



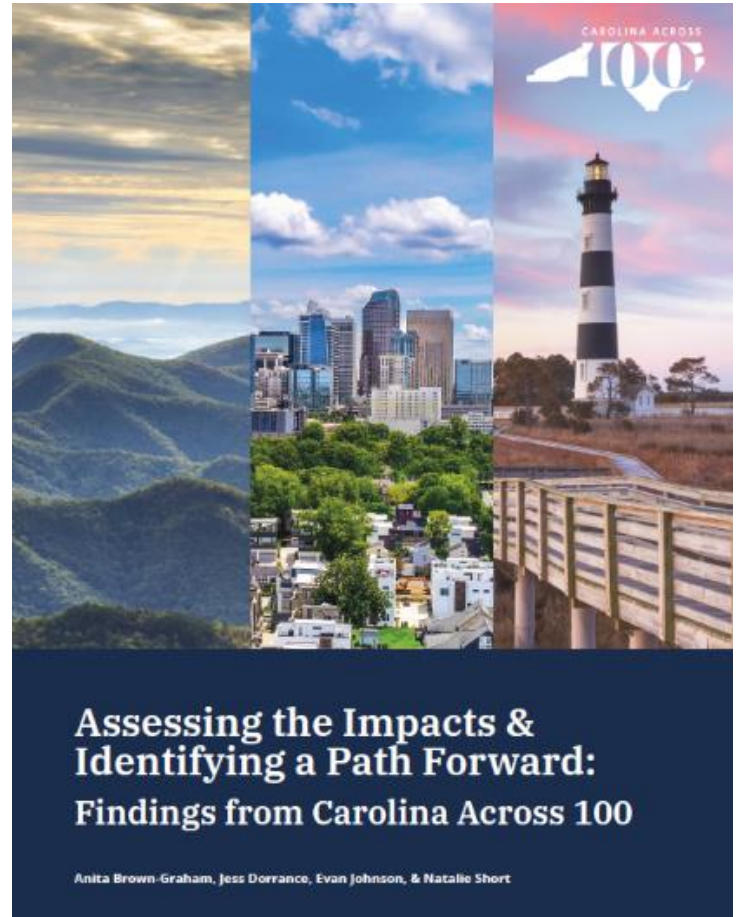
THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Carolina Engagement Council Newsletter February 2022

It has been a busy start to the new year for the Carolina Across 100 team. In this first newsletter of 2022, we want to recap some of our recent progress and keep you informed of some upcoming activities. Also, please remember to check out the new [CEC Sakai site](#) where we have uploaded a variety of materials and resources.

Report Release

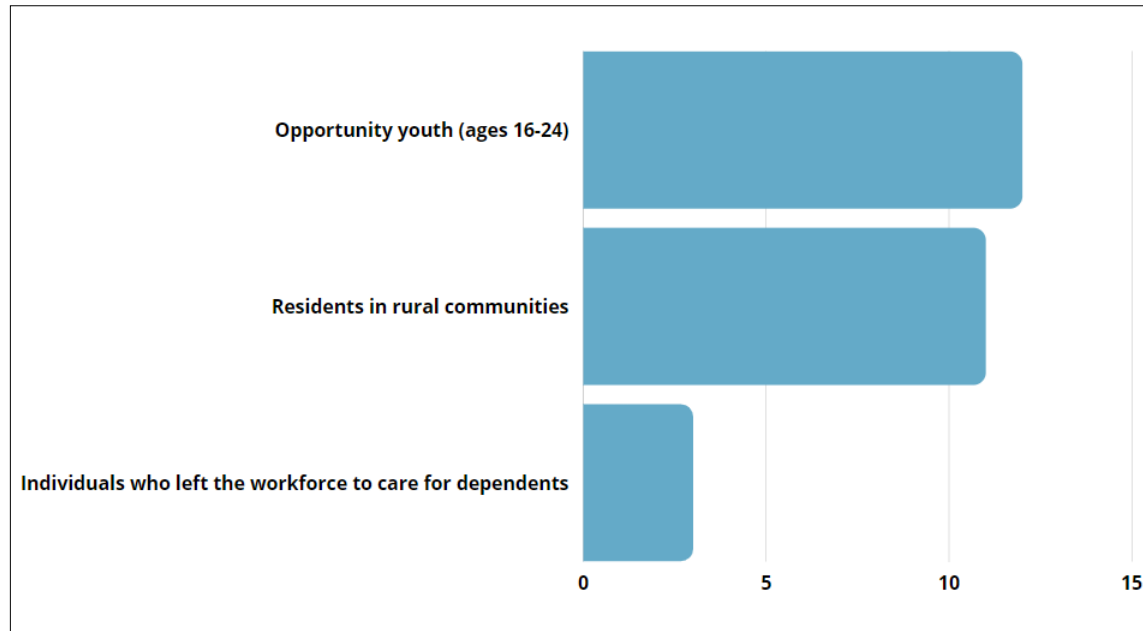
Hot off the presses is our research report highlighting data and analysis from our listening phase. This report covers a wide diversity of voices from across the state and identifies some common themes of challenges that run through communities and organizations, as well as opportunities that people shared with us. When it is released on Monday, we invite you to download it from [Sakai](#) and share it with those in your networks who may be interested.



