Our Mission is to provide creative regional solutions to relevant and 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 Chairman

“The times they are a changing.” So is our Land of Sky Regional Council. Last October, Joe McKinney, our previous Executive director, was selected to serve as Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) in Washington, D.C. Joe was only the second Executive Director we’ve had in the last 40 years. A search committee made up of current Council Members reviewed over 50 applications from candidates who were very interested in the position. After a lengthy vetting process, a round of interviews, and numerous conversations, the committee recommended Justin Hembree. In early August, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to hire Justin as our new Executive Director.

Justin will have his hands full as he helps guide the Council through a period of substantial change. The Executive Board has expressed a desire to get back to our roots by working closer with our member governments to make sure we are meeting their needs with value added projects and products. We are also just beginning a rebranding campaign which has two major goals: first, we want to ensure that those who need our services have a better understanding of what we offer as well as how they can get our support; second, we want to promote our organization more within the region so everyone has a better understanding of how Land of Sky Regional Council adds value to our community.

We are also wrapping up the initial phases of the multi-year GroWNC project. The purpose of this project is to generate interest within our community to collectively work together to create our future. Now that a detailed plan has been developed, it is time to implement projects that will assist our regional community to becoming an even better place for families to live and businesses to thrive.

This 2013 LOS Annual Report features many staff members and volunteers who are responsible for the accomplishments we’ve seen in the last 12 months. We have also highlighted many of the specific programs which were implemented in each of our member counties. Please review the list and take it back to your communities so everyone will get a better understanding of why our regional council is so important to our region.

I am confident the new Executive Director, his staff, and our member governments, will continue to ensure Land of Sky Regional Council serves as a local, state and national leader in developing and implementing creative regional solutions to better assist our local governments in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties.

Bob Davy - Chairman 2013

L-R: Chairman Bob Davy and Executive Director Justin Hembree
About Land of Sky

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. LOS offers:

Economic & Community Development

To help fulfill the Council’s Mission, this department (formerly known as Local Government Services) oversees planning, economic, and community development services for the region’s governments and communities. Programs and specialties include but are not limited to:

- **Client Services Program** - Provides customer service, project development, funding research, and other requested activities for member governments.
- **Growth Management** - Land use, water quality/quantity, working lands, cultural and historic sites, conservation, and waste/recycling.
- **Transportation** - Urban and rural, transit, bike and pedestrian, greenways, roads, rail, and air quality.
- **Housing** - Rehabilitation, affordable, and green built.
- **Energy** - Renewable, efficiency, and alternative fuels.
- **Brownfields** - Assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
- **Waste Reduction Partners** - Industrial, institutional and commercial waste reduction, and energy efficiency.

Area Agency on Aging

Area Agency on Aging 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 supports. Programs include:

- **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention** - Develops and supports evidence-based health promotion programs.
- **Family Caregiver Support Program** - Provides information and support for family caregivers.
- **Project C.A.R.E.** - Provides assistance to caregivers of people with dementia.
- **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** - Protects residents’ rights and advocates to improve the quality of care for people in nursing and adult care homes.
- **Senior Community Services Employment Program** - Job-training and employment program for older adults.
- **Senior Tar Heel Legislature** - Coordinates representative from the region to promote advocacy on aging issues.
- **Information & Assistance** - Provides support to agencies and persons responding to the needs of older adults.

Volunteer Services

The Volunteer Services Department connects adults 55 and older with the people and organizations that need them the most. We help them become mentors and companions or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects. Programs include:

- **RSVP** - Connects senior volunteers with service opportunities that match their skills and availability.
- **Senior Companion Program** - Brings together senior volunteers with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple task of day-to-day living.
- **Foster Grandparent Program** - Connects senior volunteers with children and young people with exceptional needs.

Mountain Mobility

Though a contract with Buncombe County Government, LOS manages the administrative functions of Mountain Mobility, Buncombe County’s public transportation system. Mountain Mobility provides transportation services to clients of human service agencies, departments of local governments, and general public for persons residing in Buncombe County’s service area. Programs include:

- **Trailblazer Routes** - Three routes are open to anyone that wants to ride and the fare is 50 cents to board.
- **Senior Pass Program** - Provides a free monthly bus pass for eligible seniors age 65 and over who are willing and able to use Asheville Transit System’s fixed route bus services to meet their transportation needs.
- **RIDE Program** - Provides a transportation option to residents for whom public transportation is either unavailable or inaccessible. The program allows eligible customers to purchase private transportation provider services at a significant discount.

Mountain Area Workforce Development

Created through federal legislation, Mountain Area Workforce Development develops a single, comprehensive strategic plan for the four-county area by identifying workforce development issues and the needs of local businesses. Programs and services include:

- **Job Seeker Services** - Provides employment resources such as assistance with job searches, skill-building workshops and career development planning.
- **Adult and Dislocated Worker Program** - Provides financial assistance for eligible persons to receive additional workforce training.
- **Youth Programs** - Provides career planning, life skills and financial/education assistance for students ages 16-21.
- **Business Services** - Provides recruitment, screening and referral of qualified job candidates to local businesses. Also administers On-the-Job Training funds to connect job candidates with employers to train new employees.
The Council

Executive Committee
Chairman - Bob Davy - Town of Fletcher Councilman
First Vice-Chairman - George Goosmann, Ill - Town of Biltmore Forest Mayor
Second Vice-Chairman - Ellen Frost - Buncombe County Commissioner
Secretary - Charlie Landreth - City of Brevard Commissioner
Treasurer - Wayne Brigman - Madison County Commissioner
At-Large Member - Mike Hawkins - Transylvania County Chairman
At-Large Member - John Mitchell - Henderson County Business & Community Director

Member Governments and Council Members
Buncombe County - Ellen Frost, Denise Braine, * Holly Jones
Henderson County - Grady Hawkins, Glen Englram, *Anthony Starr
Madison County - Wayne Brigman, Jim Baker, *Debbie Ponder, *Eddie Fox
Transylvania County - Mike Hawkins, Jason Chappell, *Kelvin Phillips
City of Asheville - Terry Bellamy, Cecil Bothwell
Town of Biltmore Forest - George Goosmann III, Fran Cogburn
Town of Black Mountain - Carl Bartlett, Maggie Tuttle
City of Brevard - Charlie Landreth, Joseph Moore
Village of Flat Rock - Dave Bucher, Jim Wert, *Ron Davis, *Don Farr
Town of Fletcher - Bob Davy, Mark Biberdorf
City of Hendersonville - Barbara Volk, Jeff Collis, *Bo Ferguson
Town of Hot Springs - Brian Reese, *Kenny Ramsey
Town of Laurel Park - Dona Menella, James Ball
Town of Mars Hill - John Chandler, Darhyl Boone
Town of Marshall - Lawrence Ponder, Billie Jean Haynie
Town of Montreat - Letta Jean Taylor, Jack McCaskill
Town of Rosman - Brian Shelton, Walter Pettit, Jr.
City of Weaverville - Gene Knoefel, Dottie Sherrill
Town of Woodfin - Jerry VeHaun, Debbie Giezentanner
Aging Services Representative - Charles Dickens
Volunteer Services Representative - Kathe Harris

Economic Development Representatives
Buncombe County - George Morosani
Henderson County - Andrew Tate
Madison County - Jerry Plemmons
Transylvania County - Mark Burrows

At-Large Members
Buncombe County - Sarah Nunez
Henderson County - Vacant
Madison County - Simone Bouyer
Transylvania County - Rodney Locks

*Served part of the Fiscal Year

Executive Committee L-R: George Goosmann, Ill; John Mitchell; Wayne Brigman; Ellen Frost; Bob Davy; Charlie Landreth. Not Pictured: Mike Hawkins
Dedication

LOS Dedication
In October of 2012, Joe McKinney left his position as Executive Director of Land of Sky Regional Council (LOS) to become the Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) in Washington, D.C. Joe had been the Executive Director at LOSRC for almost 10 years.

Under his leadership, Land of Sky became recognized nationally for its innovation and program expansion in areas such as planning and economic development, workforce development, transportation and transit, aging services, volunteer services, and geographic information systems. Joe worked tirelessly to position LOS to respond to the changing needs of our region. He demonstrated repeatedly that strong leadership, innovative thinking, and diverse partnerships are critical to the success of the Council and its member governments.

Although staff was saddened to see Joe leave, they were very excited for the new opportunity that awaited him to lead on a national level. His knowledge of our region, the excitement he brought to new partnerships and the relationships he developed while at LOS will not be forgotten. Land of Sky is enthusiastic about the future of NADO and the skills and abilities Joe brings to “the Hill.”

It is our distinct honor and pleasure to dedicate the 2012-2013 Land of Sky Regional Council Annual Report to Joe McKinney.

