

GASTON COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.



Helping People, Changing Lives

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013

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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 7 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	CITIZEN	PRIVATE
Deloris Chambers	Brad Guth	Brenda Spencer
Devonda Friday	LaBonnie Knight	Debra Ransom
Georgianna Hartgrove	Stoney Maddox, Jr.	Hugh Grant
John L. Maddox	Rasheeda White	Josie Brooks
Louis Brown, Jr.	Tammy Brommer	Ronald Harbinson
Teretha Moore Young	William Lindsay	

CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD

Regina M. Taylor
Wanda Wyont

From the desk of the Executive Director,

Joseph W. Dixon

ROMA Can Help Tell The Story

Gaston Community Action, Inc. has been operating a pre-school program, jobs program and housing program for the past 27 years. We have helped to change thousands of peoples lives that have enrolled into our programs. Teachers, lawyers, businessmen and businesswomen have returned to the agency to say thank you. Some of our current teachers are former head start enrollees that validate the success of our Head Start program. Seniors that have benefited from our Weatherization Program continue calling and sending letters sharing how the program has made a difference in their lives. Yes, we have helped thousands of people improve their lives, but there still exist a need for pre-school, jobs and weatherization programs. The need for assistance is greater than any time in the history of our lives, and funds are being reduced.

We ask ourselves, “Have we clearly communicated the story of people in need?” Everyday discussions and decisions are made for tough budget cuts. How can this take place when the economy is still in recovery? Have we not told their story effectively to those that make the decisions about where to cut funding?

GCA joins other Community Action Agencies in “Telling the Story” of our success over these forty plus years and how we are preparing to continue Helping People, Changing Lives.

Results-Oriented Management and Accountability System (ROMA) allows nonprofit agencies such as Gaston Community Action an opportunity to speak to our grantors in numbers. The statistics will allow our Board of Directors, Administrators, Directors and Staff to see the big picture in terms of what is working within our community and what isn't working. The ROMA process encourages us to revisit our mission; goals; objectives; action steps; budget; and appraisal. This process is an ongoing cycle that constantly changes due to the environment of our economy and community. Needs for our community are rapidly changing and along with change comes new implementation of programs that will better serve low-income families.

Gaston Community Action has evolved on so many different levels. For example, we now have what is called the Accountable Results for Community Actions (AR4CA). This computerized system is designed around ROMA. The data placed in AR4CA and the Program Resources and Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS), used for capturing Head Start information, give us numbers that will indicate whether we are progressing or digressing. In looking at the big picture, we are able to apply our information in a logic model that will ensure that our services meet the agency's mission statement. For example, we are able to identify our problems within the community along with showing the services and activities that our case managers and family advocates are performing to ensure family needs are being met. We are also able to demonstrate our Outcomes and have Outcome indicators that provide number and percentages of customers and consumers to achieve each outcome. Outcome indicators show actual results that will give our agency some concrete percentages or data on which to build for future initiatives. The measuring tools; the Community Service Block Grant Information System Survey (CSBG IS) and the National Performance Indicators (NPI) include all our programs, CSBG, Head Start and Weatherization. The aforementioned information are the tools used that allow our agency to speak to our board, administrators, staff and grantors quantitatively.

Joseph W. Dixon

Executive Director

HEAD START



**Annual Report FY 2012
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.
- Intuiting School Readiness goals for Pre-schoolers.
- Total number of meals served an its cost to the program
- Notice of 5 years award.

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 who drop/add are adjusted daily.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Head Start Program received funding from the following sources in FY 2012-2013

Funding Source	Amount		
	7/1/12 - 3/31/13	4/1/13 - 6/30/13	TOTAL
Head Start, OHS, DHHS	2,992,102	763,196	3,755,298
GCA Non-federal share	902,142	28,040	930,182
Gaston Pre-K	65,063	44,487	109,550
Lincoln Pre-K	86,940	37,260	124,200
USDA	287,239	58,785	346,024
E-Rate			0
Other	815	476	1291
TOTAL FUNDING	4,334,301	932,244	5,266,545

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

CATEGORY			
	7/1/12-3/31/13	4/1/13-6/30/13	TOTAL
Personnel	1,490,902	386,017	1,876,919
Fringe Benefits	579,041	194,965	774,006
Travel		4,163	4,163
Equipment			0
Supplies	35,501	1,327	36,828
Contractual	499,580	101,044	600,624
Facilities/Construction			0
T&TA	16,459	6,670	23,129
Other	394,929	82,162	477,091
Indirect Costs	415,747	127,856	543,603
GCA Non-federal share	902,142	28,040	930,182
Total	4,334,301	932,244	5,266,545

