

# Catawba County, North Carolina

## 2015

Annual Financial Highlights  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015



# 2015 Board of Commissioners



*(Back row left to right)*

*Sherry E. Butler, Katherine W. "Kitty" Barnes, Barbara G. Beatty - Vice Chair*

*(Front row left to right)*

*Dan A. Hunsucker, C. Randall Isenhower - Chair*

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**I**n 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 2014-2015. 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, 2015.

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, 2015. 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/](http://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



*Jeanne C. Jarrett*  
**JEANNE C. JARRETT**  
Interim 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 2015 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](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)

# About Catawba County

The center of the Greater Hickory metropolitan statistical area, Catawba County is conveniently located within a 1-hour drive to Charlotte, Asheville, and Winston-Salem, and affords easy access to both Interstate 40 and Highway 321. 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. Named for the Catawba Indians who resided in the area prior to European settlement in 1747, Catawba County (established in 1842) encompasses a 414-square mile area and is located in a peaceful valley just east of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

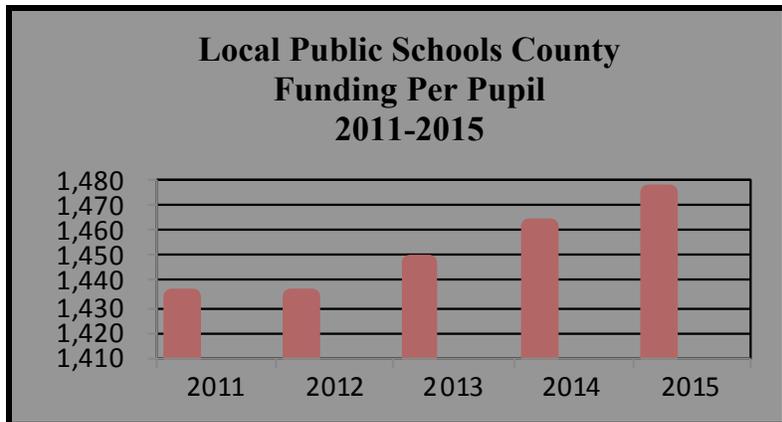


## FACTS & FIGURES

### Catawba County Top 10 Employers

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

	2015
Population	155,832
Assessed Property Value	\$16.6 billion
Debt per Citizen	\$976
Property Tax	\$0.530
Median Age	40.7
Labor Force	74,316



Trauma simulation at Catawba Valley Simulated Hospital, the largest of its kind east of the Mississippi



Weather testing equipment for polymers at the Manufacturing Solutions Center



Racks of servers located in Apple's East Coast Data Center in Maiden

# Economic Overview

## Local Economy

The local economy has improved significantly since the national recession ended in 2009. Catawba County's unemployment rate, 6.0% in June 2015, has dropped below pre-recession levels. Recently released unemployment figures for September 2015 show this improvement continuing, dropping to 5.3% as compared to 5.4% for the State of North Carolina and 4.9% nationally.

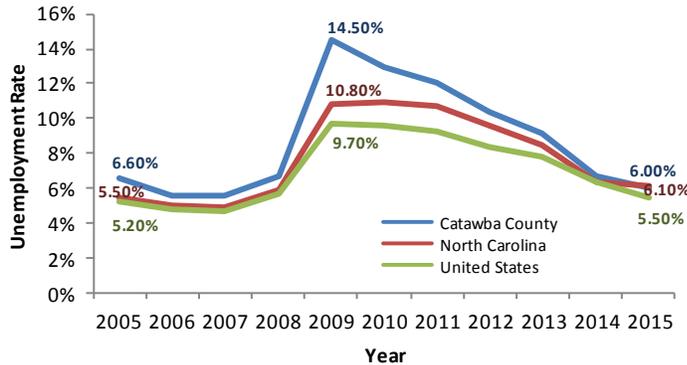
The County remains a retail magnet for the region, capturing 59.7% of the \$3.3 billion in retail sales from the four-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Though the County's population ranks 17th largest in North Carolina, its retail sales per capita ranks 13th highest out of 100 counties.

## Economic Development

Catawba County continues working with the private sector, municipalities and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to attract new business, development and jobs. In the past year, the County has added more than \$261.5 million in new investment and 864 new jobs. The County continues to actively recruit and attract targeted national and international companies with a focus on higher-wage industries like information, Emerging & Alternative Energy, and Advanced Manufacturing.

