

2014

Annual Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014



2014 Board of Commissioners



(Back row left to right)

Dan A. Hunsucker, C. Randall Isenhower

(Front row left to right)

Barbara G. Beatty - Vice Chair, Katherine W. "Kitty" Barnes - Chair, Lynn M. Lail

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In 1937, Catawba County became the third county in the State to adopt the council-manager form of government. The Board of Commissioners is comprised of a five-member board elected at large on staggered terms in a countywide election. The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making and legislative authority for the County. It is responsible for adopting the annual budget, approving zoning and planning issues and other matters related to the health and welfare of the County. The Board makes appointments to various boards and commissions and appoints the County Manager.

Catawba County Government

The County Manager is the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for enforcement of laws and ordinances, preparation and administration of the annual budget, delivery of services, implementing policies, managing daily operations and appointment of department heads. Catawba County provides its citizens with a broad range of services that include public safety, environmental protection, health and human services, cultural and recreational programs, community and economic development, and education.

Message from Management

Citizens of Catawba County:

We are proud to present the Catawba County Financial Highlights for fiscal year 2013-2014. This report is an opportunity to present the financial activity of Catawba County in an open and transparent manner.

In today's complex world of financial reporting, analyzing financial statements can be a challenge—especially for those without accounting backgrounds. This report was designed to address that issue by providing a recap of your County government's finances in an easy to read format.

The financial statements used in this report are simplified and condensed to reflect financial information regarding Catawba County's government-wide information. The County's government-wide financial statements provide information on revenues, expenses, and net position of Catawba County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

Most of the information in this report is drawn from the financial information appearing in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The CAFR is a more detailed and complete financial presentation prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and was audited by the County's independent external auditors. While the financial data in this report conforms with GAAP, the statistical, economic and demographic data are taken from various sources and are not necessarily GAAP based. Additional financial information can be found in the CAFR, available at Catawba County public libraries and online at www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/finance/.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact the Finance Director at (828) 465-8210, or write to: Finance Director, Catawba County, P.O. Box 389, Newton, NC 28658.



J. Thomas Lundy
J. THOMAS LUNDY
County Manager



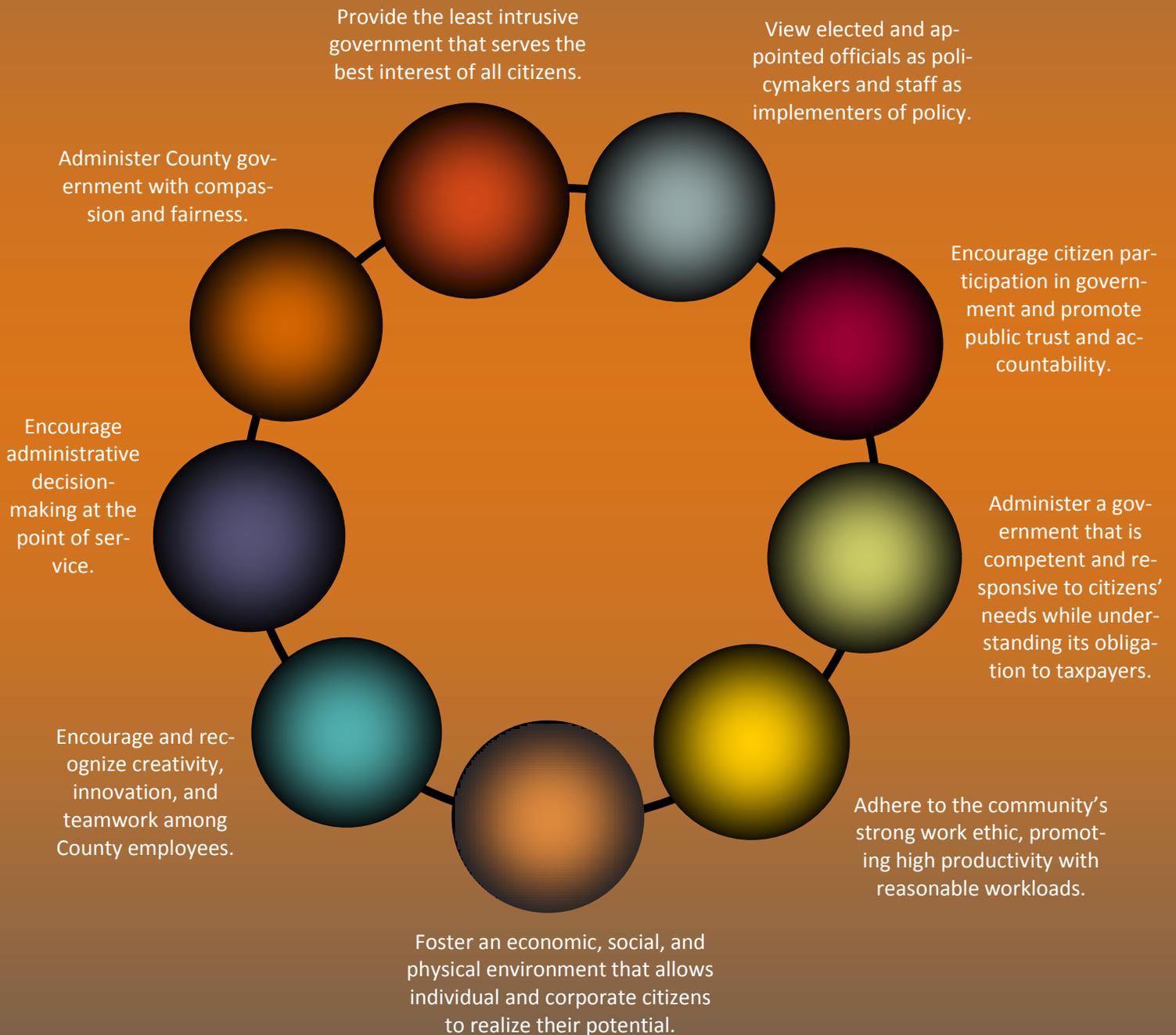
Rodney N. Miller
RODNEY N. MILLER
Finance Director

