



Chatham County

2024 Legislative Goals

Conservation/Environment

Support State Funding for Trails, Open Spaces, and Natural Areas

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

GOAL: Increase state funding and support for the upkeep and development of accessible outdoor recreational and natural areas.

BACKGROUND: State funded and supported natural areas, open spaces, and trails provide substantial benefits to local communities. Some of these benefits include:

- Creating more lively and livable communities.
- Encouraging and supporting better health outcomes, physical fitness, and healthier lifestyles.
- Strengthening local economies through tourism.
- Protecting and supporting the environments in which they are housed, such as reducing stream erosion and environmental degradation.
- Preserving culturally and historically valuable areas.

Integration of trails, trail networks, open space, and natural areas throughout entire communities improves the built environment for all residents and democratizes access to these important quality of life amenities.

REQUEST: The center point of our trails, open space, and natural areas goal this year is an increase in funding for the N.C. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Program (ADFP). Chatham County's Farmland Preservation and Development Fund (CAPD) was developed as a matching fund and would benefit from a more robust ADFP.

Update Energy Codes

Speaker: Dan LaMontagne

Background: SL 2023-108 removed the ability of the NC Building Council to oversee residential codes, delayed the update of the energy codes, and reduced the requirements for new homes (insulation thickness, window quality, and other energy saving features). With the rapid pace of new homes being built in Chatham County, and the rising population of the county overall, this will impede the ability of the state and county to meet our future carbon goals (SL 2021-165), and cost Chatham County taxpayers thousands of dollars over time in increased energy costs.

Request: Our request is to revert these legislative changes.

Increase Home Weatherization Funding (Heat Pollution)

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

Background: In Chatham County, we have numerous residents in older homes that lack adequate insulation required for winter weather. There are numerous challenges that this presents. The human element is most obvious, it requires more heating to keep (often older) residents warm. Additionally, it causes increased heat pollution in the surrounding environment, disrupting natural Habitats.

Request: To combat this, we propose additional funding to the NC Department of Environmental Quality's Weatherization program so that more Chatham residents can take advantage of this helpful program and promote sustainability.

Continue to Support LIDAR

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

Background: Chatham County has partnered with North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) as a funding partner to acquire countywide LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Data as part of a larger data acquisition project across 20 NC counties. This project would better help Chatham County understand the topography, landscape, and prominent features of the land within its borders. The state's LiDAR working group is working to develop business plans for acquiring LiDAR data regularly.

As a funding partner with NCEM Chatham County has an interest in the technology, as LiDAR has many conservation focused benefits, most specifically the ability to track land cover and change over time.

Request: Because of this, we would request that the state allocate funding regularly to fund similar LiDAR data acquisition projects, as it would be more advantageous to all parties involved in the NCEM LiDAR program.

Health

Well Sampling Assistance Program

Speaker: Dan LaMontagne

Background: Private well sampling is required by state law and is administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and local health departments. These programs are important, as groundwater is an essential resource that must be monitored and protected for its quality as a water supply for future use of North Carolina Citizens. This sampling is used to ensure the water is healthy to drink and indicate the health of the area's environment.

However, despite the importance of this sampling, water analysis cost can be a barrier to residents to regularly test their wells. In Chatham County there are various levels and types of tests ranging from \$70 dollars to \$150 dollars for existing well testing. For new wells, analysis is required by state law. However, because of the cost barrier, it is impractical for lower income residents to get their wells checked regularly, and impractical for local governments to assist residents with these recurring costs.

Request: Because of this, we ask that the state facilitate a program to help low-income residents unable to afford regular well analysis. This would help residents ensure their safety and health, along with helping local governments understand the health of the environments/underground aquifers.

Expand Good Samaritan Law

NCACC Health and Human Services Additional Advocacy Goal

Speaker: Dan LaMontagne

Background: (*See Attachment A.)

Request: Broaden law to expand protection to others at the scene including the person overdosing and include other drugs not currently covered in the law such as fentanyl. On March 6, 2023, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution Requesting the NCGA to Revise and Expand the Good Samaritan Law GS 90-96.2

Social Services

Strengthen Behavioral Health Services to Address the Growing Mental Health Crisis

Speaker: Jennie Kristiansen

Background: Workforce supports for providers, flexibilities in serving youth with complex behavioral health needs and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and enhanced service capability are all needed to alleviate the crisis and to eliminate children staying in DSS offices, hotels, and emergency rooms because there are no providers to treat their mental health problems.

