

NCCAA December 2024 | Empowered Newsletter



From Sharon Goodson, North Carolina Community Action Association <communications@nccaa.net>
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Fun at the Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc. Head Start Fall Festival

Practicing Resilience

NCCAA Recognizes Leadership During Hurricane Helene

Few challenges are more daunting in the Community Action world than natural disasters, particularly on the scale of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Helene during the waning days of September.

Helene's flooding caused at least 103 deaths in North Carolina and \$53 billion in damages and recovery needs. The storm and its aftermath caused 1,400 landslides and damaged over 160 water and sewer systems, at least 6,000 miles of roads, more than 1,000 bridges and culverts and an estimated 126,000 homes. Some 220,000 households are expected to apply for federal assistance.

We honor the leadership, staff and volunteers at each of our member organizations principally affected by the storm, and the extraordinary work they've done since. Our hearts are with those who have suffered. And we look forward to both acknowledging their efforts and learning from their experiences moving forward.



Stephanie Ashley
Blue Ridge Community Action



Brittany Luxton
WAMY



Patsy Davis
Mountain Projects



Vicki Heidinger
Community Action
Opportunities



Dare Stromer
Blue Ridge Opportunity
Commission



Fundraising for Displaced Community Action Employees
Sometimes the Helpers Need Help Too

Please consider a Christmas contribution!



Dear Colleagues - Western North Carolina has been devastated by the remnants of Hurricane Helene. Agency colleagues in the mountains are busy serving community members who have experienced deep loss in this disaster. We have learned over the last two days that at least four community action staff have lost their homes or experienced extreme damage. Let's help the helpers this time and ensure our colleagues have what they need.

Contribute if you can at this link: <https://gofund.me/c79dbf99>

Sharon Goodson, Executive Director

#CommunityAction

#nccommunityactionassociation

#CommunityActionWorks

#hurricanehelenerelief

Read Press Release

Agency Spotlight

Thank You to Frog Street Curriculum From BRCA and NCCAA!



Blue Ridge Community Action Inc recently held a Parent Meeting and welcomed representatives from the Frog Street curriculum to lead discussions about the program. Frog Street also sent home stuffed toy frogs to every child in their Head Start program.



Sheraton Raleigh Hotel and Raleigh Convention Center
Conference Dates: May 13 – 16, 2025
Pre-conference on Tuesday, May 13th Conference kicks off on Wednesday, May 14th
Board Summit Friday, May 16th through Saturday, May 17th
Sneaker Ball Gala on Thursday, May 15th

[Learn More](#)

Agency Spotlight
I-CARE, Inc. Parents Learn CPR



Head Start parents at I-CARE gaining life-saving skills in a CPR course to ensure they're prepared for any emergency.

News From the NCCAA



HEAL NC Participant Success Story



Anali Ortiz-Martinez

Success Story

Motivated HEAL NC Participant Takes Full Advantage

After spending just a few minutes with Anali Ortiz-Martinez, you will feel energized. Her smile and positive attitude are contagious. Anali is a HEAL NC participant at the Carver Head Start Center in Mount Olive. HEAL NC is a pilot project in Wayne County that provides intensive support to Head Start families. The partnership with WAGES (Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency) is funded by The Duke Endowment.

While Anali's childhood was devoid of family support, she is determined to do things differently now that she is a parent.

"What keeps me motivated is the new opportunity to live, to make things right, and the precious opportunity to heal through this amazing program made for us," she said. "My goal is to be able to offer a bright future to my son, knowing that if mommy is ok and stable, so will he."

Anali is eager to learn during HEAL NC's monthly Parent Engagement Meetings. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, and she does not let many things stand in the way of her achieving her goals. She meets with her Success Coach consistently and has attended every HEAL NC meeting – all while working two jobs.

"I have learned so much from this program, the importance of identifying and channeling emotions. It has been very beneficial having someone to guide me through the process.

