Locally-Based, Regionally-Driven Government

Welcome to the TJCOG Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, which highlights the innovative programs, projects and technical assistance that Triangle J Council of Governments has undertaken on behalf of, or in partnership, with our member governments. I am proud that we worked directly with staff from all 43 member communities during the year on urgent needs, grant assistance, cross-jurisdictional projects, workshops and training, and more.

You will notice that this report is organized into seven priority areas. In the coming months, our organization will undertake a strategic planning process to align our priorities with our work and ensure we are the COG this region needs.

Although we have enjoyed many successes, our region faces continued complex challenges. Luckily, the elected officials and individuals working within our organization and in our member governments have never been better equipped to address those challenges and the desire for collaboration and regional strategies has never been greater.
### By The NUMBERS

#### TOTAL REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12.9M</td>
<td>$13.6M</td>
<td>$15M</td>
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#### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

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<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$12.9M</td>
<td>$13.4M</td>
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#### TOTAL GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
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<td>$1.4M</td>
<td>$1.6M</td>
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#### NUMBER OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES

<table>
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<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
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1,400+ attendees at over 40 workshops & events

19 new projects or programs for local governments

2,534 SUBSCRIBERS to The Week Ahead or other topic-specific newsletters

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TJCOG Year in Review
From 1970 to 2016, the Triangle Region's population grew over 250%—compared to a national average of less than 60%—and growth is projected to continue at this rate. This robust population growth demands more from local governments - more service, more advanced planning, and more collaboration.

This growth has also brought much prosperity to the region. In 2018 alone, 5,559 new jobs and $737.4M of investments were announced, and the unemployment rate decreased by 1.6%.

However, these statistics do not convey the complications that accompany this change.

Roughly 13% of our regional residents remain below the poverty line. The median sales price of all homes has increased by 33.2% since 2015 and 28% of residents are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing. Commuting patterns and a regional workforce spanning from Chatham to Johnston and Granville to Harnett causes increasing highway gridlock and reduces the quality of life for the roughly 26% 233,894, of residents who cross county lines to get to work.

TJCOG is committed to working to improve quality of life for all 1.9M residents and ensure that everyone can access prosperity from our region's growth.

The 2018-2019 Organizational Priorities represent the pressing issues that require local governments to work across boundaries of all types - county, municipal, NCDOT region, watershed - to achieve success.

**ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES**

1. Aging & Human Services
2. Economic Development
3. Housing
4. Resilience
5. Service to Our Members
6. Transportation
7. Water
OUR MEMBERS

**CHATHAM COUNTY**
1. Chatham County
2. Town of Goldston
3. Town of Pittsboro
4. Town of Siler City

**DURHAM COUNTY**
5. City of Durham
6. Durham County

**JOHNSTON COUNTY**
7. Archer Lodge
8. Benson
9. Town of Clayton
10. Johnston County
11. Town of Kenly
12. Town of Micro
13. Town of Princeton
14. Town of Selma
15. Town of Smithfield
16. Town of Wilson's Mills

**MOORE COUNTY**
20. Town of Aberdeen
21. Town of Cameron
22. Town of Carthage
23. Village of Pinehurst
24. Town of Robbins
25. Town of Southern Pines

**ORANGE COUNTY**
26. Town of Carrboro
27. Town of Chapel Hill
28. Town of Hillsborough
29. Orange County

**LEE COUNTY**
17. Town of Broadway
18. Lee County
19. City of Sanford

**WAKE COUNTY**
30. Town of Angier
31. Town of Apex
32. Town of Cary
33. Town of Fuquay-Varina
34. Town of Garner
35. Town of Holly Springs
36. Town of Knightdale
37. Town of Morrisville
38. City of Raleigh
39. Town of Rolesville
40. Wake County
41. Town of Wake Forest
42. Town of Wendell
43. Town of Zebulon
Goal: Through the work of the Triangle J Area Agency on Aging, connect older adults to resources, assist partners make holistic and strategic decisions about aging services, and help local communities build aging-friendly places for the growing older adult population.

### WHAT WE’RE HEARING

**Top Resident Complaints** - Care; Autonomy, Choice, Rights & Privacy; Admission, Transfer, & Discharge; Dietary; Environment.

**Top Family Caregiver Needs** - Information & Assistance; In-Home Respite; Training Programs; Support Groups; Incontinence Supplies.

### WHAT WE’RE DOING

Organized regional **Results-Based Accountability Training** for health promotion service partners.

Coordinated a multi-organizational fundraising effort to aid seniors with hurricane recovery, locally and across the state.

Partnered with Chatham-Orange, Durham and Wake Community Resource Connections for Aging & Disabilities and Arc of the Triangle to **plan for needs of aging adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities**, many of whom have never accessed services before.

Began facilitating the creation of a **Master Aging Plan for Durham City/County** to better prepare for the growth of older adults in Durham.