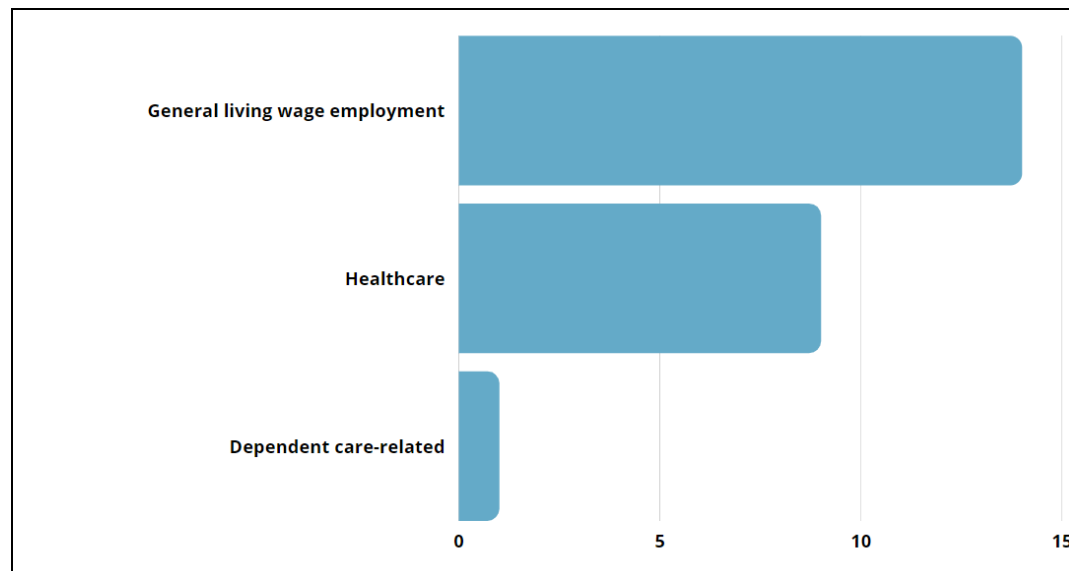
Designing Our First Program

Your input and guidance resulted in selecting a focus area for Carolina Across 100's first program: **connecting opportunity youth (ages 16-24) to meaningful education and employment pathways**. The selection of this focus area was the result of a three-part process: 1) a pre-meeting review of potential scenarios for programmatic features/elements for year one of this initiative, 2) a group discussion during the January meeting about the features/elements, and 3) a final vote at the end of the meeting. The two graphics below show the results from the pre-meeting input and from the final results from the selection process to identify a target population and an employment sector.

Results from CEC Meeting Selection on Target Population



Results from CEC Meeting Selection for Target Employment Sector



Over the next few months, Carolina Across 100 will begin working with communities to build cross-sector collaboratives to identify and promote avenues to credentials, careers, and community engagement for North Carolina’s opportunity youth. The program overview document that we shared recently provides more details and answers questions about how we will engage with communities. You can find that on the Report and Program Launch [page](#) at our new CEC Sakai site.

