

SPAM Latest Updates from the NCGA



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
Date 2024-03-08 17:15

Natasha **MARCUS**

NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

March 8, 2024

Senate Page Program Applications Open for 2024



The Senate page program is open to students in tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade during the 2023-24 school year. If you are interested in applying to be a page in my office, please reach out to my Legislative Assistant, [Sarah Reynolds](#), via email. **The program will likely be offered April 29 - June 27, though these dates are subject to change.** Each Senator may appoint up to two pages. Availability of weeks is based on a first-come, first-served basis, so I encourage the students who are eligible to apply early if they are interested in a specific week. Parents/guardians of pages will be responsible for securing lodging during the time their child serves.

The [Senate Page website](#) is a great resource for learning more about the page program. The site includes general information about the application process, weekly schedule, and many other frequently asked questions. Available weeks and closed weeks will also be updated on the site.

Colonial Pipeline Spill Updates

• Well network	• 1,448,285
• Soil Excavation (reported in October 2022 MMR)	• 2,273
• Soil Vapor (as of 12/08/2023)	• 275,028
• Emergency Response Activities (reported in June 2022 MMR)	• 90,930
• TOTAL	• 1,816,516

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received a brief summary statement from Colonial Pipeline last month **regarding the Colonial Pipeline Spill in District 41**. The in-situ recovery volume from the installed well network on February 14, 2024, was 1,448,285 gallons of product and 17,695,363 gallons of petroleum contact water. As of the date of the submission, Colonial Pipeline planned to complete the tie-in and development of the expanded air sparge system wells on the south side of Huntersville-Concord Road by late February, as well as submit the Corrective Action Plan. **Benzene and noise monitoring for the reported period yielded no detections.**

Department of Adult Corrections Legislative Reports



As a member of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, I received several legislative reports from North Carolina's Department of Adult Corrections over the course of the last few weeks. Some of the most salient details from each report are below:

Report on GPS Monitoring for Sex Offenders

- Sex offenders subject to continuous satellite-based monitoring include those under probation, parole, or post-release supervision and certain offenders who have completed their periods of supervision or incarceration but are subject to tracking due to statute.
- During Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023, sixteen offenders were enrolled in the program and all were monitored via active GPS. Throughout this period, new enrollees were cited for fourteen violations. Of the sixteen new enrollees, six were cited for at least one violation.
- As of June 30th, 2023, 417 sex offenders were monitored by the GPS administrative office. In addition to those offenders, 164 offenders are under supervision for another offense and are instead monitored by field probation officers. 581 total offenders are enrolled in the program.
- Ten enrollees completed the program and exited GPS monitoring in 2023.
- The projected population for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 is 596, and for Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 is 611.

Medical Cost Containment Report (Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024)

- From October 3, 2023, to December 31, 2023, there were 1643 episodes that required treatment at a community hospital. During this quarter, outpatient specialty clinics held at Central Prison Healthcare Complex revealed that 1331 patients were evaluated. North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women shows 8725 encounters in the same time frame.
- Of the 1643 episodes that received treatment at a community hospital:
 - 493 were at contract hospitals
 - 1612 were at non-contract hospitals
 - 410 were emergent admissions
 - 33 were scheduled admissions
 - 550 cases were identified as eligible for Medicaid

These reports are not yet available online, but they can be viewed [here](#) when they are.

