipinstitute](http://www.arc.gov/leadershipinstitute).

### About the Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission ([www.arc.gov](http://www.arc.gov)) is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 420 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC's mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.

Article by Erin Schotte

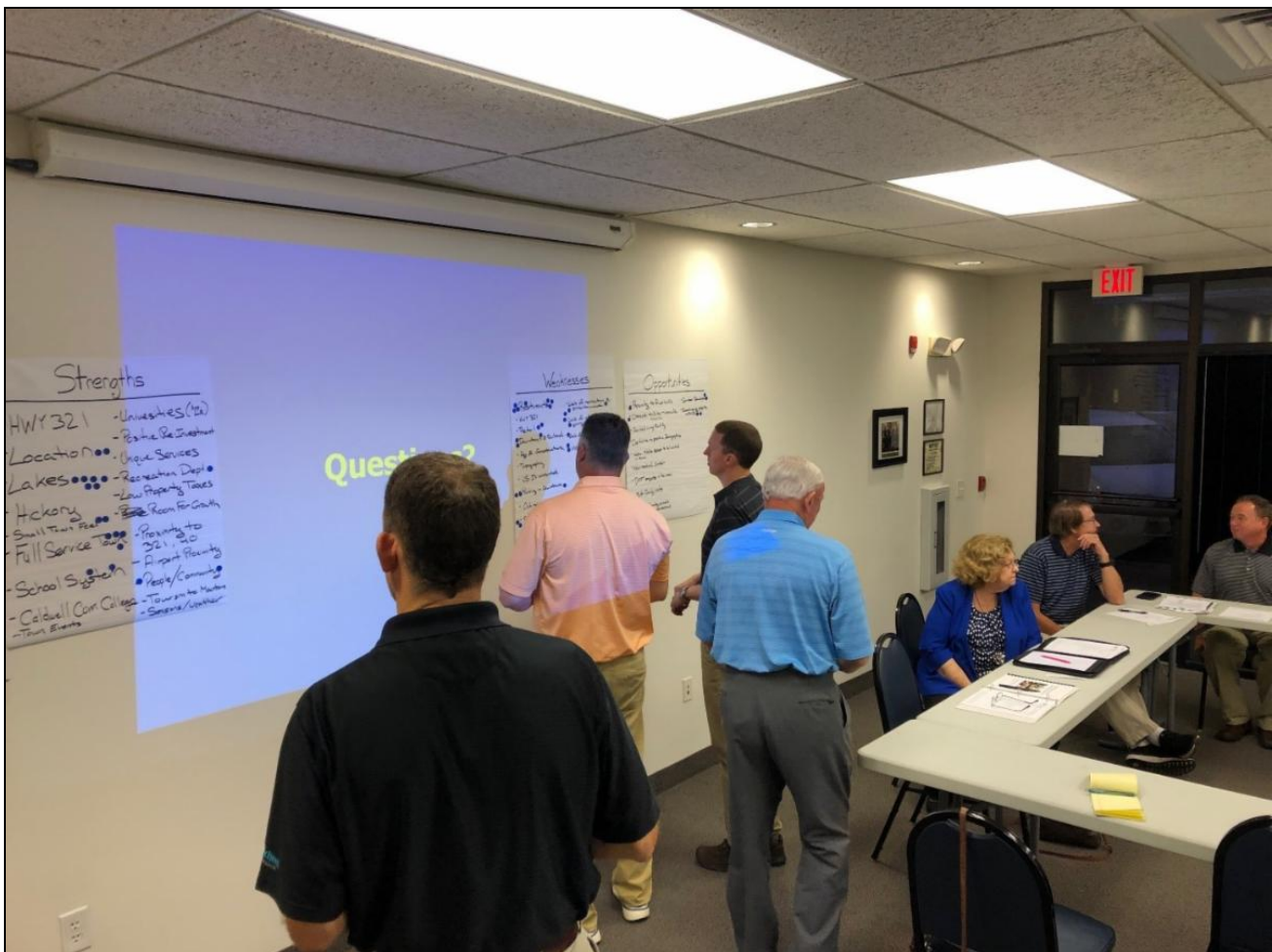
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## Community & Regional Planning

### Granite Falls Land Use Plan Kickoff and Bethlehem Community Plan

#### Granite Falls Land Use Plan Kickoff

According to North Carolina General Statutes, every local government must base their zoning decisions on a long-range plan, which describes policies for land-use and growth management issues. These decisions range from rezoning decisions to transportation regulations to policies governing the uses and subdivision of land. Granite Falls Manager and staff, as well as the Granite Falls Town Council, set the process of developing a long-range plan for Granite Falls in motion by contracting with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to assist in developing the Granite Falls Land Use Plan.



