



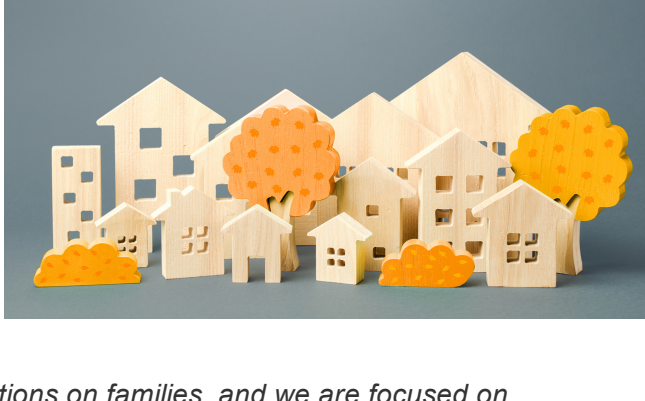
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY

Collaboration Moves Our Community Forward

Wilson Forward's mission is to improve educational opportunities, health and wellness, and workforce development in Wilson, and we approach every opportunity and challenge through a collaborative lens. We are honored to work with so many community partners committed to making Wilson a better place for all of us.

Eviction Diversion

A local partnership including Wilson Housing Authority, Wilson County DSS, Legal-Aid, Wilson Forward, private landlords, and the City of Wilson has focused on reducing evictions, a primary goal of the plan developed by the Wilson Wellness Collaborative. Beginning this month, the group will launch a new program to assist tenants who are in jeopardy of eviction. Wilson Housing Authority will serve as the landlord of this pilot program and will utilize a referral system established in partnership with Wilson County DSS.



"Our group has discussed the detrimental effects of evictions on families, and we are focused on understanding the root causes of evictions and connecting community resources to families in hopes of reducing the number of evictions in Wilson" - Kelly Vick, Housing Authority

Future After School Middle School Program



In 2018, the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson announced its \$22 million commitment to launch an after school program. The program will bring community partners from all sectors to offer engaging and hands-on activities for middle schoolers in the new YMCA location as well as partnering locations. The goals for this entrepreneurial and creative initiative include improving the health and wellness of middle school students, increasing educational proficiencies, improving college and career readiness, and allowing students new opportunities and experiences in areas that interest them.

The design and development of this program through partnerships with community organizations will be essential to the success of this exciting opportunity for our students.

"As Healthcare Foundation of Wilson continues work on our first strategic grant initiative, we are thankful for the collaborations and input from community partners toward our vision to define the afterschool needs of middle school youth and build a program specifically for our community's youth." - Denise O'Hara, Healthcare Foundation of Wilson

"The Middle School After School Program will be built on a foundation of student and community engagement and viewed through a mental wellness lens.....a beacon of light." - Kathie Davis, Wilson Family YMCA

RIDE - Wilson's New Transportation System

In September of 2020, Wilson launched RIDE through a public-private partnership with Via. This on-demand service replaced Wilson's fixed-route bus system and expanded coverage to areas the previous system didn't reach while reducing wait times for riders.

Ridership of the service tripled in the first quarter. Almost 90% of rides have been used for essential trips, including over 50% of those rides being taken for work or school. For several years, transportation has been cited as a barrier to workforce development; the RIDE program offers an exciting solution to address this barrier faced by many Wilson residents. Local partners have promoted the new service and encouraged clients and employees to utilize this affordable and convenient new system.



Read More About How to Access RIDE Here

"RIDE has proven to be a very popular service with ridership growth exceeding our expectations in the first 6 months. Most importantly, upon survey of our riders, we learned that fifty percent of trips are to a place of employment meaning RIDE has quickly opened doors to opportunity for our residents." - Roger Lentz, City of Wilson

Expanding Early Childhood Education



Explore Wilson County Early Childhood Education Data Here

Research shows that the investment in early education (particularly among children in high risk populations) improves cognitive abilities and critical behavioral traits like sociability, motivation, and self-esteem. Wilson County Schools, Wilson Partnership for Children, and many other stakeholders have established a goal to increase access and participation in early childhood education. Local partners have recognized the immediate need for expanded access to programs that will provide the critical development needed by all children in the earliest years of life.

"Wilson County Schools is thankful that we had an opportunity to collaborate with the Wilson County Partnership for Children to create a Pre-K universal application for all Wilson County Pre-K parents that will help make the application process easier." - Jennifer Lewis, Wilson County Schools

Wilson Forward Data Dashboard

Wilson Forward focuses on current community conditions and appropriate opportunities that will lead to improvements in health and wellness, workforce development, and education in Wilson County. Wilson Forward recently launched a re-designed website, including a new data dashboard to provide a reliable and comprehensive resource for education, health and wellness, and workforce development data that is relevant to Wilson.

Explore the Wilson Forward Data Dashboard Here



In May of 2019, the [Wilson Wellness Collaborative](#) developed a 3 year plan to support the health and wellness of all those who work, live, and play in Wilson. Over the past two years, community partners have convened routinely to discuss the ongoing work, progress towards identified goals, and new partnership and collaboration opportunities. We are grateful for all of the partnerships, including those highlighted here, that make the Wilson Wellness Collaborative possible.

