Land of Sky Regional Council is a multi-county, local government, planning and development organization. LOS reaches across county and municipal borders to provide technical assistance for local governments and to administer projects and programs that benefit our region’s citizens.

Our mission is to provide creative regional solutions to emerging issues in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania counties while providing a standard of excellence in the delivery of federal, state and regional services for our member communities.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMING SOON!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chair - Dona Mennella - Town of Laurel Park
Vice-Chair - Mike Hawkins - Transylvania County
Secretary - Open
Treasurer - Larry Harris - Town of Black Mountain
Past Chair - George Goosmann, III - Town of Biltmore Forest
County Delegate - Wayne Brigman - Madison County
Municipal Delegate - Open
Ministry Delegate - Open
Aging / Volunteer Services Delegate - Charles Dickens

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
Buncombe County - Tim Moffitt, Denise Braine, Miranda DeBruhlt* City of Asheville - Gwen Wiler, Esther Manheimer
Town of Biltmore Forest - George Goosmann III, Jonathan Kanipe
Town of Black Mountain - Larry Harris, Ryan Stone
Town of Montreat - Tim Harris, Bill Gilliland, Letta Jean Taylor*, Jack McCaskill*
Town of Weaverville - Patrick Fitzharnmon, Dottie Sheerli, Gene Kneefler*
Town of Woodfin - Jerry VeHaun, Debbie Goeschl
Buncombe County - Grady Hawkins, Larry Rogers
Village of Flat Rock - Anne Coletta, Albert Gooch
Town of Fletcher - Bob Davy, Mark Biberdorf
City of Hendersonville - Barbara Volk, Steve Caraker
Town of Laurel Park - Dona Mennela, Alison Melnikova
Henderson County - Wayne Brignam, Matt Wechtel, Jim Baker*
Town of Hot Springs - Bilal Reese
Town of Marshall - Jack Wallis, Bille Jean Haynie, Lawrence Ponder*
Town of Mars Hill - John Chandler, Darlly Boone
Madison County - Wayne Brigman, Matt Wechtel, Jim Baker*
Town of Hot Springs - Bilal Reese
Town of Marshall - Jack Wallis, Bille Jean Haynie, Lawrence Ponder*
Town of Mars Hill - John Chandler, Darlly Boone
Transylvania County - Mike Hawkins, Jason Chappell
City of Brevard - Charlie Landreth, Mac Morrow
Town of Rosman - Brian Shelton, Walter Pettit Jr.
Aging Services Representative - Charles Dickens
Volunteer Services Representative - Kathe Harris

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES
Buncombe County - George Morosani
Henderson County - Andrew Tate
Madison County - Ryan Cody
Transylvania County - Josh Hallingse, Mark Burrows*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS
Buncombe County - Brenda Mills
Henderson County - John Mitchell
Madison County - Simone Bouyer*
Transylvania County - Sheila Norman*

*Served part of the fiscal year.
Area Agency on Aging (AAA) promotes the highest level of well being of older adults and their families by partnering with organizations to provide a comprehensive system of opportunities, services, and protective services. The AAA is a leader and catalyst in helping older adults in our four county region lead more independent, vibrant lives. As part of a national network of aging agencies established by the Older Americans Act, we work to strengthen home and community care for older adults.

**HEALTH PROMOTION & DISEASE PREVENTION**
- Sub-awardee for Administration on Community Living grant to expand Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs in NC.
- Henderson County A Matter of Balance Program filmed for spotlight in National Council on Aging promotional video; final product will be available for viewing on NCOA website this September.

**FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM**
- Provided $2,000.00 for the printing of updated Henderson County Senior Services Directories. Graphic design and formatting was provided by Christina Giles at Land of Sky Regional Council. Printing and assembly was completed at Land of Sky Regional Council.
- Distributed over 1,000 Caregiver Resources Directories and provided formation about services for caregivers at conferences and health fairs. Distributed over 200 Madison County Senior Services Directories, and 200 Transylvania County Senior Services Directories.
- Provided information and assistance to 13 caregivers from outside of Region 8 who called for information or services.
- Distributed over 200 Caregiver Resources Directories and provided information about services for caregivers at the Alzheimer’s Caregivers Geriatric Summit offered by MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Consortium).
- Partnered with others to plan and host a Caregivers and Depression seminar for professionals who work with family caregivers.
- Provided assistance to 205 caregivers for information or services.

