

EQUITY WATCH

Policy, research, resources, and news related to minority and women's issues curated biweekly by the
Research, Policy & Impact Center **July 11th, 2023**

HOUSING

New Report Rekindles Raleigh housing debate: A recent report by Zillow shows that the City of Raleigh is facing a housing deficit of approximately 17,000 units. [-ABC 11](#)

Teacher Housing Complex coming to Bertie County: The State Employees Credit Union is partnering to construct a teacher housing complex in Bertie County, facilitating teacher retention and offering affordable housing options in close proximity to their work. [-WITN](#)

North Carolina and Wake County renters are burdened by increasing prices: Half of North Carolinians are allocating 30 percent or more of their monthly income towards rent, as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports. This financial strain on housing expenses can create challenges in affording essential needs like food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. [-WRAL News](#)

U.S. to house migrant children in former North Carolina boarding school: In August, the Department of Health & Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement intends to establish housing for approximately 800 unaccompanied migrant children at a repurposed boarding school in Greensboro, North Carolina. [-CBS News](#)

Chapel Hill approves Source of Income Protections Policy: The Chapel Hill Town Council has approved a Source of Income Protections Policy, compelling housing developments to accept all lawful sources of income, such as housing choice vouchers, to prevent income-based discrimination and expand the availability of income-based housing subsidies. [-Chapel Hill Affordable Housing](#)

Affordable Housing Project in Rocky Mount could boost downtown development: The city of Rocky Mount is undertaking the construction of the Five Points Crossing Complex, an endeavor funded by the HUD Community Development Block Grant and the NC Housing Finance Agency. This project aims to enhance economic development and expand living opportunities in Rocky Mount by providing additional living spaces. [-WRAL News](#)

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HEALTH

North Carolina's 12-week abortion ban goes into effect: North Carolina has implemented a new law that restricts abortions to the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, reducing the previous limit of 20 weeks. However, physicians prescribing medication abortions are required to document the pregnancy in the patient's medical chart. [-ABC News](#)

Cooper vetoes bill that would restrict gender-affirming care for North Carolina minors: Governor Roy Cooper of North Carolina has utilized his veto power to oppose a bill that sought to prohibit gender-affirming care for transgender individuals under 18, encompassing procedures such as puberty blockers and surgery. However, it is anticipated that the veto will not withstand override efforts. [-WCNC](#)

Telehealth services still booming in North Carolina: North Carolina psychiatrists report a significant surge in remote mental health treatment since the pandemic, with a recent study by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology revealing that 87 percent of office-based physicians utilized telemedicine in 2021, a notable increase from 15 percent in 2018 and 2019. [-Spectrum News](#)

UNC-Chapel Hill launches a statewide program focused on improving mental health: Carolina Across 100 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has joined forces with the UNC Suicide Prevention Institute to actively reduce the incidence of suicides in North Carolina. [-UNC EDU](#)

CDC reveals new vaccine recommendations for COVID-19: In response to the XBB variant becoming the dominant strain driving new COVID-19 cases across the country, federal officials have voted to modify the COVID-19 vaccine specifically to target this variant. The objective of this decision is to encourage more individuals to receive a booster dose, ultimately aiming to bolster overall vaccination rates. [-ABC 11](#)

North Carolina man sees a big improvement in autoimmune disease after experimental treatment: A North Carolina man's autoimmune disease showed remarkable improvement following an experimental treatment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The clinical trial involved modifying some of the patient's cells to combat the disease, resulting in promising outcomes that offer hope for others facing similar conditions. [-Fox8](#)

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SMALL BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

North Carolina saw an influx of small businesses during the pandemic: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a substantial rise in small businesses in North Carolina, with 5,524 businesses relocating across state lines in 2020 compared to 3,677 in 2010. By 2021, this number further increased to 6,384, indicating a notable growth trend in small business migration to the state. [-The Carolina Journal](#)

Bigger and Better Business Expo coming to Durham: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated will host the Bigger and Better Business Expo at Durham Central Park on August 13th, showcasing a diverse array of small businesses and community organizations as vendors. The Expo, open to the public at no cost, offers an opportunity for attendees to explore and support local enterprises and community initiatives. [-CBS 17](#)

Downtown Durham launches women and minority-owned pop-up shops: Nicole J. Thompson, the leader of Downtown Durham INC, spearheads an initiative that offers small business owners the opportunity to lease a pop-up shop at the old MDC building in Downtown Durham for half the market rate. [-ABC 11](#)

Multi-award-winning black-owned barber shop from Virginia expanding into North Carolina: Emmanuel Brooks, owner, and operator of Stylez Unique Barber Salon is shifting locations across state lines to Ahoskie, North Carolina. [-Newsbreak](#)

Black-owned businesses seek to address racial wealth gap: A 2022 Federal Reserve report reveals that black-owned businesses were half as likely than white businesses to receive the full or requested amount of financing. Dorian Bolden, the owner of Beyu Caffe in Durham, North Carolina, emphasizes that securing funding was the most challenging aspect of expanding his business. [-ABC News](#)

Construction on Wilmington Port's \$22 million intermodal facility to start at the beginning of the new year: The North Carolina State Ports Authority is constructing a new intermodal facility in Wilmington, North Carolina, aimed at enhancing infrastructure conditions and fostering economic growth for the state's business community. [-North Carolina's Southeast](#)

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EDUCATION

UNCG School of Nursing awarded \$2.5 million: Through a grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Nursing will receive nearly \$2.6 million in order to educate and prepare more nurse practitioners to give primary care in underserved and rural communities. [-WFMY 2](#)

Governor Roy Cooper vetoes bill over charter school oversight: Governor Roy Cooper of North Carolina has exercised his veto power on House Bill 618, effectively blocking the proposal seeking to curtail the State Board of Education's jurisdiction and accountability over charter schools. [-NC Newsline](#)

UNC to start offering free tuition: Starting with the incoming 2024 undergraduate class, the University of North Carolina at Chapel will be, offering free tuition and fees to students hailing from North Carolina families with an annual income below \$80,000. [-ABC News](#)

CLT Foundation gives students \$100,000 in scholarships: The CLT Foundation, which provides financial grants to local high school students to help them pursue higher education has recently selected 21 students to receive college scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$12,500. [-WCNC](#)

North Carolina Education Board votes to update K-12 science standards: New science standards for K-12 students have been approved by the North Carolina State Board of Education, prioritizing hands-on learning and extending the science curriculum to accommodate students with disabilities. [-WRAL](#)

Alamance Community College expands Eagle ACCess Program with NC Central: In response to the increasing demand for life sciences in North Carolina, North Carolina Central University is collaborating with Alamance Community College to provide students with courses from their Bachelor of Science programs in Pharmaceutical Studies and Biomedical Studies. [-NCCU EDU](#)