The chart highlights some successful projects for FY15.

Unemployment rate hits 11-year low.



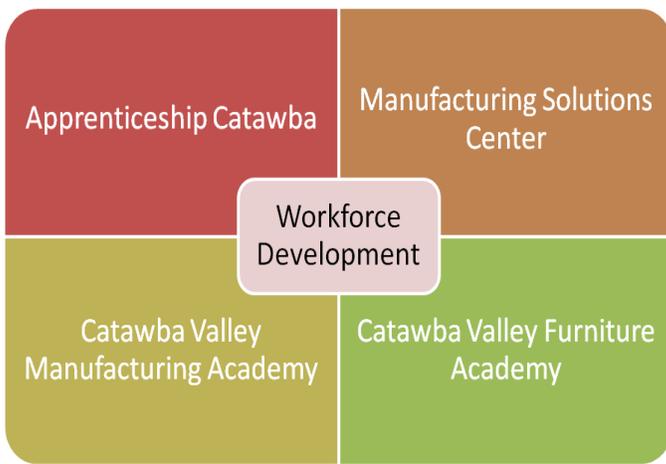
## Deliberately Driving Workforce Development

While Catawba County's economy is built upon a large industrial base, growth in five key sectors has resulted in a more balanced economic composition today than what existed a decade ago. Building upon the core strengths of the local economy, Catawba County has made significant strides in preparing its workforce with the skills to meet current and future labor needs of local employers.

Partnerships between local governments, the business community, public education institutions, and industry-specific resources have institutionalized a

-  **Apple, Inc.** increased its investment by over \$100 million. To date, Apple has added \$1 billion in real and personal property and alternate energy systems to the County's tax base.
-  **Blue Bloodhound, LLC**, a logistics-based technology company specializing in mobile web applications will create 191 new jobs with an annual salary of \$46,368 by 2018.
-  **GKN Driveline**, the world's leading supplier of automotive driveline components, broke ground on a \$122 million expansion that will bring 228 new jobs.
-  **Republic Services**, a waste management and recycling service, expanded its Conover Recycling Facility, investing over \$10 million.
-  **Strata Solar** has invested over \$15 million in a new solar farm in Newton bringing its total number of solar farms to three, with a total investment of \$45 million.
-  **Sutter Street Manufacturing**, a local division of Williams-Sonoma, added new equipment valued at \$1.6 million to their Claremont facility.
-  **Transportation Insight**, a Hickory logistics company, invested \$8 million to restore a downtown hosiery mill for its headquarters, adding 50 new jobs.





## The Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC)

MSC is a branch of Catawba Valley Community College which focuses on helping manufacturers increase sales, and improve product quality and production efficiency.

To assist manufacturers, MSC develops marketing materials, identifies new or expanded export opportunities, and positions companies to market products at trades shows.

MSC was recognized by the US Department of Commerce as one of the top economic job creation programs.

full-spectrum approach to aligning local talent with available jobs. Several key initiatives that have emerged from these partnerships are highlighted below.

### Apprenticeship Catawba

Based on the German apprenticeship model and accredited by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, this 4-year program ensures students are career-ready at graduation by providing 8,000 hours of paid on-the-job training that counts towards an Associates' Degree in Mechatronics Engineering Technology or Computer Integrated Machining Technology from Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC). Not only do students leave the program with degrees, but they do so without incurring any college debt and employed full-time by the sponsoring company, earning at least \$34,000 per year.

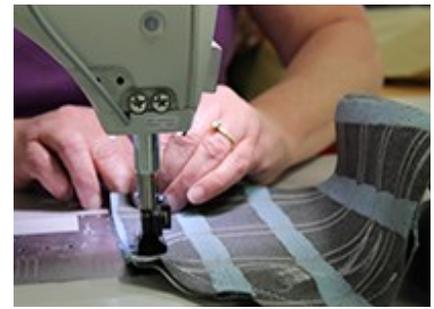


### The Catawba Valley Manufacturing Academy

is an industry-driven training course designed with input and expertise from 29 local manufacturers to prepare students for high-demand manufacturing positions (such as machinists and maintenance technicians) with the region's largest employers.