The activities that we have at HEAL NC are so comforting that I feel excited to be there all the time, to participate and share experiences with each other. This program is an amazing help, and I am beyond grateful besides the financial help, I am grateful for this resource ... My 2024 has been full of blessings, and HEAL NC is one of them."

HEAL NC is thankful to Anali for her continued support and participation as well.

Leadership Certificates

The NCCAA is happy to offer Executive Leadership Certificates in 2024-25. We offer these courses in a partnership with Southern University.

More Information Soon!

Training & Technical Assistance Needs Survey

Please help us clarify the ways. we can help you!

Take the Survey

WHAT

WHERE

DETAILS

REQUIRED

NOTE

CONTACT

CONTRACTORS NEEDED!

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS

North Carolina Community Action Association and Duke Energy Low-Income Energy Programs to Increase Low-Income Energy Affordability

Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress territories

NCCAA is in search of qualified licensed contractors/service providers to do work in both North Carolina and South Carolina for Duke Energy Programs.

Leads are currently pouring in from Duke Energy to assist our low-income families in need of service and we need qualified service providers to meet the need.

- Must have some prior experience in providing or installing weatherization services/measures in homes.
- Some experience in home repair services or programs, minor plumbing and electrical experience, some home energy modeling or home assessment experience a plus.

The NCCAA will host workshops outlining how these programs are administered and how you can work with us to increase energy affordability for low-income households.

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Agency Spotlight

Gaston Community Action



Mr. QP Murray Sr. takes time to read to students at Highland Charter Head Start as part of the organization's male engagement initiative.

News From Around the Network



Davis Honored With Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Mountain Projects Executive Director and NCCAA Board President Patsy Davis was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award on Wednesday, December 4.

Since 1963, North Carolina's governors have reserved their highest honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, for persons who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through their exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments. Persons named to The Order become honorary North Carolina "Ambassadors" with their names and award dates recorded on a Roster maintained by The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society.



WAMY Changes Drive Focus

WAMY Community Action is shifting the focus of the 'Santa for Seniors' gift drive to rebuilding homes for seniors. For five years, this program has brought joy to seniors in the High Country with nearly 5,000 gifts. In 2024, the focus will shift to addressing urgent community needs, moving from physical gifts to monetary donations.

These funds will help rebuild homes for low-income seniors affected by Hurricane Helene in Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

"We're committed to spreading holiday cheer but aim to create lasting security for those in need through rebuilding efforts," said Allison Jennings, Director of Development with WAMY Community Action.

News From the Community Action Partnership



2025 Management & Leadership Training Conference

Are you a current or emerging leader in Community Action? Then NCAP's 2025 Management & Leadership Training Conference is for you! Join us January 29–31 in New Orleans.

NCAP is excited to announce that Ashleigh Gardere, President of PolicyLink, will be joining us in New Orleans to provide keynote remarks.

As President of PolicyLink, a research and action institute, Ashleigh Gardere is focused on redesigning the nation to work for all. She understands that realizing a flourishing multiracial democracy requires new values and governing standards in service of our collective flourishing; new ways of working between government and community; and new ways of being, individually and as part of institutions.

Ashleigh has raised over \$350 million to support social innovation and institution-building towards this future of collective liberation. She was also recognized by Living Cities as one of the nation's Top 25 Disruptive Leaders working to close racial opportunity gaps. Ashleigh also serves as Board Chair of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, which partners with organizations and networks to alleviate poverty and increase social and economic justice in 11 Southern States.