Request: We request that behavioral health services be strengthened to address the growing mental health crisis in North Carolina, particularly among youth.

Expand Kinship Care Payments

Speaker: Jennie Kristiansen

Background: Recent funding authorized kinship care payments for relatives caring for children in the custody of DSS without having to meet the requirements of a foster care license. The definition, however, did not include non-relative kin. When children cannot safely remain at home, often the best alternative is staying with extended family and other kin. Providing funding for both caregiver groups is important for improving kinship placement rates across NC. NC lags the national kinship care placement rate at 25%. In Chatham kinship care placement rates were 58% in FY 22 and 41% in FY 23.

Request: Because of this, we request that kinship care payments include both relative and non-relative kin who are caring for children in foster care.

Increase Funding for Childcare

NCACC Health and Human Services Legislative Priority

Speaker: Jennie Kristiansen

Background: Funding for childcare and early learning has remained flat over the past 10 years, despite increases in the cost of care and a growing population. Average starting pay for childcare educators in NC was \$14 per hour in 2023, compared to \$18.50 at Hobby Lobby and \$20 at Verizon. Furthermore, 50% of the workforce does not have health insurance and a third is eligible for some sort of public assistance benefit, even with full-time employment. Recent investments of \$965 million in one-time

grants paid to childcare homes and centers, made an impact. Despite a 9.7% drop in the childcare workforce nationally, NC's increased slightly, by 1.1%.

Request: Because of this, we request additional funding for early learning childcare to facilitate meeting the needs of families of young children.

Increase Funding for Adult Protective Services

Speaker: Jennie Kristiansen

Background: Adult Protective Services Programs have little dedicated funding. Block grant allocations that fund multiple DSS programs have remained flat while the number of people served continues to grow. The Senior Tarheel Legislature reports that 79% of APS costs statewide are born by counties with no state allocation to support this critical work. Furthermore, the number of reports to APS is increasing with statewide numbers growing by 129% between FY 06 and FY 21. In Chatham County, APS reports have risen 46% since FY19. Adequate staffing for APS allows counties to respond to reports promptly and provide quality services to adults at risk of abuse or exploitation.

Request: We request additional funding for Adult Protective Services Programs to assist Social Service departments in counties to respond to APS reports.

Strengthen Reentry Services and Increase Funding

Speaker: Jennie Kristiansen

Background: More than 15,000 individuals return home to their communities after being released from North Carolina state prisons each year. Reentry services are essential to the survival of most individuals as they begin to rebuild their lives. The Division of Rehabilitation and Reentry provides a large array of reentry programs, services, and resources to help many community members rebuild their lives, however, additional funding is needed to make these services available to all communities in North Carolina. Individuals are more successful if their reentry services, programs, and resources are initiated during their incarceration before returning home as this strengthens and increases their chances of reintegrating successfully. Increasing the programs, supports, and resources available will allow individuals to be connected to housing, employment, education, physical and mental health, chemical dependency, and basic life skill services which determine the individual's impact in their local community.

Request: Because of this, we recommend increasing support for reentry programs, to ensure that reentry residents are connected to the support they need to be successful.

Libraries

Increase Funding for Digital Equity Programs

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

Goal: Increase support for state digital equity grants to assist local governments in providing digital equity classes and incentivizing digital resources.

Background: The North Carolina Broadband Infrastructure Office in the Department of Information Technology (NCBIO) released the new Digital Champions Grant, to assist organizations across the state to start or expand digital equity programs. The grant recipients have not yet been announced, but NCBIO has allocated a maximum funding of \$14 million. Requests for funding from all 100 counties exceeded \$150 million, which is ten times the amount that will be awarded. This highlights the substantial need for digital equity funding across the state.

In 2021, the NCBIO office estimated that 1 in 10 households in Chatham County did not have a computing device, and 1 in 3 lacked an internet subscription. Although it is challenging to estimate digital literacy levels, this data reflects difficulties with digital equity in Chatham County. Given the importance of digital devices and the internet for education, government engagement, and community participation, supporting digital equity and literacy is crucial for the well-being of Chatham residents.

Request: To enhance participation and facilitate digital equity, we request additional funding for the NCBIO office to conduct further rounds of the Digital Champions Grant or other such grant programs.