### Catawba Valley Furniture Academy

Housed within CVCC, is an industry-driven training program designed in partnership with 5 major local furniture manufacturers to prepare students for high-demand skilled positions in the local area. Depending on specialization, graduates of the Academy have the potential to secure jobs earning up to \$62,400, which is 53%



above the County's average wage. In acknowledgement of this program's success, the Furniture Academy earned a 2015 Governor's Award for Excellence.

The Furniture Academy has been such a success that CVCC is moving the program to a larger location with the help of a \$200,000 commitment from local furniture companies and \$675,000 from the County. The expanded location will serve up to 66 students per session, as opposed to the current 25. On average, there have been 100 people on the waiting list at any given time, demonstrating the strong employment demand generated by the furniture industry.



### The NC Data Campus

Another economic diversification strategy includes the formation of a multi-jurisdictional park, NC Data Campus, funded by various local governments in the County. The partnership secured a \$2.6 million Community Development Block Grant from the NC Department of Commerce to build up to three shovel-ready sites mar-



keted primarily for data center recruitment.

This concept became success 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.



### Innovate Catawba

In early 2013, in order to speed economic recovery and to enhance the community's capacity across all sectors, a group of community leaders came together to develop a vision for the future of Catawba County. 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 & Parks
- Incubating Small Business and Encouraging Entrepreneurship
- Workforce Connectivity and Development
- Leading and Communicating



OVERALL PROPOSED 1764 PARK SITE

### Park 1764

Park 1764 is a 170-acre Class A Business Park being developed in partnership between Catawba County and the City of Hickory. Development of the Park will occur incrementally. The County recently committed \$700,000 to provide water and sewer to the site. The Park will target the creation of job opportunities in advanced light manufacturing facilities, technical operations, and corporate headquarters. The vision



for the site integrates amenities such as walking / cycling trails, gardens, and conservation easements, appealing

to business prospects in a corporate, up-scale environment.

### Education

Catawba County continues initiatives to improve the education attainment of its citizens. The County commits almost 49 cents of every property and sales tax dollar towards education. This funding commitment has supported such initiatives as in-

creasing local teacher supplements to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers and funding critical technology updates for all three school systems.

Results of these efforts are paying off with all three public school districts achieving above average measurable objectives. Newton-Conover City Schools

had the highest graduation rate in the State at 97.1% compared to the statewide average of 85.6%. Catawba County Schools' rate was 89.8% and Hickory Public Schools was 83.9%-the highest in the history of the school system for the second year in a row.

### Environmental Concern

The County has been a leader in environmental initiatives. Catawba County was the first county in the state to offer curbside recycling to its citizens. In 2014, Catawba County ranked #1 in the state, out of 100 counties, for total public recycling per capita, recycling an average of 507.55 pounds per person.

The County's EcoComplex is a Regional Biosolids Processing Facility designed to improve the





**CATAWBA COUNTY EcoComplex**

ecology of Catawba County and promote economic development by attracting jobs in the green energy, agricultural and environmental sectors.

In 2014, the County leased the biodiesel facility to Blue Ridge Biofuels in a move that will generate consistent revenue for the County while increasing the company's biodiesel production capacity from 500,000 gallons a year to 3 million gallons a year starting in 2017.

**Medical**

Well positioned to meet the future medical and health care needs of its citizens, the County is home to a prospering medical and healthcare community and two large medical centers.

**Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC)**, the region's largest public healthcare system



recently completed a \$58 million expansion and renovation of its surgical suite, adding three new operating rooms and updating technology in existing rooms.

In 2014, CVMC became the first in the region to offer the new CardioMEMS implant device, part of a communications system for heart failure patients designed to wirelessly transmit critical patient information about heart status to clinicians on a regular basis.

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

- Women's Choice Award - Best 100 Hospitals for Patient Experience (each year, 2012-2015)
- Women's Choice Award - one of America's Best Hospitals for Orthopedics (each year, 2013-2015)
- First hospital in the State to receive four Magnet designations from American Nurses Credentialing Center (2014)
- Achieved Accredited Chest Pain Center status by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (2015)

**Frye Regional Medical Center**, the County's third largest employer, is a private hospital that has served the community for over 100 years.

The Heart Center at Frye is home to the most extensive array of cardiology services in the region offering full service cardiology and on-site heart surgery, 24 hours a day, sev-



en days a week.

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

- Women's Choice Award for Excellence in Obstetrics (2014, 2015)
- Women's Choice Award for Excellence in Heart Care (2015)
- Heart Failure Gold-Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association (2014)
- Ranked #1 in North Carolina and in top 5% of US hospitals for cardiac surgery and patient safety by Health Grades, a leading independent healthcare ratings organization.

