



## Southwestern Commission

125 Bonnie Lane  
Sylva, NC 28779

Phone: 828.586.1962  
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[regiona.org](http://regiona.org)

### Housing and Economic Development:

#### Bridging the Gap

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Burrell Center, 447 College Drive

Southwestern Community College, Sylva, NC

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening Remarks:

*Sarah Thompson, Executive Director of the Southwestern Commission*

*Kenny Flowers, Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary of Rural Economic Development*

9:30 Housing 101 and Regional Housing Snapshot: *Tyran Hill, Local and Regional Policy Officer for North Carolina Housing Coalition*

9:45 Panel on perspectives in housing: *Moderated by Sarah Thompson, Executive Director of the Southwestern Commission*

- *Jay Spiro, Representative of the Carolina Smokies Association of Realtors*
- *Mike Byers, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance at Western Carolina University*
- *Brooks Robinson, General Manager for Harrahs Cherokee Casino*
- *Mike Poston, Planning Director for Jackson County*
- *Craig Stone, President of Wynnefield Properties, Inc.*
- *Anna Rogers, Self Help Housing/NC Options Counselor for Mountain Projects*

10:45 Break

11:00 *John Loyack, Vice President of Global Business Services for the Economic Development Partnership for North Carolina*

**Cherokee County**  
Andrews  
Murphy

**Clay County**  
Hayesville

**Graham County**  
Robbinsville  
Lake Santeetlah  
Fontana Dam

**Haywood County**  
Canton  
Clyde  
Maggie Valley  
Waynesville

**Jackson County**  
Dillsboro  
Forest Hills  
Sylva  
Webster

**Macon County**  
Franklin  
Highlands

**Swain County**  
Bryson City



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### 11:45 Lunch: Perspectives on Solutions for Workforce Housing in Rural communities

*Bob W. Cook, Field Office Director, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development*

### 12:45 Models of Success

- *Joy Strassel, Executive Director of Western N.C. Housing Partnership, Inc.*
- *Sarah Kimmey Grymes, Executive Director of the Housing Assistance Corporation*
- *Heath Seymour, Executive Director for Heart of Brevard*
- *David Francis, Program Administrator for Haywood County Economic Development*
- *Dale Wiggins, Graham County Commissioner*

### 2:00 Break

### 2:15 Federal and State Partners Forum: *Moderated by H. Philip Paradice, Jr., Regional Director for the Economic Development Administration*

- *Pam Hysong, NC Rural Development Area Director for U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- *Cindy Nolan, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Chief*
- *Jesse Day, Regional Planner for Piedmont Triad Regional Council and EPA Brownfields grant recipient who has used funds to promote housing*
- *Julian Hardy, U.S. Department of Labor*

### 3:15 Moving forward: *Rich Price, Chairman of the MountainWest Partnership*

### 3:30 Resource Fair: Participants have a chance to discuss specific projects with state and federal resource providers

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