



Chairman Cliff Brumfield will convene a Centralina Economic Development District Board meeting **on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** The meeting will be in person at Centralina Regional Council, 10735 David Taylor Drive, Charlotte NC, 28262

Time	Item	Presenter
4:00 p.m.	<b>Call to Order</b>	Cliff Brumfield
	<b>Roll Call</b>	
	<b>Amendments to the Agenda</b> (if any)	
<b>Consent Business Items:</b>		
4:05 p.m. Item 1 5 minutes <i>Pages 4-7</i>	<b>Approval of the April 18, and June 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes</b> The minutes from the April 18, and June 20, 2024, meeting have been distributed to all members of the Centralina EDD Board for approval.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> Motion to approve April 18 and June 20, 2024, meeting minutes.	Cliff Brumfield
Item 2 <i>Pages 9-10</i>	<b>Quarterly Financial Update</b> As required in the by-laws, the Board is presented with a quarterly update on the Economic Development District's financial status. Through the period ending September 30, 2024, there are no budget amendments proposed.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> Motion to approve the quarterly financial update ending September 30, 2024.	Denise Strosser
Item 3 <i>Pages 12-13</i>	<b>2025 Centralina Economic Development District Meeting Schedule</b> The Centralina Economic Development District will hold four board meetings in 2025, scheduled quarterly on the third Thursday of each designated month. Meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. and are expected to conclude by 5:30 p.m.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> Motion to approve the 2025 Centralina Economic Development District meeting schedule	Cliff Brumfield
<b>Regular Business Items:</b>		
4:10 p.m. Item 4 15 minutes <i>Pages 15-25</i>	<b>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update &amp; EDA Grant CEDS Annual Report</b> The board will be presented with an update on the progress of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), <i>Prosperity for All</i> . This briefing will include a review of key milestones achieved so far, as well as an overview of the timeline and next steps for advancing the strategy over the next five years  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> Approval of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Report	Christina Danis & Anna Lu Wilson



Time	Item	Presenter
<b>4:25 p.m.</b> Item 5 30 minutes <b>Page 27-28</b>	<b>District Focus - CICOM Initiatives</b> Centralina EDD Board members will receive an update on the progress of the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) and engage in a discussion that further supports CICOM’s efforts to position the Charlotte region as a national hub for optics and metrology. The discussion will focus on workforce development, with a particular emphasis on strengthening the talent pipeline through K-12 education, community colleges, and industry partnerships, as well as identifying potential opportunities and challenges.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> Receive as information and provide feedback on opportunities to connect the CICOM talent strategy to other regional advanced manufacturing talent initiatives.	Geraldine Gardner
<b>4:55 p.m.</b> Item 6 15 minutes <b>Page 30</b>	<b>NC Innovation Update</b> CEDD Board members will receive an update on the progress of NCInnovation, specifically focusing on its engagement with industry partners.  <b>Action/Recommendation:</b> Receive as information	Mary Lou Bourne
<b>5:10 p.m.</b> 5 mins	<b>Reflections from Board and Staff</b>	Cliff Brumfield
<b>5:15 p.m.</b> 5 mins	<b>Comments from the Chair and Adjourn</b>	Cliff Brumfield

*Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Centralina EDD will make reasonable accommodations in all programs/services to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Centralina EDD’s programs will be available in the most integrated setting for each individual. If any accommodation is necessary for participation, please contact the CED Board Administrator. 10735 David Taylor Drive, Suite 250 Charlotte, NC 28262, phone 704-348-2701 Please allow 72 hours advance notice for preparation. Visit our website: [www.centralinaedd.org](http://www.centralinaedd.org).*



*Centralina*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

# Item 1



**Centralina Economic Development District  
Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2024**

<b>Officer Present</b>	<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>Centralina Staff and Guests Present</b>
Candice Lowder, Vice Chair Dr. Leslie Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer	Leigh Altman Jenn Bosser Randy Collins Better Doster Juan Garzón Donny Hicks Alan Kathman Bill Thunberg Melanie Underwood Jarvis Woodburn Anna London	Anna Lu Wilson Geraldine Gardner Christina Danis Narissa Claiborne  <b>Guests</b> Patrick Lucitt Tommy D.

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Candice Lowder called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Each Centralina Economic Development District member introduced themselves as Board Administrator, Narissa Claiborne took the role. A quorum was established.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the January 18, 2024, Centralina Economic Development District Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Candice Lowder called for a motion to approve the January 18, 2024, CEDD meeting minutes.

Bill Thunberg motioned to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Leigh Altman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Regular Agenda**

**Item 2. CEDS Update and Regional Conversation**

Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner and Christina Danise recapped items related to the CEDs implementation plan. Specifically, they highlighted each CEDD goal including Goal 1 – Expanding Economic Opportunity for All, Build Community Supportive Infrastructure, and Goal 3- Strengthening Economic Resilience and Global Competitiveness. Each member was invited to contribute to the work of the CEDS as part of the Around the Region report.

**Item 3. FY25 Workplan and Budget Presentation**

Centralina Director Christina Danis and Anna Lu Wilson, CEDD Community Economic Development Coordinator presented the FY25 workplan for approval. Denise Strosser, Centralina Finance Director gave an overview of the FY25 placeholder budget and matching funds assessment rate and shared the quarterly financial update.