Condensed Financial Statement

The consolidated Financial Statements are presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). For a copy of the full 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report including audited Financial statements, which includes more detailed information, please contact Catawba County Finance at (828)465-8210 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov

Statement of Philosophy

Catawba County government provides necessary services to its citizens with honesty and professionalism at reasonable costs. Although the range of services is diverse, the following principles guide the efforts of Catawba County government.



About Catawba County

Located east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Catawba County is within an hour's drive of the Charlotte metropolitan area and its internationally recognized banking center and airport. The County's mid-Atlantic location is halfway between New York and Miami and includes a land of scenic beauty and diverse cultures with a large industrial workforce. Three beautiful lakes are located within its 414 square miles, and the Catawba River winds along its western, northern and eastern border.

Early Catawbans were German and Scotch-Irish, who initially settled in Pennsylvania and migrated to the south when converging factors of crowding and under-employment evolved. The County is named for the river and the Catawba Indians who settled in the valley and welcomed the first German and Scotch-Irish settlers who arrived in 1747.

Catawba County was officially established on December 12, 1842 when Lincoln County was divided by

Catawba County Principal Employers

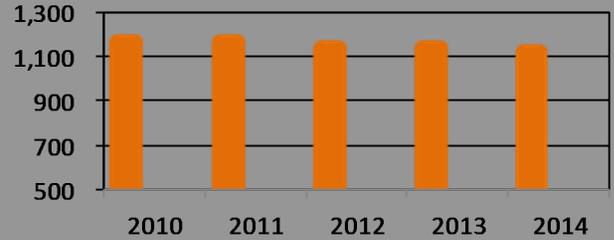
Catawba County Schools
 Catawba Valley Medical Center
 CommScope, Inc.
 Frye Regional Medical Center
 HSM Solutions (Hickory Springs)
 Catawba County Government
 Corning Cable Systems
 Heritage Home Group, LLC
 Sherrill Furniture

an act of the North Carolina General Assembly. The County has eight cities and towns and a population of 155,411, ranking 17th out of 100 counties in North Carolina.

Catawba County has it all—beautiful climate with four seasons that are distinct as they are mild, challenging places to

FACTS & FIGURES

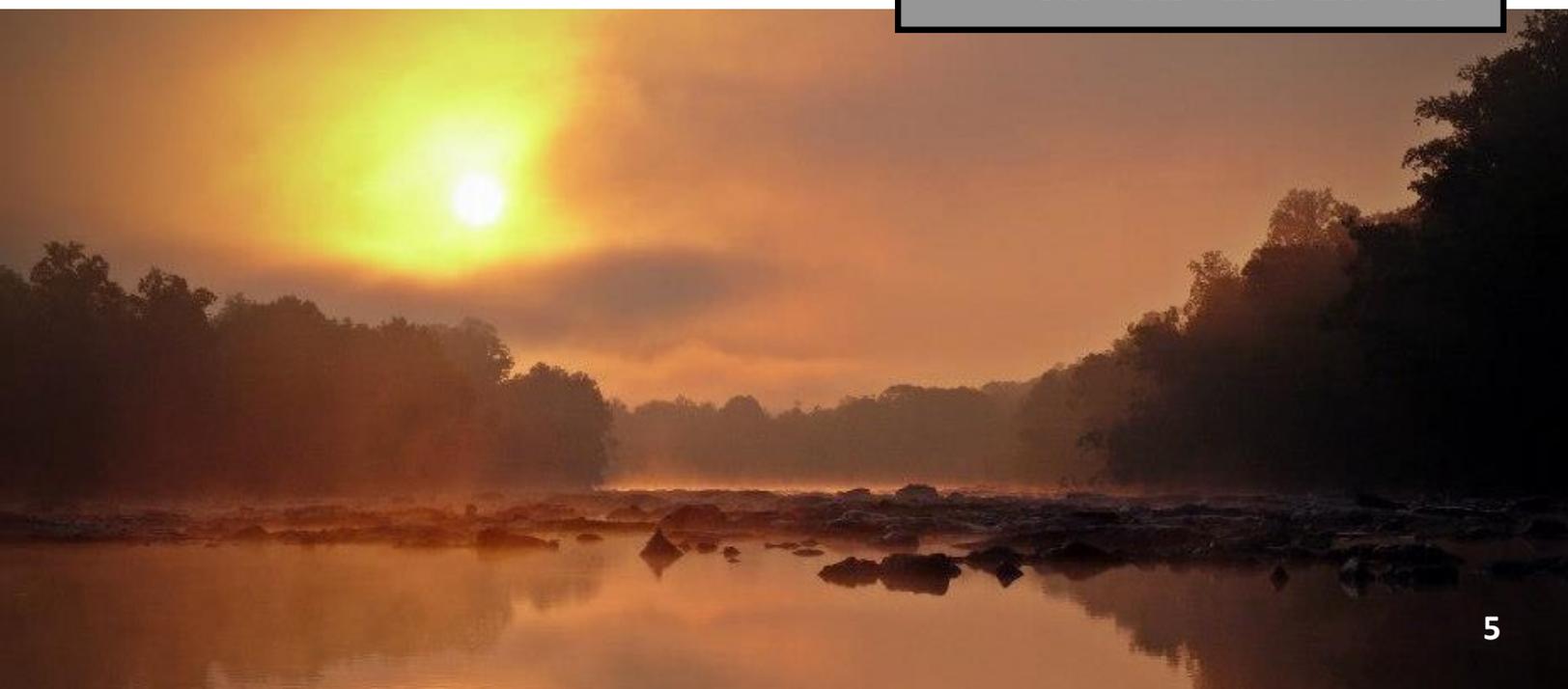
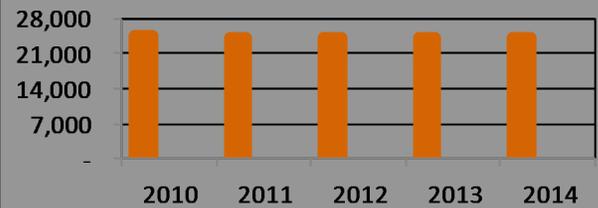
Full Time County Employees 2010-2014



