

**Gaston Community Action, Inc.**

# **Annual Report**

**2015 - 2016**



**Helping People, Changing Lives**

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## *O*ur Vision

*“To diversify funding to empower the agency to maintain and grow its programs and services”*

## *O*ur Mission

*“To stimulate a better focusing of all available local, state, private and federal resources upon the goal of enabling low income families, and low income individuals of all ages, in rural and urban areas, to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivations and secure the opportunities needed for them to become self-sufficient.”*

## *C*ommunity Action Promise

*Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

# About Us

## ***The Beginning of GCA***

*Gaston Community Action, Inc. is a private non-profit corporation chartered by the State of North Carolina to operate anti-poverty programs in Gaston County on October 22, 1964. Structured in accordance with standards and requirements of the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and subsequent amendments, "the basic purpose of community action is to stimulate a better focusing of all available local, state, private, and federal sources upon the goals of enabling low-income families and low-income individuals to obtain skills, knowledge, and motivations, and secure the opportunities for them to become fully self-sufficient"*

## ***Agency Overview***

*The agency administers programs in Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln and Stanly Counties. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services of Economic Opportunity. GCA employs a staff of about 120 and operates on an annual budget of over 6 million.*

*GCA has continuously provided services and advocacy on behalf of the poor and disadvantaged since its inception and charter. Our programs are planned after holding public hearings to solicit community input. Head Start educates 460 preschool children in Gaston and Lincoln Counties. The CSBG program is directed toward making low-income residents of the four counties self-sufficient by providing help with employment, housing, education and transportation.*



# Board of Directors

**GCA's Board of Directors**

**is comprised of 18**

**members representing**

**three sectors;**

- **Public (appointed by the county commissioners)**
- **Citizen (elected by the low-income residents)**
- **Private (appointed by civic groups)**

## **CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD**

**Regina M. Taylor**

**Wanda Wyont**

**NANCY MAYNOR—Chairman**

**ROBERT POPE—Vice-Chair**

**TERETHA YOUNG—Secretary**

**DELORIS CHAMBERS—Treasurer**

**HUGH GRANT—At Large**

**LABONNIE KNIGHT**

**MARY GIBSON**

**JOYCE COLEMAN**

**REESHIA BELL**

**WILLIAM LINDSAY**

**JOHN MADDOX**

**DEVONDA FRIDAY**

**GEORGIANNA HARTGROVE**

**ASHLEY RUDISILL**

**JOSIE BROOKS**

**DEBORAH OATES**

# Executive Director

As you read our 2015 annual Gaston Community Action Annual Report, we hope you gain insight and knowledge about our outcomes and successes. During the 2015, we Gaston Community Action, Inc. have found ourselves intensely seeking new and innovative ways to assist and support our families and their children meet their needs. Towards this endeavor, we also acknowledge the passion and dedication of our collaborative partners with their contributions.

With the GCA Board and all others parties involved all of our successes have been made possible. Our contributors, participants, committee members, vendors and volunteers deserve the highest praise for their time, energy and efforts to meet the needs of our communities. Their efforts enable my job as Executive Director to navigate the task in serving our community.

Thank you for your continued support of Gaston Community Action, Inc. and this great community.

Sincerely,

*Joseph Dixon*

Executive Director





# HEAD START



**Annual Report School Year 2015-2016  
In fulfillment of the requirements of the  
Preparing Head Start for School Readiness  
Act of 2007(644(a)(2)(B))**

*Copies of this report are available  
To community members upon request*

This report is prepared to comply with the reauthorized Head Start Act of 2007. This Act, specifically Section 644 (a) (2) (B), and states:

Gaston Community Action, Inc. is committed and dedicated to ensure the Head Start children will be prepared to succeed in school and life. The Gaston Community Action School Readiness team is comprised of parents, staff, community partners, and the local school systems. The responsibility of the team is to make certain the school readiness goals align with the Head Start Early Learning Framework, the North Carolina Early Learning Guidelines and the local school system expectations. We will focus on implementing projects and activities that bring about the most efficient use of resources that will positively influence the lives and environment of the children and families we serve.

Each Head Start agency shall make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses the following information from the most recently concluded fiscal year, except that reporting such information shall not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual child or parent:

- The total amount of public and private funds received and the amount from each source
- An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year
- The total number of children and families served, the average monthly enrollment
- The percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams
- Information about parent engagement activities
- The agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten
- Any other information required by the Secretary
- Implementing School Readiness goals for preschoolers



## **GCA'S APPROACH TO SCHOOL READINESS GOALS FOR CHILDREN**

Head Start defines school readiness as children possessing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school, for later learning and life. The Head Start approach to school readiness means that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and schools are ready for children.