Joe McKinney pictured below with Joe Brannan, NADO President in 2003 and bottom with David Gantt, Buncombe County Commissioner Chairman and Bob Shepherd, LOS’s first Executive Director

Success Stories

Dropout Prevention Through Career Guidance
Mountain Area Workforce Development Board (MAWDB) contracts annually with county schools to serve students with barriers to employment in low income households who are at risk of dropping out or have already dropped out of school. The goal is to help students remain or return to school and graduate. Counselors guide students in choosing a personal career goal and design a detailed plan to develop the skills necessary to be employed in that field. Students also receive counseling on the “culture of work” and are provided with a 300 hour paid work experience opportunity with an employer in their chosen field. Worksite supervisors are given training and guidelines for helping the youth understand the expectations of the job and the importance of education in relation to working in that career field. During last year, 130 Seniors were served and 110 graduated. Of those who completed the program and graduated, 102 students entered employment or post-secondary education.

WRP Partners with Tourism Industry
Western North Carolina’s tourism-based industries are striving to become more competitive in the marketplace by embracing environmental stewardship. With funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, retired engineers and scientists of Waste Reduction Partners (WRP) are providing greening assessments to travel-oriented businesses to better manage their waste and water, and energy use. WRP’s assistance also positions businesses to gain recognition in NC GreenTravel, a statewide initiative that encourages economic growth and good health in the tourism industry.

The WRP team has worked with 26 businesses across the state, including eight in our region. These efforts have identified more than $262,000 in cost savings through energy and water-use efficiency measures, waste reduction, and environmentally preferable purchasing. WNC tourism destinations recognized by NC GreenTravel include: Old Edwards Inn, Grandfather Mountain, Highland Lake Inn, Sunny Point Restaurant and the Dugout Restaurant. To date, 60 organizations have achieved NC GreenTravel recognition across North Carolina.

Safe Travel, Complete Streets
There is a shift in transportation planning happening across the country. Regions, states and municipalities are talking about designing new roads and modernizing existing roads and streets to accommodate all users.
Owners of Sky’s Waste Reduction Partners (WRP) program are offering “no-cost” energy efficiency audits for farms and rural small businesses under a U.S. Department of Agriculture funded program. On average, the audits have identified 27 percent savings in utility costs that businesses can implement with little or no investment. “We found that the energy assessments received from WRP were extremely beneficial. The well-qualified engineers made a number of useful suggestions, some of which were practical for immediate implementation and others of which were useful documentation for capital investment planning,” states Jim Clarke, Vice President, Manual Woodworkers and Weavers in Hendersonville. WRP’s statewide team has performed 19 assessments in 14 counties, helping businesses discover $354,100 in annual cost savings. The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources provides a cost share for this valued business service.

Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty
In February 2013, Mary and Mae were introduced to Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) for caregiver support and respite. After a lifelong friendship, Mary and Mae’s relationship changed when Mae was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. While living with and providing full-time care to Mae for seven years, Mary was beginning to feel the stress of caregiving. Financial support through Project C.A.R.E. enabled Mae to attend an adult day program while Mary was enrolled in the REACH (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer’s Caregiver Health) program. The education and support that Mary received from REACH has enhanced her understanding of Alzheimer’s disease and has provided her with techniques for reducing her stress. With Mae attending the adult day program, Mary has some time for herself and is feeling refreshed!

Expanded Transportation Options with Mountain Mobility
More than 160 individuals are currently registered with Buncombe County’s Mountain Mobility R.I.D.E. (Ridership for Disabled and Elderly) program. Five private transportation companies have been providing the service since the program began in April 2012.

Dora McCollough, a registered user said, “I have a disability, and R.I.D.E. made it possible for me to keep my job. It’s amazing.” McCollough purchases a 10-ride booklet weekly and uses it to travel the six-mile route by taxi from her West Asheville home to her job downtown. Prices per one-way trip are generally based on the length of the trip and costs vary among providers. In McCollough’s case, there is a separate $2 access fee charged by her cab company for each one-way trip. “I can get to work for about $28 a week. If I rode in a cab without the vouchers, it would be $44 each day,” McCollough said. “It’s been a lifesaver. Without it I wouldn’t have been able to get to and from work. No job, no livelihood. It’s not just for seniors. There are so many ways to qualify; that’s what makes it so wonderful for so many people with disabilities who otherwise wouldn’t be able to work.”

Wellness Expo Highlights Preventative Medical Screenings
Land of Sky’s Volunteer Services Department hosted the 7th annual Wellness Expo at the Biltmore Square Mall, in partnership with Active Aging Week, which attracted over 500 community members. The Expo is the official kickoff to Active Aging Week and offers a casual and fun atmosphere where community non-profits and health care providers showcase their services, recruit volunteers and provide free health screenings.

The Expo highlighted several preventive screenings and services targeted at older adults such as the Medicare Diabetes Screening Project (MDSP), Better Balance Screenings, and Walgreen’s vaccinations. The MDSP grant was secured by the Volunteer Services Department to provide 150 free blood glucose screening, diabetes risk-assessment surveys and educational outreach. Specially trained RSVP Volunteers assisted attendees in completing surveys and distributing educational flyers in conjunction with Park Ridge Health’s Wellness on Wheels program. Next year’s Wellness Expo will see a continued effort to address this pressing regional health issue.

North Carolina is ranked 13th in the nation for diabetes with the highest rates found in the rural eastern and western counties with those ages 65 and older at greatest risk.
EvolveEnergy’s Regional Impact through Local Action

In an effort to establish a unifying focal point for regional activity and to help accelerate the development and deployment of cost-effective, independently viable clean energy technologies, EvolveEnergy recently set a new goal of “Clean Energy Powering Every Mountain Community by 2050.” Through an accompanying signatory process, the goal serves as a simple way for local governments, businesses, institutions, and residents across western North Carolina to demonstrate support for clean energy. Participants are encouraged to share best-practices, lessons learned, and documented energy and financial savings to help tell the story of clean energy in western North Carolina. In return, the Partnership offers tools and guidance backed by regional resources and expertise to enable participants to better identify, assess, and invest in clean energy opportunities. The Partnership also measures progress toward the goal through regional energy benchmarking.

Family Caregiver Support Program Helps “Kinship” Caregivers

Kinship caregivers are grandparents and other older relatives who are raising children. The Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) provides limited funding for caregiver respite and/or to purchase a much needed item that will benefit the child at a maximum of $1,000 per family. In 2013, the program funded the purchase of mattresses and box springs for a kinship family, which allowed the three children to have their own beds for the first time. In 2013-2014, the FCSP will expand the Kinship Caregiver program to at least five families within all counties of our region.

Bringing Together National Service Groups for MLK Day

The 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service was a first time collaborative project between area National Service Members, including Land of Sky’s Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions along with AmeriCorps Project Conserve, Hands On Asheville Buncombe AmeriCorps VISTA members and volunteer leaders. The day’s event answered the question of Dr. King’s, “What are you doing for others?” by welcoming and encouraging community members to give back to their neighbors.

Held at LOS, volunteers of all ages and abilities had the choice to work on eight Hands On Flex Projects that benefited local non-profits and schools in our region.

In total 150 volunteers, including 29, youth contributed 394 hours to this project. Volunteers completed 748 individual items such as Linus blankets, Teacher’s Pet Math Games, and Pre-School Number booklets. The experience of sharing resources between National Service Members was a great success and plans for next year’s collaboration are underway.

Lifelong Friend Becomes Senior Companion

Margaret Gilliland had been a Senior Companion in Henderson County for four years when news came that changed the course of her life. In 2012, Gilliland was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer that attacks the plasma cells in the bone marrow, and upon advice from her doctor, she took a leave of absence from the program. Through the rigors of chemotherapy and other treatments, she found herself in need of extra help to do everyday tasks, which is something she had helped others do through the Senior Companion Program for years.

Margaret’s friend and neighbor, Alice Saxe, re-joined the Senior Companion Program and was a perfect fit to care for Margaret. Alice now helps Margaret with grocery shopping, transportation to doctor’s appointments and companionship after chemotherapy treatments. “Alice has always been there for me,” Margaret said. “We’re like sisters now.”

Envisioning Home: Creating a Culture Change in Aging

A new initiative is underway to raise awareness about fundamental changes in living environments to create a culture of aging that is life-affirming, satisfying, humane and meaningful. This group has been named the Culture Change in Aging Network of Buncombe County (CCAN), a product of the Buncombe County Aging Plan.

To advance these goals, CCAN supports education in the community and collaboration with service providers in order to empower individuals and advance public policy changes and practices.

