



ANNUAL REPORT

GASTON COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.
July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012

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THE MISSION STATEMENT OF
Gaston Community Action, Inc.

“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.”

GASTON COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

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".

The agency administers programs in Gaston, Lincoln, Stanly and Cleveland Counties funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. GCA employs a staff of about 140 and operates on an annual budget of over 9.5 million.

GCA has continuously provided services and advocacy in 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 more than 500 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. the Weatherization program installs permanent insulating materials in homes of the elderly, handicapped, and low-income persons.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 18 members representing three sectors: Public (appointed by the county commissioners), Citizen (elected by the low-income residents), and Private (appointed by civic groups). Each sector has six representatives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PUBLIC

Louis S. Brown, Jr.
Hartgrove Georgianna
John L. Maddox
De Vonda Friday
Teretha Moore Young
Dexter Townsend

CITIZEN

Sahara Hamilton
LaBonnie B. Knight
Rasheeda White
Joseph Kendrick
Tammy Brommer
Alva Finney

PRIVATE

Mary Ampley
Debra Ransom
Brenda T. Spencer
Daisy S. Henry

CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD

Regina M. Taylor
Wanda Wyont

HEAD START



**Annual Report FY 2011
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**

HEAD START

Carol Kilgo, Director

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

Each Head Start agency shall make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that disclosed 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 (as a percentage of funded enrollment), and the percentage of eligible children served.
- The results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit.
- The percentage of enrolled children that received medical and dental exams.
- Information about parent engagement involvement activities.
- The agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten.
- Any other information required by the Secretary.

FAST FACTS

- Employs 120 employees
- Contracts with local agencies to provide preventive health, nutrition, disabilities services and mental Health services to children and families.
- Operates 9 Head Start Centers (3 in Lincoln County 6 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) Myrtle B. Hoffman Head Start center 928 Sycamore Avenue, Gastonia, NC 28052 two (2) Lincoln Park Head Start Center 140 Industrial Park Rd. , Lincolnton, NC 28092
- Serves children Breakfast, Lunch and PM Snack
- Operates 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM each day in conjunction with Gaston and Lincoln's school calendars.
- Enrollment is 460 at all times. Children drop/or are added daily.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Head Start Program received funding from the following sources in FY 2011-2012

Funding Source	Amount		
	7/1/11 - 3/31/12	4/1/12 - 6/30/12	TOTAL
Head Start, OHS, DHHS	3,067,450	928,467	3,995,917
GCA Non-federal share	856,115	181,949	1,038,064
Gaston Pre-K	175,536	43,884	219,420
Lincoln Pre-K	88,998	46,944	135,942
USDA	290,287	56,492	346,779
E-Rate	18,976		18,976
Other	13,893	23,838	37,731
TOTAL FUNDING	4,511,255	1,281,574	5,792,829

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

CATEGORY			
	7/1/11-3/31/12	4/1/12-6/30/12	TOTAL
Personnel	1,670,538	464,021	2,134,559
Fringe Benefits	580,552	253,855	834,407
Travel			0
Equipment			0
Supplies	30,796	1,682	32,478
Contractual	529,229	111,912	641,141
Facilities/Construction			0
T&TA	29,010	25,942	54,952
Other	479,050	103,610	585,660
Indirect Costs	402,633	138,603	541,236
Total	3,721,808	1,099,625	4,821,433

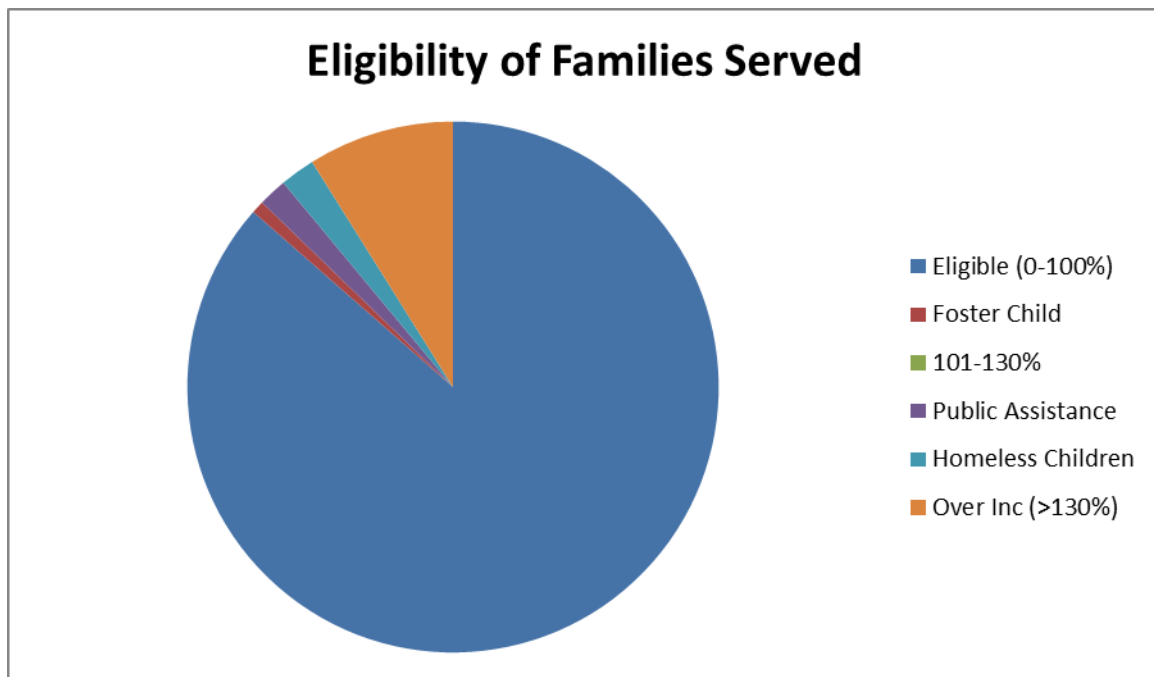
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