Agriculture

Support Legislation which Seeks to Reduce the Minimum Acreage Requirements for the Present Use Value Program for both Horticulture and Agricultural Producers

NCACC Agriculture Additional Advocacy Goal

Speaker: Carolyn Miller

Goal: Promote legislation reducing the minimum acreage requirement to participate in the Present Use Value (PUV) program so that small, niche, high-production farms can participate in PUV programs as well.

Background: While Chatham may have a larger influx of small, intensive, niche producers in comparison to other counties state-wide, undoubtedly, other counties will experience similar growth with small-acreage producers simply because available land to work will become harder and harder to source. [NCGS 105-277](#) sets the minimum acreage requirement for participation in the PUV. Currently, horticulture producers must operate on at least five acres and agriculture producers on at least ten acres. Many of Chatham County's producers operate under those minimum acreage requirements and would benefit from participation in the PUV program.

Request: Support small local producers by promoting legislation reducing the minimum acreage requirement for participation in the PUV program.

Increase Legislative Support of our Land-Grant Universities Cooperative Extension System – N.C. Cooperative Extension

Speaker: Carolyn Miller

Goal: Increase state financial support of the N.C. Cooperative Extension to help it meet needs and priorities identified in its [recently-released strategic plan](#), allowing Extension to be impactful in its mission to increase prosperity across North Carolina, including Chatham County, for the next several years within the fields of agriculture, natural resources, health/wellness, nutrition, and positive youth development (4-H).

Background: The Cooperative Extension System is operated through the nation's Land-Grant University System in coordinating partnership with federal, state, and local governments. Here in North Carolina, our Cooperative Extension System is based at our two land-grant institutions (N.C. State University and N.C. A&T State University), forming the N.C. Cooperative Extension. There are 101 local centers in North Carolina, providing services to each North Carolina County and the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

The mission work of Cooperative Extension is to extend research-based knowledge/information from the universities out to the communities across North Carolina, helping individuals to transform science into everyday solutions aimed at improving their lives/communities and growing our state. Extension keeps North Carolina's \$100B+ agriculture industry growing and sustainable by connecting producers with the research-based information and technology they need. Within the areas of health and nutrition, Extension teaches individuals to make healthier decisions, reduce risks of chronic diseases, and live healthier lives through a wealth of nutrition, local foods, and food safety programs. As the largest positive youth development organization in the nation, Extension's 4-H programs address the diverse issues of today's youth, helping hundreds of thousands of youths grow into healthier, more involved generations of future leaders. Federal funding deficits leave much of the fiscal support to fall on the shoulders of local county governments, and it is critical to increase state funding towards Extension's mission work.

Request: Increase financial support of N.C. Cooperative Extension to meet shortfalls in operational costs (NC State Extension has recurring expenses of \$4.7M alone), to ensure that critical programming continues in all 101 county centers and can reduce the financial burden placed on many local county governments to support/fund this much-needed community work.

Broadband

Remove Rural Broadband Barriers

NCACC Top Priority Goal

Speaker: Dan LaMontagne

Goal: Remove barriers that prevent counties from initiating and/or providing assistance for projects and services that would deliver broadband services to citizens, which includes:

- Removing barriers that prevent counties from obtaining funds for broadband projects;
- Removing restrictions that prevent providers from entering markets that are poorly covered by other providers;
- Increasing state funding, grants, and loans for programs such as GREAT, CAB, and Stop-Gap to ensure all that inadequately served and unserved rural areas are targeted for broadband service; and
- Allow local governments, if willing, to lease county assets to broadband providers or to provide public broadband services themselves when necessary.

Background: The benefits of high-speed broadband access to all residents, regardless of location, have been well covered by media, advocacy groups and various sources, including the FCC and the White House. This need has been made clearer by the impacts of the COVID pandemic. Broadband is vital to economic development, job training, education, health, and safety. Current laws do not allow a competitive or fair environment.

