

# EQUITY WATCH

Policy, research, resources, and news related to minority and women's issues curated biweekly by the  
**Research, Policy & Impact Center** ..... **May 30th, 2023**

## HOUSING

**Affordable housing project highlights Greensboro growing pains:** A rezoning request in Greensboro will bring 252 apartment units to a property on Summit Avenue, leaving residents concerned about traffic added to the two-lane roads. [-Fox News](#)

**Thousands waiting years for public housing assistance in North Carolina:** According to the Durham Housing Authority, 92% of its units are already occupied, with the average person waiting three years for a housing unit in Durham. [-ABC11](#)

**Millions marked to help build affordable homes in storm-struck North Carolina counties:** A total of \$47 million will be awarded by the fall of 2023. The funds will help increase the supply of safe and affordable housing to areas impacted by hurricanes Matthew and Florence. [-Spectrum News](#)

**Those with higher credit scores may pay higher mortgage fees:** The new federal rule will raise mortgage rates for homebuyers with high credit scores to make housing more affordable for those with limited incomes. [-ABC News](#)

**North Carolina Network turns unused church property into homes for refugees:** Organized through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, churches, office buildings, and youth clubhouses are being refurbished and made available to refugees. [-The Washington Post](#)

**UNC Health Proposes a \$5 Million Affordable Housing Fund for Chapel Hill:** UNC Health proposed a \$5 Million housing loan that could fund 500 to 1,000 units in Chapel Hill. [-ChapelBoro](#)

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## HEALTH

**Thousands face Medicaid whiplash in South Dakota and North Carolina:** About 300,000 North Carolinians are expected to be disenrolled from Medicaid on July 1st due to the recent Medicaid expansion. -[NCNewsline](#)

**Proposed Wake County mental health hospital aims to treat the whole person:** Wakemed has received \$12 million in government grants for a new mental health hospital in Garner, North Carolina. The hospital aims to combine mental and physical health services into whole-person treatment. -[NC Health News](#)

**North Carolina's abortion law makes it hard to travel for an abortion in the South:** As lawmakers in North Carolina and South Carolina impose new restrictions on abortions, options for women seeking to end a pregnancy in the South are quickly diminishing. -[NBC News](#)

**The Women of Hope New Living, a sober housing program is changing lives:** The Women of Hope New Living, a sober housing program in North Carolina provides housing and resources to women through a five-year program. -[Spectrum News](#)

**North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein raises concern about North Carolina youths' mental health:** Attorney General Josh Stein hosted a forum on May 8th to discuss threats to young people's mental health and well-being. -[NC Department of Justice](#)

**The Senate's \$29.8 Billion budget would revamp North Carolina's healthcare system:** North Carolina's Senate proposed budget for the next two fiscal years could significantly change the healthcare landscape across the alter. -[NC Health News](#)

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## SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **North Carolina Secretary of State visits the mountains to meet with small business owners:**

North Carolina Secretary of State visited Brevard, North Carolina, meeting with several small business owners to highlight the Rural Rise NC initiative. [-ABC News](#)

**Small Businesses could be required to accept cash under the new bill:** The Cash Commitment Act would ban extra charges to customers who pay with cash. [-WSOC-TV](#)

**Panthers partnering with small businesses in North Carolina:** Through a new initiative called the Small Business Partner Program, the Carolina Panthers will partner with small businesses throughout North Carolina. [-Fox Business](#)

**Expansion project energizes North Carolina economy:** Energizer Holdings, Inc will invest \$43 Million in an expansion of its Asheboro operations, adding 144 new jobs. [-Business Facilities](#)

**North Carolina Senate budget bill puts \$1.4 Billion behind rural advanced technology foundation:** NC Innovation, a nonprofit that utilizes regional hubs in rural North Carolina would gain up to \$1.425 billion in endowment funding from the 2023-24 state budget. - [News & Record](#)

**Agriculture in North Carolina reaches a historic milestone for economic impact:** North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced that the economic impact of agriculture in North Carolina hit a record \$103.2 billion. [-The Center Square](#)

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## EDUCATION

**Governor Roy Cooper declares a State of Emergency for public education:** Due to recent tax and education legislation from the North Carolina General Assembly, Governor Roy Cooper is urging voters to take immediate action. -[ABC 11 News](#)

**North Carolina bill would force accreditation changes for public colleges:** North Carolina's public institutions, including community colleges, would need to change accreditors every cycle- typically between every five to ten years. -[Higher Ed Dive](#)

**High School athletes in North Carolina can profit from NIL beginning July 1st:** North Carolina became the 28th state association in the country to pass a policy allowing high school athletes to profit off their name, image, and likeness. -[High School OT](#)

**Governor Roy Cooper announces the Building Bright Futures Apprenticeship initiative:** Announced by Governor Roy Cooper, the Building Bright Futures Apprenticeship initiative is committed to eliminating prohibitive costs and providing additional learning opportunities. -[NCBCE](#)

**Survey finds nine in ten North Carolina voters want more state investment in Child Care:** A survey from the North Carolina Chamber Foundation reveals that more than half of parents reported relying on friends, family, or neighbors to help provide child care because it's too expensive. -[The 74](#)

**State underfunding for North Carolina schools could shift the burden to homeowners:** State lawmakers are gambling on state tax cuts that could shrink funding for schools and shift the burden to homeowners. -[WFAE](#)