"For Wilson County DSS, our partnership with Wilson Forward has resulted in stronger collaborative relationships, an increased understanding of our community's needs and strengths and an opportunity to better serve our customers through our work together." -Candice Rountree, Wilson County DSS and Co-Chair of the Wilson Wellness Collaborative

"This past year, more than ever, has proven the value of partnerships and collaboration to improve wellness. The Wilson Wellness Collaborative continues to provide the framework for all community partners to implement sustainable and healthy changes that impact the lives of many Wilson County citizens." - Teresa Ellen, Wilson County Health Department and Co-Chair of the Wilson Wellness Collaborative

RECONNECT DIFFERENTLY

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



CONTRIBUTE TODAY!

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.

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 part of our Annual Campaign.

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

Upcoming Community Partner Events & Programs

WILSON HAS MY WORD CAMPAIGN

WE'RE GIVING OUR WORD TO KEEP WILSON STRONG & SAFE

WILSON HAS MY WORD
Your commitment to keeping Wilson strong and safe. Together, we can keep our customers, friends, and neighbors safe while keeping our economy strong.

Wear a mask
outside your home or work, people who don't live with you

Stay six feet
from anyone outside your household

Wash your hands
often with soap and water

Thank You FOR DOING YOUR PART!
LEARN MORE AT WWW.THEWILSONWORD.COM

WILSON FARMERS & ARTISAN MARKET

WILSON FARMERS & ARTISAN MARKET
Fresh Local Foods & Handcrafted Treasures

APRIL 24 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2021 SATURDAYS
8:00AM TO 12:00PM

VOLLIS SIMPSON WHIRLIGIG PARK

• FRESH PRODUCE • MEATS • EGGS
• BAKED GOODS • HONEY • HERBS
• PLANTS • SOAPS • ART
• SMOOTHIES & MORE!

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
• Meet with vendors & staff
• Pre-market interviews
• MARKET MANAGER
FarmersArtisanMarket@wilsonnc.org

WILSON RIDE PROGRAM OFFERING FREE VACCINE TRANSPORTATION

RIDE
Powered by Via

Service hours:
• Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm
• Saturday, 9:00am - 12:00pm
• Sunday, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Service zone and price:
• Wilson County, NC
• \$2.00 per ride (includes pickup and drop-off)
• \$1.00 per ride (includes pickup and drop-off)

How to use RIDE:
• Download the RIDE app from the App Store or Google Play
• Create an account
• Enter your pickup and drop-off location
• Confirm your ride
• Ride away!

Who is eligible:
• Wilson County residents who are 18 years of age or older
• Wilson County residents who are 18 years of age or older and are not currently in a nursing home

NAACP WEBINAR

The Impact of Incarceration: Systemic Racism & Cash Bail
March 30, 2021 - 3:00 P.M. (EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/8351832127>
pwd:8351832127

Attendees:
• **Karla E. Lee**, Assistant Justice of the Supreme Court of NC
• **Attorney Josh King**, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
• **Attorney Steven Bagnore**, CDO Incarceration
• **Mr. Lee Lyles**, CDO Incarceration

Contact: Dr. Carol White, NAACP Executive Chair, clwhite@naacp.org

WCS JOB FAIR

GROW WITH WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS!

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR
Learn More about WCS
• Meet with vendors & staff
• Pre-market interviews
• MARKET MANAGER
FarmersArtisanMarket@wilsonnc.org

WILSON ARTS EVENTS

WILSONARTS
CREATIVE KIDS VISUAL ARTS & COMIC ARTS CLASSES

CAMP IT UP AT WILSON ARTS!
Spring Break Camp
Now Enrolling!

AREA L AHEC ACES WEBINAR

Save the date!

ACEs & Addictive Disease: The BIG Picture!

Thursday, May 20, 2021
Live Webinar Featuring:

Dr. Joseph E. Murray, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Dr. Murray is a leading expert in the field of addiction medicine and has been instrumental in the development of the North Carolina Center for Addiction Medicine (NCCAM) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Joseph E. Murray, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Dr. Murray is a leading expert in the field of addiction medicine and has been instrumental in the development of the North Carolina Center for Addiction Medicine (NCCAM) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NC PRE-K ENROLLMENT

NC PRE-K KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM
Is Accepting Applications for 2021-2022 School Year!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Children who will be 4 years of age or older on or before August 31, 2021
Families whose gross income is at or below 75% of the NC State median income

Priority will be given to families who meet the following criteria:
• Children who have received English as a Second Language (ESL) services
• Children who have a parent or guardian serving active duty in the military
• Children who are enrolled in a childcare program

Eligible children must be enrolled in a childcare program

Where to Enroll:
• Wilson County Public Schools
• 100 Park Avenue, Wilson, NC 27803
• Phone: 252-238-4325
• 1000 Lenoir Street, Wilson, NC 27804
• Phone: 252-238-4325
• 1000 Lenoir Street, Wilson, NC 27804
• Phone: 252-238-4325
• 1000 Lenoir Street, Wilson, NC 27804
• Phone: 252-238-4325

Please contact us with any questions or inquiries

Paula Benson, Executive Director
PBenson@WilsonForward.org

Cameron Cochran, Associate Director
CCochran@WilsonForward.org

OR

Connect with us through the links below!

