



Main Office
Post Office Box 1025
405 N. Elm Street
Lumberton, North Carolina 28359/28358
910.277.3500 scapnc.org

November 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Directors
From: Phoebe Chavis-Harris, Board Chairperson
Re: November 14, 2023, Board of Directors' Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. The meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the Robeson Community College Campus in Building 18, the Workforce Development Center, Room 1803, 5160 Fayetteville Road, Lumberton, North Carolina 28358.

A copy of the agenda and departmental reports are included. Please plan to attend this meeting on November 14, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions or a conflict with this date, contact Cynthia Foskey at 910/277-3521 or Phoebe Chavis-Harris, Board Chairperson, at 910/852-9169.

Phoebe Chavis-Harris, Board Chairperson

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Board Agenda

November 14, 2023

Robeson Community College- Workforce Development Center Building 18 – Room 1803

5160 Fayetteville Road, Lumberton NC 28359

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Invocation**
3. **Mission Statement Recital:** “To improve and empower the lives of the people we serve.”
4. **Community Action Promise Recital:** Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.
5. **Membership Roll Call**
6. **Excused Absences Request(s)***
7. **Approval of Consent Agenda Items: ***
 - a. Head Start Early Head Start end of Month Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance
 - b. School Readiness Report – Spring 2022-2023
 - c. Disabilities Services Summary Report – August 2023
 - d. Head Start I & II Mentor Coaching – September 29, 2023, Summary Report
 - e. Follow-up Compliance Report Head Start I & II – September 29, 2023
8. **Approval of November 14, 2023, Agenda***
9. **Approval to sustain the actions of the Executive Committee’s approval of the September 12, 2023, Minutes by the full Board. ***
10. **Chief Executive Officer’s Report/Updates – Dr. Ericka J. Whitaker**
11. **Statement of Financial Position 09/30/2023 – Lakisha Jordan, Finance Committee Chair and Liying Reeder, Chief Financial Officer ***
 - a. Project Financial Report period ending 09/30/2023*
 - b. Credit Card Expenditure Report – September 2023*
12. **Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) – Kathleen Lowe-Jacobs, Program Director**
 - a. Amy Graham – Client Services Report
 - b. CSBG Performance Report 1st Quarter by County – 10/24/2023 (Summary)*
 - c. Community Needs Assessment – June 30, 2023*
13. **Next Board of Directors’ Meeting Date: January 09, 2024**

***Needs Board Approval**

***Needs Board Acceptance**



Board of Directors Minutes
September 12, 2023

The Southeastern Community Action Partnership Board of Directors meeting was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at Robeson Community College, Lumberton NC. Phoebe Chavis-Harris called the meeting to order, and Darrel Gibson gave the invocation. The Agency’s Mission Statement and the Community Action Promise were recited.

Membership Roll Call: the following members were in attendance, establishing a quorum according to the number of members that are seated.

<u>Bladen</u> Rodney Hester	<u>Brunswick</u> William Ballard	<u>Columbus</u> Dorene Evans Pamela Young-Jacobs	<u>Hoke</u>
<u>Pender</u> Amanda Howard Lori Kirkpatrick	<u>Robeson</u> Phoebe Chavis-Harris William Locklear Veronica McNeill	<u>Scotland</u> Darrel Gibson, Jr.	

Excused Absence: Lakisha Jordan emailed to request an excuse due to a conflict with her job schedule. Lori Kirkpatrick moved to approve the request, seconded by Dorene Evans. Motion carried.

Seating of New Board Members: Phoebe Chavis-Harris stated that the Executive Committee met and reviewed the candidates because the Nominations and Governance Committee had not been established. We are asking the board to sustain our actions in seating the following:
Samone Bronson – PC Representative, Consumer Sector for Hoke County
Carolyn Cromartie – Bladen County Consumer Sector
Gwendolyn Jones – Brunswick County NAACP Private Sector
Jestin Davis – Scotland County Consumer Sector
Alexis Tyson – Scotland County NAACP Private Sector
Doris Joseph-Brunswick County Consumer Sector
Darrel Gibson offered a motion to approve seating the new board members, seconded by William Ballard. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Amanda Howard offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Darrel Gibson, Jr. Motion carried.

