

North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships

2024 Government Research Partnerships Learning Forum

Resources for Cross-sector Partnerships

The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#)) compiled these resources for government-research and government-philanthropy partnerships and evidence-based decision making as a follow-up to the 2024 OSP Government Research Partnerships Learning Forum on April 11 (see [agenda](#)).

[Recordings from 2024 Learning Forum sessions](#)

The resources below are those that panelists and speakers mentioned or asked us to share with participants. Resources are organized by session; not all sessions have associated resources. *This list is not intended to be comprehensive, and inclusion of an item does not mean endorsement.* Descriptions are paraphrased from the corresponding web links and are current as of April 22, 2024.

[Welcome](#)

[Cross-Sector Partnership Features and Q&A Parts 1 and 2](#)

[Breakout Sessions Parts 1 and 2](#)

Welcome

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#))

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes elevating state government's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policies and programs. Other OSP resources are included elsewhere in this document.

- [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships overview](#): This two-pager summarizes OSP's work with state agencies, researchers, and philanthropies and how OSP supports cross-sector collaboration.
- [Strategic Partnerships Highlights](#): This monthly communication features information and resources relevant to current and prospective cross-sector collaborations among state government, research, and philanthropy. The February 2023 Highlights, [All Things NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#), in particular, provides extensive information about OSP, examples of state government-research partnerships, state government-philanthropy partnerships, positive impacts of the work, and features many of OSP's university, college, philanthropy, and state government partners.
- [NC Project Portal](#): OSP created the NC Project Portal to share opportunities for partnering with state agencies on their research needs and for people to express interest in pursuing those opportunities. Sample projects discussed during the breakout session:
 - [What is the relationship between spatiotemporal epidemic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater, vaccine efficacy in school zones, and prolonged COVID-19 burdens?](#)
- OSP's [Monthly Connects](#) are a series of virtual and in-person (pre-COVID-19) panel discussions on topics relevant to partnerships among state government, research institutions including colleges/universities, philanthropy, and others. The Monthly Connect series is open to anyone interested in attending.

Cross-Sector Partnership Features and Q&A Parts 1 and 2

Compiled [slide deck](#) from all Cross-sector Partnership Features presenters

Improving Boater Safety

Partners: NCSU, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), Wake Forest University

- The NC Wildlife Resources Commission ([WRC](#)) is responsible for conserving and sustaining the state's fish and wildlife resources through research, scientific management, wise use, and public input.

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April 2024

- OSP helped facilitate this cross-sector partnership: [How can the NC Wildlife Resources Commission improve compliance with boating regulations and, in turn, public safety?](#) (Information pulled from the NC Project Portal)
- Learn more about WRC's current [boating safety campaigns](#).

Resilient Cyber Security

Partners: Fayetteville State University (FSU), Institute for Transportation Research and Education (NCSU), NCDOT

- FSU's Intelligent Systems Laboratory ([ISL](#)) exists to solve problems in use-inspired Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity. ISL provides an experimental environment for development, modeling, and testing using advanced approaches. Read about ISL's Capability Statement [here](#).

Breakout Sessions Parts 1 and 2

Session 1: Agency Research and Evaluation Capacity and Expertise: Examples from NC State Government

NC Department of Commerce ([NC Commerce](#))

- The Labor and Economic Analysis Division ([LEAD](#)) at NC Commerce collects data, conducts research and analysis, and publishes reports about the state's economy and labor market. Relevant LEAD resources:
 - The Common Follow-up System ([CFS](#)) is a longitudinal repository of workforce and education data maintained by a collaborative effort between the NC Department of Information Technology's Government Data Analytics Center and LEAD at NC Commerce. It provides information on the educational and employment outcomes of publicly supported educational, employment, and training programs for use in policy making, program evaluation, resource allocation, and career planning.
 - [NC's Tool for Online Workforce and Education Reporting](#) (NC TOWER) is an online tool using information from the CFS to provide aggregate information on students who attended public universities, high schools, and community colleges in the state.
 - [CFS 2023 Evaluation Report](#): One of a series of analyses to measure the educational and employment outcomes of individuals participating in the state's public education, employment, and training programs.
 - [The Impact of Post-Release Employment on Recidivism in North Carolina](#) and [Executive Summary: Employment and Recidivism](#) study uses longitudinal data on a cohort of individuals exiting prison in NC to examine the relationship between post-release employment and subsequent criminal justice contact.
 - [The Long-Term Impact of Apprenticeship on the Employment Outcomes of Displaced Workers](#) study evaluates the long-term impact of registered apprenticeship on workers displaced during the Great Recession in NC.
- The [NC Workforce Service Delivery Outcome Dashboard](#) provides a set of measures for individuals participating in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) employment and training services.
- The [NC Reentry Outcome Reporting System \(NC-RORS\)](#) tool shows employment and wage outcomes for people leaving the NC state prison system.
- The [Supply and Demand Dashboard](#) provides estimates of the number of jobseekers and job openings to track the tightness of the state's labor market.

