

## Happy New Year - 2024 News from the NCCAA ❤️💙❤️💙



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**Date** 2024-01-09 12:10



*Empowered Newsletter | January 2024 | Issue 1*



*Executive Director, Linda Mitchell Johnson and Program Manager, Ms. Della Ham of the Florence County, SC, Leatherman Senior Center, and Edi Palau, Director, Housing & Energy Programs, NCCAA, along with Frankie Miller, Housing & Energy Specialist, NCCAA, during a recent meeting to discuss the Duke Energy "DEP" Weatherization Program*

*Let's Celebrate and Learn!*

**Ball Rolling on NCCAA Annual Conference 2024. Sign Up Now!**

*Join your colleagues and other non-profit professionals from across North Carolina for a week of plenary sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. We foster collaboration and focused attention on the diverse faces of poverty in North Carolina while promoting positive change in our communities.*

**Celebrating 60 years!**



**Our 2024 Conference in Cherokee will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the NCCAA and the Community Action Movement**

**Registration Fees:**

Early Rates (until Friday February 2, 2024)  
Early Bird Member Rate - \$500  
Early Bird Non-Member Rate - \$575

Regular Member Rate - \$550  
Regular Non-Member Rate - \$625

**Late Rates (after Friday March 22, 2024)**

Late Registration Member Rate - \$675  
Late Registration Non-Member Rate - \$775

**Learn & Register**

**Tentative Agenda**

**Workshops to Remember**

In addition to our full schedule of workshops and sessions, these bonus workshops are planned:

**Head Start & Weatherization**

**Award Nominations**

*Standing awards are an important part of our annual conference each year.  
Please take time to submit a nomination from your agency!*

*All nominations must be received by 11:59PM on Friday March 8, 2024*

**Roselle Copeland  
Stewardship Award**

This award focuses on exemplary individual contributions to the Association, the local community or agency and/or the low-income community at large.

**Nominate**

**Gloria M. Williams Award**

The Gloria M. Williams Award is presented annually to a corporation, foundation, or other valuable partner that has advanced the cause of the North Carolina Community Action Association or one of its members.

**Nominate**

**Lonnie D. Burton  
Achievement Award**

The Lonnie D. Burton Achievement Award is presented annually to an individual who, through the assistance of a Community Action Program, has achieved a significant level of self-sufficiency and independence, while recognition is given to the local Community Action Agency's role in helping nominees to help themselves.

**Nominate**

**The Essential Piece**

Show your gratitude and let team members from the boardroom to the mailroom know you value what they do. Nominate one person who exemplifies "the heart" of community action at your organization!

**Nominate**

**WORTH WATCHING - LBJ's Unconditional War on Poverty Speech  
January 8, 1964**


As we begin to celebrate our 60th year, we look back to the birth of Community Action:

The following six minutes represent one of the most important speeches in the history of the United States. Here, President Lyndon Johnson declared the War on Poverty and within 45 days, a blueprint for the War would be drafted and the Community Action roles would be determined.

LBJ's speech on January 8, 1964, was the culmination of 2 years of steadily growing awareness and societal demands since the publication of Michael Harrington's book *The Other America*. For the first time in American history, the question was not "could we afford it" but rather "should we do it." The answer was a resounding yes. (credit: NCAF)



### Featured Career Opportunity



**The  
NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMUNITY ACTION  
ASSOCIATION**

**CAREER  
OPPORTUNITIES**

## HEAL NC Program Manager

The Program Manager will supervise two Success Coaches and work closely with NCCAA executive leadership, the evaluation team and community partners to execute impactful projects that address the root causes of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). A direct report to the NC Community Action Association Deputy Director, the HEAL NC Program Manager will oversee all aspects of the HEAL NC initiative.

*Position to be based out of Goldsboro, NC.*

Interested professionals should provide their resume and cover letter by email only to [Annette.bryant@nccaa.net](mailto:Annette.bryant@nccaa.net). Position will remain open until filled.

Full listing can be found at: [nccaa.net/caa-career-opportunities](http://nccaa.net/caa-career-opportunities)

### About This Job

**Available Resource: NCAP Offers Content You Can Use for Poverty Awareness Month**



[View Resources](#)

**Agency Spotlight: Blue Ridge Community Action**  
*Teddy Bears at Northside Head Start Center*



*"Mr. Steve" works in BRCA's Facilities and Grounds department, and is an excellent friend and role model to children at the Northside Center. Steve's mother was kind enough to send teddy bears to an Early Head Start classroom recently. BRCA shared a big thank you to Steve and his mother for making so many children smile!*

**Success Story: Action Pathways Participant Attains Solar PV Associate Certification**



The Solar PV Associate Certification is an entry-level solar energy training course designed to help individuals understand the world's fastest-growing form of power generation - solar power. This course provides the most comprehensive introduction to solar energy that you will find. It touches on the basics of how it works and explores the specialty areas of PV installation, design, and sales. Juma Lawson is a recent graduate.