Register

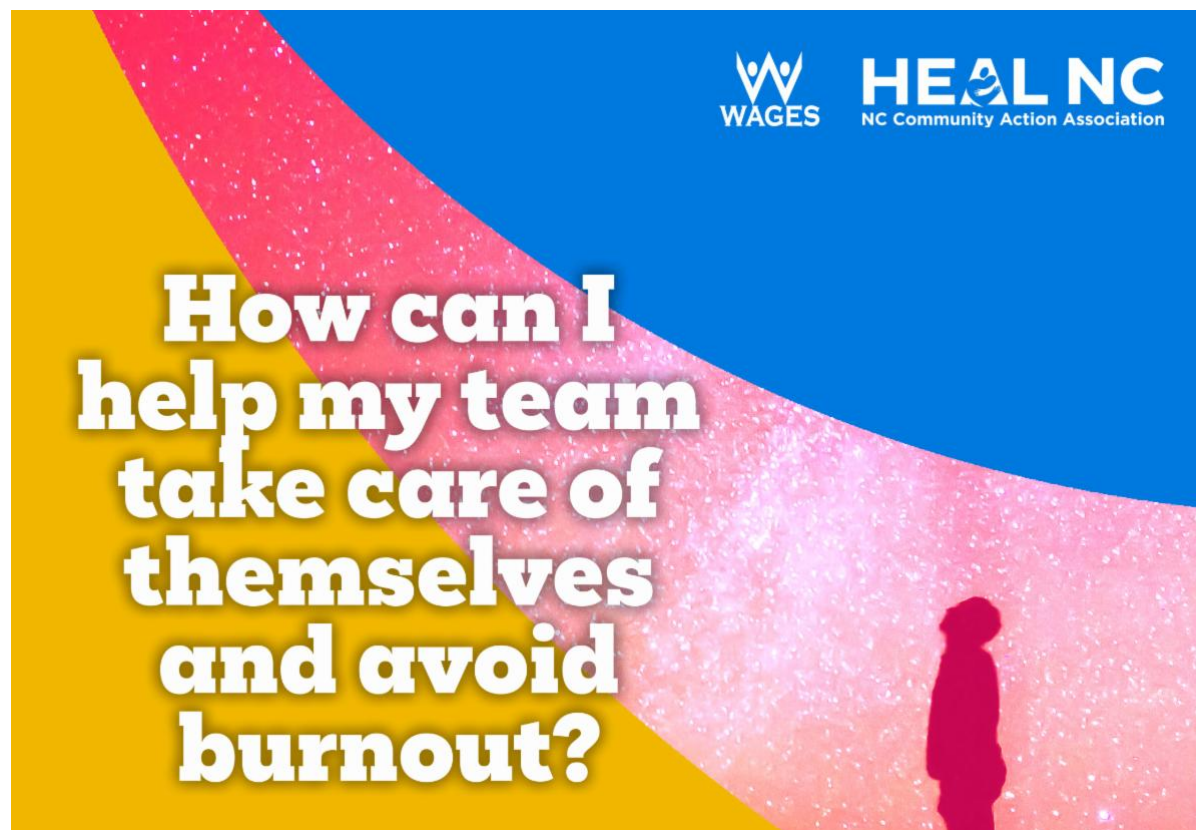
Toolkit Available Online

NCAP has developed a tool in direct response to the Community Action Network's request for language and tools to build their capacity related to equity and mobility as they are core to the current and future work of Community Action Agencies (CAAs). This toolkit also aims to provide a national perspective that CAAs in every community can learn from, draw inspiration from, and embody.

Learn More



WAGES and HEAL NC Plan Workshops to Help Team Members Avoid Burnout



WAGES and HEAL NC are offering workshops in Wayne County based in the Community Resiliency Model (CRM), which teaches participants to re-set the natural balance of the nervous system with easy-to-understand concepts that bring reliable relief. CRM helps people help themselves and others. Beneficial to small teams and the general public, CRM helps navigate life's difficult situations.

More Information

Christina Watts
WAGES Community Engagement Coordinator
Email: cwatts@wagesnc.org
Phone: 919-734-1178 ext. 212

Links to Career Pages in the NCCAA 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 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
Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc., Henderson
Johnston Lee Harnett Community Action, Inc., Smithfield
Passage Home, Wake Co.
Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Lumberton
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 (info@newcainc.org)
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.

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.

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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