

## State Government 101: Navigating the Executive Branch Webinar

May 2021

The North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) invited speakers to provide an overview of the Executive Branch of North Carolina state government, including its organizational structure, agency functions, and opportunities for collaboration within the Executive Branch and with other sectors, including philanthropy and research.

### Speakers

- **Michael J. Arnold**, Deputy Director, North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (NCOSBM)
- **Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell**, North Carolina Department of Administration (NCDOA)
- **Joy Vermillion Heinsohn (moderator)**, Philanthropy Liaison, OSP
- **Kristi Jones**, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Roy Cooper

### Key Takeaways

- The Executive Branch of North Carolina state government reflects a system of governance established by the state's constitution and statutes, and consists of the Council of State, comprising state agencies with elected leaders, and the Cabinet, comprising state agencies and offices with leaders appointed by the Governor.
- The Governor sets priorities across Cabinet agencies to accomplish his vision for the state, but secretaries have wide discretion to set the vision for their own agencies in conjunction with the Governor and within statutory parameters.
- State agencies have similar administrative functions, but differences in mission may produce structural or organizational differences.
- As stewards of public funds, state agencies are held accountable for management of those funds. Though they manage large budgets, accountability often results in restrictions on use of funds limiting the state's flexibility to act as nimbly and quickly as other sectors, including philanthropy.
- State government and philanthropy partnerships provide opportunities to leverage the resources of both sectors for enhanced impact.

### Resources

*The following resources were shared or elevated during the program. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of information or resources.*

Slide deck featured in the webinar:

[State Government 101 Presentation by Michael J. Arnold, Deputy Director, NCOSBM](#)

### [State government organization chart](#)

This chart provides a visual depiction of the three branches of North Carolina State Government: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. The second page includes useful notes of explanation, including the form and function of the various offices and groups. The office of the [North Carolina Secretary of State](#) produced and distributed this resource. It was last published in 2021 and may be updated in future editions.

### **[NC Office of State Budget and Management \(NCOSBM\)](#)**

NCOSBM oversees the state's budget process and provides guidance on budget policy and analysis to the Governor, state agencies, and the state legislature. NCOSBM also analyzes economic and demographic data and provides other planning and grants management support to state agencies that informs their policy and budgetary decision-making and stewardship of public resources.

### **[NC Department of Administration \(NCDOA\)](#)**

NCDOA is the business manager for state government, overseeing government operations, including building construction, purchasing and contracting, and mail delivery; and assets, including state facilities and property. The Department also manages many of the state's advocacy programs that provide services for traditionally underserved segments of the state's population.

### **[NC Office of the Governor](#)**

Roy Cooper has served as North Carolina's governor since January 2017. As the state's chief executive officer, the governor leads the Executive Branch in overseeing the operation of state agencies, implementation of state laws and services, and advancement of state policy and program changes.