	2010	2014
Population	159,013	155,411
Assessed Property Value	\$15.0 billion	\$16.0 billion
Debt per Citizen	\$736	\$1,068
Property Tax	\$0.535	\$0.530
Median Age	38.2	40.5
Labor Force	75,400	71,452

work, low cost of living, vast array of recreational opportunities, arts and culture and an unparalleled lifestyle. It is an ideal place to live, work, play, rear a family and retire.

School Enrollment 2010-2014



Economic Overview

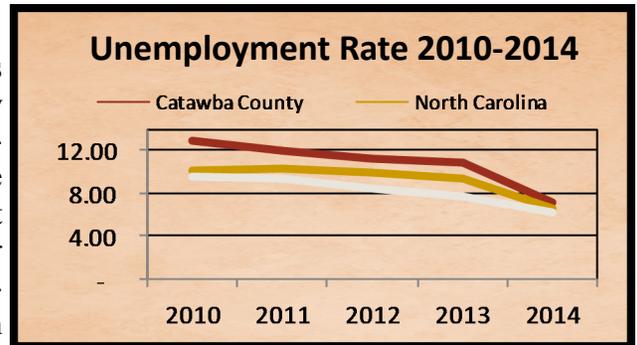
Local Economy

The local economy has improved significantly since the national recession ended in 2009. The decline in the unemployment rate has remained steady over the past two fiscal years ending in June from 11.3% in 2012 to 9.9% in 2013 to 7.1% in 2014.

The County remains a retail magnet for the region, capturing 60% of \$3 billion in retail sales from the four-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Though the County's population ranks 17th largest in North Carolina, its retail sales per capita ranks 13th highest out of 100 counties.

Economic Development

Catawba County continues working with the private sector, municipalities and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to attract new business, development and jobs.



The chart below highlights some successful projects for FY14. In the past year, the County has added more than \$270 million in new investment and 840 jobs.

Innovate Catawba

One recent economic development initiative currently in process is the result of the Southern Growth Policies Board, who was engaged by a group of Catawba County leaders and organizations to examine the community's current economic competitiveness and to develop a set of recommendations to move the community to where it wants to be in the



HSM SOLUTIONS HSM Solutions, formerly Hickory Springs Manufacturing is expanding its facility with a \$3.3 million investment and creating 162 new jobs.

Transportation Insight, a Hickory logistics company, plans to spend \$8 million to transform a downtown hosiery mill into its new headquarters with 50 new jobs. **Transportation Insight** Evaluate. Innovate. Dominate.

R&D Plastics R&D Plastics invested \$1.2 million to add a new production line and warehouse to their existing facility creating an additional 16 jobs.

CR Laine Furniture, a fixture in the community since 1958, has expanded its facilities by 42,000 square feet with a \$2.7 million investment and 50 new jobs. **CR LAINE** STYLE • COMFORT • COLOR

CornerStone United Cornerstone United, an international warranty company, is relocating and expanding its operations into the old Piedmont Wagon Co. building bringing 35 new jobs.

GKN Driveline, a manufacturer of automotive driveline components completed an expansion of \$122 million and the addition of 228 new jobs. **GKN Driveline**

CONVERGYS Convergys, a leader in customer management for over thirty years continues to expand with a current workforce of 750 employees in the county.

