

**P1 / Holy Cow!**

Join the MOOvement to End Poverty.

**P3 / May is National**

**Community Action Month!**  
#BeCommunityAction

**P5 / North Carolina**

**Foreclosure Prevention Fund**  
Receives \$224 Million.

**P6 / Agency Highlight**

Learn more about Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc.

# NC Empowered

Connect. Advocate. Innovate.

2016 NCCAA CONFERENCE • “PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER: CONNECT. ADVOCATE. INNOVATE.”  
MAY 10-13 • SEA TRAIL GOLF RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER, SUNSET BEACH, NC

North Carolina Community Action Association / 2016 / MAY EDITION

Keynote Speaker, Terie Dreussi-Smith will speak about strategies that work to address the challenges associated with poverty, including.....

## NEW WEAPONS FOR AN OLD WAR: HOW ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL CAPITAL ARE KEYS TO EQUITY

Bridges Out of Poverty initiatives aim to effect change on four levels—individual, institutional, community, and policy—and they have been successful on all four levels throughout the United States.

Lisa Stoddard, executive director of the Community Action Partnership (CAP) agency serving 10 counties in northern Idaho and one county in southeastern Washington, talks about CAP’s strategic focus in an article published by aha! Process in the book *From Vision to Action* (2013) titled “The Power of Transformation.”

Writes Stoddard: As we developed our strategies, we focused on two other key principles: (1) the importance of community building in everything we do, and (2) people living in poverty are the experts on

the issues of poverty and, as such, need to be an integral part of strategy teams focused on furthering the larger vision of a community where all people have enough money, enough friends, and enough meaning in their lives to thrive.

*For the first time we understood that our work must necessarily engage people from all economic classes and sectors of our community in ways that are meaningful and high-impact if we are going to achieve our vision. - Ruth Weirich*

The constructs from Bridges Out of Poverty (Payne, DeVol, & Dreussi-Smith, 2006) served as a foundation for building knowledge and increasing commitment to community-based projects that engage people from all economic classes in our

work to end poverty. Strategies developed during this part of the transformational process included helping people to develop and maintain assets as a way to leave (or stay out of) poverty; building relationships across race, age, economic, and cultural lines to end poverty; developing leaders within and outside CAP from across economic, age, race, and cultural lines whose efforts would be focused on ending poverty; and creating a synchronized, innovative organization leading efforts to end poverty.



## HOLY COW! JOIN THE MOOUMENT TO END POVERTY.

There’s a new cow in town – to promote increased awareness of poverty, not only in North Carolina, but across the nation.

Be sure to stop and take advantage of a photo op with this special cow celeb that will debut at Sea Trail. Join the the MOOvement and Cow-versations about Poverty.



## @CAPartnership | #BeCommunityAction

The Community Action Partnership has released its annual Community Action Month Toolkit with a new look and feel with ideas and suggestions for every day in May when efforts are focused on sharing the great work that Community Action is doing across the country. Local agencies are encouraged to host awards events to honor customers, volunteers, and staff. As we look toward the NEXT 50 years of Community Action, this special toolkit is designed to help you showcase your CAA as an essential part of your local and regional communities. State Associations host conferences to train, network, and #talkpoverty. Elected officials are issuing formal Proclamations recognizing the important work being done.

Every day is **THE DAY** to affirm your commitment to the Promise of Community Action.

### **BE INSPIRED**

Community Action past, present and future is an essential aspect of building and promoting economic security which in turn has and will continue to enable and enhance stronger communities throughout America.

### **BE PROUD**

Community Action past, present and future is an essential aspect of building and promoting economic security which in turn has and will continue to enable and enhance stronger communities throughout America.

### **BE DETERMINED**

Community Action already serves 99% of America's counties in rural, suburban, and urban communities because it is right, because it is wise, and because, in our hearts and minds, we believe it is possible to conquer poverty in our lifetime.

### **BE INNOVATIVE**

Community Action strikes poverty at its source, not by imposing generic programs upon hundreds of different situations, but by implementing innovative programs that local residents appreciate as being created to meet their specific problems and needs.

### **BE ENTHUSED**

Community Action assists veterans, senior citizens, families, children, students, and everyone in between and because of us there are people who have not only risen out of poverty, but have been able to purchase homes, get college degrees, or start their own businesses.

### **BE MOTIVATED**

Community Action will continue to promote self-sufficiency for the disadvantaged ensuring that all citizens are able to live in dignity; to implement innovative and cost-effective programs to improve the lives and living conditions of the impoverished; to provide support and opportunities for all citizens in need of assistance; and be a major voice of reason in achieving economic mobility.