With territories held hostage by the large telecom providers and laws currently in place, the large telecom companies restrict access to this valuable resource and foster an environment where we are unable to determine who truly is not being served. The FCC now acknowledges that the telecom company service reports, which are required to the FCC every year, have been misleading. They also acknowledge that basing service rates on census blocks has incorrectly led them to misstate the percentage of coverage and are now considering ways to get a better understanding of real service levels. We recognize that the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) has been working diligently to update and facilitate better mapping, but Federal Programs rely on FCC information to identify unserved and underserved areas. An easy solution would be to have telecoms report all addresses served and the speed of service. The FCC could collect all addresses from all counties and use GIS matching efforts to:

1. Determine more precisely what the mapping of coverage really shows on specific address points;
2. Determine more precisely the percentage of homes with 'adequate' speeds; and
3. Using the above efforts, the FCC could then target funding to the middle and last mile needs more surgically.

Request: Promote legislation that would remove these barriers and restrictions and put in place the support that will provide access to high-speed broadband to everyone in a highly competitive state. This means:

- Allowing local governments to be active partners in broadband projects serving the public, including allowing public facilities to serve as broadband hubs and providing some level of matching funds.
- Extending and increasing state funding for broadband efforts such as GREAT, CAB, and Stop-Gap in rural areas that are unserved or under-served by broadband.
- Remove territorial locks that allow providers to pick who they will and who they will not serve.
- Promote FCC changes to the service reporting provided by telecoms to require precise addresses served with service details, mapping of the service addresses and targeted funding and requirement of telecom deployment to those targets.

Amend Competing Access to Broadband Program

Speaker: Dan LaMontagne

Goal: Reduce the county match requirement for counties receiving \$8 million or more in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to facilitate increased participation in the Competing Access to Broadband Program.

Background: The Competing Access to Broadband Program (CAB) was established in SL 2021-180 (Appropriations) as a special revenue fund in the NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT). This program allows the Secretary to award grants to internet service providers (ISPs) for the implementation of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas. The program was designed to foster collaboration between the State of North Carolina and counties in determining broadband infrastructure projects in unserved areas.

As outlined in the CAB program guidance, match requirements were established in state statute, requiring participating counties allocated greater than \$8 Million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to contribute a minimum 35% match to the program. Given the deadline for ARPA allocations by the end of 2024 and anticipated

additional funding from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, it is impractical for counties to sustain such a funding level in the long term.

Request: We seek to reduce the match percentage required for counties receiving over \$8 million for the CAB program or propose a modification to the calculation method for the match.

Affordable Housing

Support Affordable Housing Efforts

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

Background: On February 21, 2023, NewsBreak published an article, “Looking to Buy? These Counties Are the Most Expensive in North Carolina for Homebuyers,” which presents the top four most expensive counties to buy a home in North Carolina. Chatham County ranked number one with a median sale price of \$638,000. This is emblematic of the housing affordability challenge across the state. Affordable rentals share a similar story, prices on the rise with no known end in sight.

More aggressive and innovative approaches should be sought to assist local governments, developers, and property managers to bridge the growing gap of need in the way of quality affordable housing, and in particular, affordable rentals. Two such approaches include the creation of a state housing tax credit and the financial support for the implementation of innovative affordable workforce housing programs on the local level.

Like the federal low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC), state housing tax credits aim to generate private investment in affordable housing by providing a credit on taxes owed for investments in affordable housing. Currently 24 states have a state tax credit program. An individual or organization may apply the credit against its own tax liability or sell the credit to raise equity that can be used to reduce project financing costs. This approach is an additional, much needed, source of funding for affordable housing development, which is already done in numerous states across the country. These increased incentives are vital as many of North Carolina’s LIHTC properties near the end of their mandated affordability periods, resulting in a potential decrease in affordable housing stock at a time of a severe shortage.

Approaches to and implementation of the affordable housing tax credit vary between states because the rules are established at the state level. There is potential for a multifaceted program shaped to meet local needs with respect to the duration of the tax credit term, credit amounts, the share of the contribution against which the credit may be claimed, eligible activities and affordability requirements. Some states separate their tax credit program from the federal LIHTC, while others “piggyback” on the federal tax credit and automatically award the state credit to investors in the federal LIHTC to help fill gaps in development costs.

Along with the establishment of a state housing tax credit, offering support for innovation on a local level can help communities model successful programs for the

state, which can be adopted and adapted by other communities struggling with similar issues.

Local governments most engaged with the affordable housing development sector, housing insecurity service providers, and the supportive services practitioners within their communities are the local governments most able to develop programming that can not only increase access to affordable housing, but can also develop forward-looking programs that build the capacity of individuals and families to support themselves in their transition of need; proffering them the requisite implements to successfully transition over time.