Gaston Community Action, Inc. Head Start is committed to ensuring that children who leave our Head Start program are prepared when they enter the kindergarten program in the public schools. The teaching staff use various strategies including the CLASS observation tool to enhance best practice to ensure all children enrolled are working toward meeting goals in all domain areas. These domain areas are assessed daily. The five essential domains are:

- Approaches to Learning and Play
- Social-Emotional Development
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Language Development and Literacy Knowledge and Skills
- Physical and Health Development

With the implementation of these domains GCA HS will ensure that children (including those with disabilities) are fully equipped with the necessary skills to successfully transition to kindergarten. The training and mentoring of teaching staff is critical in meeting school readiness goals. Parents are included in goal setting in order to help the child's progress.

### **FAST FACTS**

- Head Start Employs 94 employees
- Contracts with local agencies to provide preventive health, nutrition, disability and mental health services to children and families
- Operates 7 Head Start Centers (3 in Lincoln County 4 in Gaston County)
- Serves children 3 and 4 years of age with birth date by August 31 of that year
- Operates four (4) NC Pre-K classrooms two (2) Rankin I Head Start center 714 Rankin Ave, Gastonia, NC 28052 two (2) Lincoln Park Head Start Center 140 Industrial Park Rd. Lincolnton, NC 28092
- Serves children breakfast, lunch and snack
- Operates 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM each day in conjunction with Gaston and Lincoln County school calendars
- Total enrollment is 460 at all times. Children who drop/add are replaced timely.
- Number of three year olds served—227
- Number of 4 year olds served—297

## FUNDING SOURCES

The Head Start Program received funding from the following sources in FY 2015-2016

Funding Source	Amount		
	7/1/15 - 3/31/16	4/1/16 - 6/30/16	TOTAL
Head Start, OHS, DHHS	3,080,137	929,981	4,010,118
GCA Non-federal share	823,345	189,190	1,012,535
Gaston Pre-K	108,300	0	108,300
Lincoln Pre-K	142,800	0	142,800
USDA	274,418	71,701	346,119
E-Rate	47,407		47,407
Other	42,542	0	42,542
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>4,518,949</b>	<b>1,190,872</b>	<b>5,709,821</b>

## BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

BUDGET EXPENDITURES			
	7/1/15 - 3/31/16	4/1/16 - 6/30/16	TOTAL
Personnel	1,728,101	415,891	2,143,992
Fringe Benefits	601,292	210,641	811,933
Travel			0
Equipment			0
Supplies	38,389	976	39,365
Contractual	487,157	120,868	608,025
Facilities/Construction			0
T&TA	33,235	8,034	41,269
Other	376,163	87,398	463,561
Indirect Costs	431,267	157,874	589,141
GCA Non-federal share	823,345	189,190	1,012,535
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,518,949</b>	<b>1,190,872</b>	<b>5,709,821</b>



## Head Start Annual Report Budget Justifications Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Personnel	2,143,992	Includes compensation for all Head Start employees for services rendered to the program.
Fringe Benefits	811,933	Includes FICA, health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, workers comp insurance, SUTA and retirement paid on behalf of eligible staff.
Supplies	39,365	Includes janitorial supplies, office supplies, disabilities supplies, program supplies & medical/dental supplies.
Contractual	608,025	Includes child dental treatment, child medical treatment, equipment rental/lease, child audiology contract, child mental health contract, school lunches, contract food & delivery, & nutrition consultant.
T&TA	41,269	Includes employee development and training & technical assistance for staff.
Other	463,561	Includes all other expenditures necessary for Program function such as communications, storage rental, postage, local travel, space costs, field trips, translation, dues & registration, publications, printing, advertising, policy council & parent activities, equipment maintenance & repair, liability insurance, transportation costs, professional services, facility repairs & licensing, & technology costs.
Indirect Costs	589,141	Includes all allowable expenditures within the indirect cost pool to administer the Program.
GCA Non-federal share	1,012,535	Includes property or services that benefit the Head Start program and are contributed by non-Federal third parties without charge to the grantee.
Total	5,709,821	

*Financial Audit Results: For the year ended June 30, 2015, the auditor issued an unqualified opinion. There were no financial statement findings and no questioned costs.*

