

Gaston Community Action, Inc.

Annual Report

2016 - 2017



Helping People, Changing Lives

Since 1964

Table of Contents

Our Vision, Mission and Community Action Promise	3
About Us	4
Board of Directors	5
Letter from Executive Director	6
Head Start	7-16
Community Service Block Grant	17-22
Financial Information	23
RUN 2016	24-25

*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 431 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)**

**CONSULTANT TO THE
BOARD**

Wanda Wyont

NANCY MAYNOR—Chairman

HUGH GRANT—Vice-Chair

DEBORAH OATES—Secretary

JOYCE COLEMAN—Treasurer

JOSIE BROOKS—At Large

LABONNIE KNIGHT

MARY GIBSON

JOYCE COLEMAN

REESHIA BELL

WILLIAM LINDSAY

JOHN MADDOX

DEVONDA FRIDAY

GEORGIANNA HARTGROVE

JEFFREY SEVERCOOL

ASHLEY RUDISILL

ROBERT POPE

DELORIS CHAMBERS

Executive Director

Dear Friends of GCA,

Preparing our Annual Report offers us the opportunity to be thankful for all that has been accomplished. It is a joy to remember and reflect over our success for the past year. Our 2016—2017 Annual Report provides a detailed look at Gaston Community Action, Inc. (GCA) outputs, outcomes, clients successes, and dedication in providing quality services to the communities that we serve.

In fiscal year 2016, GCA assisted more than 1187 individuals and 724 families.

GCA services include:

- Family Self-Sufficiency Program—connects families to education and training resources that lead to employment, helps with rent, food, housing, and transportation.
- Head Start Program— offers comprehensive early child education, health nutrition, and parental involvement service to children and families.

Gaston Community Action partnerships are with 149 business and organizations; and include 81,957 volunteer hours recorded. Much gratitude for our outstanding volunteers. This includes our dedicated GCA Board of Directors, our numerous supporters and our GCA committed and hard-working staff.

We will continue to strive together to tackle the challenges in combating poverty. Developing and providing opportunities for individuals and families to live a fulfilling life.

In Appreciation,

Joseph W. Dixon

Executive Director





HEAD START



**Annual Report School Year 2016-2017
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 88 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) Highland Charter Head Start 324 N. Highland Street, Gastonia, NC two (2) Lincoln Park Head Start Center 140 Industrial Park Rd. Lincolnton, NC
- Serves children breakfast, lunch and snack
- Operates 7:45 AM – 2:15 PM each day in conjunction with Gaston and Lincoln County school calendars
- Total enrollment is 434 at all times. Children who drop/add are replaced timely.
- Number of three year olds served—264
- Number of 4 year olds served—271

FUNDING SOURCES

The Head Start Program received funding from the following sources in FY 2016-2017

Funding Source	Amount		
	7/1/16 - 3/31/17	4/1/17 - 6/30/17	TOTAL
Head Start, OHS, DHHS	3,102,409	679,266	3,781,675
GCA Non-federal share	822,867	178,852	1,001,719
Gaston Pre-K		33,321	33,321
Lincoln Pre-K		24,800	24,800
USDA	265,208	42,563	307,771
E-Rate	1,697		1,697
Other	<u>30-</u>		<u>30</u>
TOTAL FUNDING	4,192,211	958,802	5,151,013

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

BUDGET EXPENDITURES			
	7/1/16 - 3/31/17	4/1/17 - 6/30/17	TOTAL
Personnel	1,483,972	367,873	1,851,845
Fringe Benefits	538,350	101,995	640,345
Travel			0
Equipment			0
Supplies	74,810	525	75,335
Contractual	456,276	90,078	546,354
Facilities/Construction			0
T&TA	31,482	23,914	55,396
Other	370,962	87,262	458,224
Indirect Costs	413,492	108,303	521,795
GCA Non-federal share	<u>822,867</u>	<u>178,852</u>	<u>1,001,719</u>
Total	4,192,211	958,802	5,151,013



Head Start Annual Report Budget Justifications Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Personnel	1,851,845	Includes compensation for all Head Start employees for services rendered to the program.
Fringe Benefits	640,345	Includes FICA, health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, workers comp insurance, SUTA and retirement paid on behalf of eligible staff.
Supplies	75,335	Includes janitorial supplies, office supplies, disabilities supplies, program supplies & medical/dental supplies.
Contractual	546,354	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	55,396	Includes employee development and training & technical assistance for staff.
Other	458,224	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	521,795	Includes all allowable expenditures within the indirect cost pool to administer the Program.
GCA Non-federal share	<u>1,001,719</u>	Includes property or services that benefit the Head Start program and are contributed by non-Federal third parties without charge to the grantee.
Total	5,151,013	

Financial Audit Results: For the year ended June 30, 2016, the auditor issued an unmodified opinion. There were no financial statement findings and no questioned costs.

