

GASTON COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.



Helping People, Changing Lives

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

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VISION OF

Gaston Community Action, Inc.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

“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 126 and operates on an annual budget of over 7 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. The Weatherization program installs permanent insulating materials in homes of the elderly, handicapped, and low-income persons.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 16 members representing three sectors: Public (appointed by the county commissioners), Citizen (elected by the low-income residents), and Private (appointed by civic groups).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PUBLIC

Louis Brown, Jr.
John L. Maddox
Teretha Young
Devonda Friday
Georgianna Hartgrove
Deloris Chambers

CITIZEN

LaBonnie Knight
Rasheeda White
Sharon White
Nancy Maynor
William Lindsay

PRIVATE

Ashley Rudisill
Brenda T. Spencer
Robert L. Pope
Josie Brooks
Hugh Grant

CONSULTANTS TO THE BOARD



Regina M. Taylor
Wanda Wyont

From the desk of the Executive Director, Joseph W. Dixon

How does the Community Action Agency commemorate its 50th Anniversary?

We begin with the people who had the **inspiration**, the **determination** and the **dedication** behind a noteworthy cause for low wealth families.

In 1964, when the War on Poverty was declared by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the idea for a community action agency was a seed planted in someone's thoughts to serve the poor. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of President Johnson's War on Poverty. During his January 1964 State of the Union address, Johnson proclaimed, ***"This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America."***^[1]

Now, it is time to stop; pause; and give thanks to all individuals that help start, maintain and continue the success and progress of Gaston Community Action (GCA). As a service organization for low wealth families, we have and will continue to provide quality services. The life of an organization has its moments of growth and glory.

We acknowledge and give thanks, first to our GCA charter members for having the vision to create a Community Action Agency in Gaston County. Thank you to all of the Board Members that took their time, energy and effort each month, even during the work week, to guide GCA throughout its fifty year history. Through difficulty times, when funds have been drastically reduced or the President's Administration attempting to "zero out" Community Action from our national budget. These men and women with foresight, wisdom and integrity have held the agency together. Recently, a strategic planning session, spear-headed by our Board of Directors, offers GCA a plan for the next five years that will prepare and propel us into the 21st century. At this trajectory, in the commemorative 50th Anniversary for Community Action Agencies, our primary focus is our Head Start Program of 3-4 year olds to include programming for Early Head Start with 0-2 year olds.

Where and what will happen with Gaston Community Action over the next 50 years? GCA will continue to operate programs that assist individuals and families working toward self-sufficiency. At the same time manage change by working closely with the Board of Directors, staff and community partners. President Johnson may have been the inspiration behind the start of Community Action Agency, yet it is the administration, staff and its workers that have been on the forefront of the War on Poverty. Our determination and devotion to a noteworthy cause is what has made all the difference in reducing poverty and the lack of resources for low wealth families. As it is written, "the poor will always be with us", so the battle is not over. We have a new battlefield and new strategies to employ and then deploy to serve.

[1] Lyndon B. Johnson, "Annual Message to the Congress on the State of the Union," January 8, 1964, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=26787> (accessed October 12, 2014).

HEAD START



**Annual Report FY 2013
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:

Gaston Community Action, Inc. is committed and dedicated to ensure the Head Start will be prepare to succeed in school and life. Gaston Community Action School Readiness team, which is comprised of parents, staff, community partners, and the local school systems, will work to make certain the School Readiness Goals aligned with 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 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 preschoolers.
- Total number of meals served an its cost to the program
- Notice of 5 years award.



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 and 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 School Readiness goals depict the knowledge and skills for all children to be successful in school and life. 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 by aligning with Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, North Carolina Early Learning Guidelines, and local school systems. 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) and families serve are fully equipped with necessary skills to successfully transition to kindergarten.

FAST FACTS

- Employs 93 employees
- Contracts with local agencies to provide preventive health, nutrition, disabilities services 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 28053 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 2013-2014

Funding Source	Amount		
	7/1/13 - 3/31/14	4/1/14 - 6/30/14	TOTAL
Head Start, OHS, DHHS	2,955,783	750,882	3,706,665
GCA Non-federal share	913,506	12,775	926,281
Gaston NC Pre-K	97,808	20,400	118,208
Lincoln NC Pre-K	72,047	36,040	108,087
USDA	204,705	62,213	266,918
E-Rate	25,448	0	25,448
Other	7,095	60	7,155
TOTAL FUNDING	4,276,392	882,370	5,158,762

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

CATEGORY			
	7/1/13 - 3/31/14	4/1/14 - 6/30/14	TOTAL
Personnel	1,321,681	350,475	1,672,156
Fringe Benefits	534,754	169,356	704,110
Travel	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0
Supplies	39,726	1,521	41,247
Contractual	431,111	112,027	543,138
Facilities/Construction	0	0	0
T&TA	28,856	22,435	51,291
Other	414,159	97,800	511,959
Indirect Costs	424,695	131,437	556,132
GCA Non-federal share	913,506	12,775	926,281
Total	4,108,488	897,826	5,006,314