An initial conference, “Envisioning Home: Creating New Models of Home and Community in Later Life,” was well attended and left participants wanting more information. To meet this need, three additional workshops were created to explore community and interdependence: 1) Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, (NORC) transforming neighborhoods to support aging in place; 2) Cohousing Intentional Communities, featuring local examples; and, 3) Shared housing or Collaborative Homes, for older adults to age in place within their neighborhoods.
Top to bottom:

- Year of Elder Abuse (YEAP) logo
- Alzheimer’s Association booth at the 2012 Wellness Expo
- WRP Engineer, Bake Garman, conducts energy audit with staff at Grandfather Mountain
- Arial view of Sierra Neveda’s six-vessel brewhouse system during installation
- Michael Medford at Advanced Superabrasives
- Volunteers participate in MLK Day
- Brownfields project Glen Bridge
- Senior Tar Heel Legislature Representatives L-R: Ann Bass, Buncombe County Alternate; Charles Dickens, Buncombe County Delegate; Delores Stroup, Transylvania County Delegate; Calvin Titus, Henderson County Delegate
Integrating Workforce Services

Today’s economic environment requires North Carolina’s workforce delivery system to change the way it provides services to its citizens and businesses. Events over the last several years have led to the need for North Carolina’s Career Centers to operate in a new way by integrating workforce services (Division of Employment Security Commission and the JobLink System). During the 2012-2013 program year, the process of merging these two systems began. At the State level, both systems are now under the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Solutions. On the local level, the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board will administer both programs for the Land of Sky region.

Integrated service delivery will better serve the state’s citizens and businesses by responding to customer needs, not just program requirements. It will create a seamless delivery system and improve customer service. Integrated service delivery will allow people access to services they need to get back to work and help businesses connect with qualified workers.

Changes for Workforce Development

In the integrated system, the career development services (career guidance, job readiness training and skills training) from the JobLink System will be combined with labor exchange services (collecting job listings recruiting, screening and referring appropriate candidates) from the Division of Employment Security system. Those who receive unemployment compensation will be required to register for services through the integrated career/employment system. Staff will assist all clients with plans and activities to build skills and attain employment. Although the integration of both systems will be ongoing over the next few years, the merger will result in better and more efficient services for job seekers and businesses in the region.

Mountain Area JobLink has moved into the Employment Security Commission office and the integrated system is the Asheville Career Center.

Asheville Career Center
48 Grove Street, Asheville, NC 28801
P: 828.251.6200
F: 828.251.6005

Partnerships to Protect Elders

The Administration on Aging (AOA) is sponsoring the 2013 Year of Elder Abuse Prevention (YEAP) to encourage national, state, and local organizations to protect seniors and raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Every year an estimated 2.1 million older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Experts believe that for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as five cases go unreported.

Land of Sky’s Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has joined AOA in promoting YEAP by providing two programs on financial fraud and exploitation held on March 27 at AB Tech. The morning session was the 4th annual Financial Fraud, Scams and Exploitation Summit, which was for professionals who serve older adults. Attendees learned how to identify possible financial exploitation, and shared strategies for addressing these concerns. The afternoon session “Know Who to Trust” was a workshop for the general public hosted by TRIAD, a collaboration of seniors, law enforcement and the AAA to explain exploitation and how to stop it.

The AAA continues to raise awareness by providing information and resources to the public regarding elder abuse prevention.

Henderson County JobLink Helps Sierra Nevada and Legacy Paddlesports

Two new national companies located to Henderson County in 2012, Sierra Nevada and Legacy Paddlesports. The Henderson County JobLink Career Center and Blue Ridge Community College, along with other partners, have played a vital role in assisting with all aspects of the companies hiring process.

For Sierra Nevada, services were provided in prescreening applications, enrolling potential applicants in the Career Ready 101 software (for the required Career Readiness Certificate), contacting the selected applicants to schedule Sierra Nevada specific testing sessions, and scheduling pre-hire classes.

For Legacy Paddlesports, services included assistance with a very quick employee ramp up by managing application completion/resume submission, I-9 verification, background checks, and scheduling weekly interviews and an eight hour pre-hire class entitled “Pathway to Advanced Manufacturing.” Through this assistance, Legacy interviewed approximately 1000 people and hired 88, which included 51 dislocated workers.
Gaining New Skills Through On-the-Job Training Program

Having been laid-off from a local manufacturing company, Michael Medford sought assistance to reenter the workforce through JobLink in Marshall. In an effort to enhance his skills and marketability, Medford utilized JobLink’s Workforce Investment Act tuition assistance funding to complete the Fundamentals of Automated Machining class at A-B Tech. Medford was later referred to JobLink’s On-The-Job Training (OJT) program and accepted at Advanced Superabrasives Inc. in Mars Hill as a machine operator trainee on grinding machines. This opportunity has enabled Medford to invest in his own tools and develop additional skills such as manual lathe operation, a specialty that he enjoys. The OJT program has been instrumental in securing a new career path for Medford and a well trained employee for Advanced Superabrasives Inc.

Healthy IDEAS – Promoting Awareness of Depression in the Aging Community

National, state and local statistics indicate that depression is an under-treated condition among older adults. It has a great cost on quality of life, health outcomes and health care expenses. To address this issue, Land of Sky is collaborating with aging networks to initiate an evidence-based health promotion program called Healthy IDEAS. This program addresses the incidence of depression among older adults through screening, education, referral and active assistance in obtaining further treatment from primary care and mental health providers. In May 2013, the Area Agency on Aging collaborated with the Mountain Area Health Education Center, UNC Chapel Hill, Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc., Council on Aging for Henderson County and Henderson County Department of Social Services to pilot the integration of Healthy IDEAS into existing case / care management services.

Turning Ideas into Action for our Communities

Scenario planning provides a framework for developing a shared vision for the future by analyzing various planning factors – health, transportation, economic development, energy, cultural and natural resources, and land use – that affect growth. GroWNC used scenario planning to better evaluate and understand the future consequences of present day choices. Participants started with a basic scenario representing our future if we continue on a “business-as-usual” (BAU) path, and evaluated it relative to a subset of goals. Three additional scenarios were created to assess alternatives relative to BAU and to each other. Nearly 700 people provided input about the four scenarios (BAU, Economic Prosperity, Resource Protection, and Efficient Growth) through surveys, public meetings, and small group discussions. Participants were asked to vote on the outcomes from each scenario that were most important to the future of the region. The results were analyzed to produce the Preferred Scenario which includes a combination of elements from each alternative scenario that maximizes the priorities of the participants in the GroWNC process. The Preferred Scenario will enhance, preserve, and promote community priorities by providing a framework for public, private, and non-profit entities to turn ideas into actions.

Outcomes to date include:
- WNC AgriVentures – including Accelerating Appalachia, Farmer-to-Farmland
- WNC Medicinal Plant Manufacturing & Training Alliance
- WNC Cultural Alliance

Client Services

Client Service Program Established

During Fiscal Year 2013, Land of Sky’s Department of Economic and Community Development implemented a program intended to increase the level of customer service provided to our local government jurisdictions.

Through the Client Services Program, members of the Economic and Community Development staff are assigned local jurisdictions. Staff members are responsible for ensuring their jurisdictions’ needs are met through providing general customer service, project development, funding research, and other requested activities.

Although still evolving, the program has been well received by both our local government and Land of Sky staff.

Strengthening RELATIONSHIPS and Improving COMMUNICATION
Top to bottom:

- Complete streets improvements installed on College Street. Courtesy of City of Asheville
- Bob Tomasulo was presented the KGC award by Wendy Marsh, Director of Council on Aging of Buncombe County and Linda Kendall Fields, Buncombe County ACC Chair
- GroWNC Scenario Mapping
- Dene Peterson, founder of ElderSpirit, was keynote speaker at the first CCAN conference
- New Recycling Education Vehicle (REV)
- Paul Black receives NADO award
- Volunteers participating at the first Mayors Day
Celebrating 20 Years of Advocacy for Older Adults

The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (NCSTHL) celebrated 20 years of providing advocacy for older adults in North Carolina during the March 2013 meeting in Raleigh. The NCSTHL was created by the General Assembly in 1993 to assess the legislative needs of older citizens, provide information to promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues. Annually, the NCSTHL develops five legislative priorities to be considered by the General Assembly.

To ensure another 20 successful years, LOS is actively seeking NCSTHL advocates to raise awareness for aging issues in our state. Each of the 100 North Carolina counties is entitled to one delegate and one alternate STHL member, age 60 or older. Representatives from Region B include: Buncombe County Delegate Charles Dickens and Alternate Ann Bass; Henderson County Delegate Cal Titus; Madison County Delegate LinDa Campbell; and Transylvania County Delegate Delores Stroup and Alternate Kathe Harris.

The 2013 legislative priorities for the NCSTHL include:

- Maintain funding for senior centers
- Restore funding to sustain Project C.A.R.E.
- Mandate pre-employment and random drug testing for employees of nursing, adult care homes, and adult day care facilities
- Strengthen and fund North Carolina’s Adult Protective Services Program
- Recurring funding of at least $7 million for the Home and Community Care Block Grant.