The Granite Falls Land Use Steering Committee had their kickoff meeting on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> in the Town Council Chambers. They will continue to meet monthly over the course of the next year to discuss land use, transportation, economic development, natural resources, and town services. This will result in a final Land Use Plan that will help shape the future of the Town of Granite Falls. The first public meeting concerning the Land Use Plan will be held on Thursday, December 12. The public meeting will be open to all citizens of Granite Falls, and will be an opportunity to gather input and comments from the general public.

## The Bethlehem Community Plan

The Bethlehem Community in Alexander County is now wrapping up a near year-long process of writing their Community Plan. Bethlehem will be experiencing a great deal of change, due to the widening of NC Highway 127, and its proximity to the City of Hickory, the Catawba River, and Interstate 40. Alexander County contracted with the WPCOG to complete the plan for the community.



The Bethlehem Community Plan was developed by a 12-person committee titled the Bethlehem Community Plan Advisory Committee, consisting of people from the Planning and Zoning Commission, County Commissioners, County Planning Staff and interested citizens-at-large. The Committee underwent a 12-month process of education, discussion and strategic thinking to develop a draft plan for presentation to the Alexander County Commissioners. The Plan analyzes the current conditions of the community and develops a series of recommended growth management strategies in the areas of land use, transportation, public services, economic development, and natural and cultural resources.

The process of creating the Bethlehem Community Plan offered several important ways for citizens to be involved in the Plan's development. On December 18, 2018, a community meeting was held at Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church. Attendants were asked to list the assets of the community, their concerns and vision for the community. There were approximately sixty-five (65) citizens in attendance. On September 3, 2019, the final community meeting was held at Bethlehem Elementary School where there were over 100 attendees. Members of the Community Plan Advisory Committee presented the Plan to the Alexander County Board of Commissioners on September 9, 2019. The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Plan during the September 9 meeting.

Article by Johnny Wear

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## Community & Regional Planning

### 2018 American Community Survey Data Now Available

On September 26, 2019 the US Census Bureau released data from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) for all areas with populations of 65,000 or more. More than 40 topics are available from the 2018 ACS including educational attainment, housing, employment, commuting, language spoken at home, nativity, ancestry and selected monthly homeowner costs. For 2018 ACS data for the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Burke County, Caldwell County and Catawba County click [here](#).



# 2018 American Community Survey Data Wheel

First, select a geography level.