United Franchise Group, headquartered in West Palm Beach, Florida opened an internal sales office and distribution center investing \$750,000 and creating 47 jobs. **UNITED FRANCHISE GROUP** Internationally recognized brands

IFS Interstate Foam and Supply announced plans to build a 78,000 square foot facility investing \$4.7 million and creating 50 new jobs.



innovate CATAWBA

Economic Transformation Through Innovation

heights on 9.31 acres. Final build-out of the facility can be completed to a client's specifications within 120 days and the building will be expandable to 128,000 square feet. Catawba County, the City of Claremont, and the EDC's Committee of 100 will share the carrying costs on the shell building until sold (up to three years) and market the building both nationally and internationally to prospective clients.

future. Innovate Catawba is the culmination of their work where six workgroups have been created to spur future economic growth in the County.

- Inspiring Communities
- Reinventing Spaces
- Building Quality Shell Buildings and Parks
- Incubating Small Business and Encouraging Entrepreneurship
- Workforce Connectivity and Development
- Leading and Communicating

Claremont Spec Building

Catawba County, the City of Claremont and the EDC Committee of 100 have combined efforts to begin the first initiative for Innovate Catawba.

Matthews Construction is building the Claremont Spec Building, a 51,200 square foot pre-cast concrete structure with 28 to 32 foot ceiling



The NC Data Campus



Another strategy includes the formation of a multi-jurisdictional park, NC Data Campus, funded by various local governments in the County. The partnership has secured a \$2.6 million Community Development Block Grant from the NC Department of Commerce and is currently developing a 70-acre site in Conover.

This concept became successful with the announcement of the County's largest economic development project in history: Apple, Inc. invested \$1 billion in Maiden to construct a data center to house its iCloud suite of services. The NC Data Campus is being marketed for another data center similar to the Apple site.

The Greater Hickory Kia Classic



A community event based in Catawba County with positive economic impact is the Greater Hickory Kia Classic, a PGA Tour's Champions Tour golf event held at the



Rock Barn Golf and Spa in Conover that receives support from the business community and local governments. The 2014 event was the 12th consecutive year the tournament was held and broadcast on the Golf Channel that was available in 120 million homes worldwide and provides an estimated economic benefit of \$15 million to the County.

Education

Catawba County continues initiatives to improve the educational attainment of its citizens. The County continues to commit almost \$.50 of every local dollar towards education in three local school districts. Over the years, these efforts have funded increases in local teacher supplements, helping to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers in the County and funding much needed technology updates for all three school systems.

In April, U.S. News and World Report ranked Newton-Conover City Schools the 13th best high school in the State for its test scores. This was in addition to claiming the fifth lowest dropout rate in North Carolina. All three districts ended the year with graduation rates above the State of North Carolina average.

During FY14, the County completed the first three years of a funding plan constructing two new elementary schools, renovations to an existing middle school as well as



campus improvements at the community college.

Environmental Concern

The County has been a leader in environmental initiatives. In 1990 Catawba County was the first county in the state to offer curbside recycling to its citizens. In 2013, the County ranked 1st in the state out of 100 counties in the amount of recycling waste per capita, totaling approximately 50,000 tons.

The County's EcoComplex is a Regional Biosolids Processing Facility designed to improve the ecology of Catawba County and promote economic development by attracting jobs in the green energy, agricultural and environmental sectors.

Within the EcoComplex, a partnership was formed between the County and Appalachian State University (ASU) that led to



the completion of a Biodiesel Research, Development and Production Facility. The facility has a biodiesel production capacity of 100,000 gallons per year. Earlier this year, the County entered into a long-term lease with Blue Ridge Biofuels, who will produce a minimum of 1,750 gallons of fuel per week and partner with ASU to conduct research at the facility to test which feed stocks grow best in the local climate and produce the best oil for biodiesel.

Medical

The County is also a major medical hub with two large medical centers, one county-owned and both profitable.

Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC), the region's largest public healthcare system completed its second phase of expansion in 2013, which included the construction of a five-story addition totaling \$34 million for a Women's and Oncology Pavilion, providing centralized space for cancer treatment as well as for labor and delivery.

The medical center has received multiple awards over the last few years:

- Women's Choice Award Best 100 Hospitals for Patient Experience in 2012, 2013 and 2014
- One of America's Best Hospitals for Patient Experience in Obstetrics and Orthopedics in 2013 & 2014 by WomenCertified
- 2013 & 2014 QUEST Award for High-Value Healthcare from Premier



Frye Regional Medical Center is home to The Heart Center, the most extensive array of cardiology services in the region and the only one that has full service cardiology and on-site heart surgery, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Frye Regional received numerous awards for its services to the community:

- Heart Failure Gold-Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association in 2014
- Received top grade in Leapfrog Group's Fall 2014 Safety Score for continued safe, high-quality healthcare
- Women's Choice Award for Excellence in Orthopedics in 2013



Financial Highlights

The statement of activities reports revenue by source using government-wide reporting standards. To assist the reader in understanding what makes up the various sources referenced, we have provided the following detailed listing.