Land of Sky Receives Award of Excellence

Land of Sky’s French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) was awarded a 2013 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for From Cradle to Construction – Project Tracking.

The award-winning model guarantees that consensus is achieved throughout the decision-making process to maintain checks and balances and ensure a consistent process is upheld from inception to construction. The model also provides a blueprint to amend plans that did not achieve consensus during the process.

“This initiative is central to fostering quality of place and facilitating economic vitality in our communities by promoting effective transportation networks,” commented NADO President John Leonard. The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards showcases noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, program delivery, and special initiatives.

Kathleen Godwin Cole Award Goes to Bob Tomasulo

Land of Sky’s (LOS) Kathleen Godwin Cole Award for Volunteerism is given annually to one volunteer, age 55 or better, who has made major contributions to better the region. The 2013 recipient is RSVP volunteer, Bob Tomasulo, a lifelong advocate for the elder community. Over the past five years Bob has served in voluntary leadership and advisory capacities with the Buncombe County Aging Coordinating Consortium (ACC), contributing to their planning, awareness and advocacy committees. He is an active member of the Council on Aging of Buncombe County’s board, LOS’s Buncombe County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee and the Community Resources Connections Leadership Team, as well as many other groups. Bob is a tireless advocate for older adults working to make our community a better place for all to live in.

Mapping as a Tool for Economic Development

The Transylvania County Planning Board was asked by County Commissioners to look at a number of different issues regarding land characterization, water and watershed development, and areas that might be suitable for future economic development. In March 2013, the Planning and Economic Development Office approached Land of Sky (LOS) to request assistance in identifying lands in Transylvania County suitable for development. The county is predominantly comprised of public lands and steep terrain, making it challenging to identify potential sites for development. The combined public lands and designated conservation areas comprises 76 percent of the county, and much of the remaining is already developed, leaving little available for future growth. This presents a challenge for the county’s Economic Development staff to locate potential properties that are available for development. LOS Geographic Information System staff developed maps that identify areas of potential opportunity. The mapping results show land development opportunities and constraints, and watershed development land areas.

Mayors Supporting National Service

On April 9, 2013, Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy was one of more than 830 mayors from all 50 states standing together in support of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs. By participating in the first-ever Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, Asheville City Schools Foundation volunteers and AmeriCorps members, along with Land of Sky’s (LOS) Senior Corps volunteers, tackled several projects at Hall Fletcher Elementary School. Participants had a productive day landscaping and planting flowers at the school entrance, contributing to the initiative to transform
Tribute

A Tribute to Jim Stokoe
In December 2012, Land of Sky Regional Council (LOS) lost a dear friend and colleague, Jim Stokoe.

For over 30 years, Jim encouraged innovative initiatives to address regional priorities at LOS. He worked faithfully to assist our member governments and to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania counties. He was a quiet leader, highly respected by our local government officials and staff, and always there for guidance and support.

Jim loved to hike in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina (WNC) picking blueberries and mushrooms. He was proud of his efforts to protect these special places in the region. As we celebrate his life, we thank all of you who worked with Jim to make WNC a better place for all of us and for future generations.
The Area Agency on Aging staff provided 9 Virtual Dementia Tours (a simulation of living with Alzheimer’s Disease) to support groups, long-term care facility staff, and the general public in all Region B counties.

The LOSRPO and FBRMPO hosted the 2nd annual rockslide conference in Clyde, NC. There were over 100 participants from WNC and East Tennessee.

Public involvement for GroWNC continued this fiscal year, with outreach efforts using a variety of techniques. In the region, over 2,300 people provided input to GroWNC, through public meetings, surveys, small group discussions, and by attending presentations or poster sessions at other existing events. This input was used to guide outcomes of the GroWNC process, including preferred scenario and associated implementation strategies.

The Family Caregiver Support Program offered Share the Care workshops to help family caregivers develop their own support team in all Region B counties.

Active Aging Week, a collaborative annual celebration of aging with vitality, served approximately 775 older adults in Buncombe County, 60 in Madison County, 50 in Transylvania County and 200 in Henderson County and showcased the services of over 150 providers.

LOS partnered with other agencies to secure $815,000 in funding for WNC AgriVentures, a Rural Jobs Accelerator project. The project includes development of a business accelerator, technology commercialization center, innovation council, and farmland access program for WNC.

The Pigeon River Fund provided $28,500 to support the WNC Stormwater Committee for peer-to-peer training and workshops to assess current stormwater conditions and build capacity to implement appropriate mountain-specific practices.

LOS helped 41 manufacturers, businesses and institutions in region B reduce annual utility operating costs by $607,225 through energy and waste management strategies provided by Waste Reduction Partners.

For the first time in its history, FBRMPO initiated a Regional Household Travel Survey that took place in April-June 2013. Recruited households kept a travel diary for a day. Completed survey responses exceeded the goal of 1,300 and will be used for the regional Travel Demand Model calibration. This enables transportation planners to better estimate future transportation needs in the region. Final report expected in the fall of 2013.

The Family Caregiver Support Program provided incontinent supplies for family caregivers of frail elderly persons and families caring for someone with dementia in all Region B Counties. 27 families were served in our region.

The Recycling Education Vehicle (REV) replaced the Mobile Environmental Learning Center (MELC) to promote solid waste, recycling, & environmental education. Historically the MELC had 10,000 visitors/year and it is anticipated the REV will surpass that number.
Regional continued

LOS staff provided facilitation and project management assistance to coalitions to provide more river access areas and greenways along the French Broad River, primarily focused in Henderson and southern Buncombe counties.

The Mountain Area Workforce Development Board and Land of Sky provided operational leadership and administrative services for the expenditure of approximately $2,281,000 in Workforce Investment Act Funds. These funds provided career development and job preparation services to nearly 4,000 individuals. Services included nearly 200 job preparation/job search workshops with over 1,500 people attending. Approximately 500 clients received career counseling, financial assistance and post completion follow-up assistance with job searches. The On-the-Job Training program served an additional 47 clients with 28 being retained in employment and 14 continuing their training into the coming year. Youth programs, which focused on career guidance, academic assistance and work experience, provided services to another 217 clients in the region.

FBRMPO staff worked with local governments across the region to compile a regional land use map and projected future land use changes to be used in the regional Travel Demand Model update.

The Area Agency on Aging developed the 2012-2016 Area Plan and submitted it to the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. The Area Plan includes the region’s Assessment Overview; AAA Work Plan with goals, objectives, and strategies; Monitoring and Direct Services; Area Profiles; and Staffing and Organizational Structure.

The Community Resource Connections for Aging and Disabilities, through collaboration with local agencies, held 4 educational Partnership Meetings throughout the region for health care professionals, non-profit organizations and community members. Over 50 participants attended each workshop.

The Senior Companion Program received $10,000 in funding from the Family Caregiver Support Program to provide respite for family caregivers in all Region B Counties. 2 Buncombe County caregivers and 1 Madison County caregiver received respite services.

The Area Agency on Aging secured $7,271 in funding from Duke Energy and Progress Energy which provided 355 fans and 21 air conditioners to older adults in need through the Fan/Heat Relief Program. The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Council on Aging for Henderson County, Western Carolina Community Action – Brevard, and Madison County Department of Community Services distributed these fans and air conditioners.

Buncombe County

Regional Ombudsmen responded to 160 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, received 331 technical assistance calls and provided 23 educational / training sessions. 46 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 669 hours and made 197 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of $12,771 in services to the county.

LOS issued a summary report for the Reading, Riding and Retrofit project, which helped K-12 public schools across the county expand sustainability education initiatives and save more than $241,000 in annual energy costs.

LOS supported Buncombe County in the implementation of their Fair Housing Activities. Total funding $10,550.

The Council on Aging of Buncombe County received $5,000 to deliver the evidence-based health promotion programs Healthy Eating for Successful Living and Silver Sneakers to 550 older adults in the county.

The WNC Fall Prevention Coalition, facilitated through LOS, delivered 10 Building Better Balance Screenings in Buncombe County, screening 260 older adults for fall risk.
LOS and the City of Asheville used $50,000 of the Tiger II Planning Grant funds to leverage the remaining $4.25 million to renovate the W.C. Reid Center. HUD committed $3.9 million in Capital Grant funds to support the project, while Asheville’s Housing Authority provided the additional $350,000 needed. The Housing Authority leads the renovation, in partnership with Green Opportunities and other partners, to transform the former school and City recreation center into a green jobs training and education center.

The Council on Aging of Buncombe County received $15,000 to provide respite and $5,000 to provide case assistance for family caregivers. 31 caregivers received respite and 38 caregivers received case assistance.

The Family Caregiver Support Program provided financial assistance to 2 older relatives raising children. The Program purchased mattresses and box springs for an aunt raising 6 children and provided tuition for summer camp for a 13 year old being raised by her grandmother.