NC Department of Public Instruction ([NCDPI](#))

- NCDPI's Office of Learning & Research ([OLR](#)) provides the research and support needed to make evidence-based decisions to combat learning loss and accelerate learning for all students.
- OLR recently released [Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Funding Cliff Toolkits](#) to assist districts and schools in preparing for the end of ESSER funding and to assist them in making evidence-informed financial decisions moving forward.

- OLR publishes the [Research & Recovery Roundup Blog](#), a series of blog posts and whitepapers intended to help the field unpack the comprehensive report released in March 2022 to help understand the overall impact of the pandemic on students in NC’s public school system, based on 2020-21 year-end state exams (End-of-Grade and End-of-Course).

NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT)

- The NCDOT [Research & Development Office](#) oversees transportation-related research for the Department. Topics include materials, operations, planning, mobility, safety, structures, human environments, natural environments, and more.
- NCDOT’s [Communicate Lessons, Exchange Advice, Record \(CLEAR\) Program](#) collects lessons learned, innovative ideas, and best management processes to be shared throughout the Department.

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP)

- [OSP Evidence Advisor](#): The Evidence Advisor leads OSP’s core work of increasing and enhancing state government’s use of evidence by building internal capacity for evidence-based decision making. This involves working with state agencies to: identify agency priority questions and develop agency research agendas; provide research and evaluation capacity by leading and supporting agency research and data analysis projects; conduct evidence reviews and research syntheses on the quality of available evidence to help determine which programs and interventions have demonstrated effectiveness to inform policy and budgetary decisions; build state agency research and evaluation capacity to generate and use evidence through in-person and virtual trainings.

Session 2: What Philanthropy Wants Working in Partnership with State Agencies

[The Duke Endowment](#)

The Duke Endowment was established in 1924 to help people and strengthen communities in North and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds, and enriching spirits. Located in Charlotte, NC, the Endowment also seeks to continuously adapt to meet tangible, real-world needs in the Carolinas that extend beyond the focus of its charter, particularly through its strategic emphasis on early childhood and other emerging issues. The [February 2023 Highlights](#) features an interview with Meka Sales, Director of Special Initiatives for the Endowment, who participated in this breakout session.

[The Foundation for a Healthy High Point](#)

The Foundation for a Healthy High Point works with partners to improve conditions that impact the health and wellbeing of Greater High Point residents by focusing investment and community engagement on addressing key social determinants of health, or the non-medical conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age (e.g., education, food insecurity, unemployment, and housing). Executive Director Curtis Holloman is featured in the August 2021 Monthly Connect, [The Many Roles of Philanthropy in Government-Philanthropy Partnerships](#).

[The Golden LEAF Foundation](#)

Golden LEAF was established in 1999 to increase economic opportunity in NC’s rural and tobacco-dependent communities through leadership in grantmaking, collaboration, innovation, and stewardship as an independent and perpetual foundation. This [OSP resource](#) features an interview with Golden LEAF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Ted Lord, who participated in this breakout session.

[The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust](#)

The Trust works for equitable access to quality health care, education, and economic opportunity for every resident of Forsyth County and across NC. The Trust was created in 1947 to improve the quality of life of people with low incomes in Forsyth County and to improve health care around the state. This [OSP resource](#) features an interview with Dr. Laura Gerald, President of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, and former State Health Director and director of the Health and Wellness Trust.

*Compiled by NC Office of Strategic Partnerships
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NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#))

- [OSP Philanthropy Liaison](#): OSP and philanthropy partners co-created the Philanthropy Liaison role to support both government and philanthropy. A unique role nationally, the Philanthropy Liaison focuses on educating the two sectors about each other; facilitating connections related to mutual interests; and supporting cross-sector partnerships and collaborations.

Session 3: The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships and the NC Collaboratory: Partnerships in Action

[NC Collaboratory](#)

The NC Collaboratory was established in 2016 by the NC General Assembly to facilitate the dissemination of policy and research expertise across the UNC system and other NC institutions of higher learning for practical use by state and local government.