### ACCOLADES

Launched pilot of **Veteran-Directed Service Program** at Durham VA.

14 **Senior Centers of Excellence** in the Region

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**HOME CARE & COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT**

- **291,608** Home-Delivered Meals
- **28,164** Information & Assistance Calls
- **517** Clients utilized transportation services
- **18** Clients received Options Counseling
- **112** Clients received Adult Day Services
- **777** Clients provided legal services
- **387** Closed Compliants from Long-Term Care Residents
- **7,317** Requests for Family Caregiver Support
**Economic Development**

**Goal:** Coordinate local economic development efforts and provide a direct connection for member governments to the US Economic Development Administration regarding grant applications, administration, and technical assistance.

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY**

Launched TJCOG’s **Community & Economic Development** initiative to lead locally-based, regionally-driven strategies and planning, oversee update and implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and guide Economic Development District work with U.S EDA.

Four member governments - **Fuquay-Varina, Selma, Wake Forest, and Wendell** - joined the Regional Brownfields Consortium, which will provide data assistance and education, and submit annual EPA Brownfields Grant applications on behalf of communities.

**READY FOR PRINT**

The first TJCOG Economic Development Whitepaper, **Hidden Distress - A Tier System Analysis**, examined how county-level tier designations hide distress in municipalities that are within prosperous counties and offered recommendations to improve the system for the benefit of all communities.

“Current tier designations falsely represent a number of urban and rural communities that rank among the least prosperous in the state as prosperous due to the use of county data.”

A **2018 Interim Update** of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region was released, highlighting the following priorities:

- CEDS Strategy Refinement & Outreach
- Technical Assistance
- Housing
- Resilience
- Workforce Development

**INVESTMENTS**

The Research Triangle Area Foreign Trade Zone is growing! The U.S Department of Commerce approved activation of a new site for **AW North Carolina Inc.**, a car part manufacturer, and new sites in Siler City and Asheboro for **MAS US Holdings, Inc.**, a garment company.

**WHY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS REGIONAL**

35.9% workers crossed county lines to get to work in 2016
**Goal:** Assist communities to preserve, improve, and build quality, affordable housing through education, technical assistance, facilitation, research & data analysis, and fund administration.

### NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Conducted an impact study for **Habitat for Humanity of Wake County** on their work building 700 homes over 32 years in Wake County and measure the impact on education levels, health outcomes, jobs, and wealth accumulation for Habitat homeowners.

Kicked off a housing study for **Broadway, Lee County, and Sanford** to collect and analyze housing data, conduct an affordable housing inventory, estimate housing need, and identify strategies for the local governments to incentivize and facilitate housing development.

Began administration of **Urgent Repair Program (URP)** and **Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation (ESFR)** funds from the NC Housing Finance Agency for Durham, Harnett, and Lee counties. This funding will provide home repairs and rehabilitation for approximately 40 low-income homeowners.

### INFORMATION OVERLOAD

Continued to assist members and partners understand housing challenges and communicate to residents on the **big picture** and tools such as **4% tax credits**, inclusionary zoning, tenants' rights, and landlord resources.

### COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

A **Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance grant** with Chatham & Orange County partners to streamline access, implementation, and performance of home repair and weatherization programs.

### WHY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HOUSING

- **197,004**
  Cost-burdened households

- **163,432**
  low-income households are cost-burdened

- **73%**
  of renters earning less than $50k that are cost-burdened

- **70%**
  of the 770,000 housing units are single-family homes

- **33.2%**
  increase in median sales price since January 2015

- **$259,800**
  median sales price

- **69%**
  one-two person households

- **33%**
  one-two bedroom housing units
**Resilience**

**Goal:** Work with counties to identify projects, assist with grant applications or administration and provide technical assistance, and assess threats, stressors, and potential strategies to improve resilience across all jurisdictions.

**A HELPING HAND**

New funding through the U.S Economic Development Administration for **Hurricane Matthew and Florence recovery** allowed TJCOG to provide assistance, additional staff capacity, or coordination to declared counties.

Worked with a **Long-Term Care Disaster Planning Committee** on disaster scenario exercises and integration of emergency planning into facility procedures.

Assisted the Town of Robbins identify funding options for infrastructure needs, conduct grant writing, and coordinate technical assistance from other local governments and federal agencies, and ultimately receive **$2.1M in state resilience funding**.

**RESPONSE STRATEGIES**

Completed the **Regional Resilience Assessment** in partnership with the towns of Cary and Chapel Hill; the cities of Durham and Raleigh; and Durham and Orange counties to identify strategies for the region to respond to climate and non-climate stressors, and to build into existing local plans.

Identified **four critical stressors** in the region: increasing extreme precipitation and local flooding; increasing temperatures and temperature variability; increases frequency and duration of drought conditions; and robust population growth.