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 2011 was 92%. We served 488 families.

Our Families

Gaston Community Action, Inc. Head Start served 488 families. 349 are single-parent families; 139 are two-parent families.



MONITORING REVIEW

From April 23, 2012 to April 27, 2012, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site follow-up monitoring review of the Gaston Community Action, Inc.'s Head Start Program. Based on the information gathered in the review, it was established that our agency had no deficiencies. There were three (3) findings that have been corrected and a final report is due to ACF December 7, 2012.

RESULTS OF FINAL AUDIT

For the year ended June 30, 2011, the auditor issued an unqualified opinion. There was a finding on the financial statement preparation in that the audit firm prepares the annual financial statements and related note disclosures for the audit. The auditor recommendation is that the financial statement preparation must continue to be monitored by a qualified Agency employee and the responsibility for all management decisions must continue to lie with Agency management personnel. The Agency management agreed with the finding and immediately implemented the corrective action plan.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Medical Homes

92% of enrolled children have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care. 8% are eligible to receive medical services through child care insurance. 90% of children are enrolled in Medicaid 10% are enrolled in private health insurance plans. Head Start works cooperatively through both County Health Department and our Nutrition Consultant to perform heights, weights, blood pressure, dental screening and fluoride varnish, blood lead screenings, and review of immunization records.

Dental Exams

100% enrolled children have continuous, accessible dental care.

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. Parents participate, and are encouraged to participate, in a variety of activities, including:

- Parent/staff meetings and trainings
- Policy Council meetings
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Home Visits
- Special program events celebrating historical holidays
- Field Trips
- Classroom volunteer
- Parent/Staff Trainings held monthly
- Special Program for males of the program

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

TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Preparing Children for Kindergarten

269 children transitioned to Kindergarten in May 2012 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. Lunch and other activities are available for the children and their parents. Transition packet will contain all health, developmental and educational information on each child for the appropriate school.

Collaboration Agreements

Gaston Community Action, Inc. collaborates with two LEA's (Gaston and Lincoln) in our service area. These agreements are with mental health, coordinating disabilities services, transition services and resource sharing.

HEAD START LOCATIONS

Central Office

223 N. Morris Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 866-8721

Gaston County

Cherryville Head Start – 4 star
203 Elm Street
Cherryville, NC 28021
(704) 435-8946
40 Students

Highland Head Start – 4 star
301 N. Highland Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 861-2284
60 Students

M.B. Hoffman Head Start – 5 star
928 Sycamore Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 867-8431
46 Students – 2 More @ Four classrooms

Highland Charter Head Start – 5 star
223 N. Morris Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 861-2283
20 Students

Rankin I – 4 star
714 Rankin Avenue
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 861-2285
60 Students

Rankin II – 4 star
304 N. Highland Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 866-6345
68 Students

Lincoln County

Oaklawn Head Start – 4 star
410 Linden Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092
(704) 735-4702
38 Students

Deaton Head Start – 4 star
101 Deaton Avenue
Lincolnton, NC 28092
(704) 732-3201
20 Students

Lincoln Park Head Start – 4 star
140 Industrial Park Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092
(704) 732-1216
108 Students – 2 More @ Four classroom

COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT

Brenda Smith, Director

Gaston Community Action provides services to bring people out of poverty. Services are provided to meet the family's need such as employment, housing and crisis prevention. The Agency provides clients with information and referrals to other helpful resources to assist in providing comprehensive services.

The Community Service Block Grant Program (CSBG) changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes the counties we serve a better place to live. The CSBG Program currently serves Cleveland, Lincoln, Gaston and Stanly counties. The programs operated through the CSBG Program were the Total Family Achievement (TFAP) and Highland Charter Public School (HCPS) reading enhancement.

A range of services are provided for the TFAP clients addressing poverty related problems from income management to securing and maintaining employment. Clients are coached using Choice Theory/Reality Therapy which better prepares families in setting attainable goals - this keeps them motivated to accomplish planned activities that lead them to their desired result – self-sufficiency.

