

**NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect:
The Role of Intergovernmental Affairs in Increasing and Improving Cross-Sector Collaboration
Relevant Resources**

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) September 2022 Monthly Connect: *The Role of Intergovernmental Affairs in Increasing and Improving Cross-Sector Collaboration* ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual “chat.” This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of resources. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:

Ariel Aponte, Associate Vice Chancellor for Military and Federal Relations, Student Affairs, Elizabeth City State University

Alicia Davis, Director of Government Affairs and Policy, NC Department of the Secretary of State

Jim McCleskey (moderator), Director, North Carolina Washington Office, Office of the Governor

Beau Mills, Director of Urban Affairs, NC League of Municipalities; Executive Director, NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition

Kevin Monroe, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Governor

Resources

Descriptions are paraphrased and come directly from active links as of October 3, 2022.

[North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State \(NCSOS\)](#)

NCSOS supports economic growth, promotes public trust, and fulfills statutory mandates by providing initial infrastructure for corporate organizations and transactions, and protecting citizens and businesses from misrepresentation and fraud.

- **Update on new business creation:** Every county in NC has seen an upswing in the number of new businesses created with NCSOS, with some counties seeing dramatic growth. New business creations from 2020 and 2021 surpassed new business creations in all of calendar year 2019; this trend continues in 2022. NC is entering a new era of entrepreneurship. To better understand this phenomenon, NCSOS has been surveying new businesses during their one-year anniversary month. Of the businesses who voluntarily responded, 89% of new businesses from 2020 are still in operation, with 22% reporting that they have three or more employees. Survey results also indicate that 81% of respondents launched their businesses in search of new opportunities, while just 12% report starting their new businesses as a result of job losses during the pandemic. NCSOS will continue to survey these new businesses to evaluate these and other trends, including barriers new businesses face and input on improving the entrepreneurial spirit. This is promising news for the economy and for the General Fund and appropriations process. NCSOS generated more than \$140 million for the General Fund in FY2020 and close to \$160M at the end of 2021.
- **[Rural RISE NC Initiative \(Resources for Innovators, Start-Ups & Entrepreneurs\)](#)**
Rural RISE digitally connects new businesses to local, state, and national resources (e.g., mentors, business counselors, funding opportunities, etc.) that offer free business planning advice, low-cost loans, and help identify markets and develop marketing plans. It also includes a comprehensive and much requested checklist of steps new businesses should follow to be successful, such as important tax and reporting deadlines. The initiative began with 14 pilot counties. It is now being expanded to other rural counties and then statewide.
- **[Remote Online Notarization Bill \(RON\)](#)**
Signed in July, RON allows notaries to use internet technologies to identify people and notarize their signatures remotely. This legislation means homebuyers will soon be able to close loans and buy houses

from the comfort of their couch, marking a major advance in Secretary Marshall's effort to lead the digital transformation of North Carolina's business environment. RON becomes effective in July 2023.

[North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships \(OSP\)](#)

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state agencies and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. As part of this work, OSP has created numerous resources about cross-sector partnerships.

- [Agency Contacts for Partnerships and Research](#) – Agency leaders have designated "points of entry" contacts for college/university and other research institution representatives who need an initial contact for potential partnerships such as research projects, grant proposals, and other collaborative opportunities.
- [College and University Contacts for Partnerships and Research](#) – State government agencies often seek expertise and potential partners from universities, colleges, and other research institutions. Communications and news offices, government relations, external affairs, and other campus offices at colleges and universities can be a useful place to start.
- [NC Project Portal](#): A tool for sharing state agency research needs and for people to express interest in partnering on those opportunities.

[North Carolina Rural Center \(The Rural Center\)](#)

The Rural Center's mission is to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. The Rural Center serves the state's 78 rural counties, with a special focus on individuals with low to moderate incomes and communities with limited resources.

[Local Infrastructure Hub \(The Hub\)](#)

The Hub helps local leaders navigate and understand the large quantities of information from the federal government on the nearly 400 funding opportunities available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

[North Carolina Evaluation Fund](#)

The NC Evaluation Fund was established to support research partnerships that inform policy and program decisions. OSBM anticipates awarding 5-10 grants totaling up to \$1 million by October 31, 2022.