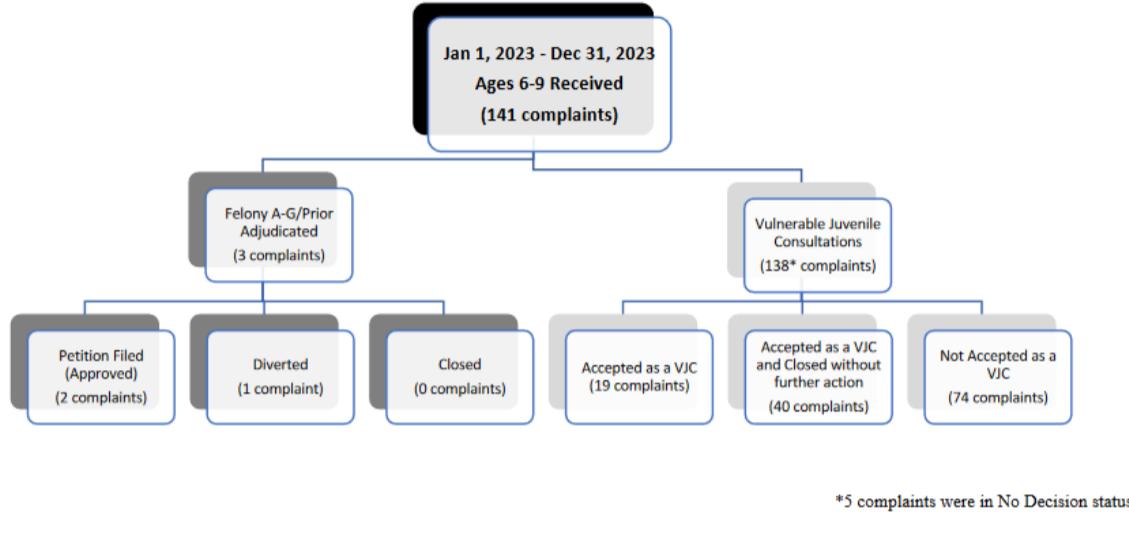
Department of Public Safety Legislative Reports



As a member of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, I received several legislative reports from North Carolina's Department of Public Safety over the course of the last few weeks. Some of the most salient details from each report are below:

Complaints Filed Against Juveniles Less Than 10 Years of Age

- Between December 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, there were 141 total complaints against juveniles less than 10 but greater than 6 years of age.
- Of those 141 complaints, 138 resulted in a juvenile consultation.
 - 2 of the 138 complaints that received a juvenile consultation had previously received juvenile consultation services.
- The majority of juveniles who received complaints were nine years old (88), but nine complaints were received regarding juveniles who were six.
- 13 of the 141 alleged offenses were classified as felonies.



Lapsed Salary Report

This report included an itemized spreadsheet regarding salaries, expenditures, projected year-end expenditures for 2024, surplus, and lapsed salaries for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) broken down by agency. The agencies recorded are DPS Administration (the Governor's Crime Commission and Victim Services), Juvenile Justice, Alcohol Law Enforcement, State Capitol Police, State Highway Patrol, State Bureau of Investigation, NC Emergency Management, NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency, NC National Guard, Boxing Commission, and Butner Public Safety. DPS projects a total surplus of \$188,146,614.52 at the end of Fiscal Year 2024, and the current actual appropriated lapsed salary total, or the dollar amount not expended for salary and associated benefits, across the department is \$224,222,860.00. Lapsed salary typically occurs during the period in which a position is vacant.

These reports are not yet available online, but they can be viewed [here](#) when they are.

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety Meeting



On Thursday, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety met to receive information from the State Bureau of Investigation, North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Alcohol Law Enforcement, State Capitol Police, North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police regarding each respective agency's and association's current challenges, future concerns, and policy recommendations. Many of the challenges faced by these agencies were very similar: **problems with retention and recruitment, the need to modernize technology available to agency staff, and occupancy problems in confinement facilities.** Policy reform suggestions from the committee meeting include:

- Anti-money laundering legislation
- Strengthening the punishment for misdemeanor fleeing
- Regulation of tobacco shops and THC product licensing
- **Weakening of the 2018 Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, HB280** (aka "Raise the Age"), which decreased the rate at which 16- and 17-year-olds were tried as adults in North Carolina.

Across all of the presentations, a primary challenge discussed was vacant positions and the need to recruit. 18.1% of the SBI's IT Department is vacant, and 23.5% of its Criminal Information and Identification Section is vacant. There are 12 sworn vacancies in the ALE. The lapsed salary data from DPS is further evidence of the struggle to recruit and retain employees.

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program addresses the retention and recruitment needs of our law enforcement agencies. This program recruits high school seniors and graduates into the criminal justice field by providing **forgivable educational loans** to participants who agree to enter an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina. Recipients who receive the educational loan will have five years to repay, though it will be forgiven if they enter and remain in an eligible criminal justice profession in North Carolina for four years. **Applications for this program are open now and will close on April 30, 2024.** Applications will be reviewed based on five criteria: scholastic profile, writing ability, school and community service, references, and potential for excellence in an eligible criminal justice profession. Information on the program and the application are located [here](#).

