

## NCCAA July 2025 | Empowered Newsletter ❤️



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**Date** 2025-07-07 14:56



*Empowered Newsletter | July 2025 | Issue 7*



*The Senior Resource Center from Mountain Projects held a fun appreciation event for its Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion volunteers. Pictured are some of the Foster Grandparents.*

### **Congratulations to our New CCAP Recipients!**



Congratulations to our new Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Certification Recipients: Dr. Ericka Jones Whitaker, CEO of **Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc.**, Kathleen Lowe-Jacobs, CSBG Director of **Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc.**, and Stephanie Cox, CSBG Director for **Coastal Community Action, Inc.**

The CCAP credential recognizes individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and application of the core competencies required to effectively carry out the vision, mission, purpose, and values of the Community Action movement. To learn more about the program, visit <https://communityactionpartnership.com/ccap>.

### **Creativity and Connection with HEAL NC**

# HEAL NC

NC Community Action Association



The June HEAL NC Engagement Event brought participants together for a morning of creativity and learning, highlighting the value of play and resilience.

The event began with a rock painting activity, reminding us that unstructured play—whether for children or adults—supports creativity, stress relief, and social connection. Participants then explored the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) with WAGES Community Engagement Coordinator Christina Watts, while Success Coach JoAnn Smith shared her personal journey of resilience.

CRM is an evidence-based approach that teaches practical skills to help individuals stabilize the nervous system, manage stress, and support the well-being of themselves and others.

A special thank you to Abberly Solaire Apartment Homes of Garner for donating stones for this creative and meaningful event! Learn more about HEAL NC at <https://www.nccaa.net/heal-nc>.



## HEAL NC welcomes New Success Coach

We are thrilled to welcome Shenita Wynn, the newest member of the NCCAA family, as our **HEAL NC** Success Coach!

Shenita brings over a decade of experience from the Wayne County Health Department, where she supported breastfeeding mothers through peer counseling.

As a HEAL NC Success Coach, Shenita will be providing case management and essential support to empower Head Start families in building sustainable livelihoods.



## News From NCAP

### The CCAP Candidacy Guide for 2026 is Now Available



Thinking about pursuing your CCAP? The newly released 2026 CCAP Candidacy Guide is your go-to resource for understanding the process, requirements, and key deadlines. Whether you're just starting your journey or preparing for final submission, this guide will help you plan with confidence. [Download it now](#) and take the next step toward becoming a Certified Community Action Professional!

### ***NEXT MONTH: NCAP's 2025 Annual Convention***



***There's still time to register!***

**August 27–29, 2025 | Marriott Detroit Renaissance Center**

Join Community Action Agencies and other human services providers from across the country at NCAP's 2025 Annual Convention, taking place August 27th – 29th in **Detroit, Michigan**. The NCAP Annual Convention is the premier event for Community Action Agencies and human services providers dedicated to strengthening families and communities. Attendees will gain timely updates on federal standards, learn proven strategies from peer agencies, and access training and resources designed to increase impact and efficiency. With sessions covering topics from education to job training, the convention equips agencies with the tools needed to help entire families advance together, supporting their path to economic stability and growth.

**Register Now!**

## Big Changes to Medicaid (and other programs)

The NCCAA is keeping a close watch on potential federal cuts that could impact Community Action clients.

"We expect changes that may amplify disparities for the marginalized people of North Carolina," says Sharon Goodson, NCCAA Executive Director, "Most of these folks have no financial cushion; Working families and seniors are going to have a hard time making ends meet without healthcare."



In the coming weeks, the public will learn the details of what deals were struck to pass a multi-trillion dollar funding/defunding package. NCCAA will share information as it comes available.

"These times will bring opportunity to tell our clients' stories. People may finally understand that poverty is not a moral failing - because they will experience it themselves and they will know that federal policies are directly related to the health and well-being of entire communities," says Goodson.

