



## Tri-COG Food Ecosystem Economic Development Strategy (Tri-COG FEEDS)

### Understanding & Creating Pathways to Build the Local Healthy Food Value Chain in the Triangle J, Kerr-Tar, and Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments' Region

**Background:** Funded under the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the Triangle J, Kerr-Tar, and Upper Coastal Plain Councils of Governments (COG) have joined together in a unique 17 county partnership to help fulfill and leverage multiple opportunities emerging from continued and growing interest in the regional food sector.

**Goal:** The goal of Tri-COG FEEDS is to develop a regional food system model that builds upon food economy sectors in an effort to shorten supply chains, drive economic development, create quality jobs, enhance resilient practices, and foster equity in the local food system in the greater region. Counties covered in this initiative include: Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Wilson.

#### Objectives:



1. Build on partnerships among diverse stakeholders and community food system practitioners from each sector of the food system in the region



2. Examine the current local food system infrastructure including food production, aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, access and consumption.



3. Develop models to strengthen the regional food system that underline the importance of focusing on food system infrastructure as critical infrastructure



4. Recommend policies that place an emphasis on meeting the needs of, and creating opportunity for, small, marginalized, and underserved farmers, businesses and communities

#### Opportunities for Participation:

*Stakeholders and Advisory Group Members will have the ability to:*

- Express your vision for the regional food system in the Tri-COG region
- Join staff and local food system practitioners in shared learning on the projects, programs and policies already taking place across your county/region(s)
- Provide guidance on food system needs, opportunities and feasibility of various food system development models
- Collaborate with a diverse and impactful set of economic and community developers, planners, and food system specialists on a regional scale that include urban and rural perspectives