The Foster Grandparent Program saved the county more than $1.6 million. 80 Foster Grandparent volunteers served over 72,920 hours to assist special needs or at-risk children achieve their short and long-term goals.

The Buncombe County TRIAD, a coalition of public and private sector partners united to improve the safety and well-being of older adults, surveyed over 1000 community members to determine the top four focus areas: misuse or theft of prescription drugs, safety after dark, robbery or burglary, and frauds/scams.

LOS provided a $106,000 subgrant to Mountain Housing Opportunities and Eagle Market Streets Development Corporation for lead paint and asbestos removal at the former Glen Rock Hotel on Depot Street and the Dr. Collette and Del Cardo buildings in the historic downtown Asheville neighborhood known as “The Block.” Both sites will be developed as mixed use commercial and affordable housing.

LOS completed a $295,000 Brownfields remediation project at Karen Cragnolin Park on Amboy Road. The project consisted of the phytoremediation of approximately 4.5 acres of land propose for public use.

RSVP saved the county more than $533,441 with 223 volunteers giving over 24,094 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.

WRP Engineers provided on-site technical assessments to 28 businesses, manufacturers and non-profit organizations to cut energy and waste management utility costs by $344,000 annually.

Under contract with the City of Asheville, the WRP team provided water-use efficiency assessments to 10 large commercial and institutional water customers, resulting in the conservation of 7.76 million gallons of water and client cost savings of $61,900.

LOS received $21,156 to coordinate chronic disease self management programs for 130 residents of Buncombe County, train 14 new leaders in Chronic Disease Self Management, 13 in Diabetes Self-Management and update 16 current leaders.

The Senior Companion Program saved the county more than $1.26 million. 43 Senior Companion volunteers served over 57,224 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes, assisted in adult day care centers and provided respite to family caregivers.

The Senior Community Services Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth $114,242 to 23 older adults placed in 14 organizations. One participant was placed into unsubsidized employment.

TRIAD hosted classes at UNCA’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute focusing on elder abuse, financial fraud, and personal safety.
**Buncombe County continued**

HCCBG and county funds provided $2,418,737 in funding for services that supported over 2,200 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding, 457 older adults were given nutritional meals, 80 participated in adult day programs, 287 received in-home health care and home repair services, 432 received financial education and counseling, and 978 received transportation services.

TRIAD hosted a spring conference exploitation workshop entitled “Know Who to Trust” at Asheville Buncombe Technical College.

Project C.A.R.E. received $38,872 in funding to provide respite for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s Disease or a related dementia. 38 families received respite and 59 received information and referrals.

A proclamation was signed on behalf of Buncombe County Sheriff and Asheville Police Chief “to reduce criminal victimization of older persons and improve the safety and well-being of elders through the Buncombe County TRIAD.”

The Mountain Area JobLink Career Center served at least 1,788 Buncombe County clients during the year and received at least 3,600 client visits for career counseling, job preparation and job search services. The JobLink Center conducted 121 workshops with attendance totaling over 1,100 clients. Career counseling and financial assistance for occupational skills training were provided to at least 171 Buncombe County adults and dislocated workers. During the year 74 of those clients completed their studies and 63 obtained employment. The On-the-Job Training (OJT) program served another 28 county residents with 19 completing or leaving their training and 16 being retained in employment. Buncombe County’s Youth Programs helped 97 low income students with career counseling, academic tutoring and work experience opportunities. A total of 32 students completed or left the program during the year and 28 of those graduated. Funds expended on Buncombe County WIA program operations and services totaled just over $1,246,000.

**Henderson County**

Regional Ombudsmen responded to 40 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, received 138 technical assistance calls and provided 6 educational / training sessions. 32 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 841 hours and made 99 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of $16,055 in services to the county.

Sierra Nevada Public Infrastructure – Assisted Henderson County in the development and administration of funding to support the construction of 6,500 LF of public water and 950 LF of sewer infrastructure to the new Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. The project will support the creation of 82 new jobs. Funding included Department of Commerce – CDBG Economic Development funds $373,203.67, NC Rural Economic Development Center forgivable loan of $133,287 and $26,658 in Local Matching funds.

Sierra Nevada Private Infrastructure – Assisted Henderson County in the development and administration of funding to support the construction of private water and sewer lines on the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company site. The project will support the creation of 41 new jobs. Funding included NC Rural Economic Development Center forgivable loan $203,384, Sierra Nevada Investment of $193,213.60 and $10,170 in Local Matching funds.

The Council on Aging of Henderson County received $10,536 to provide respite and $3,694 to provide case assistance for family caregivers. 16 caregivers received respite and 7 caregivers received case assistance.

The Foster Grandparent Program saved the county more than $157,261. 8 Foster Grandparent volunteers served over 7,110 hours to assist special needs or at-risk children achieve their short and long-term goals.

Henderson County Parks and Recreation received $1,920 to deliver the evidence-based health promotion program Tai Chi for Arthritis to 24 older adults in Edneyville.
The Henderson County JobLink used Workforce Investment Act funds to serve 1,681 clients during the year. Staff registered nearly 4,200 services delivered and conducted 47 workshops in job preparation and career counseling. Over 307 clients attended these workshops. A total of 109 residents received career counseling and financial support for occupational skills training courses during the year. Of those clients completing their participation in career training, 57 obtained jobs. The OJT program served 10 Henderson County clients last fiscal year, 6 completed or left the training and 4 were retained in employment. By providing career counseling, academic tutoring and work experience opportunities the WIA Youth Programs served 48 Henderson County students and contributed substantially to 21 low-income, at-risk students graduating during the fiscal year. Nearly $566,000 in WIA funds were spent to enhance the skills of, and the employment opportunities for, Henderson County residents during the year.

The WNC Fall Prevention Coalition, facilitated through LOS, delivered 1 Building Better Balance Screenings in Henderson County screening 52 older adults for fall risk.

LOS received $454,960 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a Catalyst grant application in support of the Dodd Meadows development. Dodd Meadows is a phased development being built by Henderson County Habitat for Humanity that will eventually provide affordable home ownership opportunities for eighty families in Henderson County. The CDBG funds will provide water, sewer, streets and storm water and erosion controls for thirteen homes within the development. Grant funds will also be used to construct a Community Center for Dodd Meadows residents and people living in the surrounding neighborhood.

LOS administered a $100,000 NC Rural Center grant for My Gluten Free Bread Company in Hendersonville. The company provides training and job placement in the hospitality and restaurateur sector for high risk youth.

The WRP technical team provided 10 manufacturers and businesses with energy and waste reduction assistance which is saving these clients an estimated $194,000 in annual utilities.

The Senior Companion Program saved the county more than $149,844. 10 Senior Companion volunteers served over 6,768 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes, assisted in adult day care centers and provided respite to family caregivers.

The Senior Community Services Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth $19,577 to 4 older adults placed in 4 organizations.

HCCBG and county funds provided $899,116 in funding for services that supported over 750 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding 420 older adults were given nutritional meals, 26 participated in adult day programs, 138 received in-home health care and home repair services, and 164 received transportation services.

Project C.A.R.E. received $14,627 in funding to provide respite for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s Disease or a related dementia. 18 families received respite and 21 received information and referrals.

RSVP saved the county more than $511,508 with 168 volunteers giving over 23,103 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.
Madison County
Regional Ombudsmen responded to 6 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, received 29 technical assistance calls and provided 7 educational/training sessions. 10 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 148 hours and made 11 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of $2,825 in services to the county.

Department of Commerce CDBG Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation Program grant – Assisted Madison County in the development, administration, and implementation of the Scattered Site Housing Rehabilitation Program. Project includes the rehabilitation of 7 income eligible affordable housing units and 7 income eligible emergency repair projects. Total CDBG grant $400,000.

Town of Mars Hill – Water Transmission Line Project: Assisted the town in the development and administration of Phase I and Phase III of Water Transmission Line Replacement Project. Project constructed 27,300 LF of new water lines. Funding included Appalachian Regional Commission $600,000, NC Rural Economic Development Center $1,000,000 and $400,000 in Local funds.

The Madison County Department of Community Services received $10,000 to provide respite for 5 family caregivers.

The Madison County Health Department received $1,250 to deliver the evidence-based health promotion programs Matter of Balance in Mars Hill and the Chronic Disease Self Management Program to 8 individuals in Marshall.

The Madison County JobLink Career Center served 299 individual clients during PY 2013-14. These clients made over 1,500 visits to the center for services. A total of 31 clients received career counseling and financial assistance to attend occupational skills training courses. Of those clients 20 completed or left the program and 13 entered employment. 6 clients received services through On-the-Job Training (OJT), 5 completed the training and all were retained in employment. Madison County High School provided career counseling, academic tutoring and work experience services to 33 low income students with barriers to employment, 19 completed or left the program and 16 of those graduated successfully. Workforce Investment Act funds supporting these activities totaled just over $201,000.