The persistent application of customary practices in creating and accessing affordable workforce housing is critical; however, innovation in the headwinds of extraordinary housing market escalation has never been more important. Establishing an innovations fund for affordable workforce rental programs, seeding qualified local governments with funding to explore program approaches to this issue, can yield proven methods that could be adopted by other communities in the state and adapted to their local contexts.

Request: Establish this additional source of revenue that aligns with the federal tax credit program (LIHTC) and can support gaps in development costs. Ensure that rural areas can benefit from the state housing tax credit. Establish funding source to support innovative initiatives through affordable workforce rental programming.

***See Attachment B for additional information and source material references**

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

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

BACKGROUND: No one tool can provide all the housing that is needed. One successful way to create additional units is by facilitating public-private partnerships that can lead to the development or preservation of affordable housing by way of providing development incentives, leveraging various funding sources, and aligning private interest with public goals. Development agreements¹ are tools that could allow for private developers and local governments to coordinate private and public interests during conditional rezonings or proposals for development within districts. Development agreements would contain not only the requirements set forth in approved local ordinances but could also depict any incentives, allowances, or flexibility within the regulatory purview of the local entity in question. The latest updates to 160D such as S.L.2021-180 (S.B 105), section 5.1.(a), amends G.S 160D-703 when it comes to municipalities including a "harmony requirement" if the development contains affordable

housing units for families or individuals with incomes below eighty percent (80%) of the area median income. With the extent to which “harmony” can be required already a part of the language, it is essential to protect and affirm the limited abilities local governments have to facilitate this model. Development agreements allow for creative, community minded and customizable partnerships to produce sorely needed affordable units or support for those units. Implementing these permissions early could serve as a critical tool in the future that can help mitigate the unfortunate displacement and pricing out that occurs during community growth. It also means being considerate of the effective and efficient use of public and private resources.

Request: Due to this we request the following:

- Create legislation that clearly allows local governments to facilitate public-private partnerships via voluntary development agreements to encourage the creation or preservation of affordable housing.
- Create a clear definition for “voluntary” development agreements.
- Create clear parameters for policymakers and land use officials to effectively navigate the zoning and rezoning processes while creating a development agreement with private partners.
- Protect development agreements created voluntarily.

***See Attachment B for additional information and source material references**

Transportation:

Support Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure Funding

Speaker: Bryan Thompson

Background: Since 2013 in the passage of the North Carolina Strategic Transportation Investment Law (STI), the NC General Assembly has banned state funds from being used for stand-alone active mobility projects. Sidewalks, unmarked pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, and safe access to parks and greenways on state roads are ineligible for state funds as stand-alone projects. This restriction has limited the development of safer and more accessible transportation options and infrastructure.

Prioritizing investment in active mobility infrastructure is important for the well-being of residents. It promotes healthier lifestyles, but also contributes to a better quality of life.

Request: We request the repeal of the bicycle-pedestrian funding limitation imposed by the NC Strategic Transportation Law (STI Law, G.S. 136.189 and .11) and the restoration of the funding opportunities removed with the STI passing in 2013.

Aging Population:

Increase Funding for Senior Center General Purpose Funds

NCACC Health and Human Services Legislative Priority

Speaker: Carolyn Miller

Background: The State's Senior Center General Purpose Fund was established in 1998 to support and develop programming and general operations or to construct, renovate, or maintain senior center facilities. This Fund has remained stagnant at \$1.265 million for years. In fact, its last and possibly only increase was in Fiscal Year 2008 with a non-recurring allocation of \$200,000. Centers achieving "Center of Excellence" status receive a slightly higher share of the funds. This ensures that funding is being well spent on readily identifiable programs and services and provides an incentive for centers that make investments to meet certification requirements. This year 169 senior centers or developing senior centers were funded.

While the pool of available funds has remained stagnant for 20 years, public expectations of senior centers have certainly not. Senior Centers provide access to vital services, help prevent loneliness and isolation, and promote good health and volunteerism.

With more centers each year, the money per center does not keep pace with the growth.

For example, while Chatham's two centers have achieved "excellence" status, we have only experienced a minimal increase in State support this past year. Our two centers received \$22,186 in Senior Center General Purpose funding to offer services and programs to a growing number of older adults.