Approval of 09-12/2023 Revised Agenda: Lori Kirkpatrick offered a motion to approve the revised agenda, seconded by Dorene Evans. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes June 06, 20, 2023: William Ballard offered a motion to approve the minutes of June 06, 20, 2023 with any necessary corrections if there are any, seconded by Dorene Evans. Motion carried.

CEO Report/Updates: Dr Ericka J. Whitaker

- Scotland County donated 10 acres of the land to the agency, after scaling from an engineer he informed us that it is more than 10 acres. Also, an annex to the former school was donated, we plan to seek funding to renovate this building into administrative staff offices and relocate back to Laurinburg in the future.
- We have submitted two grants to develop this project into multi-family affordable housing, North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) up to ten million dollars and Supportive Housing American Rescue Plan (SHARP) up to six million dollars.
- The first phase is to develop 10 units serving anyone that may be at risk of being homeless.
- The second phase is to develop 45 units 2,3-, and 4-bedroom units of affordable housing.
- The third phase is to apply for a grant and decide on the development of the remaining property.
- We have not heard any updates concerning the grants, but at this time we are positive they will be in our favor.
- Job vacancies: there are thirty-six vacancies in the agency, and we are still having difficulties with filling staff positions.
- Board of Directors Governance Training at Wrightsville Beach, Coach Girt is scheduled to come, Tiffney Marley (DEI) Practice Transformation from NCAP; Sharon Goodson President and Krystina Dillard, Deputy Dir. NCCAA, the actual training will begin October 9 through 10, 2023.
- Open House for our new Maxton Head Start Center is October 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., we would like all board members to attend so that we may introduce you to the community leaders.
- Timothy S. Moore was introduced to the Board as the Executive Administrative Assistant to Cynthia Foskey and Dr. Whitaker.

Bereavement Leave Policy: Tamara Monroe, COO

Bereavement leave is granted to all employees as an incentive. Employees are granted three consecutive days of administrative leave. The employee must be in a working status to receive this leave, for example if a 10-month employee is out for the summer, then the leave will not be granted; the immediate supervisor must grant approval before taking bereavement leave. The immediate family is defined in the policy.

Amanda Howard offered a motion to approve the updated Bereavement Policy, seconded by Darrel Gibson. Motion carried.

Statement of Financial Position – Liying Reeder, CFO

The statement of financial position for the period ending July 31, 2023, is for informational purposes only. We have yet to close out the books on the Head Start program; a final report will be presented in January 2024.

The Project Financial Report is for all programs, the ending period is July 31, 2023. The report represents the budgets for each program and the total spending from each budget.

Credit Card Report Expenditures for July 2023.

Total Credit Card expenditures from all programs is \$15,018.77.

Amamda Howard moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Pamela Young-Jacobs. Motion accepted.