- In 2022, the NC Collaboratory and the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) partnered to create a [fellowship program](#) for university faculty members to work in NCDEQ. The fellows are experts in their fields and leaders of the [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Testing \(PFAS\) Testing Network](#), an NC Collaboratory-led group of university experts who specialize in studying PFAS.

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#))

- [NC Project Portal](#): OSP created the NC Project Portal to share opportunities for partnering with state agencies on their research needs and for people to express interest in pursuing those opportunities. Sample project discussed during this breakout session:
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Session 4: State Agencies Share Opportunities for Research and Philanthropy Partnership

Explore the State of North Carolina's "[Your Government](#)" site, which has information about NC's Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches. Resources include but are not limited to a list of Cabinet and Council of State agencies, an interactive map to help users find their current NC General Assembly representatives, and all state government administrative codes.

NC Office of State Budget and Management ([OSBM](#))

OSBM provides objective information and analysis to ensure a balanced budget and effective stewardship of public resources. Relevant resources:

- [OSBM budget 101 overview](#): The basics of the state budget process in North Carolina and OSBM's role.
- [NASBO budget basics videos](#): A series of videos developed by the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), to help individuals understand state budget concepts.

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#))

- [Agency Contacts for Partnerships and Research](#): State 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.
- Monthly Connect series: The following links are to recordings of Monthly Connect sessions related to "how state government works." Other sessions are also relevant; a complete list is at [Monthly Connect series](#).
 - [The Roles and Contributions of State Government Task Forces, Advisory Groups, and Similar Entities](#)
 - [North Carolina Boards and Commissions: What they are and how to get involved](#)
 - [North Carolina State Budget: Who, What, Where, When, Why](#)

Session 6: From Part-time Intern to Career: Opportunities for Students

NC Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)

NCBCE works to make the critical connection between NC employers and the NC education systems through work-based learning.

- NCBCE and partners developed the [Work-Based Learning Navigator](#), a tool designed to connect classroom learning to career pathways. Through this platform employers post work-based learning engagement and information opportunities like career profiles, guest speakers, internships, and pre-apprenticeships. Educators can search for, request, and track engagement through the platform. Questions about the Navigator? Contact Caroline Sullivan (caroline.sullivan@nc.gov) or Morgan Crawford (morgan.h.crawford@nc.gov).

NC Department of Administration (NCDOA)

NCDOA oversees government operations such as building construction, purchasing and contracting, maintaining facilities and grounds, managing state vehicles, property management, and auxiliary services. NCDOA also manages many of the state's advocacy programs that provide assistance and services to diverse segments of the state's population that have been traditionally underserved.

- [State of NC Internship Program](#): Provides students from two- and four-year colleges and universities with professional work experience that connects their classroom experiences and potential career choices. Interns work 40 hours a week for 10-weeks during the summer, earning \$12.00 an hour. Students participate in meetings, educational tours, and other activities designed to broaden their perspective of public service and state government. Internships are available at most state agencies and in locations across NC.
- [Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program](#): A 4-week summer enrichment opportunity for NC high school girls, grades 9-12, interested in exploring STEM careers in state government.

NC Office of State Human Resources (OSHR)

OSHR provides high quality human resources services that enable state agencies and universities to attract, motivate, develop, and retain a competent, diverse workforce to meet their business objectives.

- Higher Education 2 NC Government Careers ([Ed2NC](#))
Ed2NC brings together leaders in state government and higher education to help create a pipeline of talent by connecting students and recent graduates with careers in state government. Ed2NC resources include:
 - [Agency Resources](#): Information about North Carolina state agencies, including [state agency fast fact sheets](#), available jobs, and meet-and-greet videos.
 - [College and University Contact Directory](#): Contact and other relevant information for career services professionals from NC colleges and universities.
 - [State Agency Recruitment Staff Directory](#): Contact and other relevant information for state agency recruitment staff.
 - [Micro-Internships](#): This program connects NC college students with a paid short-term project (20 to 80 hours) funded by a host agency. Projects allow students to explore different roles, perform specific skill-based assignments, and gain skills that employers seek.
 - [Entry-level Positions Data Bank](#): Information about the types of entry-level positions across state government. Note: These are not current vacant positions for which agencies are recruiting.
- [Explore jobs](#) with the State of North Carolina.

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP)

- [Directory of Opportunities for Students to Assist State Agencies](#): A resource for partners in state government and at colleges and universities who may be interested in collaborating.