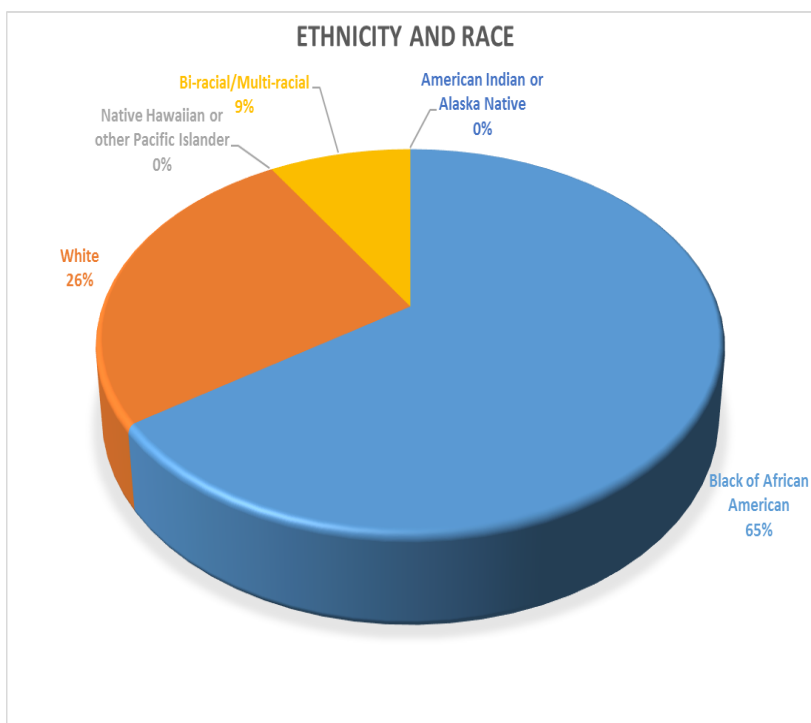
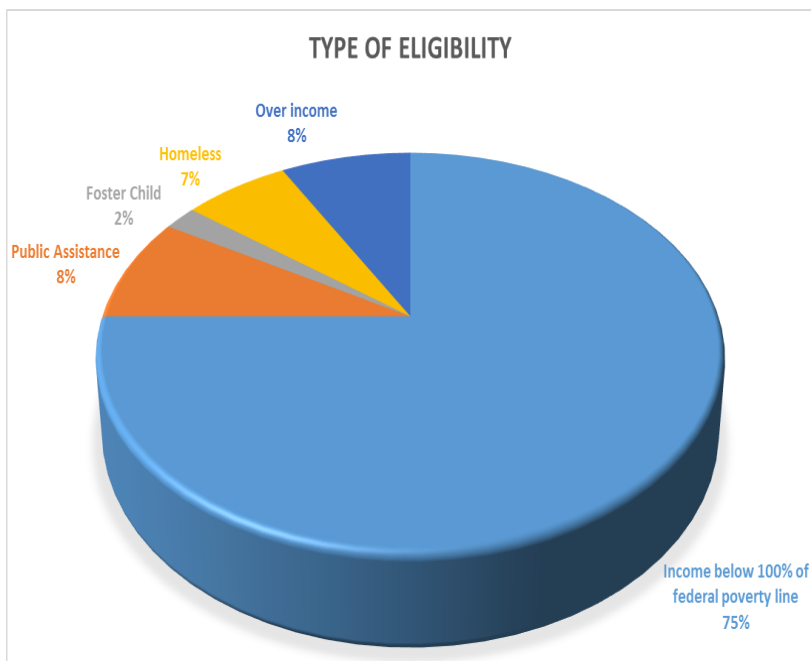
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

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 431 children. Children who leave the program are replaced by those on a waiting list.

Our Families

Gaston Community Action, Inc. Head Start served 535 families. 354 are single-parent families; 148 are two-parent families; 35 are homeless and 10 foster families.



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

248 children transitioned to Kindergarten in May 2017. 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 fourth (4) year of the five (5) year period. We are monitored regularly.

Monitoring visits are for Health and Safety; ERSEA and Fiscal.

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. 5% are eligible to receive medical services through child care insurance.