Head Start Early Head Start Program- Tonie Brite, Director

- CACFP RFP BID – requesting full board approval to sustain the actions of the Executive Committee to approve utilizing Food and Supply Source. A total of four responses were received, Food and Supply Source’s bid proposal was complete, Performance Foods did not follow the sealed bid requests as outlined in the RFP as a requirement to accept their proposal; SIMCO’s bid was not complete; they did not provide any pricing; US Foods response was they apologize for not being able to provide a quote at this time. It is the recommendation of the committee to utilize Food and Supply Source for the 2023-2024PY, the Executive Committee approved the use of Food and Supply Source. Dorene Evans offered a motion to sustain the actions of the Executive Committee to utilize Food and Supply Source as the provider for CACFP PY 2023-2024, seconded by Amanda Howard. Motion carried.
- Budget revision approval for Greengrove HSC one 4-ton and one 3-ton air condition unit replacements – due to extreme high temperatures, the purchase of two A/C units was an emergency. The non- working units needed to be in place before the staff and enrollees returned. In the absence of the full Board, the Executive Committee was polled for approval for the Head Start Program from the Robeson Grant to request a budget revision so that the units could be purchased. A total of three proposals were received. Southern Heating and Air were selected to replace the two units for \$17, 230.00. We are requesting approval from the entire board to sustain the actions of the Executive Committee on August 21, 2023. Dorene Evans offered a motion to sustain the actions of the Executive Committee to request a budget revision in the amount of \$17, 230.00 and to utilize Southern Heating and Air as the vendor to replace the heating/AC units at Greengrove Head Start Center, seconded by Pamela Young-Jacobs. Motion carried.
- Piney Grove Head Start Center A/C unit replacement- Board approval is needed to do a budget revision to transfer funds from the base grant to purchase an air condition unit for the Piney Grove Head Start Center. Amanda Howard offered a motion to approve doing a budget revision from the base grant to purchase an A/C unit for the Piney Grove Head Start Center, seconded by Dorene Evans. Motion carried.
- The old Laurinburg Head Start Center Modular – Head Start request Board approval to do a budget revision to remove or tear down the old modular so that the new center may start operations. Dorene Evans offered a motion to approve Head Start to request a budget revision to have the old modular building removed or torn down so that the new modular can be opened to accept Head Start enrollees, seconded by Darrel Gibson. Motion carried.

Community Services Block Grant Program – Kathleen Lowe-Jacobs, Program Director

- Approval is needed from the Board for use of the new Community Services Block Employee handbook of July 2023. A summary of the new (FESS) Family Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Policy Book was presented which is replacing the (CSBG) Community Services Block Grant employee handbook. There are two new requirements for customers in the policy book which require that within six months of enrollment (1) they

must be employed or attending a job training certification program. (2) Emergency services will require the customers to complete a separate one-page application. Lori Kirkpatrick motioned to approve the revised FESS employee handbook, seconded by Dorene Evans. Motion carried.

- Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey – the customer satisfaction survey was completed by CSBG (FESS) customers for FY 2022. Surveys were available online through Survey Monkey, and hard copies were available. The surveyed customers included the CSBG Self Sufficiency Program to include active, discharged and NC Relief customers served until October 2022. Board approval is needed to satisfy the Organizational Standard 1.3. reporting customer satisfaction to the Governing Board.

Amanda Howard offered a motion to approve the 2022 FY customers' satisfaction survey report as presented, seconded by William Locklear. Motion carried.

- All board members were invited to attend the annual Community Recruitment and Resource fair at Columbus County Recreation Center in Whiteville, NC, on October 19, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Board of Directors' Committees – Phoebe Chavis- Harris informed the board members that committees of the Board will be formed, and everyone is encouraged to notify her of which committee they would like to be considered to work with. The Profile Form will allow the members to share their areas of experience and select which committees they would like to be considered for placement.

Next Board of Directors meeting date – November 14, 2023.

Annual Governance training will be held at Wrightsville Beach Holiday Inn Resort beginning October 8-11, 2023. The agency is working on a comprehensive list of activities and training conferences to provide to the Board for possible attendance.

Adjourn – the Board, by consensus, adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Submitted by

Veronica McNeill, Board Secretary

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

Period Ending: 9/30/2023

Assets:

Cash	3801383.07
Certificate of Deposits	106113.2
Grants Receivable	76272.17
Other Receivables	37508.97
Other Assets	8306.23
Property and Equipment	14,859,104.35
Accumulated Depreciation	-5,795,241.80

Assets: **\$13,093,446.19**

Liabilities:

Accounts Payables	1154.1
Accrued Liabilities	477901.22
Accrued Payroll and Payroll Taxes	295144.7

Liabilities: **\$774,200.02**

Equity:

