



Triangle J Council of Governments

2018-19

Year in Review



Lee Worsley
Executive Director

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.

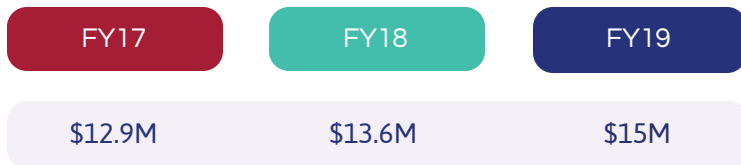
You will notice that this report is organized into seven priority areas. In the coming months, our organization will undertake a strategic planning process to align our priorities with our work and ensure we are the COG this region needs.

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.

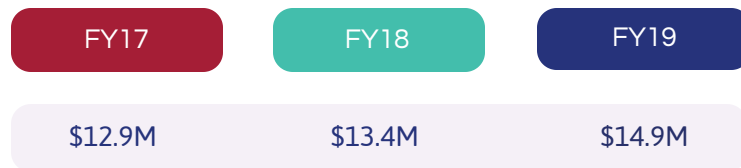


By The NUMBERS

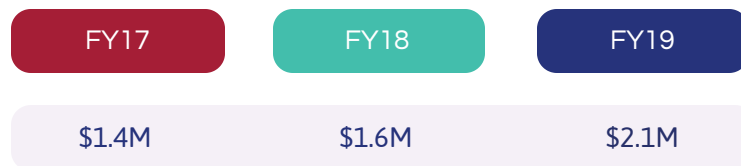
TOTAL REVENUE



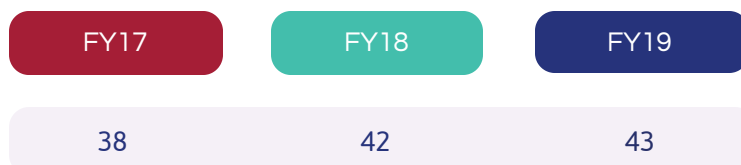
TOTAL EXPENDITURES



TOTAL GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED



NUMBER OF MEMBER COMMUNITIES



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



CHANGING REGION

CHANGING TJCOG

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

LEE COUNTY

- 17 Town of Broadway
- 18 Lee County
- 19 City of Sanford

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

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



Aging & Human Services

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

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 Complainants 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 provides data assistance and education, and submit annual EPA Brownfields Grant applications on behalf of communities.

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

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



Housing

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.

LEGISLATIVE DAY

17

Meetings with representatives and senators from all TJCOG counties

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.



Transportation

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

Completed **Connecting the Dots**, an analysis focused on linking transit investments, development decisions, and affordable housing along Wake County's planned bus rapid transit corridors.

Piloted a format for short, readable summaries that examine specific transit investments through the lens of anchor institution values, policies and interests, using the Durham-Chapel Hill corridor as a test case.

Completed "**Raising the Roof**, an analysis of metrics and strategies for matching housing affordability to transit investments along the corridor linking Durham and Chapel Hill.

Collected and reported on the locations of legally-binding affordable housing in relation to planned transit investments.

RURAL PLANNING

Adopted a new **Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan**, and started work on an update to the Lee County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

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

Obtained funding for **22 projects** - 13 highway, 9 non-highway - in NCDOT's Transportation Improvement Program Prioritization 5.0.

PARTNERSHIPS

Worked with cities, counties, state and federal agencies, anchor institutions, and regional partners by facilitating and coordinating:

- air quality analysis of our region's transportation plans and improvement programs.
- joint meetings of the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization policy boards, joint executive committee, and technical staffs.
- the development and update of regional transportation priorities.
- the executive committee overseeing the region's transportation model.

Supported 13 local transit partners through the **Triangle Transportation Demand Management** program to increase alternative commuting, avoiding 6.5 million vehicle trips and supporting 60,000 alternative transportation users.



Water

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.

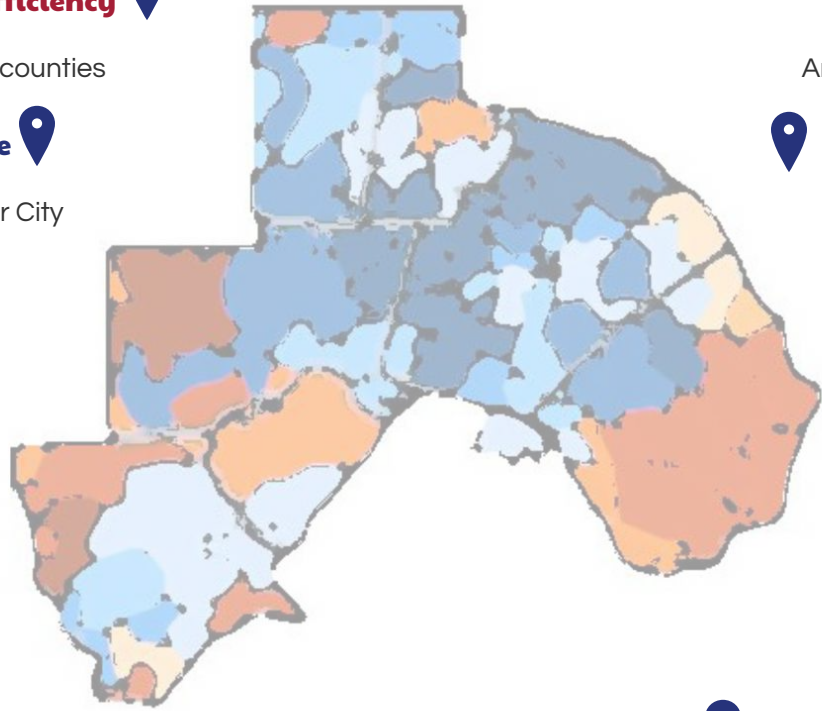
KEEP AN EYE ON

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.



AROUND THE REGION

Has TJCOG staff worked in your community this year?



Clean Energy Goals Planning
Hillsborough

Master Aging Plan & Age Friendly Community
Durham

Foreign Trade Zone Seminar
Morrisville

Chatham County Affordable Housing Task Force
Chatham County, Pittsboro, Siler City

Regional Resilience Partnership
Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Orange County, Durham County

Habitat for Humanity Impact Study
Wake County

Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance Grant
Chatham and Orange counties

Stormwater Pop-Ups
Pittsboro & Wendell

Broadband 101
Archer Lodge & Broadway

Chatham County Affordable Housing Task Force
Chatham County, Pittsboro, Siler City

Clayton Senior Center Feasibility Study
Clayton

Septic Repair
Chatham County

Pay & Classification Study
Smithfield

Stormwater Mapping Project
Siler City

Land Use Plan Mapping
Wilson's Mills

Land Use Plan
Goldston

Land Use Plan
Micro

Small Area Plan
Carthage

Land Use Plan
Selma

Board Retreat Facilitation
Princeton

Disaster Recovery Grant
Robbins

Managers Group Facilitation
Moore County

Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Study
Eastern Johnston County

Recycling Seminar w/NC DEQ
Pinehurst, June 2019

Tri-Cities Work Group
Aberdeen, Southern Pines, Pinehurst

Upper Middle Creek Watershed Action Plan
Holly Springs, Fuquay-Varina, Apex, Wake County

Housing Study
Broadway, Lee County, Sanford

Affordable Housing Facilitation
Holly Springs

Regional Summit
Sanford, September 2018

Board Retreat Facilitation
Angier

