

Chatham County 2025-2026 Biennium NCACC Legislative Goals Process



2024-2025 Legislative Goals Timeline

- June
 - Introduce NCACC Legislative Goals Process to Chatham County Board of Commissioners
 - Commissioners submit legislative goals to the Intergovernmental Relations Manager via County survey
- July
 - Commissioner submissions are compiled and reviewed at the July 15th Board of Commissioners Meeting.
 - BOC directs staff to bring back a final list of goals for approval in August
- August
 - Commissioners approve final list of goals
 - Staff submits final list to the NCACC by August 23, 2024
- November 14-15, 2024 – NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

Examples of Good Legislative Goals

- Seek legislation, funding, and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure / broadband capability to the unserved and under-served areas and residents of the state.
- Support expansion of Medicaid as well as related funding and operational flexibility for counties to expand county workforce and necessary infrastructure.

Goal Submitted:

Seek legislation for new timelines and procedures to establish municipalities in conjunction with large developments, or a pattern of development, that create residential density above the average population of North Carolina towns and cities. This is to improve the way the state legal system enables residents to receive well-planned public services during a period when state laws and programs are driving large population influx.

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented **AND/OR**

Additional Information: NCACC staff has offered to speak with their colleagues at the NCLM and connect County staff with UNC SOG faculty who can speak to how incorporation works currently and any gaps there might be in the statute that make it difficult for them to obtain services and then staff can share information with the Commissioners outside of this process.

Goal Submitted:

Seek legislation amending NCGS Section 160A-87 to require governing boards to track, evaluate, and oversee compliance with ethics requirements on an annual basis. Establish and fund a public ethics office in an appropriate state body that serves as a resource on these topics and administers an anonymous reporting, investigation, and compliance program

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented **OR** submit a revised goal

Increase funding/support for ethics training for elected officials through the UNC School of Government.

Goals Submitted: Increase funding for high-speed internet access; expansion of digital infrastructure and broadband

Staff Suggestions: Submit a revised goal

Seek legislative changes to increase broadband access in rural areas

Additional Information: Worked with Policy Analyst Brenton Hart and Assistant Manager Bryan Thompson who were able to identify potential legislative changes and additions to NCGS 143B-1373 that could support counties in their digital inclusion efforts and allow counties to directly engage in building and managing broadband networks.

Goal Submitted: Allow local governments greater flexibility in the creation, preservation and support of Affordable Housing

Staff Suggestions: Submit a revised goal

Develop Legislation that Provides Local Government Authority to Facilitate the Creation Preservation, or Support of Affordable Housing Within Development Agreements

Additional Information: Worked with Assistant Manager Bryan Thompson, Housing Director Jason Smith, and Affordable Housing and Community Development Officer Jamie Andrews who were able to identify potential legislative amendments to NCGS 160D that could achieve this goal.

Goal Submitted: Ending right to work, give workers the right to form unions

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented

Additional Information: N.C.G.S. 95-98 currently states that it is unlawful for units of government to enter into contracts with labor unions, trade unions, or labor organizations concerning public employees.

Goal Submitted: Increase statewide healthcare options for youth with I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disorders) and Behavioral Disorders in order to address the growing mental health crisis in this population

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented

Additional Information: Discussed with DSS Director Jennie Kristiansen and DSS Deputy Director Cim Brailer and they support this goal. The NCACC is aware of this need across the state.

Goal Submitted: Allow counties to establish local environmental measures/protections beyond those imposed by the state in environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas as determined at the county-level.

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented

Additional Information: While the NCACC will always have the broad goal of preserving local control, this goal speaks specifically to environmental measures/protections that are also a concern of other counties throughout the state.

Goal Submitted: Increase funding for research and preventative care for a healthier population. A focus on self diagnosis should become a norm (blood pressure, glucose/sugar levels, gut response to foods) as early as middle school.

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented OR submit a revised goal
Increase funding for preventative care and wellness education for both youth and adults for a healthier population.

Goal Submitted: Focus on preventative measures and efforts geared at helping individuals find productive purpose in life. Wrap around services for adults. For children- career exploratory, individualized designed pathways of education, trainings, internship to job placements.

Staff Suggestions: Goal being addressed in an alternative way

Additional Information: Staff discussed this with the Chatham County Schools Superintendent and members of the Board of Education who said they are already addressing this need.

Goal Submitted: Seek legislation allowing counties more flexibility in the preservation of farmland.

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented

Additional Information: Staff spoke with Farmland Preservation Coordinator Andrew Waters who said he was not aware of any other strategies being used in other areas. He did do some research about what other states are doing and staff can provide that information to the NCACC.

Goal Submitted: Increase funding to teacher pay, Fully fund teacher salaries, and Seek legislation that links salary for public school teachers (pre-K to 12) to national standards and ensures that North Carolina is in the top half of all states for teacher salary

Staff Suggestions: Submit a revised goal
Increase and fully fund teacher salaries

Additional Information: Chatham County Schools support this goal.

Goal Submitted: Seek legislation that establishes contemporary baseline requirements of a sound basic education guaranteed by the NC Constitution. Apply that standard to all public spending on education (e.g., public schools, charter schools, voucher programs). Assess schools on meeting those standards and condition the receipt of public funds on achieving those standards

Staff Suggestions: Submit goal as presented **OR** remove goal

Additional Information: Staff spoke with the Chatham County Schools and this goal does not align with their goals.

Goal Submitted: Reverse voucher program for private schools and charter schools

Staff Suggestions: Submit the goal as presented

Additional Information: Chatham County Schools support this goal.

Questions?