

Intergovernmental Affairs Strategy

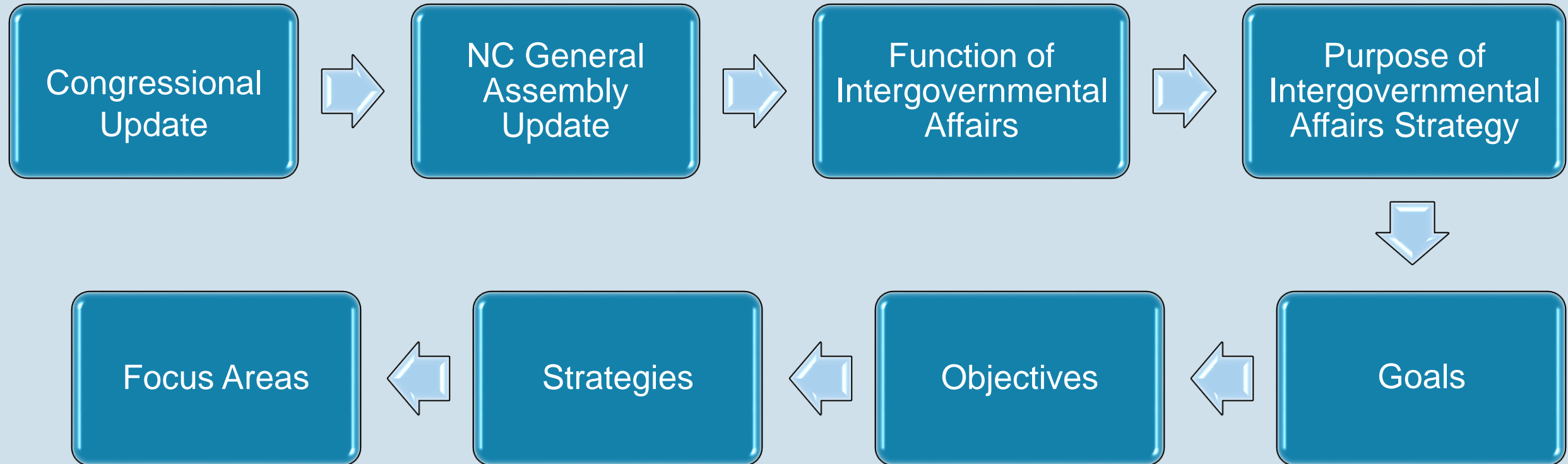
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Intergovernmental Affairs Manager

Budget/Public Policy Workshop
September 9, 2025



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
North Carolina

Agenda



Congressional Update

- Congress recessed through August and will return this week.
- House and Senate released draft appropriations bills.
- Likely no budget by September 30 resulting in a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) or shut down.

NC General Assembly Update

- Adjournment Resolution passed July 30, 2025
- Members will convene monthly through April 7, 2026
- Members will convene for the short session on April 21, 2026
- Governor signed HB125, titled Continuing Budget Operations, on August 6th

Function of Intergovernmental Affairs

Current Language

The Mecklenburg County Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs Program manages the federal and regional legislative affairs for Mecklenburg County. This includes the legislative agenda advocacy and stakeholder engagement.

<https://mgr.mecknc.gov/programs/legislative-affairs>

Proposed Language

The Mecklenburg County Intergovernmental Affairs Manager directs federal, state, regional and local government affairs on behalf of Mecklenburg County and the Board of County Commissioners. This includes staffing the Board of County Commissioner's Intergovernmental Relations Committee, developing the legislative agenda, advocacy and stakeholder engagement.

Purpose of Intergovernmental Affairs Strategy

Based on the legislative agenda adopted December 10, 2024.

<https://mecknc.widen.net/s/kh6tmrnskn/mecklenburg-county-state-and-federal-legislative-agenda>.

- 🎯 List goals which is what we intend to accomplish.
- 🎯 Identify objectives to measure how goals will be accomplished.
- ✓ Offer strategies which will be implemented to achieve the goals.
- 📋 Suggest actions to support each strategy.
- 🔍 Elevate focus areas based on current priorities.

*Goals, objectives and strategies remain in place for the 2-year plan period
The focus areas that center our activities are subject to change quarterly.*

FY26	Goals	Objectives
1.	Mitigate Impact	Offer solutions to managing the impact of executive orders, federal and state law.
2.	Attain Priorities	Develop and advance County priorities to obtain desired results.
3.	Support Regional Efforts	Identify local and regional intergovernmental alignment and priorities.
4.	Establish Standard Operating Procedures	Improve infrastructure for developing legislative reports, impact assessments, advocacy material and year end reports.