## News from Around The Network

### *RETHINK POVERTY*

### **BRCA hosts Poverty Simulation Experience**



Blue Ridge Community Action and the North Carolina Community Action Association hosted a powerful Poverty Simulation that gave participants a glimpse into the daily struggles many families face. Each person took on the role of a real community member and had to make tough choices about housing, food, work, and transportation with very limited resources. It was fast-paced, emotional, and eye-opening. Learn more about the NCCAA Poverty Simulation Experience at [www.nccaa.net/poverty-simulation](http://www.nccaa.net/poverty-simulation).



## Summer Fun at Duffyfield Child Development Center

Duffyfield Child Development Center (part of Coastal Community Action) held a day of fun for its staff and students. The event featured a bouncy house, live music, and free haircuts from the barber students at Craven Community College.

## WAMY Warriors Help Retired Veteran



This weekend, Marina Greene from New River Light and Power, Appalachian State University's nonprofit electric utility, her son Max, and other WAMY Warriors joined forces to support a retired veteran in the Junaluska Community in Boone. Together, they tackled yard work at his 100-year-old home, bringing fresh energy and care to this historic property. Marina went the extra mile by coordinating NRPL to trim a hazardous tree earlier in the week, ensuring a safe and productive workspace for the team. For more information on WAMY, visit <https://wamycommunityaction.org/>.

***Congratulations Patsy!***

### MPI Celebrates Patsy Davis' Retirement

On June 26, Mountain Projects honored its beloved Executive Director, Patsy Davis as she begins her well-deserved retirement after 35 years of dedicated service to Western North Carolina. Guided by the words “Love your neighbor,” Patsy has lifted up countless individuals and communities with compassion, strength, and vision. Under her leadership, Mountain Projects became more than an organization — it became a place of hope, resilience, and family. Thank you, Patsy, for your heart, wisdom, and unwavering dedication. You’ll always be part of the NCCAA family.



Patsy's legacy will be commemorated through the Patsy Davis Legacy Fund, a designated fund to support affordable housing in Western North Carolina. Since launching approximately two months ago, donations total \$223,000.

To make a contribution, please visit [MountainProjects.org/legacyfund](https://MountainProjects.org/legacyfund) or send a check to Mountain Projects, 2177 Asheville Road, Waynesville, NC 28786, designating the Legacy Fund.

## Success Spotlight!



### Michelle's Journey Forward

Meet Michelle, a determined single mother who recently earned her Associate's degree in Business from Southwestern Community College and is now pursuing her Bachelor's in Business Administration and Business Law at Western University, graduating next year.

With support from **Macon Program for Progress's** Self-Sufficiency Program—providing housing, utilities, tuition, and school supplies—Michelle was able to stay focused and move closer to her goals. Congratulations Michelle!

### Sarah Finds Stability Through Macon Program for Progress

Sarah, a dedicated single mother of two, turned to **Macon Program for Progress** during a time of urgent need. Her biggest challenge was securing reliable transportation to maintain employment—a barrier that other programs could not address.

Through the Self-Sufficiency Program, Sarah received the transportation support she needed, along with consistent childcare for her daughter, allowing her to stay employed and focus on her family's future. Today, Sarah is working and moving toward greater independence. Her determination, paired with community support, has set her and her children on a path to long-term success.



### Greene Lamp Feeds the Community

**Greene Lamp Community Action** has been hard at work providing free food to the community this summer. Last month, Greene Lamp's Self-Sufficiency program sponsored free Hot meal giveaways in Greene County, Beaufort County and Pitt County last month.

Pictured at right is the Greene Lamp Team during its recent pop-up Drive-Thru Food Giveaway in Kinston, NC. Visit <https://greenelamp.org/> to learn more.