95% of children are enrolled in Medicaid 5% 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

98% 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 211,20 meals to children at a cost of \$577,280



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



Gaston County

Cherryville Head Start—4 Star

203 Elm Street

Cherryville, NC 28021

(704) 435-8946

37 Students—2 Classrooms

Highland Charter Head Start—5 Star

324 N. Highland Street

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 866-9874

119 Students—7 Classrooms—2 NC Pre-K Classrooms

Rankin I—4 Star

714 Rankin Ave

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 861-2285

60 Students—3 classrooms

Rankin II—4 Star

304 N. Highland Street

Gastonia, NC 28052

(704) 866-6345

68 Students—4 Classrooms

Lincoln County

Oaklwan Head Start—4 Star

410 Linden Street

Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 735-4702

38 Students— 2 Classrooms

Deaton Head Start— 4 Star

101 Deaton Ave

Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 732-3201

16 Students—1 Classroom

Lincoln Park Head Start—4 Star

140 Industrial Park Road

Lincolnton, NC 28092

(704) 732-1216

93 Students—6 Classrooms

2 NC Pre-K Classrooms



Community Service Block Grant



2016-2017 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, 2016 through June 30, 2017 was 242, resulting in 652 individuals benefiting from services provided.

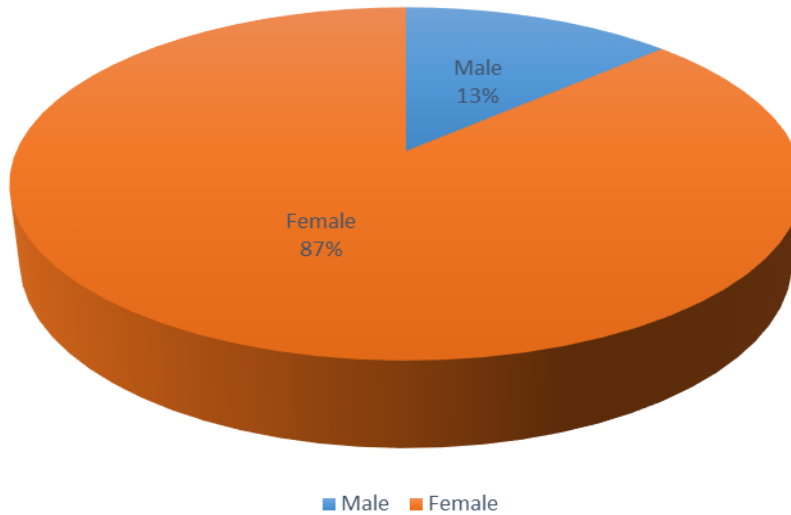
<i>Program Results</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
Planned participants	178	242
Moved Above the Federal Poverty Guideline	23	29
Obtained Employment	29	26
Obtained Better Employment	18	18
Obtained Jobs With Medical Benefits	4	5
Completed Education/Training	21	6
Secured Standard Housing	24	24
Received Emergency Assistance	121	108
Provided Employment Support	132	59
Provided Education Support	27	8