Strategies	
County Collaboration and Development	Seeking county feedback, input and approval from the BOCC, Executive Team and/or Departments.
Monitoring and Analysis	Tracking proposed agency rules, advocating for or against legislation and consulting with Departments on potential impact.
Stakeholder Engagement	Convening community partners for collaboration, engaging with neighboring counties, consulting with NACo and NCACC on policy positions, establishing a stronger presence with the NCACC, engaging with the Centralina Regional Council and discussing federal funding priorities with external partners.
Legislative Outreach and Education	Identifying committees to engage on policy priorities, relationship building with members of the delegation, identifying opportunities for BOCC to support delegation events, scheduling meetings with Republican members and members of the NC delegation in addition to scheduled events, attending annual events with the BOCC and ET, exploring opportunities to testify before committees, submitting comments on rulemaking, and joining or initiating sign on letters urging funding for priorities.
Community Engagement	Educating the community on the impact to these programs and elevating stories of impact.

FY26 Focus Areas

Q2 (Oct – Dec 2025)
Q3 (Jan – March 2026)

Medicaid & SNAP

Budget

Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion

Medicaid & SNAP	
Issue(s): work requirements, eligibility redeterminations, provider tax cuts, immigration-based restrictions, increased program cost share and increased administrative costs	
Strategy	Tactics
County Collaboration and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue discussions with Executive Team, HHS staff and the Budget Director on the impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
Monitoring and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track proposed federal rules from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) governing Medicaid. Monitor federal Medicaid expansion updates and budget impact. Prepare for negotiations and advocate for federal Farm Bill reauthorization.
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene community partners for discussion on impact of federal legislation. Engage with existing community partners on federal Farm Bill reauthorization. Review action plans and engage with the Centralina Regional Council and neighboring counties. Consult with NACo regarding advocacy activities related to federal Farm Bill reauthorization.
Legislative Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify members of Congress to engage on the House Committee on Agriculture. Brief the Mecklenburg state legislative delegation during the Annual Legislative Breakfast attended by the Board of Commissioners, Mecklenburg delegation and town leadership. Request hearings and reports on Medicaid and SNAP disenrollment trends. Comment on proposed rulemaking from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on Medicaid. Join or initiate sign on letters urging funding for health and nutrition.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider developing a storytelling campaign with the Public Information Department (PID) to elevate stories of impact.

Budget	
Issue(s): economic development and HUB, pending District Attorney positions, federal air quality funding	
Strategy	Tactics
County Collaboration and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with county department directors on potential impact of proposed legislation.
Monitoring and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track state legislation as outlined in the Adjournment Resolution and advocate for or against. Monitor NC SB257 which is the larger appropriations bill. Track appropriations at the federal and state level. Monitor provisions of Section 105 and 103 of the Clean Air Act.
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with neighboring counties on their budget concerns.
Legislative Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send letter to federal delegation with appropriations and funding requests. Develop a process for considering and selecting earmark requests from community organizations. Attend NACo 2026 Legislative Conference with the Board of Commissioners and Executive Team. Explore additional opportunities for engagement with the federal delegation in the district.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share how members of the federal delegation voted on FY25 appropriations bills.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)	
Issue(s): federal grant renewals, proposed state ban, AG memo on federal funding	
Strategy	Tactics
County Collaboration and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue discussions with Executive Team, Economic Development and the Office of Equity and Inclusion on the impact of proposed state legislation, federal Executive Orders and guidance from AG. Consulting with Departments on existing grants and renewals.
Monitoring and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track state legislation as outlined in the Adjournment Resolution and advocate for or against. Monitor status of litigation related to Executive Orders prohibiting DEI programs and practices.
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support OEI in their continued conversations with the Partners for Racial Equity (PaRE) and the United Way Funder Collaborative.
Legislative Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request changes to legislation at the state level to address specific issues of concern.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance to OEI as needed with the annual Mecklenburg County Community Survey, requests for community feedback and the Equity Action Plan.

Next Steps

- Seek feedback from the Board of County Commissioners.
- Provide quarterly updates to the IGR Committee on the strategy and focus areas.

Questions & Discussion



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