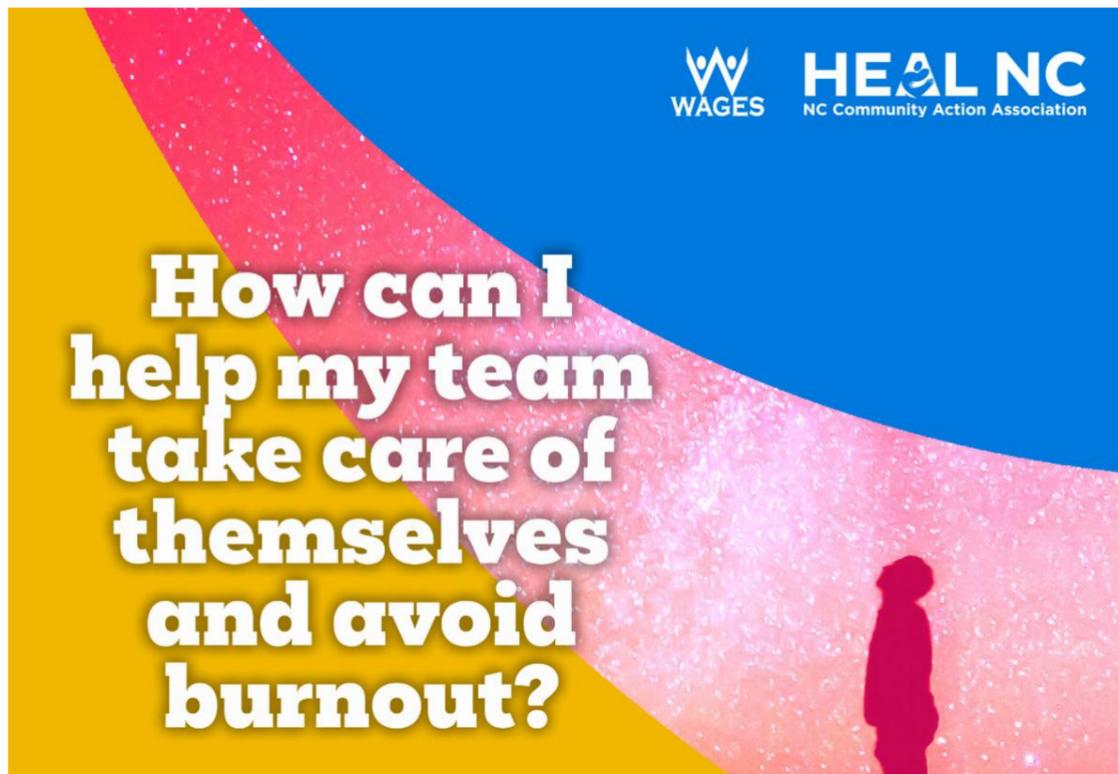


## ESR Joins United Way Agency Fair



**Experiment in Self-Reliance (ESR)** attended the United Way of Forsyth County Agency Fair in Winston-Salem. The annual Agency Fair serves as an opportunity for the community to learn about the various local non-profit agencies that partner with the United Way.

## WAGES and HEAL NC Host 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  
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## Career Spotlight




passage home



North Carolina  
**community  
Action**  
ASSOCIATION  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

*Job Listing*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Are you a visionary leader with a passion for community impact and a proven track record in nonprofit management? Passage Home, Inc., a leading Community Action Agency and Affordable Housing Provider in Raleigh, North Carolina, is seeking an experienced and dynamic Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to guide our mission of promoting economic self-sufficiency to low-income individuals, families and communities by providing essential services and affordable housing solutions. This is an extraordinary opportunity to help shape the future of the organization, drive strategic growth, and make a profound difference in the lives of our clients.

*The hiring salary range for this position is \$111,299 to \$141,906 with competitive benefits*

To Apply: Submit your cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to:

**Ben Ramsey, President**  
**GLM Management Consulting Group, LLC**  
**ben@rhbcgroup.com**

Please use "Passage Home CEO" in the email subject line.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Executive Director

**Johnston-Lee-Harnett  
Community Action, Inc.**

**Starting salary:  
\$120,000/yr plus benefits**

[Click For More](#)



**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](mailto:communications@nccaa.net).*

## Send us your Stories!

Dr. Abdul Rasheed, executive director of **Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc.**, presented to the Rotary Club, outlining the agency's transformative programs designed to empower families and strengthen communities across Vance, Warren, Granville, and Franklin Counties.



### 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).**

## 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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