Request: NC Senior Tarheel Legislature recommends increasing Senior Center General Purpose funding by \$1,265,316 in recurring funds.

- Distribute \$500,000 evenly amongst all 100 counties to help offset increased administrative costs.
- Allocate the remaining \$765,316 for the Division of Aging and Adult Services certification program to increase the allocation each center receives.

***See Attachment C for Chatham County Aging Profile**

Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)

NCACC Health and Human Services Legislative Priority

Speaker: Carolyn Miller

Background: The basic goal of HCCBG, established in 1992, is to give counties greater local discretion in how best to keep their growing aging populations living safely in the community for as long as possible. Counties have done an excellent job of using the funds effectively. Most of the HCCBG funds go toward such vital services as In-home Aide Personal Care, Meals on Wheels, and Congregate Nutrition. Examples of other services in some counties include adult day health care, home improvement, and transportation. The average age of Chatham congregate nutrition population is 77 (with 65% aged 75+), while the average age for home-delivered meals recipients is 82 (61%, 85+) and for in-home aide is 85).

Why is this important? Most older people want to remain living in their own homes—it also can save them and the government money. Unfortunately, statewide about 10,000 elderly are waiting for the vital services that HCCBG supports, especially in-home aide personal care (Chatham has 20 seniors on the waiting list) and home-delivered meals (Chatham has 20 seniors on the waiting list for Meals on Wheels).

- This grant funds Community-based services such as home-delivered meals, adult day care, transportation, senior centers, in-home aide, and many others, to help older adults remain in their homes as long as possible. These supports help to prevent more costly interventions, such as assisted living or nursing home facilities.
- These services are NOT provided through Medicaid or Medicare.
- They may have pensions, but many do not. Social Security is NOT enough to live on. They need the support provided by the HCCBG to live independently for as long as possible.

HCCBG especially helps non-Medicaid elderly who are socially and economically needy—those living alone, with low income, and in rural areas. Many report incomes at or below the poverty level but are not eligible for Medicaid. Some recent Chatham figures show half of HCCBG clients (43%) report incomes at or below the poverty level. The figure is 46% for those receiving home-delivered meals.

Request: The NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature recommends allocating an additional \$8M in recurring funds to align HCCBG funding with the aging population growth, provide crucial services at lesser expense to the state, to help address the 10,000+ waiting list.

***See attachment C for NC Aging Profile**



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair
Mike Dasher, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Katie Kenlan
Franklin Gomez Flores

COUNTY MANAGER

Dan LaMontagne

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Resolution Requesting the NCGA to Revise and Expand the Good Samaritan Law GS 90-96.2

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted GS 90-96.2, also known as the Good Samaritan Law in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly Good Samaritan Law was recognized as both timely and one of the best in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this law, a number of lives in North Carolina have been saved, specifically from opioid overdose and fear of prosecution; and

WHEREAS, people are still too often deterred from calling for help at the scene of an overdose if they fear arrest and prosecution, which undermines the very purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, continually rising overdose fatalities show that North Carolina's current Good Samaritan Law fails to provide adequate protections to ensure individuals feel safe and willing to call 911; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Good Samaritan Law in 2013, several new substances have become threats to the lives of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, these new substances are not specifically designated and are therefore not covered by the current law, resulting in unnecessary and tragic deaths; and

WHEREAS, while the current Good Samaritan Law has helped save lives in the past, it is apparent that the law needs to be revised and expanded to include a wider range of threats to our citizenry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina General Assembly to urgently consider revising and expanding the Good Samaritan Law to include a broader spectrum of substance-related threats to our citizenry as a matter of public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners believes that this action will ultimately save people who will have the chance to recover and go on to have meaningful and productive lives in our communities.

Adopted, this the 6th day of March 2023.

