

EQUITY WATCH

Policy, research, resources, and news related to minority and women's issues curated biweekly by the
Research, Policy & Impact Center**Apr 27th, 2023**

HOUSING

There's a 'flurry' of NC housing bills. What's in them, and what might pass?: Legislators in North Carolina have filed more than a dozen housing bills , covering areas such as tenant protection and affordable housing--[WFAE](#)

Charlotte City Council approves funding for affordable housing: Charlotte City Council has approved funding for affordable housing, with more than \$1 million going towards affordable housing in Charlotte -[Queen City News](#)

To help with affordable housing, NC lawmakers look to tiny homes: Legislators advanced House Bill 409, which would legalize construction of tinier homes in the yard or woods of existing homes -[WRAL News](#)

Rural communities in need of affordable housing options: Benson Green, an affordable housing complex in Johnston County provides equal housing opportunities to rural residents -[Spectrum News](#)

Wake County plans to bring hundreds of new affordable housing units: Wake County is working to bring hundreds of affordable housing units, with an increased focus on baby boomers. Wake County is Looking to build primarily one to three bedroom apartments with rent as low as \$500 a month . -[ABC 11](#)

Wake County recommends \$11.8 million to fund affordable housing: Wake County Leaders recommend \$11.8 million in funding for affordable housing projects in Cary, Knightdale, Raleigh & Rolesville. -[WRAL News](#)

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HEALTH

NC House lawmakers show bipartisan support for investing nearly \$1 billion in mental health programs: State House of Representative members in North Carolina are planning on rolling out a bill that would allocate \$1 billion to the state's mental health system - [NC Health News](#)

UNC-G takes aim at climate change with a carbon offset program that keeps the money local: Through the Spartan DRIVE Fund, UNC Greensboro plans to neutralize automobile emissions, targeting commuter students- [NC Health News](#)

More pregnant women need prenatal care in North Carolina's Border Belt. But how?: Robeson County is last in North Carolina counties for percentage of women who receive prenatal care, the state of North Carolina aims to have 80 percent of pregnant women to receive health care during their first trimester by 2030 . [- NC Health News](#)

NC experts, health care providers watch courts as access to abortion drug mifepristone is contested: Nearly 15,000 people in NC used medication for abortions in 2020; providers fear disallowing one of two drugs in the most-recommended regimen will drastically change the state's landscape of Health care. [- NC Health News](#)

Bill looks to make it easier to call for help when there's an overdose: Senate Bill 458 would offer protections and immunity to those who call for help during an overdose [- NC Health News](#)

Lawmakers, advocates push for action on maternal health bills: For the third legislative session in a row, Democratic lawmakers are pushing a series of state bills to address maternal health, especially Black maternal health disparities. [- NC Health News](#)

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SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE CONTRACTOR ANNOUNCES NEW MAINTENANCE FACILITY IN GREENSBORO:

Marshall USA LLC, Aerospace, a British aerospace and defense contractor, has announced it will invest \$50 million for a new planned maintenance inspection facility at Piedmont Triad Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina, creating 240 jobs in Guilford County.. [-edpnc](#)

State grant will be used to renovate EGGER Wood Products building: Davidson County has received a \$100,000 North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority grant for a local manufacturer's building renovation project, creating 21 jobs- [The Dispatch](#)

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY APPROVES NINE GRANTS- OVER \$49.5M IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT:

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority has approved nine grant requests to local governments totaling \$2,221,694. These grants are for projects that are committed to creating 191 jobs. [-edpnc](#)

GOVERNOR COOPER ANNOUNCES AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE COMPANY GREENSBORO EXPANSION:

TAT Piedmont Aviation, an aviation Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) company, will expand its operations near the Piedmont Triad International Airport and create 85 jobs. [-edpnc](#)

How Chatham County's megasite preparation is paying off: *Two of the largest economic development deals in North Carolina's history have gone to Chatham County and recently. The final deals came after years of hard work and money spent-* [Spectrum News](#)

Industrial Shredding Company Adds State-of-the-Art Facility in High Point Expansion:

Vecoplan, LLC, a manufacturer of industrial shredding equipment, will create 33 jobs in Guilford County. The company will invest \$6.75 million to locate a new manufacturing facility in High Point. [-NC Commerce](#)

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EDUCATION

Bill expanding N.C. private school vouchers to all students moves forward in Senate: Senate Bill 406, a bill that would expand the Opportunity Scholarship Program to all students regardless of income, has moved forward in Senate - [EdNC](#)

Under new NC bill, parents would have to OK sex ed in classrooms: The bill up for debate would state that, beginning when their child enters seventh grade, parents would have the chance to review what will be covered in any sex ed class. They would then have to opt-in for their children to attend those classes. - [WRAL News](#)

Wake school board begins discussion of budget plan for 23-24 with emphasis on staff pay: Wake County school board members are exploring increasing minimum wage higher than the \$17 per hour, while discussing the need to make budget cuts to the school system in the upcoming years. - [WRAL News](#)

Cooper wants more funding after grant helps recover pandemic learning losses: Governor Roy Cooper is urging state legislators to make major investments in education after seeing the results of a \$5 billion federal investment to North Carolina's public schools for pandemic impact. - [Spectrum News](#)

N.C. Assist launches guide to help college-bound students: The N.C. Assist Loan launched the Guide to Translating Financial Aid Award Letters campaign. Covering terms parents need to know like grants and scholarships, student loans, net price, cost of attendance, unmet need and more. - [Spectrum News](#)

Union County school board likely to vote on controversial policy revision : Union County's Board of Education will vote soon on a new policy critics say would further alienate LGBTQ+ students and staff in the county's public schools, keeping the classroom focus on curriculum and not social issues. - [Spectrum News](#)