Election Integrity Audit



The state and county boards of elections conduct audits after every election in order to ensure election integrity. Audits can detect problems such as equipment tampering, ballot stuffing, and voting machine or counting errors. On Wednesday, March 6, the State Board of Elections randomly selected precincts, early voting sites, and absentee-by-mail ballots to be counted by hand for one such audit. Once the report has been finalized, it will be available to the public [here](#). Past election audit reports, such as the one conducted following the 2023 municipal elections in November, are available as well.

Letters of Support

February 9, 2024

Ms. Debbie-Anne Reese
Acting Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Redesigned Southgate Project -
Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC
FERC Docket No. CP19-14-000 and No. CP19-14-002

Dear Acting Secretary Reese,

We write to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to require a new certificate application from Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC ("Mountain Valley") for its "redesigned" Southgate Project which was made public in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission and a letter on December 29, 2023. We represent landowners and communities that have serious concerns about the pipeline's harms to the environment, climate, and consumers. As we explain below, the changes Mountain Valley proposes are substantial and go to the heart of the Commission's prior public interest analysis. Fairness and the National Environmental Policy Act require that the Commission affords our constituents a robust and transparent review process for this new project.

In 2020, the Commission authorized Mountain Valley to construct and operate a new, 75-mile transmission pipeline between Pittsylvania County, Virginia and Rockingham County and Alamance County, North Carolina that would deliver up to 375,000 dekatherms of gas a day. Called the Southgate Project, its purpose was to provide firm transportation service to Dominion Energy North Carolina, a gas distribution utility. Dominion was the pipeline's sole customer, and it contracted for eighty percent of the available capacity (300,000 dekatherms per day) to serve its residential, commercial, and industrial gas customers. The Commission accepted the contract with Dominion as evidence of market demand.

Just ten days after the Commission extended the construction window for the original Pipeline certificate of public convenience and necessity, Mountain Valley abruptly announced that it had "redesigned" the Southgate Project on December 29, 2023. The new pipeline would be shorter but have a larger diameter, with a capacity almost fifty percent larger (550,000 dekatherms per day). In addition to serving the Dominion gas distribution utility, it would also serve an "investment grade utility customer." Mountain Valley is most likely referring to Duke Energy, an electric utility that plans to build a new combined-cycle power plant near Roxboro, North Carolina. Earlier in 2023, several Duke Energy utilities supported an extension of time to build the original

Southgate Project, arguing to the Commission that they needed additional pipeline capacity to run gas-fired power plants even though they were not customers of the pipeline at the time.

Regardless of the specific customer, the bottom line is that the redesigned Southgate Project will deliver a substantially greater volume of gas for a different purpose than the Commission approved in 2020. And even though it will be shorter and no longer includes a compressor station that had been denied a permit due to significant environmental justice concerns, the increased capacity of the pipeline will mean a substantial increase in downstream greenhouse gas emissions. These changes are significant, and the Commission's prior public interest analysis for the Southgate Project is now outdated.