*"As a new Solar PV Designer, I have the knowledge and responsibility for the layout and sizing of solar photovoltaic systems. As a New Solar Photovoltaic Associate, I'm recognized as an individual who has demonstrated knowledge of the fundamental principles of the application, design, installation, and operation of Solar Photovoltaic systems in renewable energy. This step will help me to expand in Weatherization and Renewable Energy."*  
– **Juma Lawson**

### Community Action News From Around State



#### Passage Home Names New Director

Passage Home, Wake County's Community Action Agency, has named a respected leader as its third CEO in its 32-year history, Cari Boram, J.D. Ms. Boram's leadership experience in nonprofit, healthcare, and human services sectors and in building strong collaborations among partners advances the organization's work to help Wake County individuals and families achieve housing and income security.

[Read More Here](#)



#### Donation Leads to Holiday Food and Hygiene Box Deliveries

Coastal Community Action Board Treasurer Julian Tripp recently made a generous donation to the organization, allowing Executive Director Catissa Head and her staff to provide food boxes and hygiene items to 10 families in the Senior, Head Start, HUD, Weatherization, and CSBG programs this Christmas. Coastal Community Action, Inc.'s staff members Dora Jones, Janice Mattocks, Laura Taylor, Sheila Upchurch-Prior, Kecia Miller, and Deanna Willis generously contributed their time to shop for and assemble the items for each family. CCA, Inc. wanted to share this wonderful gesture of kindness with our network!



### Efforts lead to a Special Christmas for Homeless Family

Before Christmas one of Mountain Projects' Head Start teachers tipped off staff about a students' family of five living in their SUV. The organization jumped into action, using its Emergency Fund and a network of generous community members to find the Camilot family an apartment and outfit that home with all the items necessary to set up a household and have a happy Christmas.

[Read More](#)



### Soto Steps Out of Retirement for New Role

Seasoned non-profit leader Melissa Soto, former Executive Director of WAMY, stepped out of retirement and is now the new executive director of Quiet Givers — a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization in the High Country that seeks to meet the needs of people in the community that existing agencies are unable to address.

[Read More](#)

### Agency Spotlight: Telamon Corporation





*Earl Dunn, Lasentanada Faison and Veronica Sanchez Lopez of Telamon Corporation's Pathways to Success team helped coordinate a Toys for Tots toy distribution in mid-December at the Pathways building in Sampson County. The team spent time bundling toys for our Sampson County families in Head Start as well as other families in the county.*

## News From NCAP



### *Anniversary Celebration Note* **NCAP 60th Anniversary Poster Contest**

The year 2024 will mark 60 years since the birth of Community Action! To commemorate this important milestone, the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) is sponsoring a poster contest. Open to Community Action staff, board, volunteers, and their family members, the contest challenges competitors to visually demonstrate the important role of Community Action in fighting the conditions of poverty.

**Learn More**



### *February Opportunity* **2024 Management & Leadership Conference** **Regular Registration Ends Soon!**

NCAP's Management and Leadership Training Conference (MLTC) is targeted to board and staff leaders at Community Action Agencies. In addition, Weatherization providers and other nonprofit human services are welcome to attend and engage. MLTC 2024 will take place February 14–16 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the JW Marriott Las Vegas. The event will feature intensive training, structured roundtable discussions, and networking opportunities. Whether you've been leading and managing for years, or you're looking forward to that promotion into management, you'll become your best at NCAP's Management and Leadership Training Conference!

**Learn More**

### **Agency Spotlight: Macon County Program for Progress**



*This elf showed up for Spirit Week at Macon Program for Progress*



In 2023, the NCCAA launched the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot (DDDRP) through grant funding from the Office of Community Services (OCS). This initiative has been branded for NC as The D.I.A.P.E.R. Project (Demonstrating Innovative Approaches to Promote Economic Resiliency). In partnership with the Diaper Bank of NC, five of our local community action agencies work to provide needed diapers and diapering supplies to qualified families. Participating families are waitlisted from Head Start/Early Head Start and receive 100 diapers/month, as well as wipes and ointment. Wraparound supportive services are offered to families, as well as referrals to promote economic self-sufficiency. NCCAA is excited to continue to offer this incredible program to not only ensure children have access to clean diapers, but also families are provided support as they work to improve their economic mobility.

**Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA)**  
*Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton*

**Economic Improvement Council (EIC)**  
*Martin, Chowan, Pasquotank, Tyrell, Hyde*

**Franklin-Vance-Warren-Opportunities, Inc.**  
*Vance, Warren*

**Greene Lamp**  
*Lenoir, Greene*

**WAGES, Inc**  
*Wayne*

**Learn More About the DIAPER Project**



*Action Pathways and NCCAA*  
**NCCAA Program Spotlight: Weatherization**



*Another image from our October visit to Action Pathways, courtesy of Action Pathways: Frankie Miller, Housing & Energy Specialist, NCCAA; Syreeta Shaw, Program Director, Action Pathways; Edi Palau, Director, Housing & Energy Programs, NCCAA; Takisha Adams, Operations Manager, Action Pathways*

**Certificate Program Classes Scheduled for the 1st Quarter of '24**



The NCCAA, in partnership with Southern University, continues to offer popular certificate courses in Case Management and Head Start Family Engagement. Class start dates have been set for the first quarter of 2024. Please reach out if we can provide fliers for your distribution.

**Read More About the Certificates at These Links:**

[Head Start Case Management](#)

**Health Note**

**Free Covid Tests Available this Fall**



[Click to Learn More](#)

**Agency Spotlight: Greene Lamp Community Action**



*Greene Lamp Community Action CSBG Self-Sufficiency Program takes part in the Town of Grimesland, NC, Christmas Parade.*

*Remembering Leaders and Colleagues*  
**In Memoriam: Cynthia Jevette Brown**

Cynthia Jevette Brown, a descendant of survivors of Wilmington's 1898 coup and massacre who dedicated her life to making the history of the event better known and to bettering the lives of people in Wilmington's Black community, died Nov. 23 at Lower Cape Fear Life Care in Wilmington. She was 68. Brown was the director of human resources for the city of Wilmington in the mid-1990s and later **served as director of the nonprofit New Hanover County Community Action Inc., running the county's Head Start program for at-risk youngsters.**



**Links to Career Pages in Our Network**

*(Link goes to home page when career page isn't offered)*

**Far West**

Blue Ridge Community Action, Morganton  
Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission Inc., N. Wilkesboro  
Catawba County, Hickory  
Community Action Opportunities, Asheville  
Four Square Community Action, Inc., Murphy  
Macon County Program for Progress, Franklin  
Mountain Projects, Waynesville  
WAMY, Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties

**West**

Charlotte Area Fund, Inc., Charlotte  
Davidson County Community Action, Lexington  
Experiments in Self-Reliance, Inc., Winston-Salem  
Gaston Community Action, Inc., Gastonia  
I-Care, Inc., Statesville  
Salisbury-Rowan Community Action, Salisbury  
Sandhills Community Action Program, Southern Pines  
Union County Community Action, Monroe  
Yadkin Co. Economic Development District, Boonville

**Central**

Alamance Co. Community Services Agency, Burlington  
Central Piedmont Community Action, Durham area  
Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc., Henderson  
Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action, Inc., Smithfield  
Passage Home, Wake Co.  
Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Lumberton  
Telamon, Raleigh  
Welfare Reform Liaison Project, Greensboro

**East**

Action Pathways, Fayetteville  
Choanoke Area Development Assoc., Rich Square  
Coastal Community Action, Newport  
Economic Improvement Council, Edenton  
Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Jacksonville  
Greene Lamp, Inc., Kinston  
NEW Community Action, Rocky Mount  
Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency (WAGES), Inc., Goldsboro

**Share your community action career opportunities on our web page and have them distributed to 7000+ emails through the NCCAA newsletter! Send your job listings to [communications@nccaa.net](mailto:communications@nccaa.net).**

**We Want Your Stories!**

**Working together to share the impact of Community Action**

Does your Community Action Agency have impactful content to share? Let's collaborate. The NCCAA develops creative content year-round to celebrate, educate and inform. Let's amplify the voices of organizations in our network! Let's share the impactful work of community action and tell the stories of our clients! Reach out for collaboration: [communications@nccaa.net](mailto:communications@nccaa.net).



**"I Am" Community Action Video**  
*Please share this video in your social media!*

The purpose of Community Action agencies is to provide a broad range of activities and services that help individuals move the needle towards self sufficiency. Our programs help and encourage children and youth, support the working poor, support individuals and households in crisis, sustain and honor the elderly, strengthen families and work to strengthen the entire community. #CommunityAction #NCCAA



**Share Community Action News with a Friend**

As a member of the NCCAA community, we work to empower low-income families, change people's lives for the better and improve the communities we serve. We are all dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Please take a moment and forward this news to a co-worker and grow the community of professionals dedicated to this important work.

**Click to Sign Up**

Follow the NCCAA:



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