Vice Chair, Candice Lowder called for a motion to approve FY25 Workplan and FY24-25 Budget

Bill Thunberg Executive Director of the Lake Norman Transportation Commission made the motion and Jenn Bosser President & CEO of Iredell County Economic Development Corporation seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 4. State and Federal Partners Report- EDA, SCRC**

State economic development partner Melanie Underwood shared highlights regarding State initiatives and upcoming items related to Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Ms. Wilson also shared information regarding the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and the timeline for the next grant as well as progress on the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Grant.

**Item 5. CEDS Goal Discussion**

Ms. Gardner invited the Board to have a focused discussion on the CEDD goal of their choice. The Board broke out into groups according to the goal of their choice. The CEDs team facilitated these goal discussions. After this, they reported the group discussion topics and ideas.

**Comments from the Chair**

The next Centralina Economic Development District meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024. This meeting will be held at the Centralina Office.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Vice Chairman Candice Lowder adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.



**Centralina Economic Development District  
Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2024**

<b>Officer Present</b>	<b>Board Members Present</b>	<b>Centralina Staff and Guests Present</b>
Cliff Brumfield, Vice Chair	Randy Collins Veronica Grantham Donny Hicks Angela Karchmer Patrick Lucitt	Anna Lu Wilson Christina Danis  <b>Guests</b> Todd Black Ron Mahle

**Call to Order**

Chairman Cliff Brumfield called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Anna Lu Wilson called the roll and noted that a quorum was not established.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the April 18, 2024, Centralina Economic Development District Meeting Minutes**

**Quarterly Financial Update**

There was no quorum present, therefore the Consent Agenda items will be moved to the October 17, 2024, meeting.

**Regular Agenda**

**Item 3. Gaston College Textile Technology Center and Fiber Innovation Center Overview**

The Centralina Economic Development District (CEDD) supported Gaston College in securing an EDA Grant under the Assistance to Coal Communities initiative. This grant awarded \$1.1 million to Gaston College to purchase advanced manufacturing equipment to support existing textile and apparel firms, strengthen the talent pipeline, and promote entrepreneurial opportunities at the Fiber Innovation Center.

Jasmine Wade-Cox, Executive Director of the Textile Technology Center, provided a comprehensive overview of the center’s activities and training programs. These include four key product development areas and three specialized testing laboratories. Gaston College offers three textile education pathways for students and customized training programs

tailored for incumbent workers, ensuring a well-prepared and skilled workforce for the textile industry.

The Fiber Innovation Center will serve as a hub for advancing fiber technology, driving innovation, and supporting the development of high-performance, sustainable materials for a wide range of applications.

**Item 4. Tour of Harney Hall and the new Fiber Innovation Center**

Board members participated in a walking tour of the facilities, gaining firsthand insight into the intricate process of converting fibers into yarn and then into fabric. They learned about the diverse applications of these fabrics, including clothing, upholstery, fire protection, household items, and industrial products.

**Item 5. Working Lunch – Regional Workforce Development Discussion**

Board members engaged with Ms. Cox-Wade, asking insightful questions about various aspects of the Textile Technology Center's operations. They inquired about current enrollment numbers, the extent and nature of partner collaborations, and the specific employers that utilize the facility's resources and training programs. This interactive session provided a deeper understanding of the center's impact and the strategic partnerships that contribute to its success.

**Comments from the Chair**

The next Centralina Economic Development District meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024. This meeting will be held at the Centralina Office.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to be discussed, Chairman Cliff Brumfield adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Item 2





## Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2024	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>	X	<b>Regular:</b>	
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Denise Strosser	<b>Presentation Time:</b>				
<b>Presenter at Meeting:</b>	Denise Strosser	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-348-2704			
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:dstrosser@centralina.org">dstrosser@centralina.org</a>			
<b>Alternate Contact:</b>	Christina Danis	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-688-6502			
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:cdanis@centralina.org">cdanis@centralina.org</a>			
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	CEDD Admin	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Christina Danis			
<b>Title: Quarterly Financial Update through September 30, 2024</b>						
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b> <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
As required in the by-laws, the Board is presented with a quarterly update on the Economic Development District's financial status. Through the period ending September 30, 2024, there are no budget amendments proposed.						
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>						
Required in the by-laws, for informational purposes.						
<b>Requested Action / Recommendation:</b>						
Motion to approve the quarterly financial update ending September 30, 2024						
<b>Time Sensitivity:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
<b>Budget Impact:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	None					
<b>Attachments:</b> <i>(none or list)</i>	Quarterly Financial Update					



