

**Upcoming Events**

<https://www.narcog.org/news-meetings-events/meetings-events>

Lawrence County Job Fair  
**DATE:** June 11  
**LOCATION:** Moulton, AL

Hartselle Health Fair  
**DATE:** July 19  
**LOCATION:** Hartselle, AL

CSPC Meeting  
**DATE:** July 25  
**LOCATION:** Decatur, AL

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# Annual Luau Celebration



May is known as Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older adults' lifetime of work, family devotion, and community commitment.

On May 15, 2024, NARCOG hosted the Annual Older Americans Month Luau at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion. The Luau was open to any older adult 60 and older in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan

Counties.

This event was largely successful due to our generous sponsors. Our sponsors included Aetna, Amedisys, Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism, Aveanna, Bathman LLC, Blue Cross Blue Shield, City Center Village, Cullman Regional Hospice, Decatur Daily, Decatur Morgan Hospital, Fouroux Prosthetics, Gentiva, Hospice of North Ala-

bama, Legal Services of Alabama, Peoples Bank of Alabama, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Riverside Senior Living, Senior Alliance, Simpra Advantage, VENZA Care, VIVA Health, and Westminster of Decatur. We also want to recognize Pepsi for providing drinks and Chick-fil-a for providing breakfast.

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## Planning Continues Grants Administration

The NARCOG Planning Team continues to provide grant administration for community and economic development projects totaling over \$6M in Falkville, Colony, Garden City, Lawrence County, Moulton, the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, and the Lawrence County Board of Education.

These projects, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, make a significant difference in our community.

Some upcoming CDBG monitoring visits by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) include the Lawrence County CDBG Economic Development grant on May 22nd. Other important dates include:

- May 14th – North Courtland 2024 CDBG Application Public Hearing at 5:30 PM
- May 20th – 2024 CDBG Application Public Hearings for the City of Moulton's Sewer System Improvements at 5 PM and the Town of Hillsboro's Street Im-

provements at 6 PM

- May 22nd - Pre-Bid meeting for the Town of Colony Street Improvements Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant project at 10 AM
- May 29th - Bid Opening for the Town of Colony Street Improvements Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant project at 10 AM

**Robby Cantrell | Executive Director**

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# Excellence in Leadership Graduates

The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce leads an initiative called Excellence in Leadership, a program that provides skill development and community immersion experiences. The Chamber offered several experiences, including team-building exercises, real-life simulation examples, and an overnight trip to Montgomery.

NARCOG Director of Administration Kim Dove and Director of Transit Falguni Patel graduated from Excellence in Leadership earlier this month.

The Chamber describes the class as follows: "The class meets once a month for ten months, with day-long sessions focus-

ing on single topics including healthcare, economic development, education, tourism, city and county government, state government, law enforcement, and social services. The class also includes a community service project, where members select an area non-profit to support."

Applications for the 2024-2025 Excellence in Leadership program will be open soon and the program will begin in August. Check out the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber's website for more information on this program.



## May Anniversaries

**Jan Kennedy**  
RN Clinical Coordinator  
2 years of service

**Linda Jones**  
Program Admin Assistant  
2 years of service

**Monica Shannon**  
Personal Choices Case Manager  
9 years of service

**Tamaya Plott**  
Case Manager II  
11 years of service

**Ronette Gravitt**  
Nutrition Coordinator  
11 years of service

# Congratulations To Our Graduates



NARCOG understands that higher education is essential for developing a knowledgeable and skilled workforce, broadening career opportunities, and fostering personal and professional growth.

We congratulate two dedicated team members who recently earned their diplomas. Katie Hernandez and McKenzie Newman consistently go above and beyond to serve the Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan County communities.

Hernandez and Newman, Medicaid Waiver Case Managers, recently earned a Master's of Social Work from the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama.

Deborah Wilson, Medicaid Waiver Division Manager, commented, "We are so proud of these ladies for working to continue their education and get a Masters in Social Work! We are excited to see them put their skills to use in the field!"



# Public Hearing Notices - Aging Services

The NARCOG Area Agency on Aging (AAA) values your input and will be hosting Public Hearings regarding the aging populations in Morgan and Lawrence County. Your opinions on transportation, caregiving support services, nutrition options, and more are crucial in shaping our services to better meet your needs.

Morgan County's public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 10 AM at the Hartselle Senior Center in the Sparkman Civic Center. The address is 406 Nance Ford Road, Hartselle, AL

35640.

Lawrence County's public hearing will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 10 AM at the Moulton Senior Center. The address is 14220 Court Street, Moulton, AL 35650.

Please make plans to join us at either public hearing in June. Your opinion is essential as we work to create better services. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Ronette Gravitt at 256-355-4515, ext. 250.



### Planning Department Events and Deadlines

**June 7, 2024**

North Alabama Trails & Recreation (NATR) Mini-Conference: Foundations for Funding

**June 17, 2024**

Federal Highway Administration's Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Application Deadline

**June 26, 2024**

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Federal Initiatives and Recreation (FIR) Division, FY 2025 RTP Program Grant Application Workshop

**July 30, 2024-August 1, 2024**

NADO National Regional Transportation Conference

**July 21, 2024 - July 24, 2024**

Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) Summer Conference

**October 16, 2024 - October 18, 2024**

Annual Alabama/Mississippi Joint Chapter American Planning Association Fall Conference

## Busy Working on CDBG Applications

The NARCOG Planning Team is busy working on projects for a street improvement grant in Hillsboro and water improvements in North Courtland. The Planning Team will also be resubmitting a \$500,000 sewer improvement grant for Moulton in Lawrence County. If you have a potential

Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) project in your community, please get in touch with NARCOG Director of Planning Joey Hester at 256-355-4515, ext. 235, or [jhester@narcog.org](mailto:jhester@narcog.org) with any questions or for more information as soon as possible to allow time for preparation. The CDBG grant

deadline is July 22, 2024!