Subsequent to the end of the fiscal year, Frye Regional Medical Center was acquired by Duke LifePoint. This acquisition is not expected to significantly impact the facility's operations within Catawba County.

# 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 .....	94,200,605
Operating grants .....	37,835,962
Sales and other Taxes .....	33,378,711
Charges for Services .....	24,532,938
Investment Earnings .....	1,452,785
Capital Grants .....	611,732

### 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, penalties on delinquent taxes, tax garnishment fees and election, parks, library and solid-waste fees.

#### Capital Grants

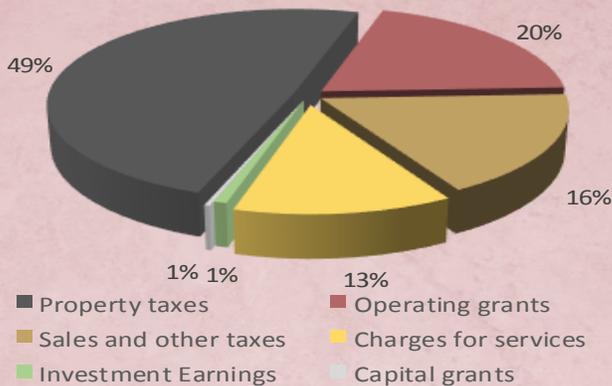
State, federal, other government and private contributions to fund capital purchases for specific programs.

## Top 10 Taxpayers

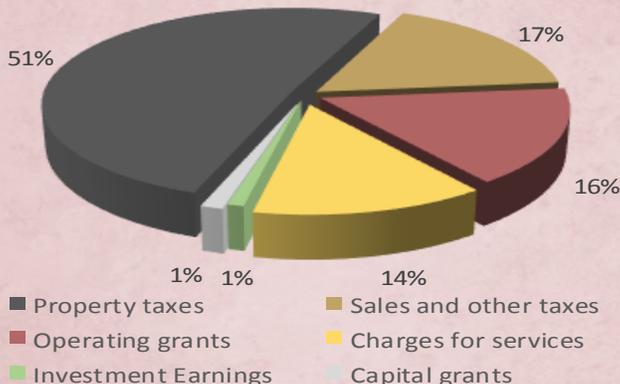
13.50% of the County's assessed value

- Apple, Inc.
- Duke Energy Corporation
- GKN Driveline Newton, LLC
- CommScope, Inc.
- Target Corporation
- Draka Comteq Americas, Inc.
- Frye Regional/American Medical
- HSM Solutions
- Corning Cable Systems
- Valley Hills Mall, LLC

### 2015 Revenues by Source (General & Program Revenues)



### 2014 Revenues by Source (General & Program Revenues)



The County incurs expenses to provide 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.

### 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.

ers, Legal Services, Budget, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Board of Elections, Human Resources, Self Insurance, Register of Deeds, Finance, Purchasing.

Where the Money was Spent:	
Education	\$ 49,298,062
Human Services	47,218,856
Public Safety	32,921,751
Economic Develop./Environ. Protection	14,497,429
General Government	9,933,029
Solid Waste Management	4,899,445
Interest on long-term debt	3,815,195
Culture & Recreation	3,127,165
Water & Sewer	<u>2,291,702</u>
Total	\$168,002,634

#### Solid Waste Management

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

#### Culture and Recreation

County Branch Libraries and other cultural activities.

#### Economic Development & Planning

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

#### Environmental Protection

Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation and Forest Ranger.