**PROJECT C.A.R.E.**
- Funded $1271 worth of respite for five family caregivers in three Region 8 counties (Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania) and in Avery and McDowell counties using donated funds.
- Provided ongoing care consultation services to 67 caregivers in WNC and information & referral services to many others.

**OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM**
- Organized and hosted annual Community Advisory Committee volunteer retreat with 39 attendees.
- Hosted Financial Exploitation Summit with 80 people in attendance.
- Organized and hosted meeting between Division of Health Service Regulations Adult Care Home Section Chief Megan Lamphere and her key staff with WNC Regional Ombudsmen representing 18 counties, Adult Home Specialists and Adult Protective Service staff from 9 counties, with a total of 28 attendees.
- Hosted Annual NC Division of Health Services Regulation “1068” Trainings for Adult Care Homes with 100 participants and another with 60 participants.

**AAA ADVOCACY #’S**

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<tr>
<th>Agency on Aging (AAA)</th>
<th>Lead Regional Organization (LRO)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Renamed Land-of-Sky Regional Council on motion by Mayor Bill Baxter (Laurel Park).</td>
<td>Designation was last in State after staffing dispute and membership “renewals”/activation and other issues were resolved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Shepherd named Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council.</td>
<td>Governor James Holshouser offers package of programs (several new) to LROs–Intergovernmental Human Services Program, which included aging, EMS, workforce development, law enforcement planning, child development (USC-funded), comprehensive family planning, and WIC–Women, Infants and Children nutrition. The Council wrote the application which brought WIC to all 4 county health departments.</td>
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**OBUMDSMAN PROGRAM**
- Regional Ombudsmen responded to 236 cases of complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, and completed 1,360 advocacy and general information activities including:
  - 24 Community Education
  - 115 Long-Term Care Selection Assistance
  - 77 Division of Health Service Regulation Surveys
  - 332 facility visits
  - 14 Training Sessions to CAC Volunteers
  - 81 Provider Consultations

**CAC VOLUNTEERS**
- CAC Volunteers made 143 visits to long-term care facilities and contributed 2,469 hours.

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<th><strong>VOLUNTEERS</strong></th>
<th><strong>SAVED</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>81 Provider Consultations</td>
<td>$54,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Training Sessions to CAC Volunteers</td>
<td>by providing these services to their respective communities.</td>
</tr>
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According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time in North Carolina is $21.88 per hour, meaning that the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program saved our region $54,022.
**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Land of Sky is the local economic development district for our region, providing access to a wide variety of expertise, partnerships, and funding streams. Current efforts are focused on greater regional cooperation in the areas of job creation, job retention, quality of place, entrepreneurship, and economic competitiveness. Professionally trained and experienced staff diligently strive to improve economic, environmental, and social conditions in every program area and project. Services available to local governments and communities include facilitation, grant writing and management, project administration, data management, policy and plan research and development, and training.

**LAND OF SKY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
- The Land of Sky RPO staff in partnership with the Land of Sky Regional Council Economic and Community Development staff, assisted Madison County and the Town of Mars Hill in successfully securing an Appalachian Regional Commission, Rural Access Road Grant in the amount of $1,779,515.00 for the construction of the SR 1631/Crossroad Parkway Access Road Project.

This project will reconnect Crossroads Parkway south for approximately 2.166 feet to SR 1549 Calvin Edney Road, and provide a connection to Hwy 213 at Exit 11 off Interstate 26. For many years Mars Hill has needed a direct access to commercial/industrial district by providing a more direct route for large vehicles to access the north side of Town. Additionally, the project will provide frontage road access between Carl Eller Road and Rail Road Ave. Brevard’s existing bike path terminates at McLean Road just before Rail Road Ave. This new infrastructure will serve to connect the bike path on Brevard’s Main Street area as well as the nearby Music Center and Bracken Mountain Preserve.