Unrestricted	375.13
With donor restrictions	\$12,318,871.04

Equity: **\$12,319,246.17**

Total Liabilities and Equity

\$13,093,446.19

Project Financial Report

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Period Ending: 9/30/2023

Code	Description	Project Period	Budget	Project Total	Un/Over	% Budget
30024	HS/EHS (04CH011010)	7/1/2023- 6/30/2024	11,011,596.00	1,660,061.63	9,351,534.37	15.08%
30223	CACFP - FY23	10/1/2022-9/30/2023	481,401.25	487,033.48	(5,632.23)	101.17%
30423	Robeson HS/EHS - FY23 (04CH011643)	11/1/2022-10/31/2023	2,278,442.00	1,145,144.01	1,133,297.99	50.26%
30524	HUD	7/1/2023-6/30/2024	2,576,093.00	542,080.02	2,034,012.98	21.04%
31024	CSBG	7/1/2023-6/30/2024	1,355,452.00	193,499.35	1,161,952.65	14.28%
Totals:			17,702,984.25	4,027,818.49	13,675,165.76	22.75%

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc
Credit Card Expenditures

September 2023

Program	Vendor	Description	Amount
Agency Wide	WP Engines	Website Hosting Site	\$ 272.00
Agency Wide	Microsoft	Online Services	\$ 812.13
Agency Wide	Microsoft	Online Services	\$ 389.09
Headstart	Teaching Strategies	Online assessment Portfolios	\$ 17,982.20
Headstart	City of Lumberton	Utility Bill	\$ 523.54
Headstart	Robeson County Water Dept.	Water Bill	\$ 22.00
Headstart	Robeson County Water Dept.	Water Bill	\$ 51.86
Headstart	McDuffie Pest Control	Pest service	\$ 780.00
Headstart	Piedmont Natural Gas	Gas Bill	\$ 31.69
Headstart	Brunswick Electric	Electric Bill	\$ 568.63
Headstart	Brunswick Electric	Electric Bill	\$ 291.70
Headstart	Brunswick Electric	Electric Bill	\$ 342.04
Headstart	Town of Maxton	Water Bill	\$ 76.92
Headstart	City of Laurinburg	Electric Bill	\$ 2,262.14
Headstart	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 56.57
Headstart	USPS	PO Box Annual Service Charge	\$ 118.00
Headstart	USPS	PO Box Annual Service Charge	\$ 166.00
Headstart	North Carolina Head Start Association	NCHSA Leadership/Male Involvement Conference	\$ 8,800.00
Headstart	Town of Elizabeth	Water Bill	\$ 307.81
Headstart	Robeson County Water Dept.	Water Bill	\$ 22.00
Headstart	Columbus County Public Utilities	Water Bill	\$ 62.59
Headstart	Harrah's Hotel	Hotel Fee	\$ 1,701.56
Headstart	Duke Energy	Electric Bill	\$ 510.21
Headstart	Duke Energy	Electric Bill	\$ 1,710.87
Headstart	Duke Energy	Electric Bill	\$ 369.36
Headstart	Duke Energy	Electric Bill	\$ 603.90
Headstart	RIVHSA's Early HS Institute	HS training	\$ 2,910.00
Headstart	Food Lion	Lunch for pre-service Training	\$ 991.90
Headstart	Food Lion	Lunch for pre-service Training	\$ 919.31
Headstart	NC Dept. of Motor Vehicles	Bus Renewals	\$ 174.75
Headstart	Federal Grants Training	Cancelation of Training for Stephanie & Thaye	\$ (498.00)
Headstart	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 56.70
Headstart	NCDMV	Vehicle Renewal	\$ 73.25
Headstart	City of Raeford	Electric Bill	\$ 270.48
Headstart	AT&T	Phone Bill	\$ 80.97
ADMIN/HS	Robeson County Tax Dept	Building Taxes	\$ 2,897.21
ADMIN	City of Lumberton	Utility Bill	\$ 656.56
ADMIN	Amazon	Office Supplies	\$ 86.52
ADMIN	Clear me	Airport check	\$ 189.00
ADMIN	Thee Locksmith	Key stuck in door	\$ 117.70
ADMIN	Digital Space	Computer Software & Maintenance	\$ 28.00
ADMIN	USPS	Certified Mail to IRS	\$ 6.42
ADMIN	USPS	Mail to packages to IRS	\$ 20.92
ADMIN	ADOBE	Computer Software & Maintenance	\$ 272.69
ADMIN	Marriott Atlanta	Hotel Fee	\$ 1,010.52
ADMIN	Greenenvelope	Online Greeting Cards	\$ 125.00
ADMIN	Apple	Contractual	\$ 0.99
ADMIN	Cracker Barrel	Lunch meeting with Board	\$ 31.52
ADMIN	ZOOM	Computer Software & Maintenance	\$ 149.90
ADMIN	North Carolina Head Start	Training	\$ 400.00
ADMIN	Harrahs Hotels	Hotel Fee	\$ 121.54
ADMIN	Digital Space	Computer Software & Maintenance	\$ 234.00
ADMIN/CSBG	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 201.03
HUD	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 215.08
HUD	Tidal Wave	Car Wash	\$ 26.68
CSBG	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 120.81
CSBG	Quick Print	Office Supplies	\$ 731.88
CSBG	Belk	Interview clothes for customers	\$ 241.50
CSBG	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 59.00
CSBG	ADT Security	Contractual	\$ 50.16
CSBG	Raleigh-Durham Airport	Parking	\$ 80.00
CSBG	Delta	Baggage	\$ 30.00
CSBG	Lyft	Airport Lyft	\$ 38.33
CSBG	Atlanta Marriott Marquis	Hotel room	\$ 712.89
CSBG	Castle Uniforms	Employment Support	\$ 117.44
CSBG	Pizza Hut	Lunch for Training 08/29/23	\$ 45.72
CSBG	Cracker Barrel	Lunch for Training 08/29/23	\$ 40.65
CSBG	Amazon.com	Notary Book for Dee	\$ 17.46
CSBG	Sam's Club	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 321.61
CSBG	NC Dept. of Motor Vehicles	Vehicle Renewal	\$ 80.50
CSBG	Amazon	Notary Stamp for Alexandra	\$ 21.39
CSBG	NC Dept. of Motor Vehicles	Vehicle Renewal	\$ 80.50
HS/CSBG	City of Whiteville	Water Bill	\$ 78.25