CEDD Budget Amendment and Financial Statements  
As of September 30, 2024

	<b>FY24 Actual 6/30/2024</b>	<b>FY25 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Actual 9/30/2024</b>
<b>Assessment</b>			
Anson County	1,133	1,133	1,133
Cabarrus County	8,450	8,450	8,450
Gaston County	6,553	6,553	6,553
Iredell County	7,872	7,872	7,872
Lincoln County	4,919	4,919	4,919
Mecklenburg County	30,150	30,150	30,150
Rowan County	4,878	4,878	4,878
Stanly County	3,407	3,407	3,407
Union County	8,516	8,516	8,516
City of Charlotte	28,822	28,822	28,822
Town of Mooresville	2,678	2,678	2,678
Total Equity Contributions for Matching	<b>107,378</b>	<b>107,378</b>	<b>107,378</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Grant Income			
EDA Planning Grant 2022-2024	65,879	36,000	17,423
EDA Planning Grant 2025-2027	0	35,000	0
SCRC LDD Federal Revenue	16,255	10,667	6,843
Total Grant Related Income	82,134	81,667	24,266
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>189,512</b>	<b>189,045</b>	<b>131,644</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
CEDC/CEDS Administration	166,264	158,378	40,253
Contracted Services	20,386	28,000	16,650
Travel and Training	1,951	1,000	249
Meeting Related Cost	842	200	0
Software & Webhosting	22	1,000	22
Miscellaneous	114	467	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>189,579</b>	<b>189,045</b>	<b>57,174</b>
Change in Fund Balance	(67)	0	74,470
Less Fund balance allocated	0	0	(74,470)
Less deferred revenue	0	0	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	(67)	0	0
Fund Balance Beginning	44,238	44,238	44,238
<b>Fund Balance Ending</b>	<b>44,171</b>	<b>44,238</b>	<b>44,238</b>



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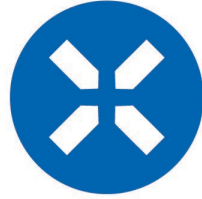
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Item 3



## Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2024	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>	X	<b>Regular:</b>	
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Presentation Time:</b>				
<b>Presenter at Meeting:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-385-4790			
		<b>Email:</b>	alwilson@centralina.org			
<b>Alternate Contact:</b>	Narissa Claiborne	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-348-2701			
		<b>Email:</b>	nclaiborne@centralina.org			
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	CEDD Admin	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Christina Danis			
<b>Title: 2025 Centralina Economic Development District Meeting Schedule</b>						
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b> <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
<p>The Centralina Economic Development District will hold four board meetings in 2025, scheduled quarterly on the third Thursday of each designated month. Meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. and are expected to conclude by 5:30 p.m.</p>						
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>						
<p>The Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) holds quarterly board meetings to discuss ongoing projects, economic development strategies, and initiatives impacting the Centralina region. These meetings serve as a key platform for collaboration among board members, ensuring alignment on goals and progress tracking for regional economic development.</p> <p><b>Meeting Schedule for 2025:</b></p> <p>The board meetings will be held quarterly on Thursdays, with the following dates confirmed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Annual Meeting:</b> Thursday, January 16, 2025</li> <li>2. <b>Second Quarterly Meeting:</b> Thursday, April 17, 2025</li> <li>3. <b>Third Quarterly Meeting:</b> Thursday, June 26, 2025</li> <li>4. <b>Fourth Quarterly Meeting:</b> Thursday, October 16, 2025</li> </ol> <p>Each meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. and is expected to conclude by approximately 5:30 p.m.</p>						
<b>Requested Action / Recommendation:</b>						
Receive as information and plan accordingly						
<b>Time Sensitivity:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>						
<b>Budget Impact:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>						
<b>Attachments:</b> <i>(none or list)</i>	2025 EDD Meeting schedule.pdf					



**CENTRALINA**  
Community Economic  
Development

## **2025 Economic Development District MEETING SCHEDULE**

### **Economic Development Board Meeting Dates**

*These meetings will be held quarterly on the third Thursday of the designated month, with both in-person and virtual attendance options available. Meetings will start promptly at 4:00 p.m.*

**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

*Annual Meeting*

**Thursday, April 17, 2025**

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

**Thursday, October 16, 2025**



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9815 David Taylor Drive, Suite 100 | Charlotte, NC 28262



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Item 4

## Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2024	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>		<b>Regular:</b>	X
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Presentation Time:</b>	15 minutes			
<b>Presenter at Meeting:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-385-4790			
		<b>Email:</b>	alwilson@centralina.org			
<b>Alternate Contact:</b>	Christina Danis	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-688-6502			
		<b>Email:</b>	cdanis@centralina.org			
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	CEDD Admin	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Christina Danis			
<b>Title: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS) Annual Report</b>						
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b>						
<p>The board will be presented with an update on the progress of the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS), <i>Prosperity for All</i>. This briefing will include a review of key milestones achieved so far, as well as an overview of the timeline and next steps for advancing the strategy over the next five years. The Board is also asked to approved the EDA- required CEDDS annual report prior to submission to the agency in December.</p>						
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>						
<p>The <i>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS), Prosperity for All</i>, serves as a roadmap to guide the region’s economic growth and development over a five-year period. It was developed in collaboration with regional stakeholders and reflects the collective priorities for fostering inclusive and sustainable prosperity.</p> <p>As we move forward, it is essential to regularly assess the progress of the CEDDS to ensure that the strategy remains aligned with regional needs, opportunities, and challenges.</p> <p>The recommendation to present this update stems from the need to track progress, review any challenges or successes encountered, and align on the next steps to keep the initiative on course. Regular updates help ensure accountability and keep all stakeholders informed of critical developments and milestones.</p>						
<b>Requested Action / Recommendation:</b>						
Motion to approve the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS) Annual Report						
<b>Time Sensitivity:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	none					
<b>Budget Impact:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	none					
<b>Attachments:</b> <i>(none or list)</i>	CEDDS Annual Report 2024 & CEDD Dashboard 10172024					



## 2024 CEDS Annual Update

In its second year of implementation, the Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) continues to make significant strides in advancing the goals of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), guided by the overarching vision of **Prosperity of All**. This vision focuses on creating a globally connected, inclusive, and prosperous future for the Greater Charlotte region by fostering collaboration among businesses, stakeholders and individuals.