**Steps for Implementation**
- The MPO staff continued to partner with FBRMPo to implement a Pedestrian Count Program for the region using the MPO’s automated pedestrian counter. These counts help inform local staff of pedestrian volumes on corridors.
- The MPO staff, in collaboration with Land of Sky GIS staff, have completed the downtown areas parking inventory for the five-county region.
- Land of Sky RPO and the French Broad River MPO staff assisted City of Brevard staff in the layout of SHARROW markings along both Probart Street and Rail Road Ave. Brevard’s existing bike path terminates at McLean Road just before Rail Road Ave.
- The Land of Sky RPO and French Broad River MPO staff assisted City of Brevard staff in the layout of Shared Lane markings also known as SHARROW markings along the Main Street corridor of Marshall. Sharrow markings are put in place to alert motor vehicle drivers to the presence of cyclists and to encourage cyclists to ride outside of the “door zone” of parked cars. Marshall is a hub for cyclist and outdoor enthusiasts, the new infrastructure will provide a degree of safety for cyclists while they visit downtown businesses.

**AAA ACTIVE AGING #’S**

**HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION**
- Staff and trained leaders screened 5,138 fans and 12 air conditioners to older adults in need. The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Council on Aging for Henderson County and Western Carolina Community Action - Brevard distributed these fans and air conditioners.

**MONTHLY HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES**
- CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM & PROJECT C.A.R.E
  - The Family Caregiver Support Program distributed $55,000 to 6 agencies to provide respite and care management for 58 family caregivers and distributed $25,000 to Project CARE (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) to provide respite services for 30 caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s Disease or related dementia by distributing grants ranging in the amounts of $350 - $1,500.

**SENIORE COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**
- The Senior Community Service Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth $115,246 to 22 participants that contributed 15,896 hours of community service hours to 11 host agencies in the community. (All counties except Madison)

**AAA FUNDING & SERVICES #’S**
- HCCBG and county funds provided $3,932,767 in funding for services that supported over 3,900 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding 1,461 older adults were given nutritious meals, 118 participated in adult day programs, 618 received in-home health care and home repair services, 423 received financial education and counseling, and 1,385 received transportation services.

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES**
- 239 A Matter of Balance, Managing Concerns About Falls workshops and 2 coach trainings with 87 community participants enrolled in the program
- 5 Living Healthy with a Chronic Condition workshops and 1 leader training with 117 community participants enrolled into the program
- 8 Laughter Yoga presentations with 56 enrolled participants

**PROGRAM & PROJECT C.A.R.E.**
- The Family Caregiver Support Program distributed

**Historical Notes**
- 1975
  - Mountain Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) application approved by US Department of Agriculture.
  - Areawide Water Quality Planning Agency designation and funding by Environmental Protection Agency, second in State. The Management Plan called for consolidation of 13 leaky sewer systems, achieved in 1989 under MSD.
  - TVA began funding of River Improvement Program, leading to river cleanup by counties. 15 river access parks, French Broad River Festival, FBR Foundation (later merged into RiverLink)
  - Took over the Title V Program from the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker’s program.
  - Regional Vision ’95 strategic plan completed; first of several COG-based plans in the nation. National Strategic Planning Guide published by National Association of Regional Councils and training events held, "Guide to Strategic Decision Making for
**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**1982**

- Land of Sky RPO purchased a Jamar Cycles Plus Traffic counter and Pedestrian counter. This new equipment will enable staff to gather additional volume and usage data on local roadways as well as greenways, sidewalks and shared use paths, for our member jurisdictions.

**1983**

- Land of Sky Regional Council provided GIS Technical Services.

**1985**

- Land of Sky continues to support Buncombe County by serving and administering the County’s Fair Housing Activities. In 2016, Land of Sky responded to over 176 housing inquiries which included renter’s rights, buyer’s rights and responsibilities, availability of affordable housing within the county, and requests for home repairs assistance. Additionally, staff distributed fair housing posters and brochures throughout the county and presented Fair Housing – Renters Rights and Responsibilities programs with 222 attendances.

**1988**

- The MPO Board adopted a list of amendments to the 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a document that reflects funded transportation projects as well as projects that are in development in the fall of 2015 and winter of 2016. With the amendments, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and other local governments will have a more effective ability to implement transportation projects.

**ECD SAVINGS**

**$294,000**

Identified annual operational savings for 25 technical assessments for businesses, industries, schools in region B. Technical assessments focused on energy efficiency strategies, zero waste to landfill goals, efficient use of water and productivity improvements.

**$117,000**

The business value of WRP efforts in a special Lean and Green training workshop that WRP engineers delivered for Selee Corporation. The workshop supported Selee’s continual improvement programs and efforts to reduce waste being landfilled. The WRP team also provided assistance to county staff on energy management and supported recycling efforts in the agriculture sector businesses.

**FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

- Hosted a LAAPP (Locally Administered Projects Program) training session for local government staff interested in applying for the federal transportation funds in the spring of 2016 in preparation for a new call for STP-DA and TAP projects. As a result of the spring 2015 call for projects, $2,045,000 was allocated by the French Broad River MPO in STP-DA and TAP funds for transportation projects and feasibility studies in our region.

- A new TIP was held by MPO staff, in collaboration with NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 staff, for new MPO board members in February of 2016. This orientation is designed to educate new board members on the role and structure of the MPO and the responsibilities of MPO board members.

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**GROWING NETWORK OF DC FAST CHARGERS**

- Clean Vehicles Coalition staff represented our region on the NC Plug-in Electric Vehicles Task Force that trains local governments and others statewide on electric vehicle deployments and charging.

- Clean Vehicles Coalition continued assisting the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Carl Sandburg Home Historic Site apply for funding or implement projects under the DOE’s National Parks Initiative. The Smokies installed the first DC Fast Chargers in a national park.

- Clean Vehicles Coalition assisted many public and private sector fleets in the region with fleet assessments or their all fuel vehicle projects.

- Clean Vehicles Coalition cosponsored several training sessions for local fleet managers including:
  - May 23 Propane Vehicle Training and Vehicle Showcase with Blossman Gas of Swannanoa.
  - June 8 Natural Gas Vehicle and Maintenance Facility workshop with PSNC Energy.
  - June 6 Electric Vehicle Workplace Charging Workshop with Advanced Energy, City of Asheville and Sierra Nevada Brewing.

**CLEAN VEHICLES COALITION**

- Clean Vehicles Coalition continued to get our region “EV Ready” through education and outreach programs, technical assistance and working with partners to install EV Charging stations across the region including the region’s growing network of DC Fast Chargers.

**FRESHER MOUNTAIN MOBILITY**

- In the spring of 2016, Mountain Mobility completed a community survey to gauge our effectiveness and customer satisfaction with our services. Eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents said they were “Very Likely” to recommend Mountain Mobility to a friend or a neighbor.

- Mountain Mobility vehicle operators who took first place in the North Carolina Public Transit Association’s Annual State Rodeo in June 2016. The competition evaluates the skills necessary to be a great vehicle operator. Mountain Mobility’s team – Pam Hensley, Leslie Penland and Carolyn Hensley – placed first in the Team Van competition. Pam Hensley took first place in the Individual Van category.

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HISTORY

1988

Organized Blue Ridge Mountain Host for joint promotion of tourism in Region (with additional counties).

Began Regional Articulation in Vocational Education (RAVE) in cooperation with AB Tech, Blue Ridge Tech, 4 county school systems and industry/business representatives. Program was funded by ARC, NC Division of Community Colleges, NC Department of Public Instruction, 2 Smith Reynolds Foundation and others. Program which gives advanced placement in community colleges for qualifying high school coursework is still in effect.

INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECD FUNDING & GRANTS

$2,597,140
Continues to support the Town of Marshall in the Administration of the NC Department of Environmental Quality Community Development Block Grant – infrastructure grant and NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division – Infrastructure grant. These funds support Phase II of the Town’s Water Infrastructure Improvements Project.

$175,000
Supported Henderson County and Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development in successfully securing Appalachian Regional Commission funding to develop the Old Fairground industrial site. The project had an additional $75,000 local match.

$75,000
Assisted the Town of Marshall in successfully securing a NC Department of Commerce – Building Reuse grant to support the relocation of the BUCHI Kombucha Tea Co. BUCHI will be moving their tea production and warehousing facility to Marshall and will expand their employee base from nine to fifteen jobs.

$487,650
Assisted the Town of Mars Hill in successfully securing a Golden Leaf grant that will support much needed improvements to the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and expansion of sewer lines to the east side of Interstate 26.

$199,995
Assisted the Town of Marshall in successfully securing a USDA Rural Development – RDIG to support improvements to the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plant.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER MPO

$4 Million
In STBG and TAP-DA federal transportation funds are directly allocated to the MPO region on an annual basis. Local governments apply through the MPO to access these funds for a variety of transportation projects.