RSVP saved the county more than $11,961 with 13 volunteers giving over 540 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.

The WNC Fall Prevention Coalition facilitated through LOSRC delivered 2 Building Better Balance Screenings in Madison County screening 20 older adults for fall risk.

The Waste Reduction Partners team worked with 2 institutional clients to identify utility cost savings in water and energy-use. The technical assistance is expected to help these clients save $9,100 per year through reduced operating costs.

WRP engineers assisted in a project to more accurately and efficiently allocate energy utility costs for the new Sheriff’s Office.

Town of Marshall – Water System Infrastructure Project: Assisted the town in the administration of Phase I of the Water System Improvement Project. Project constructed 18,000 LF of new water lines. Funding included Appalachian Regional Commission grant $300,000, Department of Commerce CDBG Infrastructure grant $600,000, NC Rural Economic Development Center grant $500,000 and USDA-RD loan $750,000.
Transylvania County

Regional Ombudsmen responded to 28 complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, received 27 technical assistance calls and provided 3 educational/training sessions. 8 Community Advisory Committee volunteers contributed 64 hours and made 16 visits to long-term care facilities. These volunteers provided a financial value of $1,222 in services to the county.

The Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance Project assisted Transylvania County with the administration and closeout of a Department of Commerce CDBG – SBEA project totaling $210,000.

Transylvania Regional Hospital Home Care received $15,770 to provide respite for family caregivers. 14 caregivers received respite.

The Family Caregiver Support program provided $300 of financial assistance to a grandparent raising a severely autistic grandchild.

Western North Carolina Community Action received $1350 to deliver the evidence-based health promotion programs Chronic Disease Self Management Program and Arthritis Exercise Walk with Ease to 30 seniors at the Silvermont Senior Center on Brevard.

LOS staff continued to administer a $250,000 CDBG Housing Development grant in support of the Cottages at Brevard development. When completed, the Cottages at Brevard will provide forty units of affordable rentals for adults ages 55 and older whose income is 60% or less than the Transylvania County median income. Grant funds will provide for streets, curbs, gutters and sidewalks within the development.

RSVP saved the county more than $204,836 with 108 volunteers giving over 9,251 hours to local government and non-profit agencies.

LOS and City of Brevard were awarded a $60,000 Urban Waters grant to engage the Rosenwald community in a small area plan and determine current watershed conditions, appropriate restoration practices, and complete an area stormwater inventory.

The Waste Reduction Partners solid waste staff helped conduct a recycling assessment at Rosman High School which identified opportunities to increase recycling by 41,600 pounds per year through improved collection efforts.

The Senior Companion Program saved the county more than $155,533. 5 Senior Companion volunteers served over 7,025 hours to assist older adults with one-on-one care in their homes, assisted in adult day care centers and provided respite to family caregivers.

The Senior Community Services Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth $15,241 to 2 older adults placed in 2 organizations.

HCCBG and county funds provided $374,151 in funding for services that supported over 340 older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding 115 older adults were given nutritional meals, 34 participated in adult day programs, 125 received in-home health care and home repair services, 68 received transportation services, and 7 received incontinence supplies.

Project C.A.R.E. received $4,419 in funding to provide respite for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s Disease or a related dementia. 5 families received respite and 9 received information and referrals.

The WNC Fall Prevention Coalition, facilitated through LOS, delivered 1 Building Better Balance Screenings in Transylvania County screening 55 older adults for fall risk.
Financial Summary

FY 2013 Budgeted Revenues
$16,167,380

FY 2013 Budgeted Expenditures
$16,167,380
LOS Staff

Administration:
Justin Hembree - Executive Director
Danna Stansbury - Deputy Executive Director and Interim Executive Director, Oct 2012 - Sept 2013
Christina Giles - Communication Specialist / Webmaster
Mariah Landy - Administrative Program Specialist
Zia Rifkin - Administrative Program Specialist
Bontnie Smith - Administrative Services Assistant
Brenda Delacruz - Administrative Services Assistant

Finance:
Peggy Barnes - Finance Director
Tricia Adell - Budget Analyst
Rose Sabo - Accounting Specialist
Arlene Wilson - Accounting Specialist
Wanda Clark - Accounting Assistant

Economic and Community Development:
(formerly Local Government Services)
Erica Anderson - Director of Economic and Community Development
Bill Eaker - Senior Environmental Planner
Linda Giltz - Senior Planner
Kate O’Hara - Senior Planner
Carrie Turner - Senior Planner
Karen Kiehna - Principal Planner
Paul Black - French Broad River MPO Director
Lyuba Zuyeva - Transportation Planner, FBRMPO
Vicki Eastland - Transportation Specialist, FBRMPO
Josh King - Regional Planner, RPO
Jon Beck - GIS Planner
Tracy Wahl - Brownfields Project Manager (NC DENR)
Terry Albrecth - Waste Reduction Partners Director (NC DENR)
Russ Jordan - Energy Program Manager, WRP
Dee Hanak - WRP Office Manager
Patrick Harper - Regional Planner
Denese Ballew - Regional Planner
Sealy Chipley - Planning Specialist
Annie Sarac - Planning Technician
Brian Taylor - Regional Planner
Ben Morrell - Rehabilitation Specialist
Kristen Peppel - Conservation Planning Consultant

Aging and Volunteer Service:
LeeAnne Tucker - Director of Aging and Volunteer Services
Vicki Jennings - Senior Companion Program Manager
Stacy Friesland - Foster Grandparent Program Manager
Patti Cameron - RSVP Coordinator
Carol McLimans - Family Caregiver Specialist
Barbara Hinshaw - Regional Ombudsman
Terry Collins - Regional Ombudsman
Ruth Price - Regional Ombudsman
John Connell - SCSEP Coordinator
Rebecca Chaplin - Aging Program Specialist, HPDP
Sherry Christenson - Aging Program Specialist
Nancy Hogan - Family Consultant, Project C.A.R.E.
Wilhelmenia Pledger - Family Consultant, Project C.A.R.E.
Heidi Kimsey - NC REACH Intervention Specialist, Project C.A.R.E.
Pat Hilgendorf - Caregiver Program Associate
Linda Kendall Fields - CRC Coordinator
Janice Payne - Program Support Specialist
Christina Giles - Project Assistant

Mountain Area Workforce Development Board:
Phil Monk - MAWDB Director
Jean Keen - WIA Finance Officer
Kim Cox - MIS Specialist / Local Area’s EO Officer
Zia Rifkin - Administrative Support Services
Barbara Darby - Regional Business Services Coordinator
Derrick Edwards - Business Services Representative
Ellen Westbrook - Joblink Coordinator
Stacy Peek - WIA Training Counselor
Deborah Holebrooks - Career Coach / Employment Counselor
Rodney Embler - Resource Center Coordinator
Tami Sprinkle - Administrative Assistant

Staff with LOS for Part of the Fiscal Year:
Joe McKinney - Executive Director
Tracy Ash - Senior Companion Program Manager
Jennifer Atkinson - SCSEP Coordinator
Michelle Barber - Admin Coordinator / Clerk to Council
Len Erker - Director of Respite, Project C.A.R.E
Natalie Murdock - Transportation Planner, RPO
Shanaia Powell - CRC Coordinator
Brett Satz - IT Systems Specialist
Lee Ann Smith - Regional Ombudsman
Sharon Souther - WIA Training Counselor
Amber Spanton - Budget Analyst

C.A.R.E. - Caregiver Alternatives for Running on Empty
CRC - Community Resource Connections
GIS - Geographic Information Systems
HPDP - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
MIS - Management Information System
MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization
NC DENR - NC Dept of Environment & Natural Resources
RPO - Rural Planning Organization
RSVP - Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
SCSEP - Senior Community Services Employment Program
WIA - Workforce Investment Act
2013 Directory of Public Officials

Buncombe County
200 College Street, Asheville, NC 28801
P: 828.250.4100    W: www.buncombecounty.org
Meeting Schedule: First and third Tuesday at 4:30 pm

David Gantt, Chairman
P: 828.252.2852
commissioner@davidgantt.com

Ellen Frost, Commissioner
P: 828.250.4005
ellen.frost@buncombecounty.org

Holly Jones, Commissioner
P: 828.250.4004
holly.jones@buncombecounty.org

Brownie Newman, Commissioner
P: 828.250.4011
brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org

Wanda Greene, County Manager
P: 828.250.4100
wanda.greene@buncombecounty.org

Joe Belcher, Commissioner
P: 828.250.4008
joe.belcher@buncombecounty.org

Mike Fryar, Commissioner
P: 828.250.4007
mike.fryar@buncombecounty.org

David King, Commissioner
P: 828.250.4010
david.king@buncombecounty.org

Kathy Hughes, County Clerk
P: 828.250.4105
kathy.hughes@buncombecounty.org

City of Asheville
70 Court Plaza, PO Box 7148, Asheville, NC 28802
Meeting Schedule: Second and fourth Tuesday at 5 pm at Council Chambers