In 2024, progress has been made on 44 out of 58 CEDS action items, with marked improvements in Urgent, Critical and Moderate priority areas. The region has also seen advancements in digital inclusion, workforce development and transportation infrastructure which contribute to continued economic growth and resilience.

### 2024 Highlights and Accomplishments

#### Goal 1: Expand Economic Opportunity

The Centralina Workforce Development Board collaborated on numerous statewide initiatives, including the NC Business Service Summit and several in-person and virtual hiring events.

Recognizing childcare as a critical and trending topic, the Centralina EDD team, with support from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) funds, facilitated an interactive discussion with economic developers, childcare providers, and local government officials to develop actionable solutions and share best practices. We amplified the childcare message by presenting to North Carolina Community College leadership at their annual conference and hosting a webinar that brought together industry leaders, economic developers, and workforce partners to share the latest updates and initiatives.

#### Goal 2: Build Community Supportive Infrastructure

Centralina continues to advance Connect Beyond, expanding the LYNX Silver Line and securing funding for passenger rail corridor projects. The region received grants to improve roads safety and develop Resilience Improvement Plans, ensuring the continued safety and connectivity of the region's transportation network.

A Regional Digital Inclusion Framework was developed to address the digital divide, providing strategic solutions for increasing access to broadband and digital literacy across the nine-county region.

#### Goal 3 Strengthening Regional Resilience and Global Competitiveness

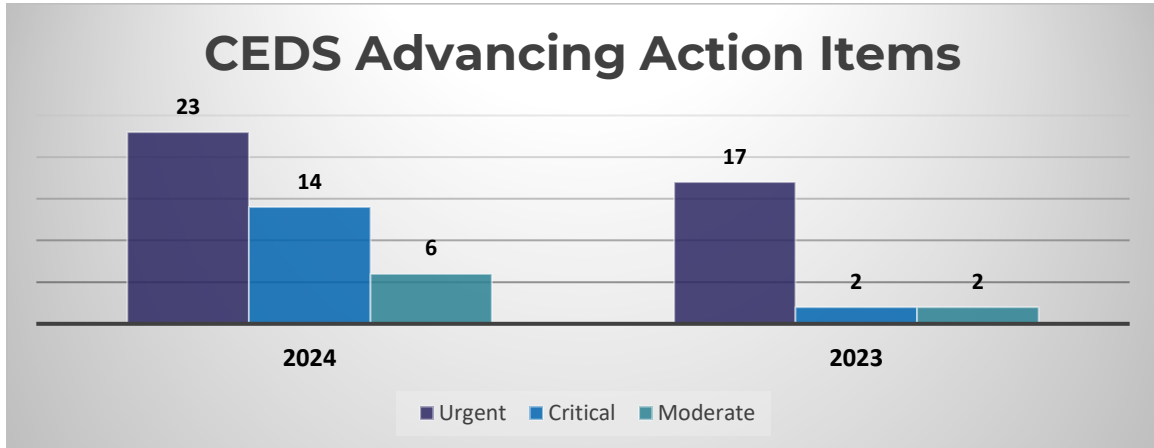


Centralina has partnered with UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance on the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant. This collaboration has made progress in highlighting challenges and opportunities to formulate a workforce approach that will prepare workers for jobs in optics and metrology. Other key activities in the CICOM project included launching a workforce survey, conducting focus group meetings and presenting information at the Consortium Summit meeting on October 2, 2024.

The Centralina Regional Resilience Collaborative (RRC) identified critical gaps in regional recovery planning, and this prompted the development of Anson County's Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan. This achievement marks the completion of the RRC and Anson County's plan, enhancing the region's preparedness and resilience. Furthermore, Centralina strengthened regional capacity for economic recovery by administering the NCARCOG FEMA Public Assistance Financial Administration Training program, providing essential guidance for financial management in post-disaster recovery.

### Progress on CEDS Action Items

In 2024, there was substantial progress in the advancement of CEDS action items, particularly in *critical* and *urgent* categories. The number of advancing items increased significantly across the board.



This progress reflects the strong and growing momentum in implementing the CEDS action plan, with fewer items remaining in the early or uninitiated phases. In this second year of execution, the pace of activities continues to accelerate, demonstrating Centralina’s commitment to advancing regional goals.

Implementation Activities are categorized by priority: **U** for Urgent, **C** for Critical, and **M** for Moderate. Notably, two Urgent action items have not been started due to funding challenges.