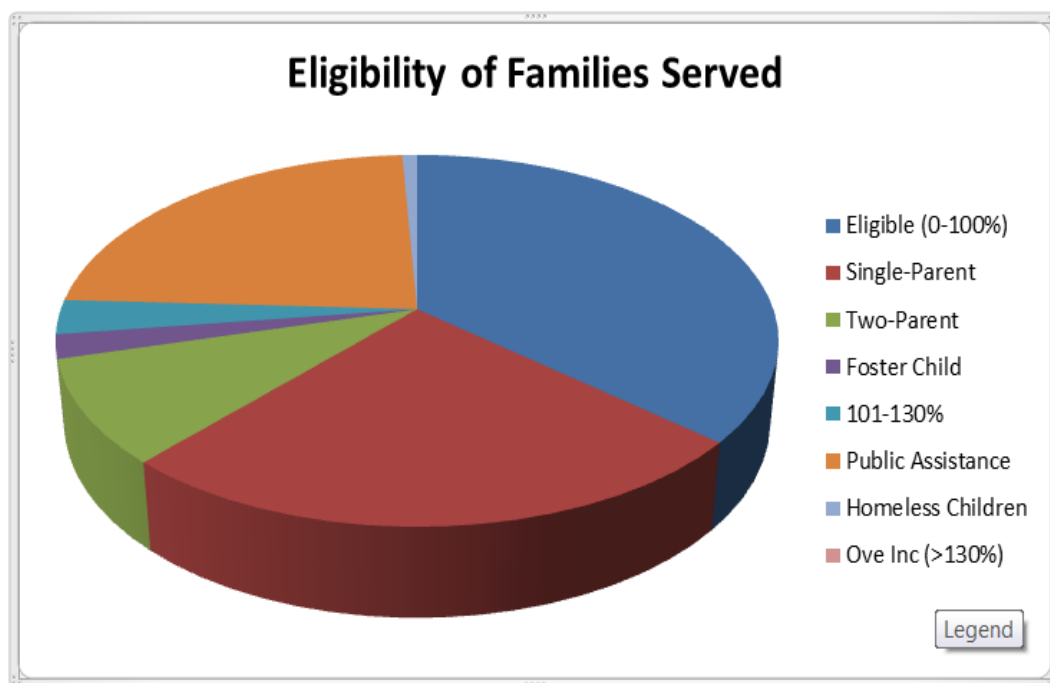
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

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 560 families. 389 are single-parent families; 139 are two-parent families; foster children 32.



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.

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

The Head Start Approach to School Readiness encompasses three major frameworks that promote an understanding of school readiness for parents and families, infants and toddlers, and preschoolers. The three frameworks provide the foundation for implementing systemic and integrated comprehensive child development services and family engagement efforts that lead to school readiness for young children and families. Grantees must participate in school readiness progress meetings with OHS.

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

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. CSBG funding supports projects that:

- Lessen poverty in communities
 - Address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly
- Provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health.

With the support of CSBG funding, GCA and the State work together to achieve the following goals for low-income individuals through the ***Total Family Achievement Program*** (TFAP):

- Increased self-sufficiency
 - Improved living conditions
 - Ownership of and pride in their communities
- Strong family and support systems

The GCA currently operates the TFAP in Cleveland, Lincoln, Gaston and Stanly counties.

A range of services are provided for the TFAP families 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 activities related to their goals which lead them to their desired result – self-sufficiency. The Agency also provides clients with information and referrals to other helpful community resources to assist in providing comprehensive services.

The number families enrolled from July of 2012 through June of 2013 was 172, a total of 283 family members.

Program Results	TFAP
Moved Above Poverty	19
Obtained Employment	15
Gained Better Employment	9
Obtained Jobs with Medical Benefits	3
Completed Education/Training	24
Secured Standard Housing	15
Received Emergency Assistance	88

COUNTY OFFICE LOCATIONS

LINCOLN
124 East Main Street
Lincolnton, N. C. 28092
Phone: 704-748-9744

CLEVELAND
827 South Washington Street
Shelby, N. C. 28150
Phone: 704-480-0722

STANLY
507 Old Charlotte Road
Albemarle, N. C. 28001
704-985-1928

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

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, ECT's, 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 base load 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 2012/2013 program year, services were provided as follows:

	WAP Cases	# of People	HARRP Cases	#of People
Gaston	22	43	20	39
Union1	9	16	7	16
Stanly 9	5	13	3	6
Mecklenburg 76	33	61	48	100

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Susan Salzman, Fiscal Director

July 1, 2012– June 30, 2013

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GRANT SOURCE</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Head Start	US Dept. of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families	3,755,298
	USDA	346,024
	More at Four/Pre-K Gaston & Lincoln County	233,750
	Non-Federal Share	930,182
CSBG	NC DHHS-Office of Economic Opportunity	729,646
Weatherization	NC DHHS-Office of Energy Division	307,002
	Landlord Contributions/Other	1,100
HARRP	NC Department of Commerce—Energy Division	292,643
Other Revenues		<u>97,411</u>
Total		7,123,642

NOTES



Gaston Community Action, Inc.
223 N. Morris Street, Gastonia, NC 28052
Phone: 704 - 861-2283 704 - 866-8721
Fax: 704-866-8725
www.gastonca.org