$790,440
Continues to support Henderson County with Habitat match with grant administrative support on the Dodd Meadows Habitat for Humanity subdivision project. This project is funded through the NC Department of Commerce CDBG – Capacity Building program.

$830 Million
Worth of transportation projects have been programmed in our region in the 2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), a document that reflects projects committed for funding in the first five years, as well as projects that are in development scheduled for the outer five years. FBRMPO participated in the statewide STI/SPOT Prioritization process to select local stakeholder and public input and coordinated with NCDO to submit projects for funding in the STIP.

$250,000
The MPO held a call for projects for IST Section 5310 funds – federal public transportation funding that is programmed in the STIP to help local governments and individuals with disabilities.

CLEAN VEHICLES COALITION

$39,000
Began work under a US DOE Clean Cities Program grant for our region’s participation in the Southeast Alt Fuel Demonstration Initiative (SAFD) that is loaning alternative fueled cars and trucks to local area’s fleet for test driving in 2016-17.

River MPO region has received $710,081,000 in Statewide Mobility Tier projects funding. $79,367,000 in Regional Impact Tier projects funding and $44,098,000 in Division Tier projects funded included in the 2016-2025 TP. Ensuring that those projects are programmed in the TP/STIP required the MPO to solicit local stakeholder and public input and coordinate with NCDO to submit projects as part of STI/SPOT 3.0 prioritization process.

The MPO Board adopted the 2015 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, MTP 2040, in September of 2015. MTP 2040 was developed with guidance from the MPO TCC, the MPO Board, the MTP Executive Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee. The MTP is a federally-required, fiscally-constrained plan that highlights the region’s vision, goals, and projects that are planned for the next twenty-five years. As part of the plan adoption process, MPO staff attended seven public outreach events and heard input from 125 members of the public. Thanks to support from Land of Sky GIS staff, a map of MTP 2040 highway and bicycle and pedestrian projects may be viewed online.

Organized Blue Ridge Mountain Host for joint promotion of tourism in Region (with additional counties).

Began Regional Articulation in Vocational Education (RAVE) in cooperation with AB Tech, Blue Ridge Tech, 4 county school systems and industry/business representatives. Program was funded by ARC, NC Division of Community Colleges, NC Department of Public Instruction, 2 Smith Reynolds Foundation and others. Program which gives advanced placement in community colleges for qualifying high school coursework is still in effect.

Namned “Outstanding Regional Council” in nation by National Association of Regional Councils.

TVA began funding of Waste Reduction Partners (originally Waste Reduction and Technology Transfer program (WRATT) to utilize retired engineers and technicians.

Home and Community Care Block Grants (HCCB) were created and began contracting with the counties.

Organized, and achieved funding for, Asheville Regional Housing Consortium to provide housing as members (still active).
1994
National Model developed for regional solid waste planning with a manual and national conference in Asheville.

1995
Received and administered US Department of Commerce grant that funded Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN) to provide last-mile Internet connectivity to WNC.

1996
Regional Air Quality Programs: SAMI (Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative), contracted with NC DENR to conduct a study of an 8-state region. Other related work includes Clean Air Campaign, Clean Vehicles Coalition and supportive data for Clean Smokes Act.

1999
The Foster Grandparent Program joined the Volunteer Services funded by Corporation for National Service.

2000
The Family Caregiver Support Program began under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

North Carolina continues to have a strong spirit of volunteerism throughout the state. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Senior Corps in North Carolina contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 3,100 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 720 homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols, renovate homes, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 540 groups across North Carolina. During 2015, Senior Corps commemorated these special events:

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM
August 2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). What began as a pilot project of 21 programs under President Johnson’s “war on poverty” to assist older adults has today grown into a program of nearly 30,000 volunteers who serve over 24 million hours to help more than 280,000 children and youth. The program is truly a win-win for both the volunteer serving and the children served offering significant benefits for both. The Foster Grandparent Program is “A Legacy Beyond the Ability to Measure”, said Dr. Bernie Nash, originator of the Foster Grandparent Program concept.

9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE
Volunteer Services teamed with Operation North State, Walgreens, and Asheville Newcomers Club to collect toiletry items including deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, antibiotic cream, hot sauce and candy to give to our service men and women. Over 7,600 items were collected/donated to Operation North State to create care packages for our military troops.