## Implementation Activities

### Regional Engagement

- Four targeted virtual job fairs were organized for local government, education, manufacturing, flexible schedule/remote employment. **M Goal 1 – 2.2**
- Centralina team presented childcare research to statewide EDD coordinators in preparation for February event. **C Goal 1 – 3.1**
- Centralina EDD team hosted a forum to discuss the Role of Childcare in the NC Economy. There were 26 attendees from local government and economic development partners. **C Goal 1 – 3.1**
- Centralina Workforce Development is participating in a Childcare working group as part of the Good Jobs Great Cities grant received by City of Monroe. **C Goal 1 – 3.3**
- Rowan County Manufacturers Network collaborated with local manufacturers, Centralina and Commute with Enterprise program to explore solutions for workforce mobility to employment centers. **U Goal 2 – 1.1**
- CONNECT Beyond is forming a task force of stakeholders to examine connected and autonomous vehicles and their technology. **C Goal 2 – 1.3**
- Centralina Planning hosted a Joint Roundtable Meeting between the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO and the Charlotte Regional TPO. There were 80 attendees from across the region. **C Goal 2 - 2.1**
- Centralina formed the Integrated Mobility Center (IMC) to provide technical assistance and coordination for transportation planning. The IMC also facilitated a regional discussion on future passenger rail corridors, fostering collaboration among transportation organizations. **U Goal 2 – 1.2**
- In partnership with CRTPO, Centralina launched an initiative to provide a training and develop a playbook to help communities implement tailored mobility-supportive development strategies. **U Goal 2 – 1.2**
- The Centralina team collaborated with Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), City of Belmont, and Gaston County to finalize funding to complete 15% of the design for the LYNX Silver Line extension from I-485 west of CLT Airport to Belmont. **U Goal 2 – 1.2**
- Centralina collaborated with NCDOT Rail to secure funding for Service Development Plans for multiple passenger rail corridors in the Centralina region. **U Goal 2 – 1.2**
- Centralina Area Agency on Aging surveyed adults 60+ in the Charlotte region on ridesharing barriers and provides a Transportation Guide to help older adults and caregivers access reliable mobility options. **C Goal 2 – 1.3**
- Centralina supported CRTPO in securing a \$5 million RAISE grant to fund safety audits in underserved and transportation-disadvantaged communities across Iredell, Mecklenburg, and western Union counties, boosting regional road safety. **U Goal 2 – 2.2**
- Centralina is collaborating with CRTPO and Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization to seek federal project funding to develop Resilience Improvement Plans. **U Goal 2 – 2.2**
- Centralina received a Regional Infrastructure Accelerator grant from the US DOT for CONNECT Beyond implementation, including building an Integrated

Mobility Center and building out project service lines for finance innovation, pipeline project facilitation and transit-orientated development. **U Goal 2 – 3.2**

- The Centralina Regional Resilience Collaborative (RRC) identified gaps in recovery plans, leading to the development of Anson County's Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan, which was officially adopted in May after eight planning meetings. **M Goal 2 – 3.3**
- In February Centralina hosted two FEMA Regional Disaster Recovery Financial Administration trainings supported by NCAROG to help municipalities improve pre-disaster resiliency, mitigation and post-disaster recovery efforts to assist local governments in managing funding assistance. **M Goal 2 – 3.3**
- In April, the EPA approved the PCAP (Pollution Control Action Plan), marking a significant milestone in advancing regional environmental efforts. **M Goal 2 – 3.4**
- Centralina CED developed a resource addressing stormwater management specifically for local government pre-development meetings. **M Goal 2 – 3.4**
- Centralina was referenced for Affordable Housing best practice initiatives by National Association of Development Organizations. **U Goal 2 – 4.1**
- The Town of Matthews and CED completed a sidewalk extension near the downtown district, enhancing pedestrian safety and promoting mobility-friendly spaces. **C Goal 2 – 4.4**
- The 2024 update of the Prosperity Profiles was released, featuring a comprehensive overview report on regional economic trends and growth opportunities. **C Goal 2 – 4.4**
- Exploring supply chain council with Charlotte Regional Business Alliance through NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership. **U Goal 3 – 2.1**
- CEDD website published a blog on the NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership to raise awareness and help manufacturers enhance their global competitiveness, driving economic growth and job creation. **U Goal 3 – 2.1**
- Centralina recently featured the progress of the EDA Tech Hub Strategy Development grant in the February issue of the Centralina Lines newsletter. **U Goal 3 – 4.1**
- Centralina is partnering with UNC Charlotte and Charlotte Regional Business Alliance on the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) Tech Hub Strategy Development grant by formulating a workforce training approach that will prepare future workers for jobs in the industry. Key activities include launching a survey, focus group meetings and presenting at the Consortium Summit. **U Goal 3 – 4.2**
- Centralina continues to strengthen the partnership and collaboration with NCInnovation, focusing on commercialization efforts and connecting industry and entrepreneurs with universities to foster innovation and growth. **M Goal 3 – 4.3**

### Grant Support

- UNC Charlotte CICOM awarded Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant. **U Goal 3 – 4.1**
- Provided a letter of support for SPCC to create a career center focused on advanced manufacturing training and employment. **U Goal 3 – 2.4**

- Provided a CEDS Consistency Letter for Western Piedmont Community College and partners Catawba Valley Community College, Gaston College, North Carolina State University and The Industrial Commons in their federal application to request funding to expand workforce opportunities through registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships. **U Goal 3 – 2.4**

### Individual Service Delivery

- Supported project engagement meetings with NC EDA representative
  - City of Concord
  - Latin American Chamber
  - City of Monroe
  - UNC Charlotte E4 Clean Energy

### Strategy Framework

- Presented quarterly CEDS Dashboard tracker to EDD Board of Directors in January, April and October 2024 meetings and promoted progress through Centralina monthly newsletter.
- On February 15, 2024, Centralina facilitated a panel discussion along with constructive dialogue on "The Role of Childcare in the NC Economy" which focused on the topic for local governments and economic development professionals, with attendance from 26 partners.
- Produced newsletter Success Story around the childcare event the provided solutions and best practices.
- Created a dedicated webpage on CentralinaEDD.org to showcase relevant childcare data and provide a comprehensive list of available resources.
- Updated the CentralinaEDD.org data dashboard, integrating demographic and regional data from Lightcast (formerly eIMPACT) to enhance support for community and economic development initiatives.