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

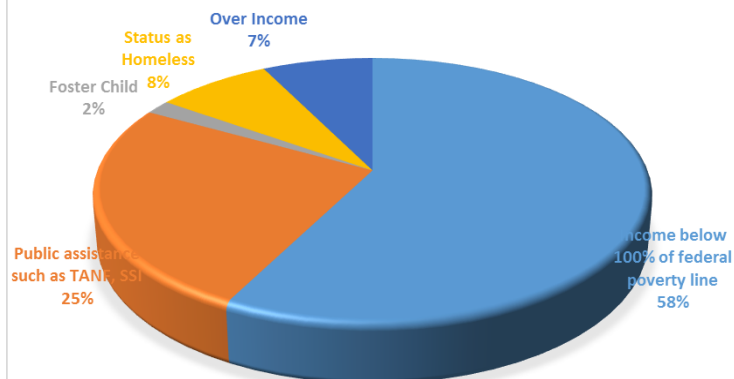
### Our Children

Gaston Community Action, Inc.'s Head Start is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. Our funded enrollment is 460 children. Children who leave the program are replaced by those on a waiting list. Our average daily attendance for 2015 was 96%.

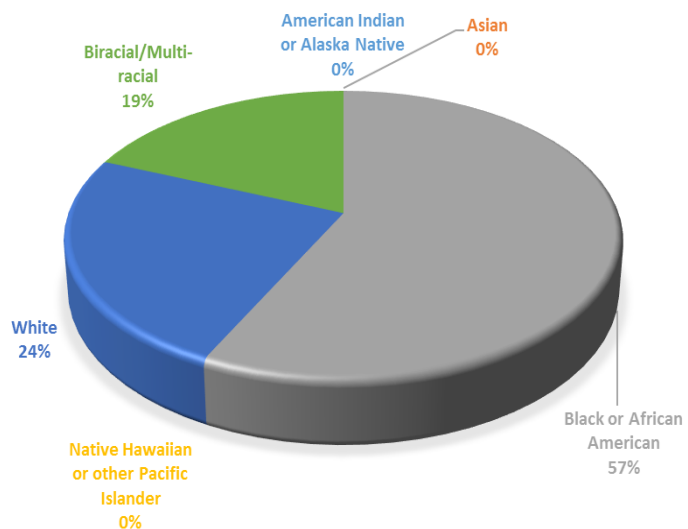
### Our Families

Gaston Community Action, Inc. Head Start served 524 families. 339 are single-parent families; 147 are two-parent families; 33 are homeless and 5 foster families.

TYPE OF ELIGIBILITY



ETHNICITY AND RACE



## PARENT ENGAGEMENT/MALE ENGAGEMENT

Gaston Community Action, Inc. Head Start strongly encourages parent participation. Parents are their child's first teachers, and are the key to the design and success of the program. Parents are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities, including:

- Parent/staff meetings and trainings
- Policy Council meetings
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Home Visits
- Classroom volunteer
- Parent/Staff Trainings held monthly
- Special Programs for male involvement

The program provides newsletters and a monthly calendar to parents that include upcoming events. The menus are posted weekly, breakfast, lunch, and snack. The center news and other items of interest are also posted on the parent information board.

## TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

### *Preparing Children for Kindergarten*

245 children transitioned to Kindergarten in May 2016. Transition meetings are held in April of every year to assist parents of children who are moving on to kindergarten. A tour of the local public school is scheduled to familiarize the families of the setting and routines; parents are given opportunities to ask questions of kindergarten teachers. Parents are encouraged to participate in transition activities. Transition documentation containing all health developmental and educational information will follow the child to their assigned school.

### *Collaboration Agreements*

Gaston Community Action, Inc. collaborates with two LEA's (Gaston and Lincoln) in our service area. These agreements help coordinate disability services for children who required needed services from these local school systems.

## **PROGRAM NOTICE AWARD FOR FIVE YEAR HEAD START PROJECT PERIODS**

The Office of Head Start (OHS) is moving from indefinite project periods to five year project periods for all Head Start grantees. This requires changes on OHS funding practices and oversight of Head Start Programs. Changes in oversight will include improved communication between federal staff and grantees, as well as ongoing analysis of data to determine the type of support needed by grantees. The main purpose of improved oversight is to demonstrate the quality of program services, the effectiveness of management systems, and the achievement of outcomes for children, families, and communities. This is our agency's third (3) year of the five (5) year period. We expected and received our third (3) monitoring visit. The

visits were for Health and Safety; ERSEA and Fiscal. We passed these monitoring reviews without any problems.