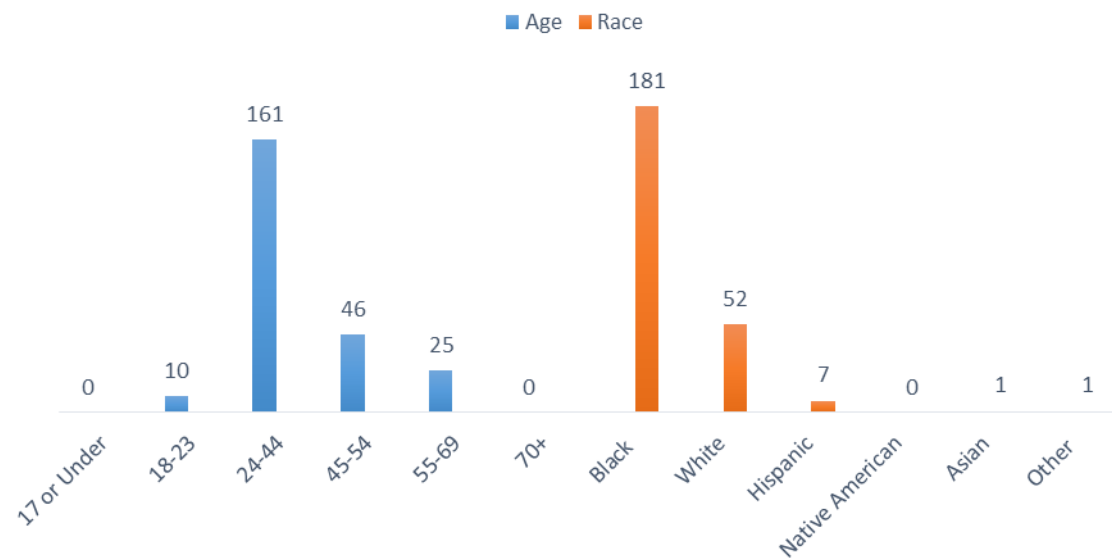


Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Demographic Synopsis

Gender



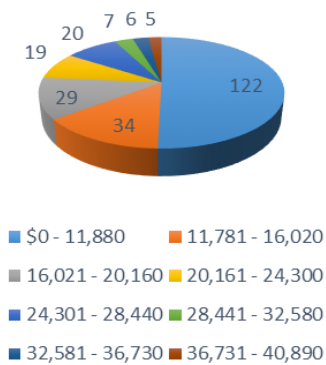
Family Characteristics



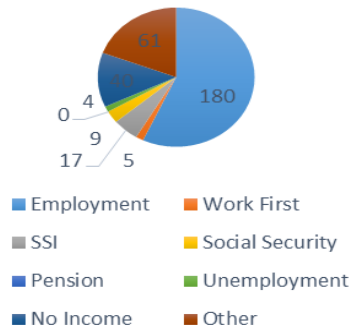


Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Demographic Synopsis

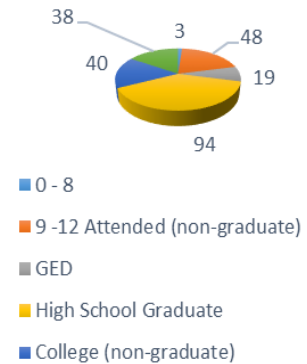
Level of Income



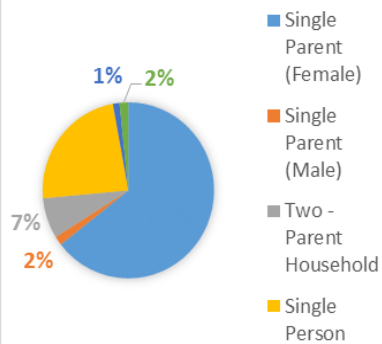
Source of Income



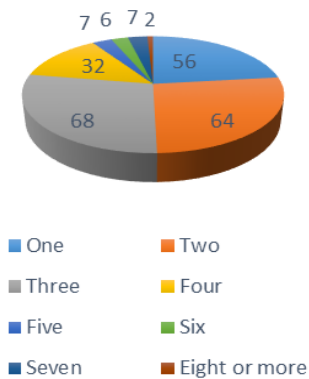
Education



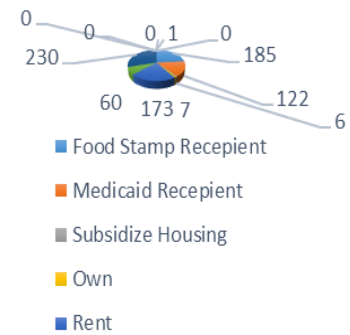
Family Type



Family Size



Other Characteristics



Success Story!

Total Yearly Income for eligibility: \$32,570

Family: 6

The family was accepted into program April 22, 2016 with a beginning income of \$21,475. The parents are 28 years old with four children ages 6, 5, 4 and 1, two of the children attended the Head Start Program. The mother and father have attended college but have yet to earn degrees. The mother has experience as a Financial Specialist and has work experience with Wells Fargo Bank through a temp agency in Charlotte. The mother had several jobs with temp agencies, but has a health condition that caused her to not be able to work full-time which led to her job loss. After medical treatment, she resumed seeking employment. The father is unemployed and provides the daily care for the children while the mother works, since family cannot afford daycare. The family was homeless and had experienced several living situations, living with family members, in their vehicle, and in motels. They were assisted through the Community Services Black Grant (CSBG) with the deposit and first month's rent for an apartment and with the utility deposit for the home. They were also assisted with storage fees for belongings until they could secure employment and housing. She was referred to temp agencies in Charlotte and she landed a full-time job as a Business Analyst. Client is earning \$30.00 hour with APEX Systems, LLC in Charlotte with benefits. She maintained employment at APEX Systems for four months and was offered a full-time job with Princeton Information in Ft. Mill, SC earning \$55.56/hour with benefits and she accepted the offer. The husband was offered a maintenance job at their apartment complex. His earning are taken off of their rental payment. He is still working at the apartment complex and the children are doing well in school. With their new annual income at \$62,400, the family is now working with a realtor to buy a house in the Ft. Mill area.

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

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, 2016 - June 30, 2017

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GRANT SOURCE</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Head Start	US Dept. of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families	3,781,675
	USDA	307,771
	Pre-K Gaston & Lincoln County	58,121
	Non-Federal Share	1,001,719
CSBG	NC DHHS - Division of Social Services	954,886
Other Revenues		1,727
Total		6,105,899





RUN 2017

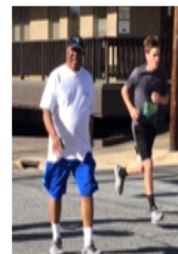
GCA would like to thank the Board of Directors and staff for their participation at the RUN 2017



RUN 2017



**Special "Thanks" to
Shelly Robinson
our designated runner.**



Notes