Where the Money Comes From:	
Property Taxes	93,649,723
Sales and other Taxes	31,179,114
Operating Grants	30,004,966
Charges for Services	25,017,036
Capital Grants	2,419,166
Investment Earnings	1,777,279

General Revenues

Property taxes, sales and use taxes and investment earnings

Program Revenues

Operating Grants

State, federal, other government and private contributions to fund specific programs

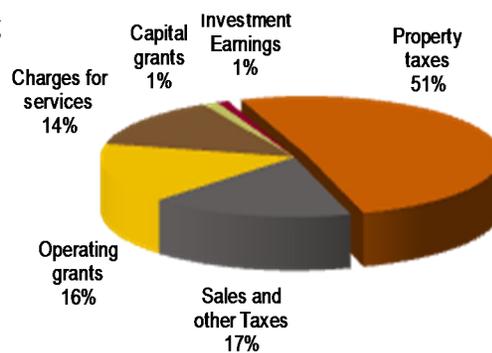
Charges for Services

Assessment and tax collection fees, auditing and accounting fees, communication services, legal services, planning and engineering services, animal control fees, law enforcement services, recording fees, health fees, business licenses, construction permits, zoning permits, other licenses and permits, fines and forfeitures, penalties on delinquent taxes, tax garnishment fees and election, parks, library and solid-waste fees

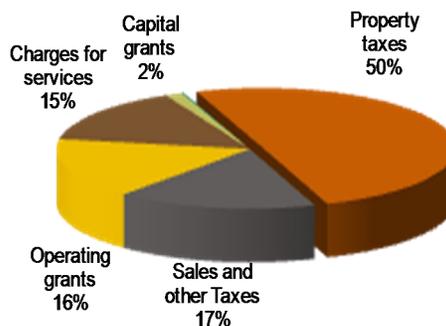
Capital Grants

State, federal, other government and private contributions to fund capital purchases for specific programs

2014 Revenues by Source
(General & Program Revenues)



2013 Revenues by Source
(General & Program Revenues)



Top 10 Taxpayers

12.57% of the County's assessed value:

- Apple, Inc.
- Duke Energy Corporation
- GKN Driveline Newton, LLC
- Target Corporation
- CommScope, Inc.
- Draka Comteq Americas, Inc.
- Amireit (Frye) Inc.
- Corning Cable Systems
- HSM Solutions
- Valley Hills Mall, LLC

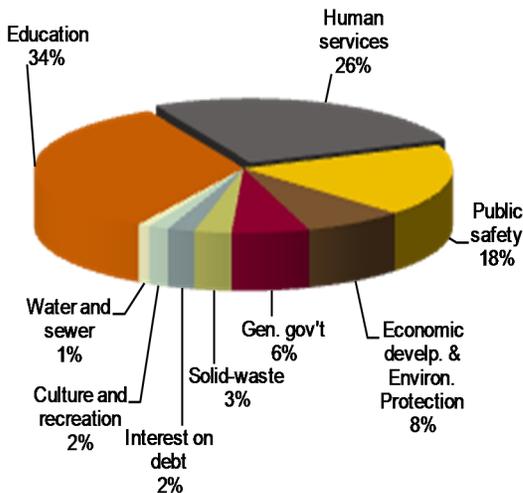


Where the Money was Spent:

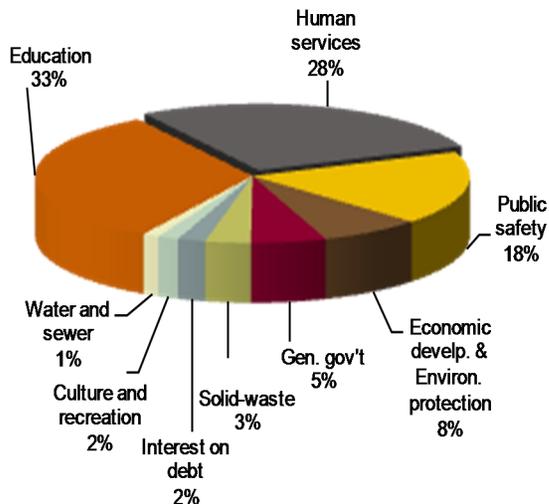
Education	61,843,087
Human Services	47,935,422
Public Safety	32,732,323
Economic Develop./Environ. Protection	14,030,676
General Government	10,807,772
Solid Waste Management	5,166,963
Interest on long-term debt	3,774,279
Culture & Recreation	2,847,558
Water & Sewer	1,612,849

The County incurs a number of expenses to provide a variety of quality services to its citizens. The following list provides details to define what County departments are included in each of the functional categories listed in the statement of activities.