#### General Government

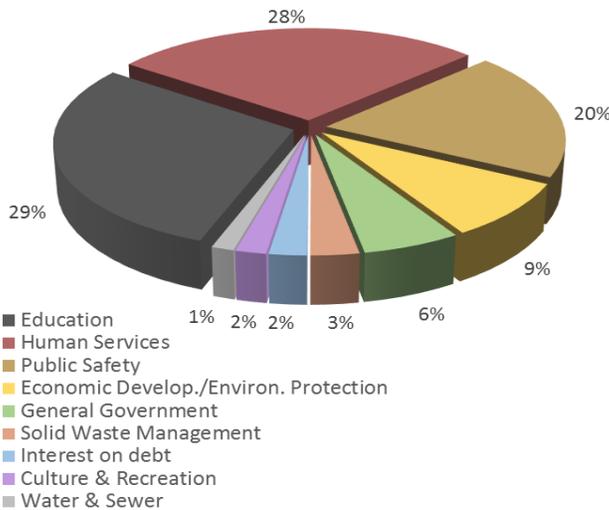
County Manager, Board of Commission-

#### Water and Sewer

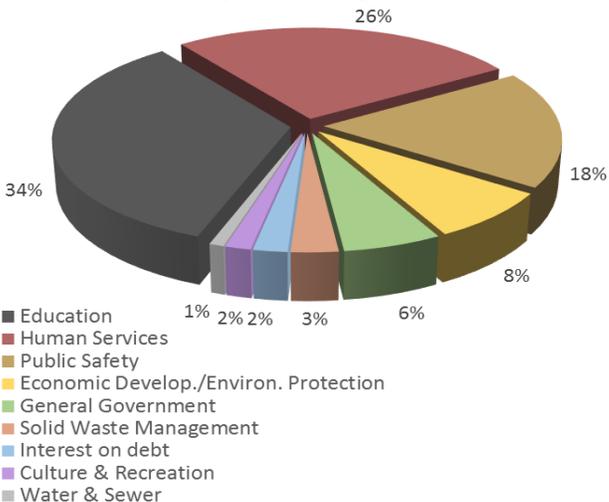
Water and sewer management.

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

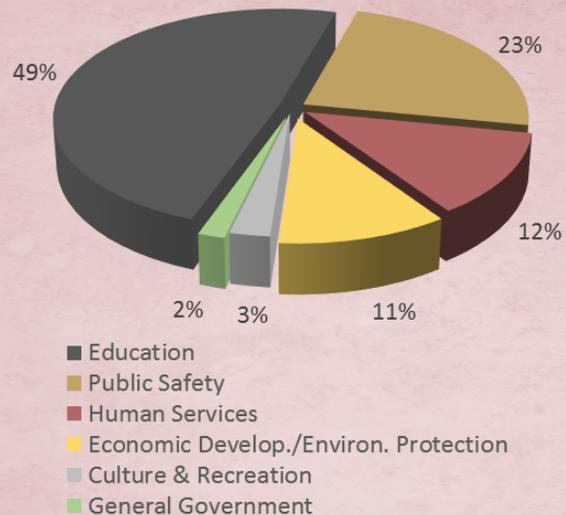
2015 Expenses by Function



2014 Expenses by Function



2015 Where do the Local Sales and Property Tax Dollars Go?



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 occurs, 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 Statement of Activities

shows that the most significant variances in revenues were:

- Increase in operating grants of \$7.8 million
- Increase in sales tax revenue of \$2.1 million
- Decrease in charges for services of \$.5 million
- Decrease capital grants of \$1.8 million.

The most significant variances in expenses on the Statement of Activities are: (1) an increase in water and sewer expenses of \$678,853, (2) a decrease in education expenses of \$12.5 million, a result of the completion of several new schools in the prior year and (3) a decrease in general

government expenses of \$(874,743).

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 increase in net position was \$24,012,319. The County implemented a new accounting standard (GASB 68) resulting in a restatement of beginning net position of \$(4,732,938). With this new reporting change, the County allocated its proportionate share of the Local Government Employee's Retirement System's net pension asset, deferred inflows and outflows of resources, and pension expense. The net increase was \$19,279,381 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The following paragraphs detail the components of net position and their respective fiscal year-end balances.

Net Investment in capital assets represents \$126,676,274 of the County's total net position for fiscal year 2015. 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 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 \$55,052,023 of the County's total net position for fiscal year 2015. This component of net position represents external