Karen Howard, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, NCMCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners



Background for Legislative Goals addressing Affordable Housing

- *In no state, metropolitan area, or county in the U.S. can a worker earning the federal or prevailing state or local minimum wage afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent by working a standard 40-hour work week (NLIHC, 2022).*
- *To afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in Chatham County, a worker would have to earn \$25.29 an hour (increase of 2.23 from 2023). The estimated fair market rent for a two-bedroom in Chatham County is \$1,315 (NLIHC, 2024).*
- *There are 6,447 renter households in Chatham County, making up 21% of the total households in the County. (NLIHC, 2024).*
- *Chatham County has a growing gap of 2,325 affordable rental units needed to serve low-to-moderate income households (AHAC 2022 Annual Report).*

Examples of State Housing Tax Credits

- *New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority provides a credit worth up to half the value of eligible donations for affordable developments*
- *Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit allows individuals or organizations to claim a tax credit on the basis of their donations to participating non-profit housing-developers. Donations may be in the form of cash, securities, personal property, or real estate, and may be aggregated to reach the minimum amount of \$10,000 to claim the credit.*
- *Nebraska established their state low-income housing tax credit in 2016 for owners of qualified affordable housing developments that receive the federal LIHTC. It is awarded over a six-year period, in an amount up to the federal LIHTC award to the property, and may be applied against state income tax, the premium tax for insurance companies, or the franchise tax for financial institutions.*
- *Arkansas – Developments that receive the federal LIHTC are eligible to receive a State Housing Tax Credit equal to 20 percent of the federal credit award.*
- *Vermont – State tax credit program has the same compliance and recapture period as the federal LIHTC program. State CAP is \$400,000*

Sources

- *National Low Income Housing Coalition– North Carolina Profile*
<https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/north-carolina>

Goal 1 Sources

- *Local Housing Solutions:* <https://localhousingsolutions.org/housing-policy-library/state-tax-credits-for-affordable-housing/>

Attachment B

- Novogradac – Affordable Housing Resource Center:
<https://www.novoco.com/resource-centers/affordable-housing-tax-credits/application-allocation/state-lihtc-program-descriptions#nc>
- Affordable Housing Finance - https://www.housingfinance.com/management-operations/using-state-tax-credits_o
- Congressional Research Services – An Introduction to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit - <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/RS22389.pdf>

Goal 2 Sources:

- 2021 North Carolina Legislation – Planning and Zoning Law Bulletin – March 2022 – No.31
- G.S. 160D-1001
- G.S. 160D-1006
- G.S. 160D-703
- Inclusionary Housing Solutions – www.inclusionaryhousing.org

CHATHAM COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA AGING PROFILE 2022



Projected Population Change, 2022-2042

Age	2022		2042		% Change 2022-2042
	County #	County %	County #	County %	
Total	79,083		106,187		34%
0-17	13,323	17%	17,115	16%	28%
18-44	21,508	27%	26,623	25%	24%
45-59	15,737	20%	18,465	17%	17%
60+	28,515	36%	43,984	41%	54%
65+	22,457	28%	37,021	35%	65%
85+	3,023	4%	8,331	8%	176%

Race and Ethnicity, Age 65 and Older, 2022

Race/Ethnicity	County %	NC %
White	86%	78%
Black or African American	11%	17%
American Indian	0%	1%
Asian	1%	2%
Some other race	<1%	1%
Two or more races	2%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	2%	3%
White, no-hispanic or latino	85%	77%

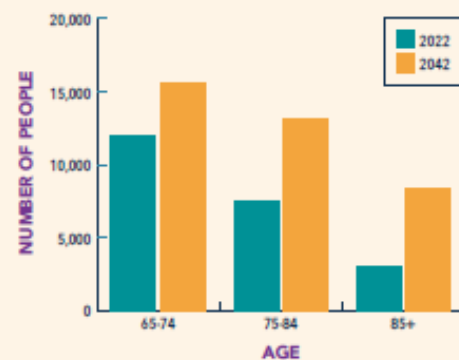
Social and Economic Characteristics of Population, Age 65 and Older, 2022

Characteristics	County %	NC %
100% Poverty	8%	10%
100%-199% Poverty	14%	20%
Speak English Less Than "Very Well"	2%	3%
Veterans	13%	16%
Living Alone	26%	27%
Less Than High School	10%	13%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	22%	30%
With a Disability	29%	34%
Median Household Income of Householder 65 years and Over	\$66,835	\$49,781
In Labor Force	18%	17%

COUNTY RANKINGS

TOTAL POPULATION #35 (79,083)	OVER 65+ YEARS OLD #24 (22,457)	MEDIAN AGE 50
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Projected Growth, 2022-2042



In-migration & Kinship Care, 2022



426

Total people 60+ who moved from other states and abroad



197

Age 60+ Grandparents responsible for Grandchildren