## Home and Community Based Services

The Medicaid Waiver Home and Community-Based Case program is a significant initiative designed to provide services for elderly seniors and disabled individuals. The program allows them to live comfortably in their homes and communities they love, rather than having their needs met in a long-term care facility. This person-centered case management,

personal care, homemaker, and other services are provided at no cost to the individual or their family, ensuring their well-being and independence.

The Medicaid Waiver covers several programs, including the Elderly and Disabled (E&D) Waiver, Personal Choices, Gateway to Community Transitions (GCL), Alabama Community Transition

Waiver (ACT), and the Hospital to Home Program. Each program is slightly different and helps to cater to the covered individual's needs.

NARCOG currently serves over 600 individuals in Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan County.

## FROM PAGE 1: Annual Luau Celebration

The sponsors brought activities for the older adults, including cornhole, ring toss, putt-putt, and more. They also brought marketing materials, giveaway goodies, and a door prize.

K Rock Entertainment kept the celebration lively with his DJ services and provided a fun alternative to a traditional photo booth with his 360 Video Booth. Oliwia's Shave Ice in Hartselle provided

shaved ice to keep our guests cool in the pavilion. BalloonMasterz Bobby and Alyssa twisted fun balloon creations to entertain the older adults. We appreciate our vendors for helping us make the Luau a great one!

Outreach Coordinator Kylie Bolyard comments, "I can't believe after months of planning, this event was over in just two and a half short hours! Lots of love and

teamwork went into making this event possible, including sponsors, vendors, and NARCOG team members. We love doing this every year and look forward to seeing our older friends."

The Luau had an attendance of just over 500 seniors, with a total of roughly 625 people, including sponsors and NARCOG team members.



The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments, or NARCOG, is your local elected officials and community leaders working together to make your community a better place to live, work, play, and do business. The compassionate team at NARCOG is continuously searching for new ways to positively impact the quality of life for individuals and the vibrancy and livability of communities with the three-county region of Cullman, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties.

## AGING SERVICES

The Area Agency on Aging is part of a nationwide network of aging services under the direction of the U.S. Administration for Community Living and is funded through the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS). This partnership with ADSS, working under the authority of the Older Americans Act, is to plan and carry out a comprehensive, coordinated service delivery system to address the needs of people over 60, or persons with disabilities of any age, and help them maintain their independence. Services include:

- In-Home Services
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Caregiver Support
- Long-Term Care Advocacy
- Senior Legal Assistance
- Senior Employment (55+)
- Food Assistance
- Nutrition Options
- Health Promotion Activities
- Wellness Programs
- Medicare and Medicaid Counseling
- Hospital-to-Home Transitions
- Referral Help and Support Services (any age)
- Fraud Prevention
- Home and Community Based Services

## IMPACT GIVING

The NARCOG Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that assists older adults or disabled clients to meet the unmet needs of other programs or services. 100% of the funds or items donated are used for client assistance. The Foundation can help retrofit homes, including wheelchair ramps, steps, handrails, grab bars, purchase AC and heat resources, and provide batteries for a power scooter with monetary donations. Several different types of donations are accepted, including:

- Monetary donations
- Cleaning Supplies
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Canned or Shelf-Stable Food
- Kleenex
- Bath Tissue
- Incontinence Supplies
- Mobility Aids
- Adult Diapers
- Group and Individual Volunteering

## PLANNING SERVICES

The NARCOG Planning Department provides community and economic development planning services for our member governments and municipalities. These services support developmental efforts in our three-county region. Services include:

- Comprehensive Planning
- Development Planning
- Recovery Planning
- Downtown & Corridor Planning
- Zoning Ordinances
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping
- Grant Technical Assistance
- Urban Design Solutions
- Subdivision Regulations
- Creating Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The NARCOG Transit Agency operates an urban public transportation system within the Decatur Urban Area. The purpose of this service is to provide mobility opportunities to individuals of all ages and abilities in collaboration with the City of Decatur and the Federal Transit Administration.

- Call 256-580-2088 to schedule a ride at least 24 hours in advance
- Wheelchair-accessible vehicles are available
- Each one-way ride costs \$2
- Connect Cards (prepaid punch cards) can be purchased at the main office or on a transit vehicle for \$20
- Ride Operations are Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM
- Ride Scheduling is Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4 PM

## BUSINESS LOAN FINANCING

The NARCOG Accelerate Business Growth Fund is a local lending resource to support business start-ups, or expansions that result in job creation, leverage private sector investment, and reduce unemployment in Cullman, Lawrence, or Morgan Counties.

- Traditional or Microloan Funding Options
- Competitive Interest Rates
- Business financing used to purchase or renovate real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory, or working capital
- Business loan requirements must be met for consideration
- Loan amounts from \$10,000 to \$250,000