<b>Statement of Activities</b>			
<b>Primary Government</b>			
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 24,532,938	\$ 25,017,036	\$ (484,098)
Operating grants	37,835,962	30,004,966	7,830,996
Capital grants	611,732	2,419,166	(1,807,434)
General revenues:			
Property taxes	94,200,605	93,649,723	550,882
Sales and other taxes	33,378,711	31,179,114	2,199,597
Investment earnings	1,452,785	1,777,279	(324,494)
Gain (loss) on sale of capital asset	2,220	-	2,220
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>192,014,953</u>	<u>184,047,284</u>	<u>7,967,669</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
General government	9,933,029	10,807,772	(874,743)
Public safety	32,921,751	32,732,323	189,428
Environmental protection	546,444	492,269	54,175
Economic and physical development	13,950,985	13,538,407	412,578
Human services	47,218,856	47,935,422	(716,566)
Cultural and recreation	3,127,165	2,847,558	279,607
Education	49,298,062	61,843,087	(12,545,025)
Interest on long-term debt	3,815,195	3,774,279	40,916
Solid waste management	4,899,445	5,166,963	(267,518)
Water and sewer	2,291,702	1,612,849	678,853
<b>Total expense</b>	<u>168,002,634</u>	<u>180,750,929</u>	<u>(12,748,295)</u>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<u>24,012,319</u>	<u>3,296,355</u>	<u>20,715,964</u>
<b>Net Position, Beginning, previously reported</b>	159,371,085	157,844,945	1,526,140
<b>Restatement</b>	<u>(4,732,938)</u>	<u>(1,770,215)</u>	<u>(2,962,723)</u>
<b>Net Position, Beginning, restated</b>	<u>154,638,147</u>	<u>156,074,730</u>	<u>(1,436,583)</u>
<b>Net Position, Ending</b>	<u>\$178,650,466</u>	<u>\$159,371,085</u>	<u>\$19,279,381</u>

restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments or through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position accounts for \$(3,077,831) of the total net position for fiscal year 2015. Unrestricted net position includes both monies set aside as protection against unexpected events and monies earmarked to fulfill commitments to an activity 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 for discretionary purposes.

Outstanding long-term debt consists of 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.

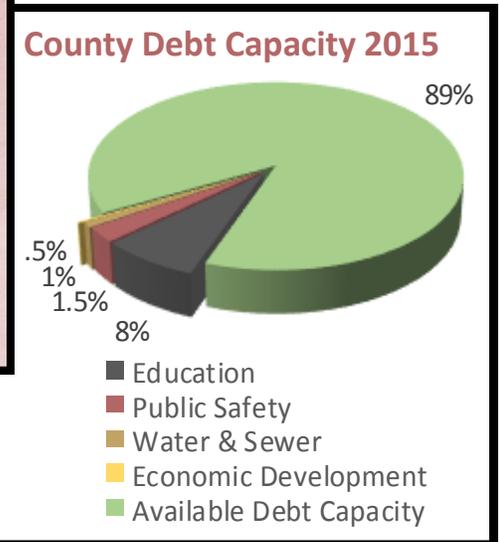
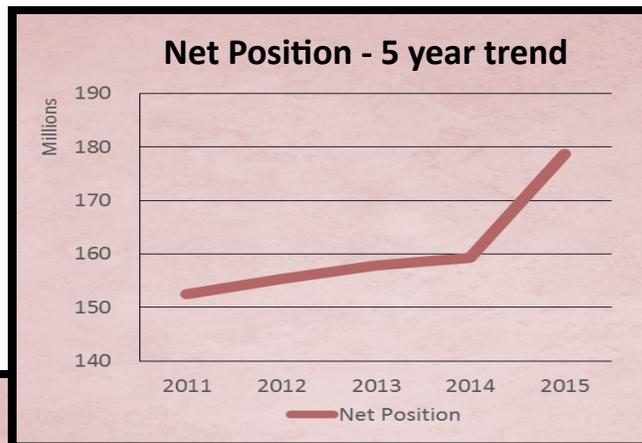
gations consist of the following purposes: Education, Public Safety Jail Expansion, Water and Sewer Projects and Economic Development Data Center.



Catawba County maintained for the 6th consecutive year its Aa1 bond rating from Moody's Investors Service and for the 11th 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

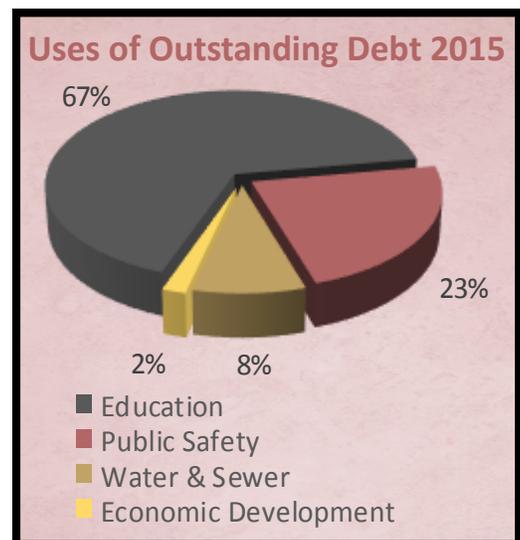
reflect the sound financial condition of the County.