## **OHS APPROACH TO SCHOOL READINESS FOR GCA's HEAD START PROGRAM**

The Head Start School Readiness encompasses three major frameworks that promote an understanding of school readiness for parents and families. The three frameworks provide the foundation for implementing a systemic and integrated comprehensive child development service including family engagement. Grantees must participate in school readiness progress meetings with OHS.



## **MEDICAL AND DENTAL**

### ***Medical Homes***

97% of enrolled children have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care. 3% are eligible to receive medical services through child care insurance.

94% of children are enrolled in Medicaid 6% are enrolled in private health insurance plans. Head Start works cooperatively through both County Health Departments and our Nutrition Consultant to perform heights, weights, blood pressure, dental screening, fluoride varnish, blood lead screenings, and review of immunization records.

### ***Dental Exams***

97% enrolled children have continuous, accessible dental care.

### ***Nutrition***

Menus are provided in English and Spanish for parents and public review.

We participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). During our school year we serve approximately 218,501 meals to children at a cost of \$617,200.



## Serving Gaston & Lincoln Counties

The Head Start center has a central office in Gastonia and (7) Head Start Centers in Gaston and Lincoln counties.

### CENTRAL OFFICE

223 N. Morris Street

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 866-8721

[www.gastonca.org](http://www.gastonca.org)



### ***Gaston County***

#### Cherryville Head Start—4 Star

203 Elm Street

Cherryville, NC 28021

(704) 435-8946

40 Students—2 Classrooms

#### Highland Charter Head Start—5 Star

324 N. Highland Street

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 866-9874

126 Students—7 Classrooms

#### Rankin I—4 Star

714 Rankin Ave

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 861-2285

56 Students—2 NC Pre-K Classrooms

#### Rankin II—4 Star

304 N. Highland Street

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 866-6345

69 Students—4 Classrooms

### ***Lincoln County***

#### Oaklwan Head Start—4 Star

410 Linden Street

Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 735-4702

40 Students—2 Classrooms

#### Deaton Head Start—4 Star

101 Deaton Ave

Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 732-3201

20 Students—1 Classroom

#### Lincoln Park Head Start—4 Star

140 Industrial Park Road

Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 732-1216

109 Students—6 Classrooms



# Community Service Block Grant



## 2015-2016 Outcomes



## Brenda Smith, Director

Through collaborative efforts with community partners, GCA works to improve the social and economic well-being of individuals and families in Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland and Stanly counties in North Carolina. Tasked by the State to aid in the reduction of citizens who are living in poverty, GCA operates the Total Family Achievement Program (TFAP) with funds provided through the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). Clients learn about new possibilities for themselves and their families. They begin to see themselves as someone who can make a difference for their family as a member of their community. The TFAP promotes self-sufficiency by providing help with setting a household budgets, rent, food, housing, and transportation assistance along with education/training and job search and support, but first their immediate needs are focused on assistance in order to give them some relief from the pressure to survive. Clients must sign a contract to adhere to the program's guidelines to walk forward self-sufficiency.

The number of families enrolled from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 was 205, which represent 545 family members being served.

<i>Program Results</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
Planned participants	200	205
Moved Above the Federal Poverty Guideline	40	25
Obtained Employment	33	31
Obtained Better Employment	20	12
Obtained Jobs With Medical Benefits	5	8
Completed Education/Training	24	10
Secured Standard Housing	28	17
Received Emergency Assistance	137	102
Provided Employment Support	149	60
Provided Education Support	31	8

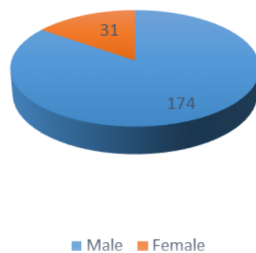




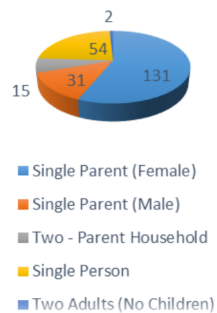
# Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)