Total Credit Card Expenditures \$ 53,473.54

**CSBG Performance Report 1st Quarter- 10/24/2023
By County**

Bladen

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
1. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency
2. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
3. Project Budget	-Expenditures- Project Budget: \$101,964, Report Period: \$18,593, To date: \$18,593 18.24% Expended, 18.4% Expended to Date
4. Number of Participants	10

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	3	0 discharged, 0 in program	3	7	10
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$20,990.24 (\$20,990.240)			
The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of	4	1 (of 4) (25%)			

families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:					
The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	2	(of 6) (0%)			
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	2	0			
The participant average wage rate		\$12.02			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	2	(of 5) (0%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	2	(of 3) (0 %)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	9	0 (of 10) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	11	1 (of 10) (10%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	2	1 (of 10) (10%)			

Brunswick

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
5. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency
6. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
7. Project Budget	-Expenditures- Project Budget: \$240,662, Report Period: \$42,702 To date: \$42,702 17.74% Expended, 17.74% Expended to Date
8. Number of Participants	18

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% Of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	6	0 discharged, 0 in program	12	5	18
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$17,599.34 (\$13,458.32)			
The number of participants families obtaining employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal.	9	2 (of 8) (25%)			

Customers gaining employment:					
The number of participant families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining better employment:	4	(of 2) (0%)			
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	4	0			
The participant average wage rate		\$15.18			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	4	(of 14) (0%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	4	(of 5) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	22	1 (of 18) (5.56%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	26	2 (of 18) (11.11%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	4	1 (of 18) (5.56%)			

Columbus

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
1. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency
2. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
3. Project Budget	-Expenditures- Project Budget: \$159,380, Report Period: \$24,662, To date: \$24,662 15.47% Expended, 15.47% Expended to Date
4. Number of Participants	17

