CCOG Invited by Lumina Foundation to apply for Community Partnership for Attainment Grant

CCOG submitted an application to Lumina Foundation on October 14th, 2014 for the Lumina Goal 2025 Community Partnership Attainment Program to increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials to 60% by 2025. Seventy-five metro areas across the U.S. will be involved in this initiative. The grant opportunity was offered by invitation only from the Lumina Foundation in recognition of the Jobs, Workforce & Education Alignment Strategy that was a component of the Prosperity for Greater Charlotte Report.

Currently, there is not adequate awareness among students, parents, and adults seeking new careers of the opportunities and educational pathways for skill areas in the region’s high-demand and growing industry sectors that require postsecondary education. This award will help address a critical gap in career pathways awareness to support the region’s growing workforce needs within our targeted industries and other sectors of the economy.

Confirmation of award will be by December 15th, 2014. The grant will provide between $115,000 and $125,000 over a two year period to pursue strategies to increase our region’s postsecondary attainment and achieve regional goals. The purpose of the Charlotte-Centralina community collaborative is to increase postsecondary attainment by re-engineering communications to address an “interest gap barrier” thereby increasing societal and cultural awareness among students, parents, and adult workers of 21st century career opportunities and educational pathways for jobs in the region’s high-demand, high-growth industries that require a variety of post-secondary credentials.

Centralina Council of Governments’ Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities Conference

Centralina Council of Governments’ first annual conference will be held on Thursday, December 11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Embassy Suites in Concord, N.C. This comprehensive one-day event will provide training, practical tools and resources to help local government officials, staff and others implement solutions for challenges that the region’s community residents have identified in growing the economy and jobs, controlling the cost of government and improving quality of life.

Real Solutions for Your Community

“Listening to communities carefully over the past year, we have heard the request to share creative solutions developed to meet the needs expressed by their residents. This conference will explore ways to accelerate progress toward growing thriving communities,” said Jim Prosser, Centralina’s Executive Director. “The emphasis will be on demonstrating practical tools that have big impacts at the local level.”

Practical and Creative Strategies for Success

The conference will feature practical and creative strategies highlighting best practices on a regional, state and national level. The conference will feature keynote speakers, Dr. Robert D. Atkinson, President, Technology and Innovation Foundation, and Anita R. Brown-Graham, Director, Institute for Emerging Issues in . Twelve breakout sessions focused on challenges facing area local governments. The conference will provide continuing education credits for planners and managers. The registration fee is $89 prior to the event, $100 at the door.
Centralina Economic Development Commission

Charlotte Advanced Manufacturing Partnership and Innovation Outreach Network (CHAMPION)

CHAMPION was created as part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) grant awarded to CEDC by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration in fall 2013. CHAMPION is committed to accelerating the resurgence of the manufacturing ecosystem in the Centralina region through a collaborative partnership of workforce training, R&D resources, and to enhance exports/logistics to ensure the next stage of our manufacturing heritage and to sustain our leading position in the global economy.

The CHAMPION kick-off event was held on June 11th, 2014 in Gaston County for the purpose of convening the regional coalition for advanced manufacturing. CHAMPION includes the region’s manufacturing businesses, commerce chambers, economic development organizations, workforce development and educational institutions. This alliance will work together to grow jobs in the manufacturing and related industry clusters through coordinated networking, research and training. The next CHAMPION events are scheduled to be in Iredell County on November 12th, 2014 and in Stanly County on December 4th, 2014.

For more information about Centralina’s IMCP grant and upcoming CHAMPION events go to www.mindsthatmanufacture.com

U.S. Commerce EDA recently announced the new Cluster Mapping Project developed by the Harvard Business School and based on path-breaking research led by Professor Michael Porter. The U.S. Cluster Mapping Project is a national economic initiative that provides open, interactive data to understand regional clusters and support business, innovation and policy in the United States. Based at Harvard Business School’s Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, with support from a number of academic and regional partners and a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration, the project provides an interactive website for user-driven, visual data on clusters and regions across the United States.

“The U.S. Cluster Mapping Project is used by governments, economic developers, and businesses to understand and shape the competitive landscape for a wide range of industries. These data are being put in the hands of local officials, who are using the information to make strategic investments, recruit new companies, and lay the groundwork for new industries. Across the country, our cluster mapping tool gives us the ability to reinvent and modernize economic development strategies – all driven by open data.” U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker

CEDC participated as part of a two 40 person beta focus groups at Harvard to assist in the final stages of roll-out and will provide links to this resource on our website and also integrate with our CEDS database. Visit www.clustermapping.us to see how this new open source tool can promote data driven decisions at the local level.

www.ProsperityForGreaterCharlotte.com