## Demographic Synopsis

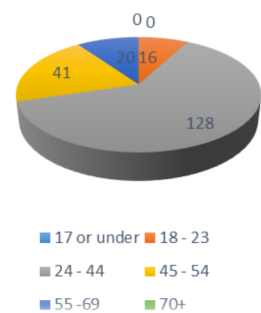
**Gender**



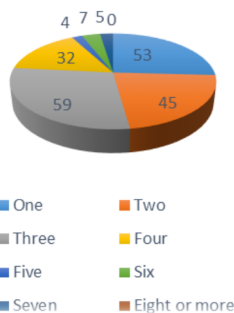
**Family Type**



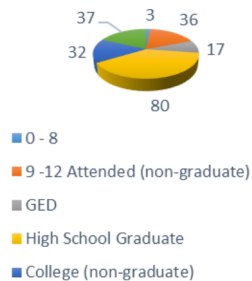
**Age**



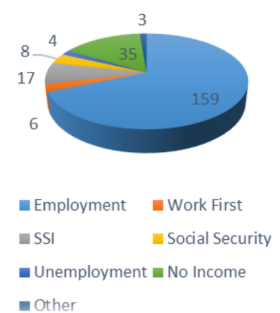
**Family Size**



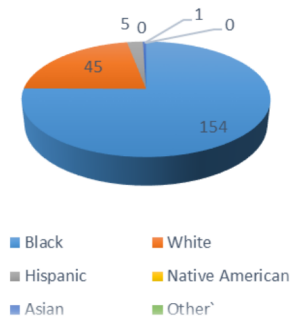
**Education**



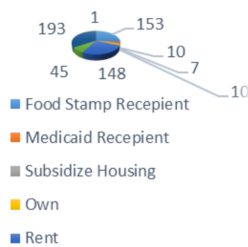
**Source of Income**



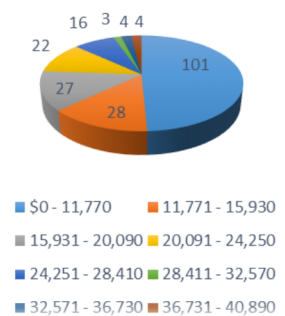
**Race**



**Other Characteristics**



**Level of Income**



# Success Story!

Total Yearly Income for eligibility: \$2987.11

Family: 1

Client was accepted into program with a criminal record, living in a house that provides drug and alcohol dependency treatment, no transportation and working through a temp agency. He has many job skills such as truck driving, brick masonry, construction and machinery. Due to receiving several DULs that require jail time, client has struggling to secure permanent employment. His outstanding medical bills had judgements on his credit record causing a denied of rental property.

Client was referred to NCWORKS where he received assistance with completing a resume' and applying online for employment. Full-time employment was gained earning \$10.00 hour and a 40 hour work week with benefits as a forklift driver. He actually completed his jail sentence while being allowed work release during the day and sleeping at the jail at night. CSBG funds paid past due medical bills and provided bus tickets for client. He is still wanting to get much needed dental work done, but does not want to miss pay from work. He opened a bank account, secured housing at a motel with another coworker that is within walking distance of his job. He continues to maintained attendance with AA meetings at least four times a week. New Family Income: \$20,784.00



## Serving Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln and Stanly counties

The CSBG has a central office in Gastonia and offices in Cleveland, Lincoln and Stanly County.

### **CENTRAL OFFICE**

**223 N. Morris Street**

**Gastonia, NC 28052**

**(704) 866-8721**

[www.gastonca.org](http://www.gastonca.org)

### ***Gaston***

**Brenda Smith**

**Robin Conner**

**Leslie Lowery**

**Sandra Dunlap**

**Kay McCathen**

### ***Cleveland***

**827 S. Washington Street**

**Shelby, NC 28150**

**(704) 480-0722**

**Jackie Thompson**

**Shirley Suggs**

**Brittanie Walker**

### ***Lincoln***

**124 East Main Street**

**Lincolnton, NC 28092**

**(704) 480-9744**

**Cynthia Vinson**

**Skylar Littlejohn**

### ***Stanly***

**507 Old Charlotte Road**

**Albemarle, NC 28001**

**(704) 985-1928**

**David Brown**

**Kenya Sellers**

# Financial Information

**July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GRANT SOURCE</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Head Start	US Dept. of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families	4,010,118
	USDA	346,118
	Pre-K Gaston & Lincoln County	251,100
	Non-Federal Share	1,012,535
CSBG	NC DHHS - Division of Social Services	968,557
Other Revenues		93,649
Total		6,682,077





# RUN 2016

GCA would like to thank the Board of Directors and staff for their participation at the RUN 2016 fundraiser.

We raised \$690.00 with your support.

Your contributions was greatly appreciated.



We are looking forward to seeing you at our next RUN 2017.