### **BE COMMUNITY ACTION**

Change people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, dedicate yourself to helping people he

Go to [http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/storage/cap/documents/ncam/ncam\\_final.pdf](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/storage/cap/documents/ncam/ncam_final.pdf) to download the toolkit.

Use the hashtag #BeCommunityAction in your social media communications - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest to and May will be a busy month!

# NCCAA 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFO.

## 1. NEW NCCAA MEMBERSHIP PORTAL GOES LIVE

The new Membership Portal has been launched. Check out your status at the Conference Registration Desk to make sure you are receiving up to the minute NCCAA news and..... Tell us what you think!

Visit the website [www.nccaa.net](http://www.nccaa.net) under Membership or email membership @nccaa.net.



## 2. NEW AWARD: "The ESSENTIAL PIECE"

This year, NCCAA will recognize staff members from our agencies who demonstrate the heart of community action. The Essential Piece: Employee of the Year award is a new award that will make its debut at the 2016 annual Conference. Nominees are well-deserved individuals within the organization who consistently goes above and beyond agency expectations and/or has demonstrated consistent service and results to their agency, their co-workers and their communities. All nominees will be recognized at this year's conference and automatically qualify for "The ESSENTIAL PIECE" Community Action Employee of the Year Award.



## 3. DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS

.....for this year's Service Project at the conference Registration Desk where staff are happy to collect your pre-k children's book for the Ready, Set, Read book drive and/or hygiene products to support Fresh Start, for returning citizens. Thank you for your support!

## 2016 NCCAA CALENDAR

**MAY** National Community Action Month  
Please share your pictures, stories, letters, etc. with us.

**AUGUST** August 30-September 2 • Austin, TX  
**Community Action Partnership Annual Convention**

**SEPTEMBER** September 13-16 • Myrtle Beach, SC  
**SEACCA 2016 Annual Conference**

## AGENCY UPDATES

**WAGES** – Marley Ray retires after 8 years of service. Dr. Marlee Ray is the Executive Director of WAGES Community Action Agency. She has been in this role since 2008.



WAGES Community Action Agency is celebrating 50 years of service and success and Dr. Ray is proud to be a part of an agency with such a long legacy of administering quality human service programs in Wayne County.

**JOCCA** - JOCCA gets new name and moves to new home in Siler City - Now Central Piedmont Community Action.

**SALISBURY ROWAN** – Board Chair, Mr. William Kennedy is currently serving as Interim Executive Director.

**FRANKLIN-VANCE-WARREN** – Mr. Jerry L. Ayscue is the new interim CEO.



Sharon C. Goodson (NCCAA Executive Director), Jeanie Chafin (Director, OCS), and Regina Chappell (YVEDDI) at ROMA in-service training in Buffalo, NY.

## SEACAA WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies (SEACAA) website is getting a facelift! The website is being revamped to be more user-friendly and have a new contemporary look. Stay tuned for the official launch of the SEACAA site. Visit <http://seacaa-us.org/>.

# FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT TRAINING SERIES CONCLUDES

NCCAA, in partnership with The Collaborative and The Office of Economic Opportunity, concluded its pilot Financial Empowerment Training series on April 20, 2016. Ten agencies from across the state participated in this exciting new training. The new series focused on finding ways to integrate financial capability services into existing programs to increase the long-term success of low-income people in North Carolina.

Led by Donna Gallagher, Executive Director of the Collaborative, our trainees were given a wealth of information and resources that everyone was excited to take back to their agencies. Thanks to this training, participating agencies now have a blueprint to incorporate financial capability services into programs they currently oversee at their agencies. There was a consensus among the trainees that they would like to participate in

another series focused on best practices to use during the implementation stages of the financial capability service.

We want to thank all of the trainees for their excitement and engagement throughout the training. NCCAA would also like to thank Donna Gallagher for sharing her wealth of knowledge and passion for financial empowerment. This pilot training series would not have been possible without the support of Verna P.



Best, Director of The Office of Economic Opportunity. We hope to offer another round of training sometime in

the future and if your agency has the opportunity, all of our pilot attendees would suggest you sign up!

# GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTEND OPEN HOUSE FOR EDGECOMBE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER



CSBG Staff & Governor Pat McCrory



Gloria Wilson, Commissioner W. David Guice & Commissioner Evelyn Powell



CSBG Staff & Senator Angela Bryant

ROCKY MOUNT, NC - NEED Inc. CSBG Staff joined Governor Pat McCrory, Secretary Frank Perry - N.C. Department of Public Safety, Commissioner W. David Guice - Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, William L. Lassiter - Deputy Commissioner, Juvenile Justice, along with government officials and juvenile justice representatives on April 14, 2016, for an open house to unveil the newly renovated Edgecombe Youth Development Center in Rocky Mount, NC.