The jobs crisis continues to plaque the area. Families are eager to find and keep good jobs, but are still trying to preserve their standard of living by often working two (2) or more jobs. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics' Acting Commissioner on the Employment Situation, John M. Galvin, cited in his October 5, 2012 news release that among the employed, the number of involuntary part time workers increased by 582,000 to 8.6 million in September of 2012. Some of the unemployed and under employed population medical needs are being met through health clinics throughout the counties.

The number of clients enrolled from July of 2011 through June of 2012 was 209 in the TFAP and 78, HCPS.

Program Results	TFAP	HCPS
Achieved Reading Level Growth of 10 months		35
Moved Above Poverty	11	
Obtained Employment	21	
Gained Better Employment	5	
Obtained Jobs with Medical Benefits	3	
Completed Education/Training	10	
Secured Standard Housing	8	

COUNTY OFFICE LOCATIONS

LINCOLN
124 East Main Street
Lincolnton, N. C. 28092
704-748-9746

CLEVELAND
827 South Washington Street
Shelby, N. C. 28150
704-480-1240

STANLY
507 Old Charlotte Road
Albemarle, N. C. 28001
704-985-1097

GASTON
223 N Morris Street
Gastonia, N. C. 28052
704-861-2283

WEATHERIZATION and HARRP

Kay McCathen, Director

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families save energy and reduce utility bills. Gaston Community Action provides families in Gaston, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union counties with incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty income level with weatherization services. Families with incomes at or below 150 percent of the poverty level may receive Heating, Air Repair/Replacement (HARRP) services.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is administered through the North Carolina Energy Office in the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The mission of weatherization is to improve energy efficiency, household safety and to educate families on how to maintain energy efficiency.

The focus of the program is on the elderly, the disabled, families with children, high energy users and the energy burdened.

The goal of the program is to keep citizens warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and safe all year long. Weatherization is available for single-family homes, apartments, condominiums, and mobile homes. Some of the measures that may be addressed by weatherization are: *Client education, Evaluation of homes for health and safety, Tunes, repairs or replaces heating systems as needed, Insulates attics, floors and walls as needed, minor repairs for health and safety reasons, Installs smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, performs baseload and general heat waste measures.*

The Weatherization Program coordinates with other agencies to insure that clients receive comprehensive services. Those agencies include Rural Economic Development, City of Gastonia and other programs in the counties served.

During the 2011/2012 program year, services were provided as follows:

	Gaston	Mecklenburg	Stanly	Union
DOE (31)	15	10	3	3
LIHEAP (4)	1	2		1
HARRP (60)	9	46	3	2
ARRA (256)	76	121	39	20

COUNTY OFFICE LOCATIONS

GASTON
223 N. Morris Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
704-866-8721

STANLY
507 Old Charlotte Rd
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-985-1928

MECKLENBURG
1801 N. Tryon Street Suite 334
Charlotte, NC 28206
704-940-1752

HIGHLAND CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

The mission of Highland Charter Public School is to be a family friendly school that enhances the learning community, expands educational choice and increases learning opportunities for all children. Our main goal is to help all students be successful by improving their lives through learning.

At Highland Charter Public School, we prepare our students and their families for success in the traditional public school system. We strive to dramatically impact teaching and learning in the earliest grades where the foundation for future learning is truly established.

Highland Charter began as Kindergarten only in August 1997 and over the years increased grade levels to include Kindergarten thru second grade. In October 2008, GCA submitted a proposal to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to increase Highland's enrollment and to implement one additional grade level each year until Highland was a K-5 school. The State Board of Education approved the proposal. Highland Charter served its first class third grade students beginning in August 2009 and welcomed its first class of fourth grade students in August 2010 and fifth grade students in August 2011.

Over the past 15 years, the school faced and overcame numerous challenges and continue to provide a family-friendly educational environment.

Unfortunately, Highland Charter was unable to overcome its greatest challenge. In December 2009, the State Board of Education issued a policy stating it "shall revoke the charter of any charter school when, for two of three consecutive years, the school does not meet or exceed expected growth and has a Performance Composite below 60%." Based on the results of the End-Of-Grade testing for the past two years, Highland Charter did not attain adequate levels of student performance and was closed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Susan Salzman, Fiscal Director

July 1, 2011– June 30, 2012

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GRANT SOURCE</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Head Start	US Dept. of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families	3,995,917
	USDA	346,779
	More at Four/Pre-K	355,362
	Non-Federal Share	1,038,064
	E-Rate/Other	56,707
CSBG	NC DHHS-Office of Economic Opportunity	613,359
Weatherization	NC Department of Commerce—Energy Division	307,002
Weatherization ARRA (08/01/09-3/31/12)	NC Department of Commerce—Energy Division	1,475,963
HARRP	NC Department of Commerce—Energy Division	1,475,963
	Landlord Contributions/Other	1,875
HARRP	NC Department of Commerce—Energy Division	233,520
Highland Charter Public School	NC Department of Public Instruction	533,054
	Federal Grants	212,013
	USDA	73,811
	Gaston & Mecklenburg County Schools	150,287
	Miscellaneous	40,500
Other Revenues		<u>74,375</u>
Total		9,508,863

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