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16-12 Grants Committee



20-02 (18)



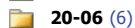
20-03 (27)



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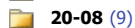
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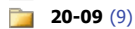
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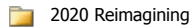
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2020 Reimagining



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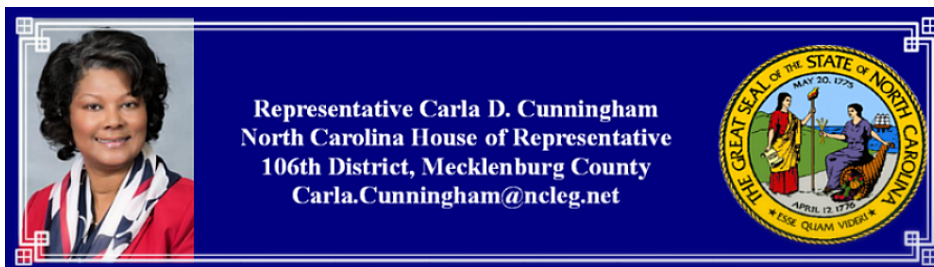
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## Rep. Carla Cunningham's September 13, 2020 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 12:11 PM

To: Steve Johnston



### Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee Assignments 2019-2020 Session

Appropriations

Appropriations Health and Human Services

Commerce

Energy and Public Utilities

Health

House Select Committee on Community Relations, Law Enforcement and Justice

House Select Committee on COVID-19

House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Work Group - Chair

House Select Committee on School Safety

Wildlife Resources

### Non-Standing Committee

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

### Appointment by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome

### Appointments by North Carolina House of Representative Speaker Tim Moore

Minority Health Advisory Council

North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### North Carolina House Leadership

Democratic Whip

North Carolina Institute of Medicine Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program

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**September 13, 2020**

**Governor Cooper Announces Nearly \$40 million to Connect Students and Communities to High-Speed Internet, Help Educators With Remote Learning**

Last week Governor Roy Cooper announced nearly \$40 million in funding for NC Student Connect, a new partnership created to address internet connectivity gaps that are a barrier to remote learning for many North Carolina students. When school resumed in August, superintendents estimated that at least 100,000 students still lacked a reliable internet connection at home.

Many North Carolina students are currently attending school remotely and need reliable internet access to be able to connect with their teachers and access their lessons. Students who are attending school onsite may also need internet access at home to be able to complete assignments.

Today's NC Student Connect investment includes:

- \$30 million to distribute 100,000 wireless high speed hot spots for students to connect with their remote learning classes.
- \$8 million to create accessible sites in convenient locations across the state such as school parking lots, municipal areas, and state parks, museums and historic sites. These NC Student Connect sites will provide free high-speed internet for students to connect to the Internet to download lessons and complete assignments offline.
- \$2 million for educator professional development, parent training and student involvement in a spectrum of activities that go into effective remote learning. More than 1,300 educators from rural North Carolina already participated in a virtual conference focused on remote learning to help them be better prepared to teach throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

[COVID-19 Money to Improve Internet Access for N.C. Students](#)

Associated Press

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### **Extra Credit Grant Program for Parents FAQs**

The latest round of COVID-19 relief includes a \$335 payment to parents with children. Here are some answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the grant.

#### **Who gets the \$335 grant?**

Eligible individuals who report at least one qualifying child on their 2019 state individual income tax return. Spouses who file a joint state return count as one individual.

#### **I'm a parent with a child. How do I get the payment?**

If you filed a state tax return in 2019, you do not have to do anything to receive the grant.

If you did NOT file a state tax return in 2019 (typical of some lower income families), you will need to fill out a grant application by October 15, 2020. There is no grant application yet, but it should [online here](#) soon. When the grant application is available, I will help spread the word about it to families who may be eligible.

#### **I have more than one child. Do I get multiple \$335 grants?**

No. The grant is \$335 regardless of how many children you have.

**When will I get the money?**

We do not know for sure, but no later than December 15, 2020.