For these reasons, we believe that Mountain Valley's redesigned Southgate Project goes beyond a set of modest changes to an existing certificate—it is a new pipeline, one with a different purpose and different environmental impacts, including an increased contribution to the climate crisis. In addition, landowners along the originally proposed 75-mile route are currently vulnerable to Mountain Valley's exercise of eminent domain power for components of a project that Mountain Valley no longer intends to build. Accordingly, we urge the Commission to rescind the extension order granted on December 19, 2023. We also urge the Commission to require the company to apply for a new certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Rep. Eric Ager, NC House District 114	Rep. Nasif Majeed, NC House District 99
Rep. Vernetta Alston, NC House District 29	Rep. Marcia Morey, NC House District 30
Rep. John Autry, NC House District 100	Rep. Lindsey Prather, NC House District 115
Rep. Cynthia Ball, NC House District 49	Rep. Renée Price, NC House District 50
Rep. Mary Belk, NC House District 88	Rep. Amos Quick, NC House District 58
Rep. Cecil Brockman, NC House District 60	Rep. Robert Reives, NC House District 54
Rep. Kanika Brown, NC House District 71	Rep. James Roberson, NC House District 39
Rep. Terry Brown, NC House District 92	Rep. Caleb Rudow, NC House District 116
Rep. Allen Buassi, NC House District 56	Rep. Charles Smith, NC House District 44
Rep. Laura Budd, NC House District 103	Rep. Diamond Staton-Williams, NC House District 73
Rep. Deb Butler, NC House District 18	Rep. Julia von Haefen, NC House District 36
Rep. Becky Carney, NC House District 102	Rep. Gale Adcock, NC Senate District 16
Rep. Maria Cervania, NC House District 41	Sen. Sydney Batch, NC Senate District 17
Rep. Sarah Crawford, NC House District 66	Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, NC Senate District 15
Rep. Alison Dale, NC House District 11	Sen. Michael Garrett, NC Senate District 27
Rep. Terence Evertt, NC House District 35	Sen. Lisa Grafstein, NC Senate District 13
Rep. Wesley Harris, NC House District 105	Sen. Natasha Marcus, NC Senate District 41
Rep. Priscy Harrison, NC House District 61	Sen. Julie Mayfield, NC Senate District 49
Rep. Zack Hawkins, NC House District 31	Sen. Graig Meyer, NC Senate District 23
Rep. Frances Jackson, NC House District 45	Sen. Mujtaba Mohammed, NC Senate District 38
Rep. Abe Jones, NC House District 38	Sen. Natalie Murdock, NC Senate District 20
Rep. Ya Liu, NC House District 21	Sen. Gladys Robinson, NC Senate District 28
Rep. Brandon Lofton, NC House District 104	Sen. DeAndrea Salvador, NC Senate District 39
Rep. Carolyn Logan, NC House District 101	Sen. Kandie Smith, NC Senate District 1
Rep. Tim Longest, NC House District 34	Sen. Mike Woodard, NC Senate District 22

I signed onto a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) expressing concern with Mountain Valley Pipeline's (MVP) Southgate Project, which would create a fracked gas pipeline proposed to end in Rockingham County. An update to MVP's project proposal shortened the length of the pipeline, but dramatically increased its diameter and capacity. This poses a threat to our state's natural resources as well as private property rights.

LEANDRO V. STATE OF NC

LEGISLATOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

TODAY IS A CRITICAL DAY FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN. THE NC SUPREME COURT WILL REHEAR THE LEANDRO V. STATE CASE.

WE DECLARE OUR COLLECTIVE SUPPORT FOR STATE INVESTMENTS TO FULLY FUND THE LEANDRO PLAN. WE BELIEVE IN NORTH CAROLINA'S CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE THAT EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SOUND, BASIC EDUCATION.

THE LEANDRO PLAN IS A SMART, COMMON-SENSE WAY TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PROMISE A BETTER FUTURE FOR EVERY CHILD IN NORTH CAROLINA. YOUR CHILD WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K, AN EXCELLENT TEACHER, A HIGHLY TRAINED PRINCIPAL, ADEQUATE RESOURCES AT SCHOOL, FAIR TESTS, AND TRAINING FOR EDUCATION AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES.

FAMILIES ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA FACE REAL AND GROWING NEEDS. THE LEANDRO PLAN WOULD HELP FIX WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT AT YOUR KITCHEN TABLE, FROM YOUR CHILD'S BUS DRIVER OR TEACHER SHORTAGE TO INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AT SCHOOL. IT WILL HELP ALL NORTH CAROLINA FAMILIES, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE MOST ON THE MARGINS: WORKING CLASS FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY, MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS, STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AND RURAL STUDENTS.

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LEANDRO V. STATE OF NC

LEGISLATOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

THIS IS ABOUT CHILDREN, NOT PARTISANSHIP. POLITICIANS DID NOT PICK THE PLAN. NO POLITICAL PARTY WAS PRIORITIZED OVER ANOTHER. THE LEANDRO PLAN IS BASED ON RESEARCH FROM **INDEPENDENT** EXPERTS AND INPUT FROM NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATORS, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE. THE PLAN IS EVIDENCE-BASED AND SUPPORTED BY THOSE WHO WORK MOST CLOSELY WITH CHILDREN, MEANING IT INCLUDES BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT WE KNOW **ACTUALLY WORK**.

WE CAN MAKE IT A REALITY IN NORTH CAROLINA. OUR STATE HAS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN UNUSED REVENUE. IF THE STATE SUPREME COURT DOES NOT MANDATE THE TRANSFER OF THE MONEY TO OUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS, WE AS STATE LEGISLATORS CAN FIX IT. DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS WILL BE FILING A BILL SUPPORTING THE ENTIRETY OF THE LEANDRO PLAN DURING THE SHORT SESSION IN APRIL.