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% Of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	4	0 discharged, 0 in program	13	2	17
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$16,321.88 (\$11,521.33)			
The number of participants families obtaining employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal.	6	(of 4) (0%)			

Customers gaining employment:					
The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	3	(of 7) (0%)			
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	3	0			
The participant average wage rate		\$13.36			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	3	(of 4) (0%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	3	(of 2) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	18	0 (of 17) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	18	0 (of 17) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	3	0 (of 17) (0%)			

Hoke

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
5. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency
6. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
7. Project Budget	-Expenditures- Project Budget: \$118,782, Report Period: \$9,789, To Date: \$9,789 8.24% Expended, 8.24% Expended to Date
8. Number of Participants	5

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% Of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	3	1 discharged, 0 in program	0	4	5
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$23,067.87 (\$23,067.87)			
The number of participants families obtaining employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal.	5	(of 1) (0%)			

Customers gaining employment:					
The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	2	(of 4) (0%)			
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	2	0			
The participant average wage rate		\$17.41			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	2	(of 5) (0%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	2	(of 2) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	11	0 (of 5) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	13	0 (of 50) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	2	0 (of 5) (0%)			

Pender

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
9. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency
10. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
11. Project Budget	-Expenditures- Project Budget: \$113,326, Report Period: \$10,953, To Date: \$10,953 9.67% Expended, 9.67% Expended to Date
12. Number of Participants	4

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% Of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	3	0 discharged, 0 in program	3	1	4
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$30,043.20 (\$10,014.40)			
The number of participants families obtaining employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal.	5	1 (of 4) (25%)			

Customers gaining employment:					
The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	2	(of 2) (0%)			
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	2	0			
The participant average wage rate		\$14.00			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	2	(of 2) (0%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	2	(of 1) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	10	0 (of 4) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	13	2 (of 4) (50%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	2	0 (of 4) (0%)			

Robeson

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
13. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency

14. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
15. Project Budget	-Expenditures- Project Budget: \$483,755, Report Period: \$66,404, To Date: \$66,404 13.73%% Expended, 13.73% Expended to Date
16. Number of Participants	38

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% Of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	11	3 discharged, 0 in program	15	17	38
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$24,578.31 (\$20,364.88)			
The number of participants families obtaining employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	20	1 (of 10) (10%)			

The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	9	6 (of 18) (33.33%)			
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	7	3			
The participant average wage rate		\$14.48			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	7	1 (of 24) (4.17%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	7	1 (of 11) (9.09%)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	42	1 (of 38) (2.63%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	54	5 (of 38) (13.16%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	7	1 (of 38) (2.63%)			

Scotland

Section III	Project Outcome Results for the Period
17. Project Type	Self-Sufficiency
18. Project Objective	To assist 32 families, obtain self-sufficiency with income above the federal poverty guidelines by June 30, 2024.
19. Project Budget	-Expenditures-

	Project Budget: \$137,583, Report Period: \$20,3933, To Date: \$20,393 14.82% Expended, 14.82% Expended to Date
20. Number of Participants	13

	A	B	C	D	E
8.a Required Standard Outcome Measures	Annual Target	Achieved	Still Progressing toward outcome	Exited Program prior to achieving outcome	Total of Columns B-D
The number of low-income families rising above (125% Of) the poverty level. Account of the families who rose above (125% of) the poverty level and maintained income above (125% of) the poverty level for 90 days while in the program. (Customer must have PGL Exceed Start Date and PGL Exceed Date prior to discharge.)	3	0 discharged, 0 in program	7	3	13
The average change in annual income per participant family. The value in parenthesis is the total difference in incomes between the start of the fiscal year (or the initial income if the customer entered the program in the FY reported on)		\$13,279.84 (\$12,258.31)			
The number of participants families obtaining employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain Better Employment' divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:	6	1 (of 5) (20%)			
The number of participants families obtaining better employment. The number of families completing a goal, or 'Gain	3	(of 9) (0%)			