Terry Bellamy, Mayor
P: 828.259.5600
mayorbellamy@avlcouncil.com

Esther Manheimer, Vice-Mayor
P: 828.258.2991
emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com

Cecil Bothwell, Councilman
P: 828.713.8840
cecil@braveulysses.com

Jan Davis, Councilman
P: 828.253.5634
jandavis@avlcouncil.com

Marc Hunt, Councilman
P: 828.273.2172
marchunt@avlcouncil.com

Chris Pelly, Councilman
P: 828.231.3704
chrispelly@avlcouncil.com

Gordon Smith, Councilman
P: 828.279.2551
gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com

Gordon Smith, Councilman
P: 828.279.2551
gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com

Gary Jackson, City Manager
P: 828.259.5604
gjaycson@ashevillenc.gov

Maggie Burleson, City Clerk
P: 828.259.5601
mmburleson@ashevillenc.gov
**Town of Biltmore Forest**
355 Vanderbilt Road, Biltmore Forest, NC 28803
P: 828.274.0824    W: www.biltmoreforest.org
Meeting Schedule: Second Tuesday at 4:30 pm

George Goosmann, III, Mayor
P: 828.274.0825
gfg3@charter.net

E. Glenn Kelly, Commissioner
P: 828.274.3727
townhall@biltmoreforest.org

Nelson Smith, Town Administrator
P: 828.274.0824
nsmith@biltmoreforest.org

Fran Cogburn, Commissioner
P: 828.274.3727
fgcogburn@charter.net

Doris P. Loomis, Commissioner
P: 828.274.0824
townhall@biltmoreforest.org

**Town of Black Mountain**
160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711
P: 828.419.9300    W: www.townofblackmountain.org
Meeting Schedule: Second Monday at 6:00 pm

Carl Bartlett, Mayor
P: 828.273.9518
kcbart@aol.com

Don Collins, Alderman
P: 828.669.9569
donaldscollins@charter.net

Michael Sobol, Alderman
P: 828.669.2017
fivesobol@bellsouth.net

Matt Settlemyer, Town Manager
P: 828.419.9300
matt.settlemyer@townofblackmountain.org

Tim Rayburn, Vice-Mayor
P: 828.669.5927
rtandg@charter.net

Carlos Showers, Alderman
P: 828.669.5481
basck102@bellsouth.net

Maggie Tuttle, Alderman
P: 828.669.9328
tuttmags2@charter.net

Darlene Whisenant, Town Clerk
P: 828.419.9310
darlene.whisenant@townofblackmountain.org

**Town of Montreat**
PO Box 423, Montreat, NC 28757
P: 828.669.8002    W: www.townofmontreat.org
Meeting Schedule: Second Thursday at 7:00 pm

Letta Jean Taylor, Mayor
P: 828.669.2682
ltaylor@townofmontreat.org

Martha Campbell, Commissioner
P: 828.669.0401
mcampbell@townofmontreat.org

Jack McCaskill, Commissioner
P: 828.669.6504
jmccaskill@townofmontreat.org

Ron Nalley, Town Administrator
P: 828.669.8002 X 305
townadmin@townofmontreat.org

Mary Standaert, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828.669.1008
mstandaert@townofmontreat.org

Ruth Currie, Commissioner
P: 828.669.5549
rcurrie@townofmontreat.org

Eric Nichols, Commissioner
P: 828.669.6057
enichols@townofmontreat.org

Misty Gedlinske, Town Clerk
P: 828.669.8002 X 301
clerk@townofmontreat.org
Town of Weaverville
30 South Main Street, Weaverville, NC 28787
P: 828.645.7116   W: www.weavervillenc.org
Meeting Schedule: Third Monday at 7:00 pm

Al Root, Mayor
P: 828.484.7006
aroot@weavervillenc.org

Walt Currie, Councilman
P: 828.484.7010
wcurrie@weavervillenc.org

Gene Knoefel, Councilman
P: 828.484.7011
gknoefel@weavervillenc.org

Michael Boaz, Town Manager
P: 828.645.7116 X 224
mboaz@weavervillenc.org

Dottie Sherrill, Vice-Mayor
P: 828.645.7579
dotsherrl@charter.net

Doug Dearth, Councilman
P: 828.484.7008
ddearth@weavervillenc.org

John Penley, Councilman
P: 828.484.7009
jpenley@weavervillenc.org

Shelby Shields, Town Clerk
P: 828.645.7116
sshields@weavervillenc.org

Town of Woodfin
90 Elk Mountain Road, Woodfin, NC 28804
Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Jerry VeHaun, Mayor
P: 828.253.4887
jerry.vehaun@buncombecounty.org

James Angel, Alderman
P: 828.253.4887
jangel@townofwoodfin.org

Don Hensley, Alderman
P: 828.253.4887

Jason Young, Town Manager
P: 828.253.4887
jasonyoung@woodfin-nc.gov

Debbie Giezentanner, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828.253.4887
dgiezentanner@townofwoodfin.org

Don Honeycutt, Alderman
P: 828.253.4887
dhoneycutt@townofwoodfin.org

Jackie Pope-Bryson, Alderman
P: 828.253.4887

Cheryl Mears, Town Clerk
P: 828.253.4887
townclerk@townofwoodfin.org

Henderson County
1 Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville, NC 28792
P: 828.697.4808   W: www.hendersoncountync.org
Meeting Schedule: First Monday at 5:30 pm and third Wednesday at 9:00 am

Charlie Messer, Chair
P: 828.697.4808
cmesser@hendersoncountync.org

Mike Edney, Commissioner
P: 828.697.4808
jmedney@hendersoncountync.org

Larry Young, Commissioner
P: 828.697.4808
lyoung@hendersoncountync.org

Steve Wyatt, County Manager
P: 828.697.4809
swyatt@hendersoncountync.org

Tommy Thompson, Vice-Chairman
P: 828.697.4808
tthompson@hendersoncountync.org

Grady Hawkins, Commissioner
P: 828.697.4808
ghawkins@hendersoncountync.org

Terry Wilson, County Clerk
P: 828.697.4808
twilson@hendersoncountync.org
Village of Flat Rock
110 Village Center Drive, PO Box 1288, Flat Rock, NC 28731
P: 828.697.8100   W: www.villageofflatrock.org
Meeting Schedule: Second Thursday

Bob Staton, Mayor
P: 828.697.8100

Dave Bucher, Councilman
P: 828.696.3269
ncbucher@bellsouth.net

Councilman Jim Wert
P: 828.693.0132
wertjw@morrisbb.net

Judy Boleman, Village Administrator
P: 828.697.8100
zoning@villageofflatrock.org

Nick Weedman, Vice-Mayor
P: 828.697.8100

Don Farr, Councilman
P: 828.697.8100
donfarr@gmail.com

Jimmy Chandler, Councilman
P: 828.697.8100

Ron Davis, Councilman
P: 828.697.8100

Town of Fletcher
4005 Hendersonville Road, Fletcher, NC 28732
P: 828.687.3985   W: www.fletchernc.org
Meeting Schedule: Second Monday at 7:00 pm

Bill Moore, Mayor
P: 828.684.7965
b.moore@fletchernc.org

Hugh Clark, Councilman
P: 828.684.7093
h.clark@fletchernc.org

Sheila Franklin, Councilwoman
P: 828.684.5676
s.franklin@fletchernc.org

Mark Biberdorf, Town Manager
P: 828.687.3985
m.biberdorf@fletchernc.org

Eddie Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828.684.8005
eddie.henderson@morrisbb.net

Bob Davy, Councilman
P: 828.687.0313
bdnole78@gmail.com

Christine Thompson, Town Clerk
P: 828.687.3985
c.thompson@fletchernc.org

City of Hendersonville
145 Fifth Avenue, Hendersonville, NC 28792
P: 828.697.3000   W: www.cityofhendersonville.org
Meeting Schedule: First Thursday at 5:45 pm

Barbara Volk, Mayor
P: 828. 697-3000
bvolk@cityofhendersonville.org

Steve Caraker, Councilman
P: 828. 696-3615
scaraker@cityofhendersonville.org

Ron Stephens, Councilman
P: 828. 697-1146
rsstephens@cityofhendersonville.org

Jeff Collis, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828. 707-1102
jcollis@cityofhendersonville.org

Jerry Smith, Councilman
P: 828. 243-9123
jerrysmith@cityofhendersonville.org

John Connet, City Manager
P: 828. 697-3000
jconnet@cityofhendersonville.org

Tammie Drake, City Clerk
P: 828. 697-3005
tdrake@city@hendersonville.org
Town of Laurel Park
441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park, NC 28739
P: 828.693.4840   W: www.laurelpark.org
Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday at 9:30 am