WE MUST FULFILL OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO THE CHILDREN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SIGNED,
SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEMBERS
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEMBERS

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I signed onto this letter **in support of the Leandro Plan to make necessary investments in public education**. This letter coincided with the rally held by public education advocates on February 22, when the State Supreme Court revisited the *Leandro* case. The State Supreme Court has taken the case up four times since it was first filed 30 years ago.

Learn more about the case [here](#).

Mecklenburg County Democrats, House Democratic Leader Reives Statement on Hate Speech during Town of Matthews Public Comment Period

We condemn in the strongest terms the hateful rhetoric during the public comment period at the Town of Matthews Board of Commissioners meeting last night. Public commenters over Zoom, presumably using fake names, shared remarks that were antisemitic, homophobic, transphobic and racist.

Let us be clear: There is no place in North Carolina for this type of extreme and ignorant language. Nazism and White Supremacy are disgusting ideologies. We will not be silent and will speak out in opposition whenever hate rears its ugly head.

House Democratic Leader Robert Reives

Sen. Mujtaba Mohammed

Sen. DeAndrea Salvador

Sen. Joyce Waddell

Sen. Natasha Marcus

Sen. Rachel Hunt

Rep. John Autry

Rep. Carolyn Logan

Rep. Becky Carney

Rep. Laura Budd

Rep. Brandon Lofton

Rep. Wesley Harris

Rep. Kelly Alexander

Rep. Mary Belk

Rep. Terry Brown Jr.

I, along with other Mecklenburg County Democrats and House Leader Reives, signed this statement **condemning the hateful rhetoric** used by commenters in the virtual Town of Matthews Board of Commissioners meeting last week.

Senator Marcus in the Community



I attended the regional [North Carolina League of Municipalities](#)' Town and State Dinner in Concord this week, where I was able to connect with city and town leaders. I met elected officials and staff from many nearby towns, saw many folks I already knew like Huntersville Mayor Christy Clark and Pineville Commissioner Amelia Stinson-Wesley, and even got a personal update from Davidson's Mayor Rusty Knox about several ongoing town projects.

Monday, March 11: Charlotte's Latin American Chamber of Commerce Offers Free Seminar on 2023 Income Taxes



Charlotte's Latin American Chamber of Commerce (LACCC) will host a free seminar on personal income taxes on **Monday, March 11, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at 145-C Scaleybark Road, Charlotte, NC 28209**. Topics will include understanding your tax return and navigating new tax laws. Register for the event here. If you have any questions, you can email the LACCC event coordinator [here](#) or call **704-237-0315**.

Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region: Grant Applications Award and Nominations Open



Quality of Life Grant Program

Habitat For Humanity of the Charlotte Region's Quality-of-Life Grant supports organizational, programmatic, and neighborhood projects and needs. Applicants who live within Mecklenburg and Iredell County and service Habitat For Humanity families are encouraged to apply. **The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 20.** Grants are expected to be \$500-\$10,000. Applicants will receive notification of the grant decision by April 19, 2024. More information about the program can be found [here](#). Submit your application [here](#).

Community Trailblazer Award

Habitat For Humanity of the Charlotte Region has opened nominations for their NROC Community Trailblazer Award. This award recognizes the leadership and efforts of an individual to improve the quality of life for their community. The criteria are as follows:

- The nominee has worked to promote a healthy sense of community, social cohesion, or collective action within Mecklenburg County or Iredell County.
- The nominee displays creativity, determination, perseverance, and/or courage in pursuing an improved quality of life for residents in Mecklenburg or Iredell County.
- The nominee initiates or engages in activities that positively influence or change the quality of life for residents in Mecklenburg or Iredell County.
- The nominee successfully influenced public policy to promote neighborhood investment, revitalization, or development.