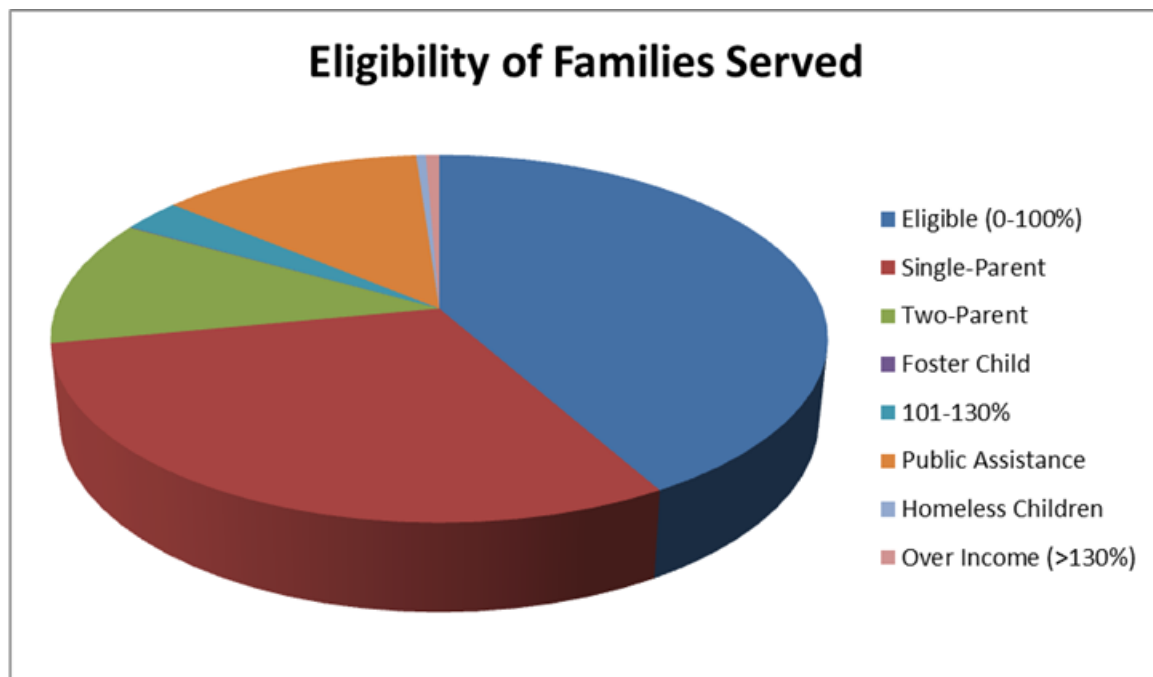
NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

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 2013 was 93%. We served 476 children.

Our Families

Gaston Community Action, Inc. Head Start served 447 families. 323 are single-parent families; 119 are two-parent families; foster children .5



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 first (1) year of the five (5) year period. We expect our first (1) monitoring visit this year.

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, 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

94% of enrolled children have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care. 6% are eligible to receive medical services through child care insurance. 92% 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

96% 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

210 children transitioned to Kindergarten in May 2014 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 Charter Head Start - 5 Star
324 N. Highland Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 866-9874
126 Students

Rankin I – 4 star
714 Rankin Avenue
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
70 Students

Lincoln County

Oaklawn Head Start – 4 star
410 Linden Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092
(704) 735-4702
40 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 NC Pre-K classrooms

COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT

Brenda Smith, Director

In collaboration with our partners, GCA works to improve the social and economic well being of individuals and families in the counties we serve, Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland and Stanly in North Carolina. We are tasked by the State to aid in the reduction of citizens who are living in poverty.

Through the Community Services Block Grant, we operate the Total Family Achievement Program (TFAP) which provides essential human services to help citizens to self sufficiency. The TFAP assists individuals and families obtain employment and standard housing, with education/training, and emergency needs related to self-sufficiency.

The number of families enrolled from July of 2013 through June of 2014 was 151, a total of 379 family members.

Program Results

TFAP

Moved Above Poverty	17
Obtained Employment/Better	22
Gained Better Employment	19
Obtained Jobs with Medical Benefits	3
Completed Education/Training	13
Secured Standard Housing	12
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.*

During the 2013/2014 program year, services were provided as follow:

Program	#of Units completed	# of people assisted
WAP	63	126
HARRP	66	166
Total Assisted		292

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, 2013– June 30, 2014

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>GRANT SOURCE</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Head Start	US Dept. of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families	3,706,665
	USDA	266,918
	More at Four/Pre-K Gaston & Lincoln County	226,295
	Non-Federal Share	926,281
CSBG	NC DHHS-Office of Economic Opportunity	741,116
Weatherization	NC DHHS-Office of Energy Division	731,219
	Landlord Contributions/Other	275
HARRP	NC Department of Commerce—Energy Division	365,342
Other Revenues		<u>133,044</u>
Total		7,097,155



THANK YOU!

Gaston Community Action, Inc. would like to thank you for your support and generous contribution toward our Annual Board meeting.

Diamond Level

140.6 Enterprises, LLC/Phyllip Bryson & Family

Platinum Level

Hood Hargett

Gold Level

Dallas Electric & Plumbing Contractors



NOTES



Gaston Community Action, Inc.
Administrative Office

223 N. Morris Street, Gastonia, NC 28052

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Fax: 704-866-8725

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