North Carolina County Data Profiles

We heard echoed across our survey and interviews a deep desire for useful and actionable data and research from UNC-Chapel Hill that could support local decision-makers. Carolina Across 100 has worked with Carolina Demography to capture and report a consistent set of data points that county leaders can use to better understand their communities and better inform actions to support their communities. You can find a draft of those county profiles on our [CEC Sakai site](#). We have also shared the draft with a small group of campus and community stakeholders to get feedback on how we can make the profiles most useful for a broad audience. We welcome your input as we refine these tools to help North Carolina communities.

New Data Collection Effort from Our Friends at NCPRO

Our partners at the North Carolina Office for Pandemic Recovery ([NCPRO](#)) are working to gather more information from statewide leaders and stakeholders on pandemic recovery and the needs of North Carolinians as we continue to grow beyond the COVID-19 crisis. NCPRO is building a panel of stakeholders from across the state to report on COVID-related recovery. Panel data will be collected monthly and will build an extremely rich source of information on trends over time. NCPRO is currently identifying panel members and expects to launch the first survey in March. Please consider sharing [this sign-up form](#) with community leaders you think would be a good fit for this effort and stay tuned for how we can promote this important work going forward. Please encourage participation by your networks across the state. Carolina Across 100's own [Anita Brown-Graham gave testimony to the NC General Assembly](#) in November 2021 about the importance of these ongoing efforts.



Engagement Week

Engagement Week is fast approaching and Carolina Across 100 is excited to help sponsor and contribute to this showcase of community-focused work. We will be hosting a session focused on evaluation of community engagement work. We are also organizing a Hackathon-style event for students to engage with the Carolina Across 100 data and create either a static or dynamic visualization of Covid-19 impacts in our state. Please be on the lookout for requests to help us promote this opportunity for your students. We are also working to identify judges to review the visualization submissions and select a winner for each category. **If you'd be willing to serve as a judge, please contact Jess Dorrance at dorrance@sog.unc.edu.** Stay tuned for more!

And please remember to help promote all the exciting events happening as part of Engagement Week (March 21-25). There is a press kit available with details about the events. Please use that information to promote Engagement Week via emails, newsletters, and social media. You can find a copy of that also on the [Sakai site](#).

Engagement Across Campus

Carolina Across 100 continues to explore avenues for campus engagement with our work. We are excited by the interest of the Public Policy department, Gillings School of Public Health, the APPLES Service-Learning Program, and the School of Pharmacy, which all have programs, classes, or tracks that dovetail with the work of Carolina Across 100 to build student engagement. Our next step is to create a Student Engagement Council to coordinate these efforts and better build the presence of this work on campus.

Engagement with Communities

Beyond the students on campus, we are sharing the work through presentations to a broad array of audiences. We are also highlighting the work through a six-part story series on WRAL. Some of you were kind enough to participate in interviews for this series. Thank you! The stories correspond with key challenge areas that respondents raised in the Carolina Across 100 listening phase. The latest story, which focuses on the impacts of the pandemic on children, can be found [here](#). Alongside this series, we continue to produce faculty and community-centered blog posts, many of which are authored by CEC members. Thank you for those as well! The blogs, which can be found on the “[Stories](#)” page of the Carolina Across 100 website, allow us to leverage the expertise of faculty and community members to help us continue making sense of our data and sharing it wider public. So far, our blog topics have touched on the loss of small businesses, impacts of remote learning for kids, efforts to support youth mental health, food insecurity, and opportunities for building a better manufacturing workplace and workforce.



Student Profile

Sage Staley, one of the Carolina Across 100 student interviewers, is a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in Political Science, and minoring in History, with an eye toward law school. She has always been a dedicated leader and servant whether in her community or in school. Sage continues to serve for a third year on the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor. She is a member of the Honor Court under the Office of Student Conduct, a general archive researcher and member of the UNC Institute of Politics, and has served on the Public Health Education Working Group under the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. She also serves as an Executive Assistant for the UNC NAACP Branch. Additionally, she is a member of the Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization, and has participated in the UNC's Gospel Choir under the Black Student Movement (BSM).