2014 Expenses by Function



2013 Expenses by Function



Expenses by Function

Education

Catawba County Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools, Hickory City Schools and Catawba Valley Community College

Human Services

Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Medical Examiner

Public Safety

Sheriff, Emergency Services, Fire/Rescue Services, Veterans Services, Animal Control, E911 Communication Center

Economic Development & Planning

Planning & Zoning, County Parks, Utilities & Engineering and Facilities

Environmental Protection

Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation and Forest Ranger

General Government

County Manager, Board of Commissioners, Legal Services, Budget, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Board of Elections, Human Resources, Self Insurance, Register of Deeds, Finance, Purchasing

Solid Waste Management

Blackburn Landfill, Recycling, Convenience Centers, Household Hazardous Waste and Methane Recovery

Culture and Recreation

County Branch Libraries and other cultural activities

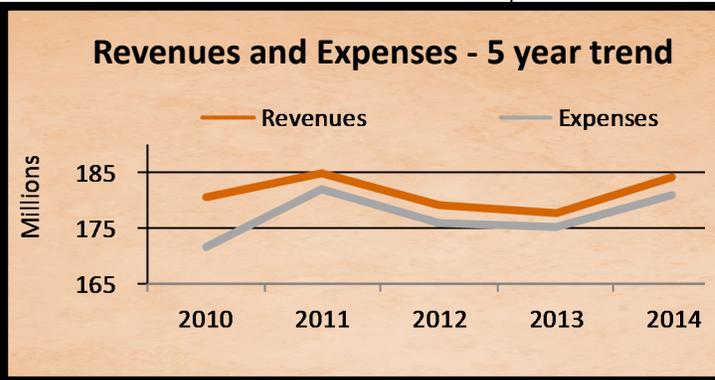
Government-wide financial statements provide financial information about the County as a whole. These statements distinguish between two types: governmental and business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes and other general revenue sources while business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for the services provided.

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the County's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event oc-

curs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (such as revenues pertaining to uncollected taxes or expenditures pertaining to earned but unused vacation and sick leave).

the State has eroded funding to schools and community colleges over the past several years, Catawba County has remained steadfast in its commitment to education.

Catawba County continues to make strategic investments in services that contribute to the quality of life that citizens of the County have come to expect.



The Statement of Net Position presents information on all of the County's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference reported as net position.

Over time, an increase or decrease in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the County is improving or deteriorating.

The County's total net position increased \$1,526,140 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The following paragraphs detail the components of net position and their respective fiscal year-end balances.

Net Investment in capital assets represents \$123,240,789 of the County's total net position for fiscal year 2014. This consists of land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, machinery, equipment, vehicles and construction in progress, net of accumulated depreciation, and reduced by any debt attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of the assets. The County uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

Although the County's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted

Statement of Activities Primary Government

	2014	2013	Change
REVENUES:			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 25,017,036	\$ 27,071,848	\$(2,054,812)
Operating grants	30,004,966	29,226,520	778,446
Capital grants	2,419,166	2,591,861	(172,695)
General revenues:			
Property taxes	93,649,723	89,347,893	4,301,830
Sales and other taxes	31,179,114	29,781,350	1,397,764
Investment earnings	1,777,279	(278,527)	2,055,806
Gain (loss) on sale of capital asset	-	(3,302)	3,302
Total revenues	184,047,284	177,737,643	6,309,641
EXPENSES:			
General government	10,807,772	9,760,225	1,047,547
Public safety	32,732,323	31,236,944	1,495,379
Environmental protection	492,269	508,073	(15,804)
Economic and physical development	13,538,407	12,780,487	757,920
Human services	47,935,422	48,863,130	(927,708)
Cultural and recreation	2,847,558	2,776,547	71,011
Education	61,843,087	57,519,210	4,323,877
Interest on long-term debt	3,774,279	3,602,099	172,180
Solid waste management	5,166,963	5,927,016	(760,053)
Water and sewer	1,612,849	2,090,105	(477,256)
Total expense	180,750,929	175,063,836	5,687,093
Change in net position	3,296,355	2,673,807	622,548
Net Position, Beginning, previously reported	157,844,945	155,373,915	2,471,030
Restatement	(1,770,215)	(202,777)	(1,567,438)
Net Position, Beginning, restated	156,074,730	155,171,138	903,592
Net Position, Ending	\$ 159,371,085	\$ 157,844,945	\$ 1,526,140

The Statement of Activities shows that the most significant variances in revenues were: a decrease in charges for services of \$2 million; an increase in property tax revenues of \$4.3 million and finally an increase in investment earnings of \$2 million.

The most significant variances in expenses on the Statement of Activities are: (1) an increase in education expenses of \$4.3 million, (2) increase in public safety expenses of \$1.5 million, and (3) a decrease in solid waste management expenses of \$760,000. As

**Statement of Net Position
Primary Government**

	2014	2013	Change
ASSETS:			
Current and other assets	\$203,572,688	\$206,908,240	\$ (3,335,552)
Capital assets	156,056,566	143,217,845	12,838,721
Total assets	359,629,254	350,126,085	9,503,169
Deferred outflows of resources			
	3,281,171	3,619,161	(337,990)
LIABILITIES:			
Long-term liabilities	187,999,409	180,799,760	7,199,649
Other liabilities	14,921,521	14,123,156	798,365
Total liabilities	202,920,930	194,922,916	7,998,014
Deferred inflows of resources			
	618,410	977,385	(358,975)
NET POSITION:			
Net investment in capital assets	123,240,789	124,365,542	(1,124,753)
Restricted	61,304,988	50,910,338	10,394,650
Unrestricted (deficit)	(25,174,692)	(17,430,935)	(7,743,757)
Total net position	\$159,371,085	\$157,844,945	\$ 1,526,140

counts for \$(25,174,692) of the total net position for fiscal year 2014. Unrestricted net position includes both monies set aside as protection against unexpected events and monies earmarked to fulfill commitments to an activity

discretionary purposes.

