



Support Today



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Making Wellness A Priority

The Wilson Wellness Collaborative (WWC) met January 28 to discuss collaboration and partnership for mid and post-pandemic planning.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In late December, WWC implemented a comprehensive campaign to increase awareness for local resources and strengthen the understanding of the connection between mental and physical health. Isolation and stress have negatively impacted people's mental health and created additional barriers for people who already suffered with mental illness and substance misuse.



Collaborating WWC members have prioritized an urgent focus on the mental health challenges imposed by COVID-19 and have partnered to connect the community with information and resources for supporting mental health. Communication platforms include social media, Wilson Times, and printed brochures. Several partners have contributed articles to the Wilson Times, and these articles can be viewed using [this link](#). The printable flyer is available [here](#).



Pictured above: 25 of the participants at the Wilson Wellness Collaborative Meeting on January 28th

Vaccine Distribution Demonstrates the Strength of Partnerships in Wilson

Wilson County's recent drive-thru vaccination clinic more than doubled other communities' distribution totals and is now being shared across the state and nation to help speed up vaccinations. The success achieved by this effort exemplified the power and efficiency of the strong community relationships amongst many of our wellness partners in the WWC.

Candice Rountree (Wilson County DSS) shared, "I am grateful for community partnerships that put the health and safety of our community first. The vaccine event at Fike High School is an example of the good that can be done when we work together. Thanks to the Wilson County Health Department, Wilson County Emergency Management, Carolina Family Health Center, Wilson County EMS, and City of Wilson. The large number of our vulnerable population vaccinated gives me hope for the future."

Teresa Ellen (Wilson County Health Dpt) states, "When you have a spirit of collaboration, great leaders and staff who care about people, and you want the best for your citizens, you get the success that we saw with this event. This was not unique just for this event. This is Wilson County."

The strong relationships between local partners connected through the WWC provide an easy pathway for dialogue and action. COVID19 has presented many challenges to the way we support health and wellness in Wilson, but community partners are finding innovative ways to connect with each other to mitigate the immediate and future impact of the pandemic.
 (Note: Candice Rountree and Teresa Ellen serve as the co-chairs of the Wilson Wellness Collaborative.)

Commitment To Community Safety

In an effort to keep COVID-19 safety precautions top of mind in Wilson and support our local businesses as they continue to navigate COVID-19 issues, the City of Wilson, Wilson County, and Wilson Chamber of Commerce have launched the Wilson Has My Word campaign.



Based on other successful support campaigns across the country, local businesses will complete a Health and Safety Checklist with the specific COVID-19 measures being taken in the business. After completing the checklist, they will officially be a part of this collaborative campaign committed to telling the community that Wilson has their word!

Customers may look for the "Wilson Has My Word" logo around Wilson or go to www.thewilsonword.com to find participating businesses. Participation for businesses will be completely voluntary. We hope you will participate and encourage others to join the effort to keep our community safe!

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Wilson Leadership Institute Focus: Engaging and Retaining Young Talent

The 2020/2021 Wilson Leadership Institute Cohort is continuing their research on the challenges and opportunities in the attraction and retention of young talent in Wilson. Their research and recommendations will reflect their own experiences as young professionals and incorporate a deep analysis of tools, strategies, and practices deployed in other communities. Over the next few months, the group will be designing and implementing a community survey and strategic interviews. The 2020-2021 cohort will present their findings and recommendations in the 2021 Annual Meeting of Wilson Forward.



[READ MORE ABOUT THE WILSON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE](#)

We Need Your Feedback!

Healthy Food Asset Mapping Survey

Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments is working to build a local, healthy, equitable, and resilient food system in our 5-county region and beyond. This initiative will support the region's local healthy food system and will create an analysis of the system with an emphasis toward food equity and access by our most in-need communities.

To help inform and guide the regional assessment, please take this survey: [ACCESS SURVEY HERE](#)

Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card (deadline for drawing is Monday, March 1st).

(Please contact [Cameron Cochran](#) if you would like a printed version for you or your organization)

Broadband Survey

The N.C. Department of Information Technology is launching the NC Broadband Survey to gather information on locations without adequate internet access across the state. The information gathered from the survey will provide clear data to guide the investment of funds through the state's Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant program, inform research and policy recommendations, and support strategic targeting of additional funding streams.

Please help by taking this 5-minute survey: [ACCESS SURVEY HERE](#)

"PINT" IT FORWARD

As a community-minded local business, Casita Brewing Company graciously donates 25% of their monthly tips to a local non-profit each month, and Wilson Forward is thrilled to be their February community partner. Check out [Casita Brewing's list of events](#) to support Wilson Forward in the month of February and every month throughout the year to support local Wilson non-profits!



RECONNECT DIFFERENTLY

Every donor, every dollar, and every act of generosity makes a difference!



Wilson Forward has served the Wilson community since 2007, and our work has never been more important. Even in this challenging environment, we are building and supporting connections between people, organizations, opportunities, and resources to improve education, health and wellness, and workforce development. We stand united as a community of partners who always demonstrate resilience and support for each other.

CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

Every single contribution can have an impact on the future of our work. As you consider your philanthropic priorities for this year, we hope you will make Wilson Forward one of those priorities with a personal and meaningful gift as a part of our Annual Campaign.

Please contact us with any questions or inquiries

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Connect with us through the links below!