State

Congressional District

Metropolitan Statistical Area

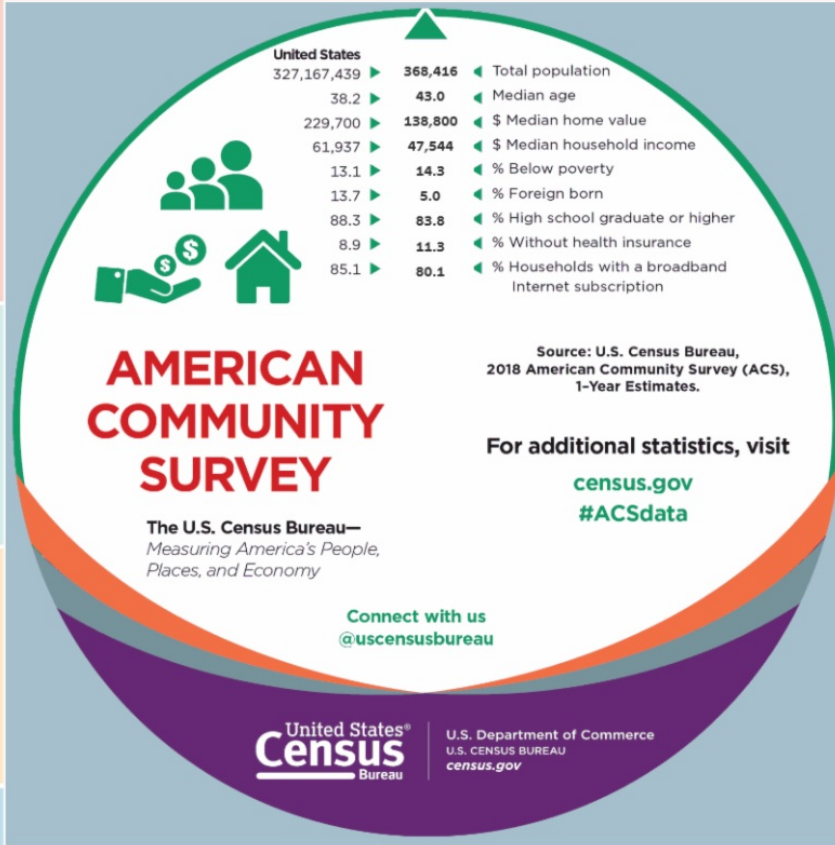
Second, select a state. →

North Carolina

Third, select a metro area. →

Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC Metro Area

Questions?  
Hover here or over the data for more info.



Article by Taylor Dellinger

## Community & Regional Planning - GIS/Data Center The Latest EIN (Fall 2019) is Now Available

The latest issue of the Economic Indicators Newsletter (EIN) is now available. In print since 1998, this quarterly publication focuses on economic trends and issues affecting the Hickory Metro Region. The current issue addresses Hickory Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) unemployment rates, Hickory Metro gross state tax collections, Hickory MSA job flow patterns and Hickory MSA migration patterns based on IRS Returns.

Here are a few key highlights of the EIN:

- The Hickory MSA's unemployment rate equaled 4.2% in January and July 2019.
- Between January and July 2019, the estimated number of employed persons grew from 168,791 to 169,794 (1,003), while the civilian labor force increased from 176,160 to 177,272 (1,112).
- Data from the US Census Bureau's OntheMap application reveals that the Hickory MSA has more job outflows than job inflows. In 2017, the region had 151,558 jobs, while the number of jobs worked by Hickory residents equaled 157,031. The results yield a net job outflow of 5,473. In comparison, the region a net job inflow of 1,305 in 2005 and a net job outflow of 7,361 in 2010.
- The percentage of Hickory MSA employees that live and work in the same county has declined from

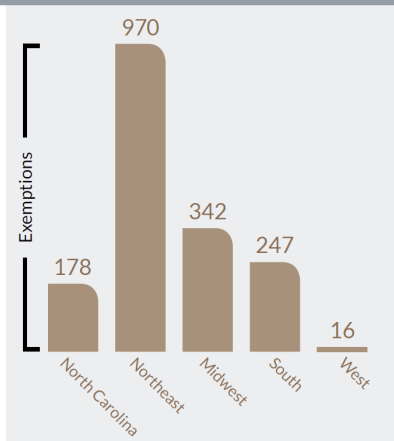


64.3% in 2005 to 54.2% in 2017.

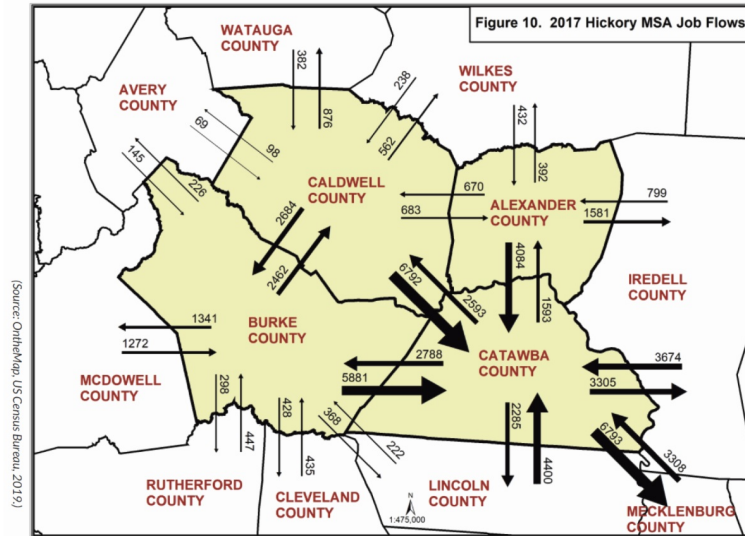
- Within the Hickory Metro area, Catawba County is the "job magnet" of the region, drawing more than 42,000 workers from surrounding counties.
- About 60% of employed residents in Alexander County out-commute to other counties. Close to 45% of residents in Burke and Caldwell Counties work in other counties. The analysis also showed a significant increase in out-commuting of Catawba County residents to Mecklenburg County.
- As of 2017, the job outflow from Catawba to Mecklenburg County (6,793) was nearly equal to the job inflow from Caldwell to Catawba County (6,792).
- An analysis of IRS tax returns data shows a net in-migration of 492 tax returns (assumed households) and 1,753 exemptions (assumed population) between 2013 and 2016.
- Based on IRS tax returns, the Hickory MSA had net in-migration from the Northeast, Midwest and Southern States.