Narrative and supportive documents are required as part of the nomination process. You can nominate an individual [here](#). **The deadline to nominate an individual is Wednesday, March 27.**

Opportunity Fund Offers Nearly \$1 Million in Grants to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Artists and Culture Groups



The Infusion Fund, a partnership between [Foundation for the Carolinas](#) and the City of Charlotte, has just opened applications for their Opportunity Fund grant program. These grants are designed to support nonprofits, artists, and creative groups located in Mecklenburg County with projects aligned with the [Charlotte Arts and Culture Plan](#). Applicants can request up to \$40,000 by submitting a letter of intent and must meet eligibility requirements. **The deadline to submit a request is March 28.** Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be contacted to submit a full proposal. **The deadline to submit a full proposal is April 19.** Application guidelines and eligibility requirements can be found [here](#). Artists and groups that are not nonprofits must apply with a nonprofit fiscal agent or sponsor. For-profit groups are not eligible for this grant. A general information session was held on March 6 and can be viewed [here](#). **Virtual information sessions and workshops will be held March 11, 13, 20, 23, and 28.** You can register for information sessions, submit your letter of intent, and find more information on the program [here](#).

Medicaid Innovations Waiver Comment Last Call



The NC Innovations Waiver is a Federally approved 1915 C Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (HCBS Waiver) designed to meet the needs of Individuals with Intellectual or Development Disabilities (I/DD) who prefer to get long-term care services and supports in their home or community, rather than in an institutional setting.

The Medicaid Innovations Waiver supports individuals with I/DD in living the life they choose. Waiver services are administered by a local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO), which facilitates services and oversees a network of community-based service providers. Individuals who receive waiver funding work with their team to develop a Person Centered Plan of Care and request the services and supports they need.

The NC 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services Innovations Waiver current five-year cycle period will expire on June 30, 2024. NC Medicaid's goal is to renew the waiver with an effective date of July 1. The draft application for the waiver has been posted to allow the public the opportunity to submit comments. **The public comment period will end on March 12, 2024.** The draft can be found [here](#). Comments may be submitted via email [here](#). Written comments may be sent to the following address:

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
NC Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) Innovations Waiver Team
1950 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1950

Please be sure to include "NC Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) Innovations Waiver" in the written message. Learn more about the NC Innovations Waiver [here](#).

The Ada Jenkins Center Offers Help With Your Taxes



The Ada Jenkins Center's VITA Program is currently assisting households with incomes of \$66,000 or less with Free Tax Preparation Services every Saturday and Thursday from now until April 15th. There is limited availability for same-day or walk-in appointments at locations in Cornelius, Davidson, and Huntersville. **Appointments are required.** The schedule for the tax season is listed below:

Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

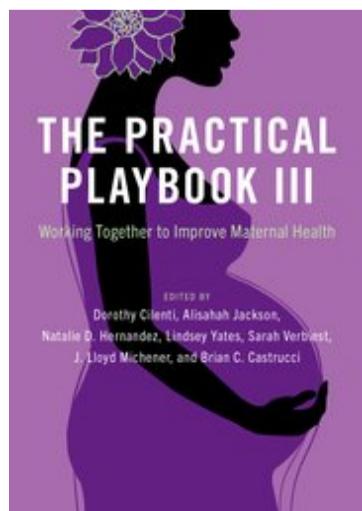
- Ada Jenkins Center (212 Gamble Street, Davidson, NC 28036)
• [Appointment Link](#)
- Charlotte Mecklenburg North County Regional Library (16500 Holly Crest Lane, Huntersville, NC 28078)
• [Appointment Link](#)

Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

- First Baptist Church of Cornelius (21017 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031)
• [Appointment Link](#)

If you have questions, email the [VITA Program](#) or call/text **(704) 765-6195**. Read more [here](#).

New Release on Maternal Health Provides Actionable Guidance to Healthcare Professionals



In partnership with the **de Beaumont Foundation**, the **Maternal Health Learning and Innovation Center** released *Practical Playbook III: Working Together to Improve Maternal Health* last month. This resource is available for [free online](#), or a paperback copy can be purchased [here](#). More than 150 maternal health professionals collaborated to address the complicated factors that impact maternal health with a focus on improving maternal health for vulnerable populations experiencing poor maternal health outcomes.

This release of this playbook is vital, and this issue is especially important to me both as a mother and as a legislator. For the last three sessions, I have cosponsored versions of the **MOMnibus Act**, which would **address the high rate of preventable maternal deaths in North Carolina** by establishing implicit bias training for healthcare professionals engaged in perinatal care, enumerating the rights of perinatal patients, and creating a system to track the number of incidents where implicit prejudice and implicit stereotypes led to negative birth and maternal health outcomes. You can read more about *Practical Playbook III* [here](#).