### Grants and Funding

Centralina successfully secured multiple grants to support critical regional products.

- USDOT Regional Infrastructure Accelerator grant for Connect Beyond implementation initiatives
- RAISE grants for Improving road safety in underserved communities
- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction grant to advance regional environmental and sustainability goals
- Launched a strategic planning process for WeBuild Concord, to help bring affordable housing to the City of Concord.
- IEI Digital Inclusion Funding for BAND-NC to help bridge the digital divide
- Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Local Development District to increase economic equity, resilience and inclusivity across the region
- EDA Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant for the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM)

- A Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant was received from the EPA, enabling Centralina to conduct environmental assessments and revitalize former textile mill sites in Spencer, Mount Holly, and Albemarle, advancing sustainable redevelopment and economic growth in the region.

## 2025 Anticipated Activities

Looking ahead to 2025, the Centralina EDD will focus on expanding initiatives in several critical areas that include:

- Prioritizing efforts to develop career pathways and talent pipelines in regional clusters with a focus on advanced manufacturing and clean tech and energy industries.
- Continuing to focus on expanding mobility options through the Connect Beyond Regional Mobility Plan, with special emphasis on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and sustainable transit solutions.
- Proceeding with full implementation of the Digital Inclusion Plan across the Centralina region, ensuring all residents have access to broadband and digital literacy resources.
- Continue to build on the success of recent environmental grants by developing further strategies for climate resilience and expanding infrastructure projects that align with the region's sustainability goals.
- Seek additional resources to continue the Centralina Regional Resilience Collaborative and the update the Regional Resilience Equity and GIS mapping tool data tool data layers and user interface.
- Continue to advance efforts to collaborate with consortium members in pursuing the CICOM Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant.
- Collaborate with workforce and economic development teams to deliver timely, relevant topics that address talent solutions and business needs.

In conclusion, the Centralina EDD is committed to fostering economic growth and regional prosperity through the implementation of its CEDS. This approach to improving the economic mobility, inclusivity and resilience of our nine-county region through the lens of collaboration, innovation, equity and ***“Prosperity for All.”***

# CEDS Implementation

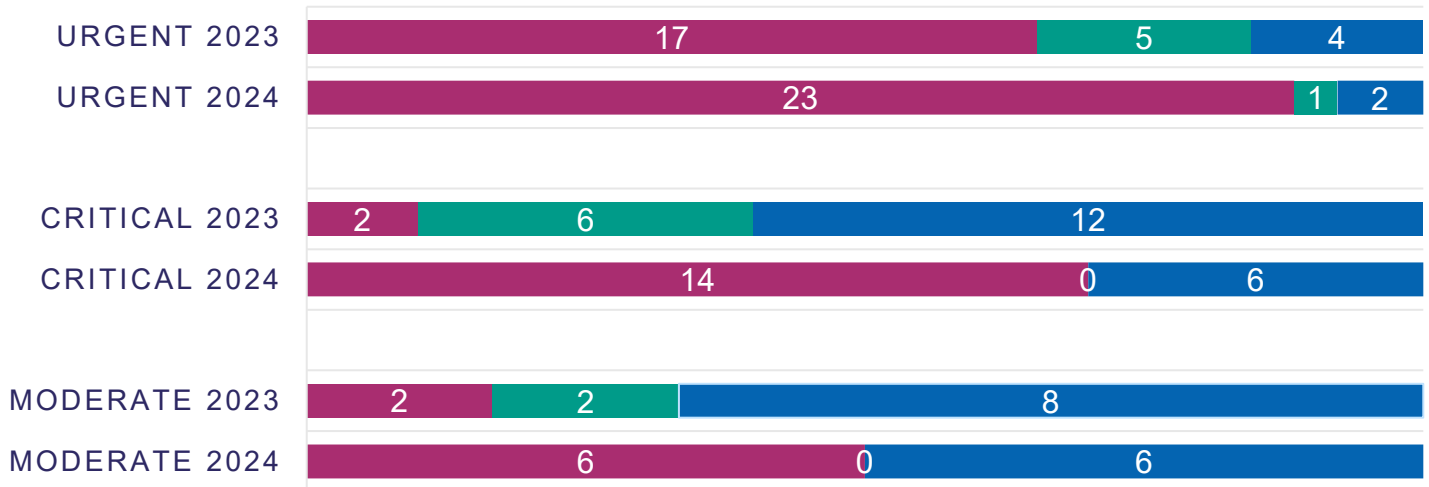
## Two Quarter Progress Report



October 2024

### CEDS ACTION ITEMS DASHBOARD

■ Advancing ■ Initiated ■ Not Started



The CEDDD dashboard chart (October 2023 and October 2024) shows progress in implementing the CEDS action items, highlighting shifts in the number of *Advancing*, *Initiated*, and *Not Started* tasks across three priority categories: *Urgent*, *Critical* and *Moderate*.