Outstanding long-term debt consists of general obligation bonds, installment purchases, certificates of participation and federal revolving loans. The outstanding debt obligations consist of the following purposes: Education, Public Safety Jail Expansion, Water and Sewer Projects and Economic Development Data Center.

Catawba County maintained for the 5th consecutive year its Aaa bond rating from Moody's Investors Service and for the 10th consecutive year, its AA rating from Standard and Poor's. These strong ratings allow the County to issue debt, vital to the County infrastructure, at a lower

cost and reflect the sound financial condition of the County.

North Carolina general statutes limit the amount of debt that a unit of local government can issue. The

County's total debt outstanding is \$166,012,319 compared to the legal debt limit of \$1,336,048,179 or 12% of the legal debt limit.

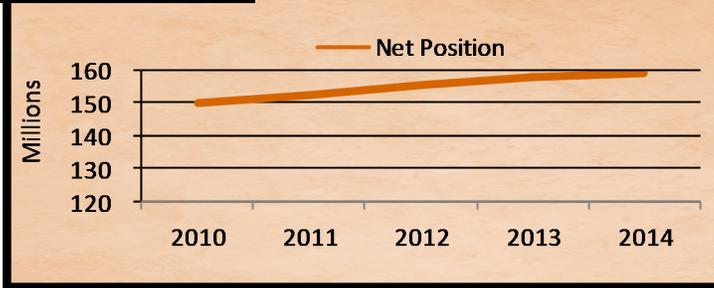
that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

Restricted net position accounts for \$61,304,988 of the County's total net position for fiscal year 2014. This component of net position represents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments or through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

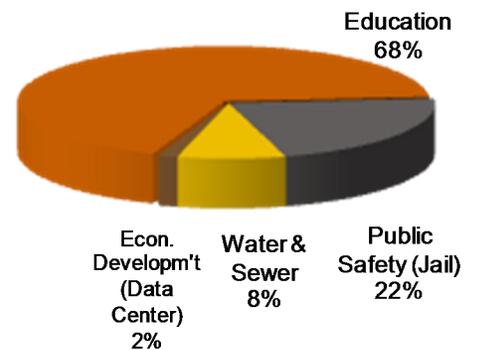
Unrestricted net position ac-

that is already underway or soon to begin. The unrestricted net position is negative which means the County must meet its ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors from future revenues. A negative balance indicates that no funds were available

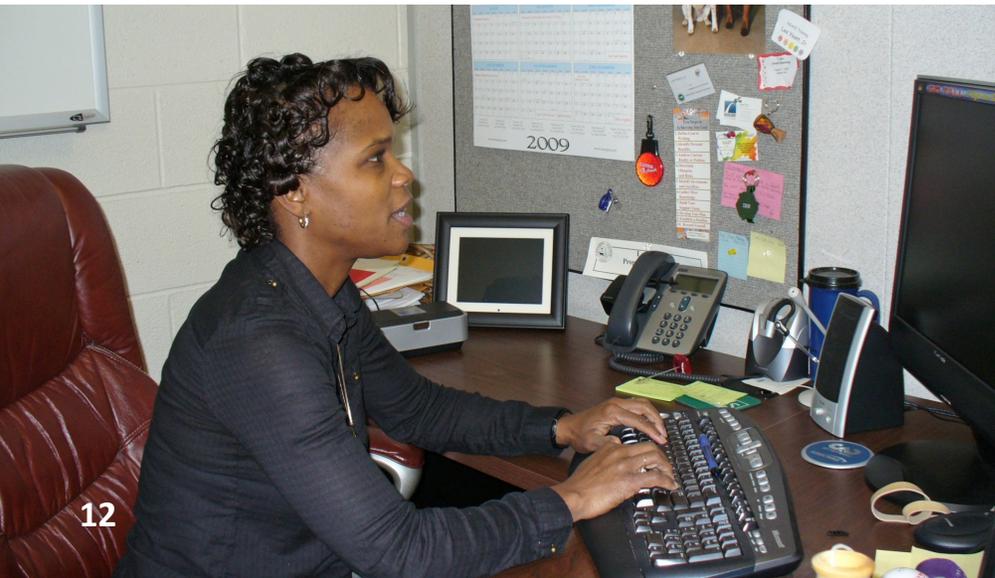
Net Position - 5 year trend



Uses of Outstanding Debt 2014



**2014 debt per capita:
\$1,068**



Capital Investment

Catawba County continues strategic investments in the high priority areas of education, public safety, economic development and quality of life.

As of June 30, 2014, the County's capital assets for both its governmental and business-type activities amounted to \$89,902,655 in depreciable assets (net of depreciation) and \$53,315,190 in nondepreciable assets. The capital assets include land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, machinery, equipment, vehicles and construction in progress.

Below are highlights of a few major projects in progress or completed in fiscal year 2014.

Longview Elementary School (\$11 million)



Construction of a new elementary school began in 2012. Construction was completed and the school welcomed its' first students for the 2014/2015 school year. The new school replaces the current Longview Elementary School, which was constructed in 1956 and is the oldest school in the district.