NATIONAL VETERANS CORPS
The Corporation for National and Community Service launched the National Veterans Corps to recognize the contributions of veterans in national service and to celebrate the impact Senior Corps volunteers, and organizations are making in the veterans community. Volunteers from our Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion and Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, who are themselves veterans or serve veterans, were honored at the December 2015 Land of Sky Regional Council Board Meeting with a special commemorative service pin and ceremony from the Volunteer Services Advisory Council.

MAYOR’S AND ELECTED OFFICIALS DAY OF SERVICE
In April, Mayors and County Officials in our 4 county service area of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania County honored national service work and our volunteers with proclamations and appreciation.

RSVP
Land of Sky Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) Program ceased operations on March 31, 2016. Land of Sky Regional Council is proud to have sponsored, for over 31 years, this volunteer engagement opportunity for ages 55 and better providing solutions to community challenges.

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE

MOUNTAIN MOBILITY
158,940 Total number of trips provided to individuals in Buncombe County in FY16. Our partnerships with other community service providers, including Medicaid and the City of Asheville’s ART Transit System, helped us to serve more disabled and low-income residents than ever before.

44 Vehicles in our fleet
436 Average number of daily trips
1,457,573 Total miles driven
92% On-time performance
1,711 Number of new passengers that signed up for transportation services provided by Mountain Mobility.

NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY
116,965 Number of one way trips scheduled by the call center.
73,474 Number of trips provided by vendors. This does not include trips provided by individuals.
13,115 Number of Information and Referral calls received by the call center.
700 Number of assessments taken for new clients by the call center.

$34,425 Total amount of RIDE Voucher subsidies for taxi rides redeemed by 270 eligible disabled individuals in Buncombe County.

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Volunteer Services teamed with Operation North State, Walgreens, and Asheville Newcomers Club to collect toiletry items including deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, antibiotic cream, hot sauce and candy to give to our service men and women. Over 7,600 items were collected/donated to Operation North State to create care packages for our military troops.

NATIONAL VETERANS CORPS
The Corporation for National and Community Service launched the National Veterans Corps to recognize the contributions of veterans in national service and to celebrate the impact Senior Corps volunteers, and organizations are making in the veterans community. Volunteers from our Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion and Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, who are themselves veterans or serve veterans, were honored at the December 2015 Land of Sky Regional Council Board Meeting with a special commemorative service pin and ceremony from the Volunteer Services Advisory Council.

MAYOR’S AND ELECTED OFFICIALS DAY OF SERVICE
In April, Mayors and County Officials in our 4 county service area of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania County honored national service work and our volunteers with proclamations and appreciation.

RSVP
Land of Sky Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) Program ceased operations on March 31, 2016. Land of Sky Regional Council is proud to have sponsored, for over 31 years, this volunteer engagement opportunity for ages 55 and better providing solutions to community challenges.
HISTORY

2003
NC DOT designated the Council as Rural Transportation Regional Planning Organization (RPO) also serving Haywood County.

Regional Brownfields Program began to remediate polluted sites with economic development potential.

2004
Began the Clean Vehicles Coalition under the Clean Cities which is a program of the US Department of Energy that works with states and communities across the country to promote the use of cleaner alternative fuels and vehicles.

Regional Brownfields Program began to remediate polluted sites with economic development potential.

Joe McKinney becomes Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

2007
Began administering the Living Healthy with a Chronic Condition or Diabetes program, also known as Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.

2009
Staffs the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Asheville Metropolitan Area transportation and resumed staffing the regional Workforce Development Board for the 4 counties.

FUNDING & SERVICES

WIOA FUNDS
$2.1 Million
Operational leadership and administrative service funds that provided career development and job preparation services to nearly 28,431 individuals in the four career centers. An additional 207 clients received career counseling, financial assistance for tuition and books, and post participation follow-up assistance with job search and retention.

WORKFORCE SERVICES
160
Number of job preparation/job search workshops with over 731 individuals attending. Approximately 207 clients received career counseling, financial assistance for tuition and books, and post participation follow-up assistance with job search and retention.

4
Clients retained employment after the completion of On-the-Job Training (32 total served).

274
Clients that received services from youth programs, which focused on career guidance, academic assistance and paid work experience to encourage dropout prevention and high school graduation.