The data reveals significant progress in the implementation of CEDS action items, especially in the Advancing phase. The number of advancing items increased across all categories, rising from 2 to 6 in the Moderate category, from 2 to 14 in the Critical category (a 7-fold increase), and from 17 to 23 in the Urgent category. This reflects an overall substantial improvement in the advancement of tasks.

In summary, the October 2024 data demonstrates strong progress, with many tasks advancing, fewer items in the initiated or not started phases, and increased momentum in executing the CEDS action plan.



# Highlights & Accomplishments April – October 2024

## Regional Engagement

- The Centralina Workforce Development Board team took part in a statewide Business Service Summit to design and develop a framework for delivering business services. **Goal 1 – 2.1**
- NCWorks Career Center-Cabarrus used a person-centered approach to support TTEC, a local employer, in filling 200 remote positions (\$16-\$23/hour) by organizing virtual hiring events with partners throughout the region, resulting in 86+ participants and multiple full-time hires. **Goal 1 – 2.1**
- NCWorks Career Centers, local Economic Development Organizations and their partners in Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties each hosted spring career fairs that attracted high attendance among graduating seniors and jobseeker. **Goal 1 – 2.2**
- Lincoln Economic Development Association received the 2024 Excellence in Economic Development Bronze Award from IEDC with its *Early Success and Future Promise* of the MyFutureNC initiative in Lincoln County. **Goal 1 – 2.6**
- The CEDD team collaborated with partners from Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, and Leading on Opportunity in a committee focused on exploring childcare solutions for local government. **Goal 1 – 3.1**
- CEDD delivered a presentation to NC Community College leadership at their Annual Conference on the role of community colleges as catalysts for childcare solutions and economic growth. **Goal 1 – 3.3**
- The CLT Alliance Foundation, through its initiatives, RISE (Regional Innovation & Support for Entrepreneurs) Scale Up CLT and African American Leadership Academy of Charlotte is strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem by mapping resources to improve outreach, connectivity, and diversity among entrepreneurs across the region. **Goal 1 – 4.1, 4.2, 4.3**
- The Centralina Workforce Development team actively participates in the Charlotte Regional Collaborative for Global Workforce, a quarterly meeting of Community College presidents in the region, to discuss strategies and initiatives for enhancing workforce development and global competitiveness. **Goal 1 – 5.1**
- Centralina's Executive Committee adopted the regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan, which will move into program implementation. A CRTPO grant will fund a pilot project for TDM in Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union counties is underway, with site selection by year-end. **Goal 2 – 1.1**

# Highlights & Accomplishments April – October 2024

## Regional Engagement Continued

- Centralina formed the Integrated Mobility Center (IMC) to provide technical assistance and coordination for transportation planning. The IMC also facilitated a regional discussion on future passenger rail corridors, fostering collaboration among transportation organizations. **Goal 2 – 1.2**
- In partnership with CRTPO, Centralina launched an initiative to provide training and develop a playbook to help communities implement tailored mobility-supportive development strategies. **Goal 2 – 1.2**
- The Centralina team collaborated with Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), City of Belmont, and Gaston County to finalize funding to complete 15% of the design for the LYNX Silver Line extension from I-485 west of CLT Airport to Belmont. **Goal 2 – 1.2**
- Centralina collaborated with NCDOT Rail to secure funding for Service Development Plans for multiple passenger rail corridors in the Centralina region. **Goal 2 – 1.2**
- Centralina Area Agency on Aging surveyed adults 60+ in the Charlotte region on ridesharing barriers and provides a Transportation Guide to help older adults and caregivers access reliable mobility options. **Goal 2 – 1.3**
- Centralina supported CRTPO in securing a \$5 million RAISE grant to fund safety audits in underserved and transportation-disadvantaged communities across Iredell, Mecklenburg, and western Union counties, boosting regional road safety. **Goal 2 – 2.2**
- Centralina is collaborating with CRTPO and Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization to seek federal project funding to develop Resilience Improvement Plans. **Goal 2 – 2.2**
- The Centralina Regional Resilience Collaborative (RRC) identified gaps in recovery plans, leading to the development of Anson County's Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan, which was officially adopted in May after eight planning meetings. **Goal 2 – 3.3**
- In April, the EPA approved the PCAP (Pollution Control Action Plan), marking a significant milestone in advancing regional environmental efforts. **Goal 2 – 3.4**
- The Town of Matthews and CED completed a sidewalk extension near the downtown district, enhancing pedestrian safety and promoting mobility-friendly spaces. **Goal 2 – 4.4**
- The 2024 update of the Prosperity Profiles was released, featuring a comprehensive overview report on regional economic trends and growth opportunities. **Goal 2 – 4.4**