North Carolina general statutes limit the amount of debt that a unit of local government can issue. The County's total debt outstanding is \$152,133,618 compared to the legal debt limit of \$1,330,993,903 or 11% of the legal debt limit.



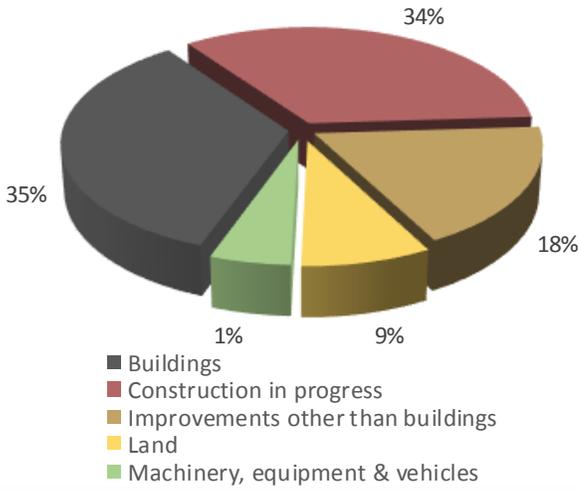
#### Statement of Net Position Primary Government

	2015	2014	Change
<b>ASSETS:</b>			
Current and other assets	\$210,186,902	\$203,572,688	\$ 6,614,214
Capital assets	164,590,644	156,056,566	8,534,078
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>374,777,546</b>	<b>359,629,254</b>	<b>15,148,292</b>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>6,353,414</b>	<b>3,281,171</b>	<b>3,072,243</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Long-term liabilities	175,198,263	187,999,409	(12,801,146)
Other liabilities	15,217,189	14,921,521	295,668
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>190,415,452</b>	<b>202,920,930</b>	<b>(12,505,478)</b>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>12,065,042</b>	<b>618,410</b>	<b>11,446,632</b>
<b>NET POSITION:</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	126,676,274	123,240,789	3,435,485
Restricted	55,052,023	61,304,988	(6,252,965)
Unrestricted (deficit)	(3,077,831)	(25,174,692)	22,096,861
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$178,650,466</b>	<b>\$159,371,085</b>	<b>\$ 19,279,381</b>



# Capital Investment

Catawba County's Total Capital Assets  
(net of depreciation)



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

As of June 30, 2015, the County's capital assets for both its governmental and business-type activities amounted to \$95,070,832 in depreciable assets (net of depreciation) and \$69,519,812 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 2015.

## Justice Center Expansion (\$40 million)

Construction is underway to expand the County's Justice Center to include the addition of new courtrooms, a new 911 Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center. A completion date is anticipated for early 2017.

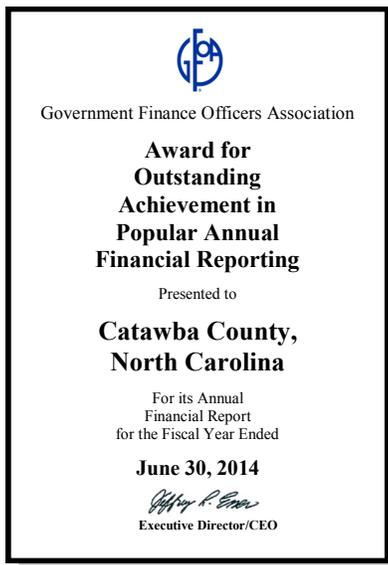
## Water and Sewer Projects (\$38 million)

The Board of Commissioners continues the policy of setting aside funds, half 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.



# 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 FY2015.



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, 2014. 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 seven 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 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 33rd consecutive year in which Catawba County has won the award.

The Center for Digital Government ranked Catawba County as the number one county nationally in its Top 10 **Digital Counties Survey Awards**, among counties across the nation with a population between 150,000 and 249,999 people. This is the 2nd time in 3 years that Catawba County has been ranked number one.

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. This is the 25th consecutive year in which Catawba County has won the award.

The County Library Community Garden Program received the **Excellence in Innovation Award** from the Local Government Federal Credit Union. A collaboration between various local groups, the produce is donated to community food banks while the garden itself provides a setting for Library programs and events.