2024 North Carolina Awards Nominations Open Until April 1



Nominations are being accepted for the **2024 North Carolina Award**, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the state, now through April 1. The 2024 North Carolina Award recipients will be honored at an event later this year. Past award recipients have included distinguished artists, poets, writers, performers, journalists, scientists, and public servants.

Administered by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the award recognizes “notable accomplishments by North Carolina citizens” in the fields of literature, science, fine arts and public service.

Award nominations may be submitted by anyone. The [nomination form](#) is available online. To receive forms by mail or e-mail, contact [Jennifer Fontes](#) or call **(919) 814-6756**. After reviewing the initial nominations, the North Carolina Awards Committee will request additional information from nominators as needed. The committee will make its final selections this summer. Learn more [here](#).

LAST CALL: USPS Free COVID-19 Tests Ends Today



As of Friday, March 8, orders for free at-home COVID-19 tests through USPS are suspended. **Today is the last day you can order these at-home tests.** However, the CDC's Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program will continue to provide no-cost COVID-19 testing for uninsured people who are symptomatic or exposed. You can use [ICATT's no-cost testing locator](#) to find a location that provides free COVID-19 testing near you.

Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, February 23	13,844,742,853.18
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	383,302,590.09
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	598,476,790.76
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	787,217,487.38
State Aid	304,579,173.53
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	242,152,635.39
Tax Refunds/Distributions	66,382,313.32
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	1,199,507,608.70
Ending Cash, Friday, March 01	12,226,683,015.71
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	905,661,896.41
Other Reserves	25,560,854.34
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	10,397,748.28
Carry Forward Reserve	250,143,801.74
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	248,550,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	121,758,723.00
Housing Reserve	0.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	57,418,684.56
Information Technology Reserve	108,961,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	60,642,170.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
NC Innovation Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	65,318.43
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	0.00
Reg Economic Dev Reserve	4,650,000.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	129,184,710.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	0.00
Savings Reserve	4,750,001,113.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	1,000,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	670,734,393.53
Transportation Reserve	0.00
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	0.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	0.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, March 01	2,272,639,691.44

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, March 1. OSC provides a weekly update on the State's General Fund cash position which can be found at osc.nc.gov. **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$2.272 billion.**

The State Controller is North Carolina's chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

Links to Helpful Information

Domestic Violence Hotline: If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, please call [Safe Alliance](#) at **704-332-2513** and they can help you.

Mecklenburg's County Bar [website](#) provides a list of pro bono resources for those unable to afford legal counsel.

Mecklenburg's Department of Community Resources provides individuals and families with [immediate access](#) to a diverse range of Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services programs and community partner services in Community Resources Centers throughout the County.

Mecklenburg's Energy Assistance Programs: Do you need help paying your heating or cooling bills? Mecklenburg offers [two different programs](#) to help eligible low-income households with their energy needs.

Property Tax values and histories in Mecklenburg County can be searched on [this site](#) that includes links to Polaris and information about past assessments. You can find more detailed information on real estate values on the [Mecklenburg](#) site.

Suicide Prevention: If you have thoughts of harming yourself, **please call or text 988**, the Suicide Prevention Hotline for help.

Unclaimed Cash! Visit [NCCash.com](#) today to see if you have unclaimed property under the supervision of the NC Treasurer's office. More info [here](#).

Voter Information: You can find your current information on the [NC Voter Lookup page](#).

Free Property Tax Assistance Services



Do you need help with your property taxes? The [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) is providing free assistance to help homeowners prepare their NC property tax relief applications. Call **980-256-7952** or visit their website to learn more [here](#).

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

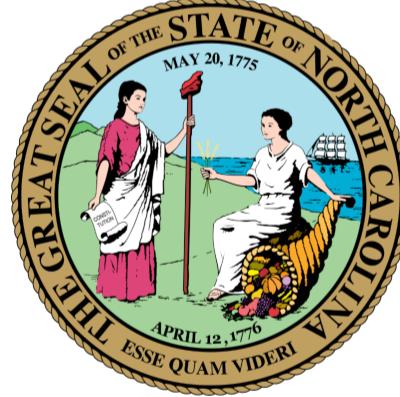
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Sara

Mailing Address:

300 N. Salisbury Street,
Rm. 519
Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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