# Highlights & Accomplishments April – October 2024

## Regional Engagement Continued

- Centralina developed the Regional Digital Inclusion Framework to help counties close the digital divide, offering an analysis of the current state of digital inclusion, county-specific data, and tailored strategies to achieve digital inclusion goals across the nine-county region. The plan has been sent to regional stakeholders for review and comment. **Goal 2 – 5.2**
- Centralina and the Area Agency on Aging are partnering with the Center for Digital Inclusion to help older adults understand and use digital devices through education and support initiatives. **Goal 2 – 5.3**
- CEDD website published a blog on the NC Manufacturing Extension Partnership to raise awareness and help manufacturers enhance their global competitiveness, driving economic growth and job creation. **Goal 3 – 2.1**
- Centralina is partnering with UNC Charlotte and Charlotte Regional Business Alliance on the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) Tech Hub Strategy Development grant by formulating a workforce training approach that will prepare future workers for jobs in the industry. Key activities include launching a survey, focus group meetings and presenting at the Consortium Summit. **Goal 3 – 4.2**
- Centralina continues to strengthen the partnership and collaboration with NCInnovation, focusing on commercialization efforts and connecting industry and entrepreneurs with universities to foster innovation and growth. **Goal 3 – 4.3**





*Centralina*  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Item 5



## Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2024	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>		<b>Regular:</b>	X
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Presentation Time:</b>	30 minutes			
<b>Presenter at Meeting:</b>	Geraldine Gardner	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-351-7130			
		<b>Email:</b>	ggardner@centralina.org			
<b>Alternate Contact:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-385-4790			
		<b>Email:</b>	alwilson@centralina.org			
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	CEDD Admin	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Christina Danis			
<b>Title: District Focus on CICOM Initiatives</b>						
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b> <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
<p>Centralina EDD Board members will receive an update on the progress of the Carolinas Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology (CICOM) and engage in a discussion that further supports CICOM's efforts to position the Charlotte region as a national hub for optics and metrology. The discussion will focus on workforce development, with a particular emphasis on strengthening the talent pipeline through K-12 education, community colleges, and industry partnerships, as well as identifying potential opportunities and challenges.</p>						
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>						
<p>CICOM Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant seeks to enhance U.S. competitiveness in optics, photonics, imaging and lasers (OPIL) by building a regional hub in Charlotte. The optics and photonics industries hold significant potential for advanced manufacturing and technological innovation, and Centralina EDD's role is critical in addressing the workforce development needs.</p> <p>Engaging the board in this discussion allows for strategic input on how the EDD can strengthen local coordination and collaboration and align with overall objectives for the Strategy Development Grant. This approach ensures that CICOM initiatives benefit from regional insight and leadership, enabling more effective implementation of strategies that will drive economic growth and innovation in the region.</p> <p>This project aligns with CEDS Goal 3 – 4.1 Support the development of new and expansion of existing centers of excellence that support commercialization activities within the region's industry clusters and niche sectors such as energy, materials, defense, IT/cyber and life sciences</p>						
<b>Requested Action / Recommendation:</b> Receive as information and provide input on strategies to strengthen workforce development and industry collaboration for CICOM. Specifically, the board's guidance is sought on opportunities to connect the CICOM talent strategy to other regional advanced manufacturing talent initiatives.						

<b>Time Sensitivity:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	Draft talent strategy is due in December and the Board's next meeting is not until January 2025.
<b>Budget Impact:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	None
<b>Attachments:</b> <i>(none or list)</i>	None



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

## Item 6

## Centralina Economic Development District Cover Sheet

<b>Board Meeting Date:</b>	October 17, 2024	<b>Agenda Item Type:</b>	<b>Consent:</b>		<b>Regular:</b>	X
<b>Submitting Person:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Presentation Time:</b>	15 minutes			
<b>Presenter at Meeting:</b>	Mary Lou Bourne	<b>Phone Number:</b>				
		<b>Email:</b>	mbourne@ncinnovation.org			
<b>Alternate Contact:</b>	Anna Lu Wilson	<b>Phone Number:</b>	704-385-4790			
		<b>Email:</b>	alwilson@centralina.org			
<b>Submitting Department:</b>	CEDD Admin	<b>Department Head Approval:</b>	Christina Danis			
<b>Title: NCIInnovation: Progress and Strategic Update</b>						
<b>Description of Agenda Item:</b> <i>(This wording will be used to summarize the item on the agenda cover page.)</i>						
CEDD Board members will receive an update on the progress of NCIInnovation, specifically focusing on its engagement with industry partners.						
<b>Background &amp; Basis of Recommendations:</b>						
<p>NCInnovation supports the commercialization of research at UNC Charlotte by funding the critical R&amp;D stage, bridging the gap between academia and industry. Their work connects university researchers with industry partners through regional innovation networks to accelerate commercialization and boost the state's economic growth.</p> <p>This update will inform the CEDD Board on NCIInnovation's progress in engaging with industry outside of the CICOM process, a key aspect of their mission to foster university-industry collaboration and drive innovation statewide.</p> <p>This initiative aligns with CEDS Goal 3 – 4.3 Assess the R&amp;D, innovation and technology commercialization resources within the region's industry clusters to identify areas of weakness, opportunity and collaboration.</p>						
<b>Requested Action / Recommendation:</b>						
Receive as information						
<b>Time Sensitivity:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	none					
<b>Budget Impact:</b> <i>(none or explain)</i>	none					
<b>Attachments:</b> <i>(none or list)</i>	none					