Visit Catawba County's Official Website [www.catawbacountync.gov](http://www.catawbacountync.gov)

The County's website is your source for information about County policies, services and events 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Find information on employment opportunities, community events, Board of Commissioner agendas, meeting hours, tax information and much more.

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!



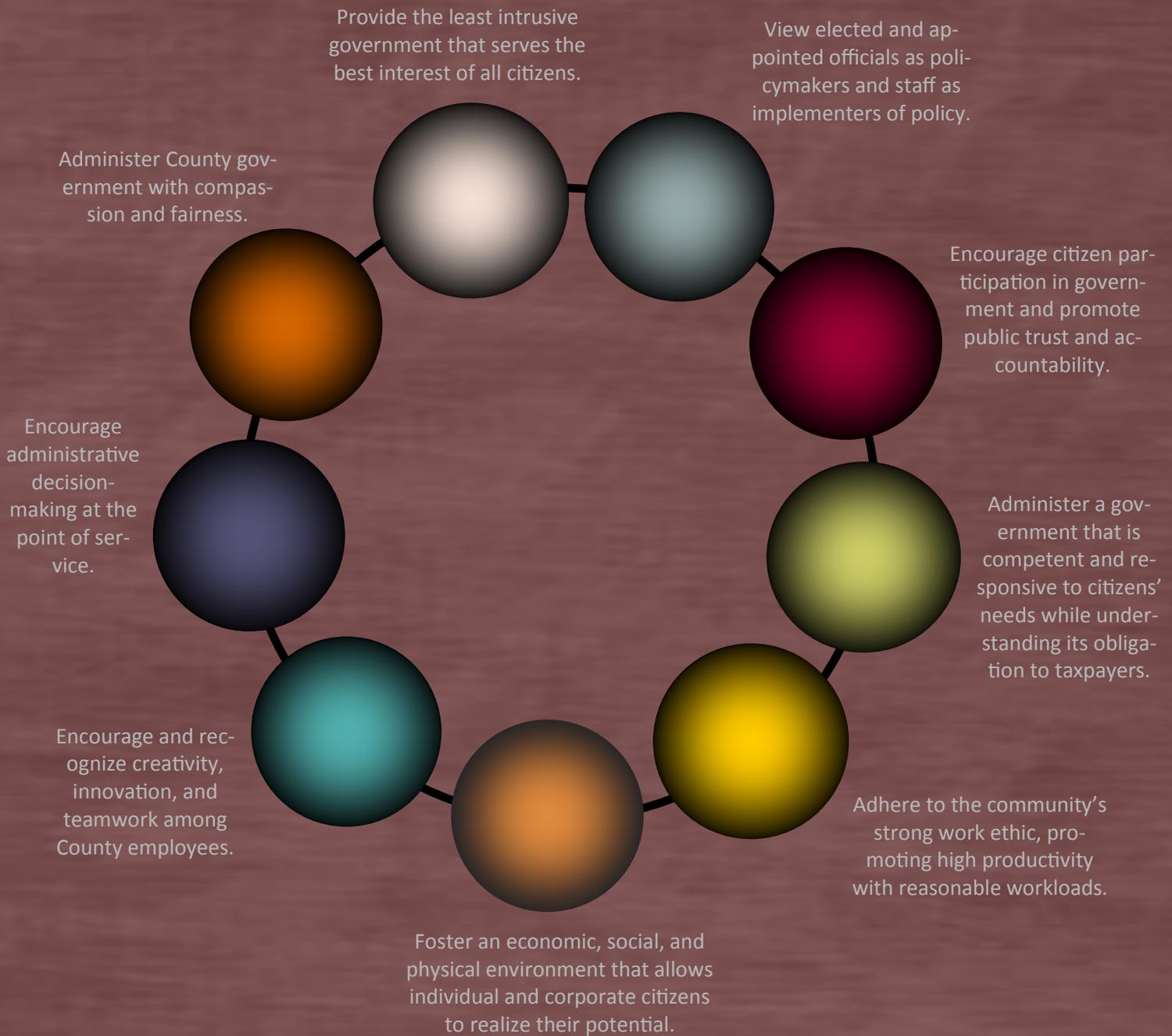
My Catawba County Mobile App

## Finance Department

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

# 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.



Catawba County, North Carolina  
Popular Annual Financial Report  
Year Ended June 30, 2015

