



*Helping People Help Themselves Since 1964!*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Local Nonprofit Agency to Provide FREE Financial Education in Observance of National Financial Literacy Month**

**Lumberton, NC – April 7, 2015** — In observance of National Financial Literacy Month, Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. (SCFS) will provide personal financial education workshops for individuals interested in increasing their knowledge and confidence in making informed financial decisions. In a partnership with Wells Fargo Bank, the workshops will target the six (6) core competencies of personal financial management including **Earning, Spending, Saving, Investing, Borrowing, and Protecting**. Workshops will be provided under the agency's Family Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Project (FESS), which is funded through N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Workshops will be held during the month of April at various locations within the seven counties the agency serves. The workshops are FREE and open to the public, however registration is required to reserve a seat. For dates, times, and locations visit the agency's website at [www.SCFSNC.org](http://www.SCFSNC.org).

According to the National Financial Educators Council, financial problems have reached epidemic proportions in the U.S., a crisis that causes major problems at both the community and the national levels. A large proportion of the population still carries too much debt, borrows money in potentially risky ways, and does not have sufficient emergency funds set aside to anticipate contingencies. Financial issues contribute to a variety of troubles many people face today, from crushing debt to retirement shortfalls. In addition, the stress associated with financial issues can have devastating emotional impact. This epidemic hurts not only individuals, but the community as a whole.

On January 29, 2010, President Barack Obama signed an executive order creating the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy. This body was charged with assisting the American people to understand money matters and make informed decisions to improve their financial well-being. Over the last few years of convening, the Council highlighted four major recommendations. One of those recommendations was advancing financial literacy in communities by coordinating efforts of local government, schools, financial services, business leaders, and nonprofits. *"Our recent community needs assessment findings show a strong need for financial-related services. Ours programs and services focus on combatting poverty and I'm honored to push services in our Southeastern communities to fulfill the President's vision of a fiscally-fit America,"* stated Ericka J. Whitaker, Chief Executive Officer of SCFS. In 2011, President Obama proclaimed the month of April as National Financial Literacy Month.

#### **About Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc.**

Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. (SCFS) is a federally funded nonprofit agency based in Lumberton, North Carolina serving low income residents in seven neighboring counties for nearly 50 years. The agency has over 200 employees and an approximate annual budget of \$16 million utilized to operate and manage 15 Head Start schools, Section 8 housing, and other programs involving workforce readiness, economic



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development, and self-sufficiency. To learn more about SCFS, and to stay alert of the latest activities and news, you may visit [www.SCFSNC.org](http://www.SCFSNC.org).

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