See the selected figures below for additional information. The EIN is produced quarterly and is a publication of the Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board. To subscribe to the EIN, please contact Taylor Dellinger, Data Analyst at 828-485-4233 or by email [taylor.dellinger@wpcog.org](mailto:taylor.dellinger@wpcog.org), or register [here](#).

**Figure 11. Hickory MSA Net Migration**  
(based on # of IRS Tax Exemptions by State/US Region, 2013-2016)  
(Source: Internal Revenue Service, 2019.)



**Figure 10. 2017 Hickory MSA Job Flows**



Article by Taylor Dellinger

## Regional Housing Authority Presentation to Landmark Realty Group

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8, is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. A family that is issued a housing voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of the family's choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the PHA on behalf of the participating family.

Understanding that a participant is free to work with any landlord, The RHA makes it a priority to build landlord relationships. The Regional Housing Authority (RHA) participates in monthly landlord association meetings, holds an annual landlord seminar, and will present Section 8 information at corporate realty events.



Recently, Regional Housing Authority Director Stephanie Hanvey gave a Section 8 presentation to Landmark Realty Group during their annual training. Stephanie presented to on-site property managers, regional managers and district employees. Approximately 101 complexes were represented in the room. Stephanie was able to share the benefits of participating in the Section 8 program as a landlord.

If you are interested in Section 8, how it works and how to participate as a landlord, please contact the RHA. Landlords are also encouraged to come to the Landlord Workshop in November 2019.

Article by Kala Guido

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**Regional Housing Authority**  
Join Us for Our Annual Landlord Workshop





**Western Piedmont**  
Council of Governments

Regional Housing Authority



Join us for our

## **ANNUAL LANDLORD INFORMATION WORKSHOP**

**November 6, 2019 | 3pm - 5pm**

**WPCOG offices**

**(1880 2nd Ave NW | Hickory, NC 28601)**

- All current & interested landlords are invited to attend our Landlord Information Seminar.
- Guest Speakers will be providing information on resources for landlords.
- Landlords in attendance will be entered in a raffle for a chance to win a prize.
- Outstanding landlords will be recognized by the RHA. An award will be presented to landlords who have made a difference in our community.

Please RSVP to Kala Guido, RHA Housing Specialist, at [kala.guido@wpcog.org](mailto:kala.guido@wpcog.org) or 828-485-4282.



The WPCOG Regional Housing Authority (RHA) is committed to Equal Housing Opportunity for all applicants and participants. We comply with Federal Fair Housing Act. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make such preference, limitation or discrimination. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## **WPCOG Calendar**

**November**

**December**

**6 - Annual Landlord Information Workshop  
(3pm)**

**12 - Workforce Development Board @ WPCOG  
(8:30am)**

**7 - Economic Development Funding Forum  
@ WPCOG (1-4pm)**

**18 - MPO Transportation Advisory Committee  
(TAC) (TBA)**

**15 - Regional Housing Forum Series @  
WPCOG (8:30am-12pm)**

**18 - MPO Technical Coordinating Committee  
(TCC) (TBA)**

**20 - MPO Transportation Advisory  
Committee (TAC) (TBA)**

**20 - MPO Technical Coordinating  
Committee (TCC) (TBA)**

**26 - WPCOG Policy Board Meeting (6pm)  
@ Maiden**

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1880 2nd Ave NW · Hickory, NC 28601 · 828.322.9191

[www.wpcog.org](http://www.wpcog.org)