**Is the credit available to everyone with children?**

The grant program is tied to the federal tax credit for children. The income cutoff for the federal tax credit is \$400,000 for married couples and \$200,000 for other filers. If you are near this cutoff, you may want to talk with a tax professional.

**I am a North Carolina resident now, but was not in 2019 when I filed a tax return in another state. Do I get the credit?**

Again, I recommend talking to a tax professional about your personal circumstances, but the General Assembly's fiscal staff analysis states you must be a North Carolina resident in 2019 to receive the grant.

**How much is this costing taxpayers?**

No state revenue is being used. The program will cost \$440 million in federal COVID-19 funding that could have been used for other purposes like teacher and public employee bonuses.

[New bill signed into law gives parents coronavirus relief money in North Carolina](#)

WBTW

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**COVID-19 Free Community Testing Around NC**

For an up-to-date list of events, visit the [Community Testing Events](#) page. People who may not currently have symptoms but may have been exposed to COVID-19 should get tested, especially people from historically marginalized communities.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Community Team will reach out to connect them with needed resources. People should answer when the Community Team reaches out, via phone, text from 45394, or email from NC-ARIAS-NoReply@dhhs.nc.gov with further instructions.

Find a nearby testing site [Find My Testing Place](#).

[New program provides no-cost COVID-19 testing for the uninsured](#)

WECT

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**Other News**

[‘We’re not through this’: Governors plead with Congress for emergency assistance](#)

NC Policy Watch

[Poll finds support for Medicaid expansion](#)

Winston-Salem Journal

[Large swaths of NC voters favor Medicaid expansion, poll shows](#)

North Carolina Health News

[Editorial: Expediency overrides integrity in the General Assembly](#)

Capital Broadcasting Company



## General Election Voter Countdowns

51 Days Until Election Day November 3, 2020

44 Days to Request Your Absentee Ballot October 27, 2020

32 Days Until the Early Voting Period Begins October 15, 2020

**Early Voting**  
**Thursday, October 15, 2020 - Saturday, October 31, 2020**

**Election Day**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

## Voting and Coronavirus

Your state and county elections officials have been hard at work to make voting as accessible and safe as possible for North Carolina's more than 7 million registered voters. New laws, processes and safeguards will be in place to protect your health and ensure your vote counts on Election Day.

## Choose the Best Voting Option for You

Three voting options are always available to registered voters:

- [Absentee voting by-mail](#)
- [Voting at one-stop early voting sites across your county](#)
- [Election Day voting at your assigned polling place](#)

## Safeguards in Place

Significant precautions will be made at voting sites to protect voters and election officials against the transmission of COVID-19. These include:

- Enforcing social distancing at polling places and early voting sites
- Providing hand sanitizer and masks for voters and election workers who do not bring their own
  - Providing gloves and face shields for election workers
- Erecting barriers between election workers and voters at check-in tables
- Providing single-use pens in counties that use hand-marked paper ballots and Q-tips for voters who use ballot-marking devices

- Frequently cleaning surfaces and equipment in polling places and early voting sites
    - Recruiting poll workers who are less vulnerable to the virus
- 



### Shape North Carolina's future

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

Think of your morning commute: Census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems.

Or think of your local schools: Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program and for grants that support teachers and special education.

The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults.

*Curious about what other programs are impacted by census data? [Download this report](#) to see a full list.*

Start Here

[RESPOND](#)

It's quick and easy! The 2020 Census takes just a few moments to complete. It's NOT too late you can still complete the census today. It's safe and secure the U.S. Census Bureau keeps your answers safe and confidential.

Census takers are following up even if you've responded, a census taker may still visit to verify your address or response. You're encourage to cooperate as they ensure an accurate count.

### How To Respond

You can respond online, by phone or by mail. [LEARN HOW](#)

## The Census Will Never Ask Certain Questions

During the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will be making telephone interview calls to get the project completed during the telephone interview they *never* ask you for:

- Your Social Security number.
  - Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.
- Your bank or credit card account numbers.

Additionally, there is no citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate. For more information, visit [Avoiding Fraud and Scams](#).

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**Our mailing address is:**

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham  
1400 Sansberry Road  
Charlotte, NC 28262



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