

2023 Carteret County Economic Outlook Luncheon

Carteret County Economic Development Foundation Initiative Overview by Jake Joplin, Chair

The Carteret County Economic Development Foundation has three main initiatives for 2023:

- Increase the attainability of housing in Carteret County
- Attract remote workers
- Crystal Coast Women in Business

The Carteret County Economic Development Foundation's primary initiative for 2023, is to increase the attainability of housing in Carteret County. In 2021, a housing needs assessment for Carteret County was conducted by Bowen National Research. The funding was provided through a partnership between the Foundation, the Carteret County Association of Realtors, Duke Energy, and Beau Coast. The assessment provides a baseline for current available housing, a forecast for future housing demand, and several recommendations to help facilitate housing development. A housing task force comprised of professionals representing public and private businesses, continues to aid the Foundation to drive the initiative forward. Click [here](#) to access the housing needs assessment.

The Foundation's second main initiative includes attracting remote workers. Naturally, remote work became more common due to the COVID19 pandemic. If you can work anywhere, why not work from here? The Foundation's focus is to support better infrastructure by monitoring grants for broadband. Improved broadband infrastructure will create an optimal and efficient remote work environment. The addition of remote workers increases the tax base and promotes a healthy, local economy.

The last main initiative for the Foundation is Crystal Coast Women in Business. The network began with the first-ever conference in October of 2021. The conference sold-out and demonstrated the value and need for the program in the community. In 2022, Crystal Coast Women in Business continued to provide learning and networking opportunities. The network expanded to approximately 200 women in business from all professional and personal backgrounds throughout the Crystal Coast. All events in 2022 were sold out. The plan for 2023, is to continue to offer the lunch and learn series as well as the annual conference. Click [here](#) for more information about Crystal Coast Women in Business.