Carey O’Cain, Mayor
P: 828.693.4840

Paul Hansen, Commissioner
P: 828.693.4840

Bob Vickery, Commissioner
P: 828.693.4840
vick1810@bellsouth.net

James Ball, Town Manager
P: 828.693.4840
jball@laurelpark.org

Richard Cooke, Commissioner
P: 828.693.4840

Dona Menella, Commissioner
P: 828.693.4840
robdona@morrisbb.net

Kimberly Hensley, Town Clerk
P: 828.693.4840
khensley@laurelpark.org

Madison County
PO Box 579, Marshall, NC 28753
P: 828.649.2854    W: www.madisoncountync.org
Meeting Schedule: Second Monday at 7:00 pm

Sue Vilcinskas, Chair
P: 828.649.2854
svilcinskas@madisoncountync.org

C. William Briggs, Commissioner
P: 828.649.2854
wbriggs@madisoncountync.org

Hall Moore, Commissioner
P: 828.649.2854
hmoore@madisoncountysheriff.org

Jim Baker, Vice-Chair
P: 828.649.2854
jbaker@madisoncountync.org

Wayne Brigman, Commissioner
P: 828.649.2854
wbrigman@madisoncountync.org

Alan Lamberson, County Manager
P: 828.649.2854
alamberson@madisoncountync.org

Maria Gouge, County Administrator
P: 828.649.2854
mgouge@madisoncountync.org

Town of Hot Springs
PO Box 218, Hot Springs, NC 28743
P: 828.622.7591   W: www.townofhotsprings.org
Meeting Schedule: First Monday at 7:00 pm and third Friday at 9:00 am

Brian Reese, Mayor
P: 828.622.7591
townofhotpsrings@frontier.com

Johnny Lawson, Alderman
P: 828.622.7591
townofhotpsrings@frontier.com

Carolyn Ammons, Alderwoman
P: 828.622.7591
townofhotpsrings@frontier.com

Vaughn Barnett, Alderman
P: 828.622.7591
townofhotpsrings@frontier.com
Town of Marshall
180 South Main Street, PO Box 548, Marshall, NC 28753
P: 828.649.2031    W: www.townofmarshall.org
Meeting Schedule: Third Monday at 6:00 pm

Lawrence Ponder, Mayor
P: 828.689.3301
info@townofmarshall.org

David Allen, Alderman
P: 828.689.3301
info@townofmarshall.org

Dennis Ledford
P: 828.689.3301
info@townofmarshall.org

Michelle Massey, Deputy Town Clerk
P: 828.689.3301
mmassey@townofmarshall.org

Aileen Payne, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828.689.3301
info@townofmarshall.org

Billie Jean Haynie, Alderman
P: 828.689.3301
info@townofmarshall.org

T. Luther Nix, Alderman
P: 828.689.3301
info@townofmarshall.org

Town of Mars Hill
280 North Main Street, PO Box 368, Mars Hill, NC 28754
P: 828.689.2301    W: www.townofmarshill.org
Meeting Schedule: First Monday at 7:00 pm

John Chandler, Mayor
P: 828.689.2301
jlcmayor@yahoo.com

Larry Davis, Alderman
P: 828.689.2301

Robert Zink, Alderman
P: 828.689.2301

Darhyl Boone, Town Manager
P: 828.689.2301
dboone@townofmarshill.org

Nicholas Honeycutt, Vice-Mayor
P: 828.689.2301

Stuart Jolley, Alderman
P: 828.689.2301

Stuart Jolley, Town Clerk
P: 828.689.2301

Transylvania County
21 East Main Street, Brevard, NC 28712
P: 828.884.3100    W: www.transylvaniacounty.org
Meeting Schedule: Second and fourth Mondays at 7:00 pm

Mike Hawkins, Chairman
P: 828. 884-9732
mike.hawkins@transylvaniacounty.org

Jason Chappell, Commissioner
P: 828. 553-0958
jason.chappell@transylvaniacounty.org

Page Lemel, Commissioner
P: 828. 884-9125
page.lemel@transylvaniacounty.org

Arthur Wilson, County Manager
P: 828. 884-3100
artie.wilson@transylvaniacounty.org

Larry Chapman, Vice-Chairman
P: 828. 883-2075
larry.chapman@transylvaniacounty.org

Daryle Hogsed, Commissioner
P: 828. 775-1340
daryle.hogsed@transylvaniacounty.org

Page Lemel, Commissioner
P: 828. 884-9125
page.lemel@transylvaniacounty.org

Trisha Hogan, County Clerk
P: 828. 884-3271
trisha.hogan@transylvaniacounty.org
City of Brevard
95 West Main Street, Brevard, NC 28712
P: 828.885.5600    W: www.cityofbrevard.com
Meeting Schedule: First and third Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber

Jimmy Harris, Mayor
P: 828.883.2103
c13172@citcom.net

Wes Dickson, Councilman
P: 828.877.5790
wes@sycamorecycles.com

Charlie Landreth, Councilman
P: 828.885.2626
cnlandreth@comporium.net

Joseph Moore, City Manager
P: 828.883.3880
joe.moore@cityofbrevard.com

Mac Morrow, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828.885.8444
morrow@keirmfg.com

Maurice Jones, Councilman
P: 828.676.2137
maurice.jones@cityofbrevard.com

Rodney Locks, Councilman
P: 828.883.3985
rlgl@comporium.net

Desiree Perry, City Clerk
P: 828.885.5614
dperry@cityofbrevard.com

Town of Rosman
6 Main Street, Rosman, NC 28772
Meeting Schedule: Second Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Brian Shelton, Mayor
P: 828.884.6859
rosmantown@comporium.net

J.C. Chapman, Alderman
P: 828.884.5195
rosmantown@comporium.net

Charles Lance, Alderman
P: 828.883.5770
rosmantown@comporium.net

Angela Woodson, Town Clerk
P: 828.884.6859
rosmantown@comporium.net

Roger Petit, Mayor Pro Tem
P: 828.862.3377
rosmantown@comporium.net

Walter Pettit, Jr., Alderman
P: 828.553.2756
rosmantown@comporium.net

Doyle Stubblefield, Alderman
P: 828.862.3938
rosmantown@comporium.net
North Carolina Regions

Lead Regional Organizations

North Carolina is served by 16 regional councils in a broad range of services to local governments including but not limited to: community & economic development, area agencies on aging, volunteerism, workforce development, state & federal program management, planning & GIS mapping services, grant writing, regional collaboration and partnership building. For more information about NC Regional Councils visit www.ncregions.org.

A  Southwestern Commission  
125 Bonnie Lane, Sylva, NC 28779  
P: 828.586.1962  
W: www.regiona.org

B  Land of Sky Regional Council  
339 New Leicester Hwy. Ste 140, Asheville, NC 28806  
P: 828.251.6622  
W: www.landofsky.org

C  Isothermal Planning & Development Commission  
111 West Court Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
P: 828.287.2281  
W: www.regionc.org

D  High Country Council of Governments  
268 New Market Blvd., Boone, NC 28607  
P: 828.265.5439  
W: www.regiond.org

E  Western Piedmont Council of Governments  
736 4th Street SW, Hickory, NC 28603  
P: 828.485.4230  
W: www.regione.org

F  Centralina Council of Governments  
525 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202  
P: 704.372.2416  
W: www.centralina.org

G  Piedmont Triad Regional Council  
400 West Fourth Street, Suite 400, Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
P: 336.761.2111  
W: www.ptrc.org

H  Triangle J Council of Governments  
4307 Emperor Blvd., Suite 110, Durham, NC 27703  
P: 919.549.0551  
W: www.tjcog.org

K  Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments  
PO Box 709, Henderson, NC 27536  
P: 252.436.2040  
W: www.kerrtar.org

L  Upper Coastal Plans Council of Governments  
PO Box 9, Wilson, NC 27894  
P: 252.234.5952  
W: ucpcog.org

M  Mid-Carolina Council of Governments  
PO Drawer 1510, Fayetteville, NC 27894  
P: 910.323.4191  
W: www.mccog.org

N  Lumber River Council of Governments  
30 CJ Walker Road, Pembroke, NC 28372  
P: 910.618.5533  
W: www.lrcog.org

O  Cape Fear Council of Governments  
1480 Harbour Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401  
P: 910.395.4553  
W: www.capefearcog.org

P  Eastern Carolina Council of Governments  
PO Box 1717, New Bern, NC 28563  
P: 252.638.3185  
W: www.eccog.org

Q  Mid-East Commission  
1385 John Small Ave, Washington, NC 27889  
P: 252.946.8043  
W: www.mideastcom.org

R  Albemarle Commission  
512 South Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944  
P: 252.426.5753  
W: www.albemarlecommission.org