The Mountain Area Workforce Development Board designs and implements a strategic plan to meet the needs of the region’s businesses for a skilled, reliable and proficient workforce; and meets the skill development and job acquisition needs of the region’s jobseekers. MAWD is engaged in public/private partnerships that respond to emerging workforce issues and economic development opportunities.

Foster Grandparent Program
The Foster Grandparent Program saved the region $1,668,809 with 76 volunteers providing 76,271 hours to assist special needs or at-risk children in achieving their short and long-term goals.

Senior Companion Program
The Senior Companion Program saved the region $1,662,026 with 83 volunteers providing 75,961 hours to assist older adults to remain independent and active in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
Retired and Senior Volunteers were engaged in community solutions with 365 volunteers providing 37,085 hours of service in 148 specific volunteer jobs saving the region $811,420.

According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time in North Carolina is $21.88 per hour, meaning that the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program saved our region $4,142,256 by providing these services to their respective communities.
**HISTORY**

- **2010**: Began the WNC Forest Products Marketing Project.
- **2011**: Began administering Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County’s public transportation system. Began the GroWNC Visioning. The Community Resource Connections (CRC) Project became operational (later became the Local Contract Agency).
- **2012**: Started to receive Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) funds. Began the LGBT Elders Advocates of WNC.
- **2013**: Designated by the US DOE on July 26, 2012 as an official Clean Cities program for the five county area. Began administering Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) and A Matter of Balance Program.
- **2015**: Justin Hembree becomes Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council.
- **2016**: Began operating of the Non-Medicaid Transportation Resource Center and the Broadband WestNGN Program.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**FY 2016 BUDGETED REVENUES**

$14,020,268

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Federal</td>
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<td>State</td>
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<td>Local Dues</td>
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<td>Local Government Contracts</td>
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<td>Private Grants, Contracts, Sponsors</td>
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**FY 2016 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES**

$14,020,268

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<td>Volunteer Services</td>
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<td>Volunteer Services</td>
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**LAND OF SKY STAFF**

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Justin Hembree - Executive Director
- Danna Stansbury - Deputy Executive Director
- Christina Giles - Communications and Administrative Services Coordinator
- Zia Rifkin - Administrative Program Specialist

**FINANCE**

- Vickie Thomas - Finance Director
- Arlene Wilson - Accounting Specialist
- Rose Sable - Accounting Specialist
- Wanda Clark - Accounting Assistant

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING**

- LeeAnne Tucker - Director of Aging and Volunteer Services
- CarolMcLamans - Family Caregiver Specialist
- Nancy Hogan - Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultant - WNC
- RuthPrice - Lead Regional Ombudsman
- Julia Gibson - Senior Regional Ombudsman
- Turkessa Baten - Associate Regional Ombudsman
- Linda Holt - Senior Community Services Employment Program Coordinator
- Sherry Christenson - Aging Program Specialist, Contracts / ARMS
- Stephani Stewart - Aging Program Specialist, HPDP / Senior Centers
- Pat Hilgendorf - Caregiver Program Associate
- Linda Kendall Fields - Aging and Disabilities Program Specialist
- Ali Cimino* - Aging and Disabilities Program Specialist

**VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

- LeeAnne Tucker - Director of Aging and Volunteer Services
- Ann Whisenhunt - Senior Companion Program Manager
- Stacy Friesland - Foster Grandparent Program Manager

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Erica Anderson - Director of Economic and Community Development
- Bill Eacker - Senior Environmental Planner
- Karen Kiehna - Principal Planner
- Lyuba Zuyeva - French Broad River MPO Director

**TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES CENTER**

- Vicki Jennings - Mountain Mobility Program Manager
- Geri Ballew - Mobility Specialist
- Shana Doyle - Senior Program Assistant
- Zack Schmidt - Transportation Accounting/Database Specialist

**WASTE REDUCTION PARTNERS**

- Terry Albrecht*** - WRP Director
- Russ Jordan - Energy Program Manager
- Dee Hanak - WRP Office Manager
- Tom Kimmell** - Water Programs Manager

**MOUNTAIN AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

- Nathan Ramsey - MAWDB Director
- Kim Cox - MIS Specialist / Local Area’s EO Officer
- Barbara Darby - Business Services Coordinator
- Zia Rifkin - MAWDB Administrative Assistant

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* Independent Contractor
** WRP Employee
*** NC DENR Employee