**ALL THINGS RESILIENCE**

Integrated resilience frameworks and education into TJCOG programming including Smart Growth/Water Resources Collaboratives, the CORE Work Group, local planning projects, and new regional economic development work.

**WHY DOES RESILIENCE PLANNING MATTER?**

A flooding event in the region could result in over **30,000 properties** becoming inaccessible to residents and emergency vehicles due to either inundated or damaged roads.
Service to Our Members

**Goal:** Serve critical member needs and offer technical assistance to help local governments of all sizes provide services and improve quality of life for their citizens. Member services change over time to address new and emerging needs.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Assisted members with planning needs including land use, zoning, comprehensive, and small area plans; completed a Feasibility Study for the Clayton Senior Center; facilitated board retreats; and fulfilled Regional Data Center requests.

### CONVENING

Held *Economic Development Knows No Boundaries*, the 2018 Regional Summit, in Sanford with 200 attendees to learn about best practices, innovative ideas, and local case studies on economic development.

### EDUCATION

Offered workshops for members on identifying human trafficking victims (with UNC SOG and Project No Rest), improving local government human resources (with UNC SOG and NC City/County Managers Association), lean government processes (with NC State IES) and broadband basics (with NC BIO).

### REGIONAL INNOVATION

Launched the Sandbox Challenge, an effort to test solutions at a regional scale to widespread challenges, and began work on "Improving Law Enforcement Recruitment" - the 2019-2020 challenge.

Grew the *Strategy & Innovation Network*, a collective of local government innovation, strategy, and strategic planning staff, to include over 15 large and small municipalities interested in improving their programs and strengthening goals.

Selected to assist four member communities - Hillsborough, Morrisville, Rolesville, and Sanford - in joining the *Engaging Local Government Leaders 2019 Innovation Cohort* and piloting potential solutions to community engagement challenges.
Goal: Focus on the intersection between land use, transportation, and quality of life, and help communities think long-term about their comprehensive transportation needs.

TRANSIT CORRIDORS

Led the Wake Transit Corridor Land Use and Housing Planning project to help local governments align housing and land use policies with the transit plan, understand the location of affordable housing to transit and consider housing in corridor prioritization.

Assisted with initial land planning for proposed station areas along the Durham-Orange Light Rail transit line.

Produced "Raising the Roof - Linking Housing Affordability and Transit Investments", a report designed to assist policy makers align transit in the region with existing and new affordable housing by assessing the current supply, highlighting successes across the country, and framing next steps.

RURAL PLANNING

Adopted a new Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the first in 20 years.

Completed a downtown parking study for the Town of Siler City to understand the current status of parking needs and opportunities to improve accessibility.

Awarded funding for 3 Regional Impact projects and 18 Division Needs projects in NCDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Prioritization 5.0

PARTNERSHIPS

Worked with the MPOs and RPOs on the region’s long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, emphasizing growth projections, fiscal constraints and the air quality impacts of the plans.

Provided support, guidance and engagement on development scenario analysis using CommunityViz software to analyze growth alternatives.

Coordinated 2020 Census educational and geographical designation efforts for the region including the Participant Statistical Areas to ensure the census accounts for growth.

WHY DOES TRANSIT MATTER?

40,000 households in the Triangle metro region have no car available.
**Goal:** Assist with water quality, quantity, and water/sewer infrastructure needs that increase as the region experiences population growth, a decrease in available funding sources, and aging infrastructure.

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY**

Began administration of the Triangle Water Supply Partnership, a group of 13 jurisdictions and water systems in the Triangle wishing to continue and strengthen the valuable water supply planning work and collaborative efforts initiated by the Jordan Lake Partnership.

Submitted and received a $50,000 grant from the State Water Infrastructure Authority’s Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant funding to study potential collaboration opportunities among the utility systems of the towns of Kenly, Micro, Pine Level, Princeton, Selma, and Smithfield, and Johnston County.

Joined forces with the Piedmont Triad COG to strengthen the Clean Water Education Partnership’s program offerings and added a full time AmeriCorps position to increase direct education outreach services for stormwater education and promote behavior changes.

Received $250,000 NCDEQ funding to repair or replace failing private septic systems and reduce pollutants in the Rocky River watershed in Chatham County, in partnership with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle.

**WATER QUALITY**

Awarded NC DEQ 205(j) funding to conduct asset mapping in Siler City and create an watershed action plan for the Upper Middle Creek Watershed.

**POP-UPS!**

Workshops in Wendell & Pittsboro helped utility staff understand new MS4 stormwater permit requirements and newly mandated planning templates.

**KEEP AN EYE ON**

A Jordan Lake One Water advisory committee formed to develop a workplan and begin collaborative planning efforts with NC Division of Water Resources and numerous stakeholders to develop a recommended One Water and Integrated Water Management framework for the Jordan Lake watershed as part of the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Rules Re-adoption.