Water and Sewer Projects (\$38 million)

The Board of Commissioners continues the policy of setting aside funds, one cent of the property tax rate, to be used for strategic water and sewer projects throughout the county. Those funds, along with additional sales tax revenues will help fund water and sewer needs identified over the next eight years.

Sherrills Ford Branch Library (\$3 million)

During 2014, the new 10,030 square foot Sherrills Ford Library opened to patrons in the fastest growing region of the County. This new building replaces a 39-year old library with more than double the





space for library services. Designed to promote flexibility for the library patron, it offers two self-checkout stations, mobile bookshelves, and no centralized circulation desk.

In addition to traditional library functions, the larger space serves as a community center. A multipurpose/meeting room is available for community meeting use, which can be configured to hold as many as 80 people. Ideal for community events it includes its own storage room, kitchenette, and entrances/exits.

South Newton (\$11 million)

In 2014, a new elementary school at the current South Newton Elementary site opened its doors to

students. The school serves 400-450 students and contains 22 new classrooms, computer lab, 2 exceptional children self contained rooms, 4 small resource rooms, music room, art room, gym, new library and cafeteria.

Justice Center Expansion (\$40 million)



Construction is underway to expand the County's Justice Center to include the addition of new court-

rooms, a new 911 Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center. A completion date is anticipated for late 2016.



Animal Shelter (\$4.2 million)

The County opened a new animal shelter in June 2014 with space for 233 animals, a drive through

“sally port” for animal intakes, separate intake and adoption areas, indoor/outdoor runs and a design-

ated quarantine area.

The County contracted with the Humane Society, as a public/private partnership, to assist with adoptions. To improve the adoption experience, the new shelter also includes an indoor adoption area to allow potential pet adopters to spend time with the animals prior to adoption.

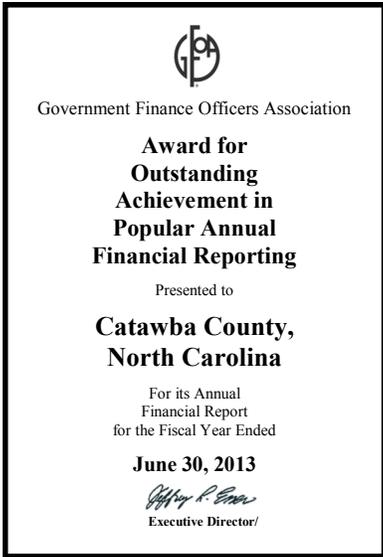


Achievements

Catawba County is known across the nation as the home of an innovative county government. Our innovation is reflected in numerous awards. These awards are won in competition with thousands of other outstanding programs across the state and nation. Here are several of the most significant awards for FY2014.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given an **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting** to Catawba County for its

Annual Financial Highlights report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. This is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. Catawba County has received this award for the last five consecutive years. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements and we are submitting it to GFOA.



The North Carolina State Treasurer's Governmental **Award for Excellence in Accounting and Financial Management**, presented to Catawba County Finance Office for the ways in which that office improved "efficiency in accounting through its use of electronic processing and storage of accounts payable files, including supporting documentation."

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada presented the Finance Office the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** for the creation of an easily readable and understandable comprehensive annual financial report covering all funds and financial transactions. This is the 32nd consecutive year in which Catawba County has won the award.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) **Achievement Awards for the Public Health Farmers Market**, a partnership with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. The market's goal is to improve individual and commu-



Photo courtesy of ©2013 Pat Appleson Studios, Inc.



nity health by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables. WIC clients receive Farmer's Market vouchers to supplement their WIC food benefits with fresh, local produce during the summer months.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) **Community Sustainability Program Excellence Award** was presented to the Immigrant Agriculture Program, a cooperative effort of Catawba County Government, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension-Catawba County and the Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina A&T State University, which works primarily with Hmong farmers living in Catawba County to help them become more successful in growing and marketing their produce.



The National Association of Counties (NACo) **Achievement Award for the Remote Access Permitting Terminal or RAPT**, which provides real-time interaction between a citizen needing a permit at

Hickory City Hall and a Permit Center Specialist located in the Catawba County Government Center in Newton. Using video conferencing technology, RAPT gives citizens and contractors seamless interaction with Permit Center staff without the added time and expense of traveling from Hickory to Newton to conduct business.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada presented the Budget Office the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for the development of an easily understood budget document which can be used by other governmental units or the average citizen.



The County's Website is your source for information about County policies, services and events 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit www.catawbacountync.gov and find information on employment opportunities, com-

munity events, Board of Commissioner agendas, meeting schedules, operating hours, tax information and much more.



My Catawba County Mobile App

Residents can also take advantage of many online services:

- Pay a tax bill 
- Search the County library catalog 
- Pay permit fee
- Sign up for e-news
- Subscribe to the County newsletter 
- Review your property information
- Sign up for community alert system
- Use the online deed search
- Find the County on Facebook
- Follow Catawba County on Twitter 
- Sign up for RSS feeds 
- Access County forms...and more!

Finance Department

For more information on financial matters of Catawba County, please call the Finance Department at (828) 465-8210.