The renovation, updates and re-opening of this facility is an integral part of North Carolina's Juvenile Justice Facilities Strategic Plan. The new facility will increase the state's youth development center bed capacity in a safer, more secure facility, and at a lower cost.



# NC FORECLOSURE PREVENTION FUND RECEIVES \$224 MILLION

*Fund helps individuals recover from financial crises that are out of their control.*

RALEIGH, NC – North Carolina homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages because of job loss, reduction in income or other temporary hardships received good news in April. They can still get help through the N.C. Foreclosure Prevention Fund, thanks to an additional \$224 million in funding. The funds were awarded last week to the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, which administers the program, from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund®.

"This additional funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury is a testament to just how successful this program has been in the state," said A. Robert Kucab, executive director of the N.C. Housing Finance Agency. "So far, we have helped nearly 22,000 North Carolina homeowners keep their homes, and with this additional funding, we expect to help thousands more and to continue our special outreach to returning veterans.

The Fund also now provides assistance for homeowners who have

secured employment after a financial hardship but are earning less and unable to pay their mortgage as a result. Others who have gotten behind on their mortgage payments because of divorce, illness or other temporary hardship may qualify for help while they seek jobs to get back on their feet.

The mortgage payment assistance is provided as a zero-interest, deferred loan of up to \$36,000, or 36 months of mortgage-related payments. Homeowners resume their own mortgage payments at the end of the loan period. To be eligible, homeowners must have a good mortgage payment history prior to the qualifying job loss or financial hardship event, be able to resume their mortgage payments once the assistance ends and meet other program guidelines.

"The impact of this program on the state's economy has also been profound, saving \$3.9 billion in property value to date."

This assistance is available statewide through participating HUD-

approved counseling agencies. Consumer Contact: 1-888-623-8631 or [www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov](http://www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov)

The Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund® was authorized under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and is available to states that have experienced high unemployment or a steep decline in property values. North Carolina was selected because of the large percentage of the population living in counties with high unemployment rates in 2009.

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, a self-supporting public agency, has financed 242,000 homes and apartments since its creation in 1973. The North Carolina Foreclosure Prevention Fund has helped nearly 22,000 homeowners avoid foreclosure.

*Press Contact: Connie Helmlinger/  
Madison Lewis*

**Consumer Contact:**  
1-888-623-8631 or [www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov](http://www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov)

## NCCAA SERVING AS LEAD INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR FOR FEDERAL ABSTINENCE EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The NCCAA has contracted with CJH Educational Grant Services, Inc. as the lead independent Evaluator for a Federal Abstinence Education Program. The Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program is funded by the Administration for Children and Families- Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. The goal of this program is to promote abstinence education for adolescents, with a focus on groups most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock. The program will serve over 500 youth across 4 communities across NC. As the program evaluator, NCCAA oversees all evaluation activities and will determine program effectiveness.



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

## BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc. (BRCA) was founded in 1965 to address problems related to poverty in Burke, Caldwell and Rutherford counties. Since that time, the agency has maintained its three-fold mission: 1) provide programs and services which enable families to move out of poverty positions; 2) provide programs and services which reduce the suffering caused by poverty; and 3) advocate for change in policies, institutions, and practices which cause and maintain poverty in our communities. In addition to the direct services and skills development programs, BRCA staff and Board members are also members of area policy making groups and represent sectors of private industry. These individuals advocate on behalf of the agency for change in institutions and policies which create and/or maintain poverty in their communities. In keeping with their theme that lasting progress can only be made through community partnerships, they regularly contract with local governments to assure that desperately needed services are made available to the public. The agency has been successful in financially structuring program service delivery to maximize local private sector funds and, where



Helping People, Changing Lives

feasible and appropriate, generating self-supporting income streams for programs. The combination of public grants to directly aid individuals and income generating programs has given BRCA the flexibility as a non-profit organization to develop and expand programs to meet the needs of their communities.



Mattie Paterson is the executive director. For more information about the services and programs provided by Blue Ridge Community Action, please call our offices at (828) 438-6255 in Burke County or Caldwell County (828) 758-4290 in Caldwell County.



## DUKE ENERGY'S HELPING HOME FUND PROGRESS REPORT

Low Income families continue to receive energy efficiency upgrades through funds provided by the Helping Home Fund. To date, in total, \$6 million has been paid from the Helping Home Fund and 1,457 families have received energy upgrades.