Better Employment' is divided by the number of families seeking that goal. Customers gaining employment:					
The number of participant families obtaining jobs with medical benefits The number of families having employment financial entries with " Employer Health Care Coverage " checked (of the customers who had a completed goal of 'Gain Employment' or 'Gain Better Employment').	2	0			
The participant average wage rate		\$11.18			
The number of participant families completing education/training programs	2	(of 11) (0%)			
The number of participant families securing standard housing	2	(of 6) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided emergency assistance	13	0 (of 13) (0%)			
The number of participant families provided employment support	15	1 (of 13) (7.69%)			
The number of participant families provided educational support	2	0 (of 13) (0%)			



Community Needs Assessment

Community Services Block Grant Program

A study and analysis of the service area of Southeastern Community Action Partnership to determine the needs of those living in poverty. The identification of these needs through statistical data and community input, enables us to operate a program that is designed to help meet the Agency's mission to help eliminate poverty – one individual, one family at a time.

Completed June 30, 2023

Introduction

Southeastern Community Action Partnership (SCAP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Community Action Agency providing services to individuals and families in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, and Scotland Counties. These services are provided through management of Federal and State grants for the Head Start Program, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. The Agency's mission is *to improve and empower the lives of the families we serve*. This is accomplished through the operation of these programs.

SCAP is a Community Services Block Grant eligible entity. CSBG is a federal, anti-poverty grant which provides core funding to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities and to empower low-income families to become self-sufficient. The CSBG program is currently authorized under the 1998 CSBG Act. Community representation and accountability are hallmarks of the CSBG program.

The 1994 Amendment to the CSBG Act specifically mentions a requirement to provide outcome measures to monitor success in three areas: promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization. Our Community Services Block Grant Program is based on six national goals:

Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient. **(Family)**

Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved. **(Community)**

Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community. **(Community)**

Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved. **(Agency)**

Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results. **(Agency)**

Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems. **(Family)**

SCAP is committed to providing high quality services through intensive case management to individuals and families which we serve. Our goal is to help each customer become self-sufficient. This is accomplished by helping them identify their strengths and weaknesses. Using this data each customer is equipped with the knowledge necessary to help him or her identify specific goals as the journey begins toward attaining self-sufficiency.

SCAP is committed to the ROMA vision. ROMA is defined as "a performance-based initiative designed to preserve the anti-poverty focus of community action and to promote greater effectiveness among state and local agencies that receive Community Service Block Grant funds." Using the ROMA structure and principles, SCAP incorporates the use of outcomes and results into the administration, management, operation, and evaluation of the services we provide.

Purpose

The Community Assessment is updated every three years. Statistical data and relevant community information are compiled to identify the strengths, needs and trends that impact the design and implementation of our CSBG program.

During the assessment process, the following questions were addressed:

- How many low-income, CSBG eligible individuals/families reside in the service area?
- Are there changes in the low-income population or demographics in the CSBG service area?
- Are there community trends which affect CSBG families?
- What are the most critical needs and challenges facing the individuals/families in the service area?

The data which we collected and analyzed is utilized in making programmatic decisions such as determination of the types of services most needed by the individuals and families that we serve, our philosophy, the Agency's long- and short-range objectives, and our recruitment and service area.

Methodology

The Community Assessment is based on the collection and analysis of all relevant data for the communities served by the SCAP Community Services Block Grant Program. Qualitative and quantitative analyses were completed of demographic and community needs data.

Data were obtained from a variety of sources including state and local agencies as well as a community needs survey which was developed and disseminated to determine the needs and challenges of the SCAP service area. This information was utilized to frame a report that defines the number of CSBG eligible individuals and families who live in the service area, the greatest needs and challenges for the families and communities, what the program can do to help meet those needs, and to help determine the program design best suited for our potential customers. Key findings from the data indicate that the communities which we serve have many resources, but these communities are also faced with problems which include pervasive poverty, widespread illiteracy, drug abuse, high child-abuse and neglect rates, adolescent and teen pregnancies, high crime rates, and high unemployment rates.

Description of Service Area

Illustration A. **Southeastern Community Action Partnership**

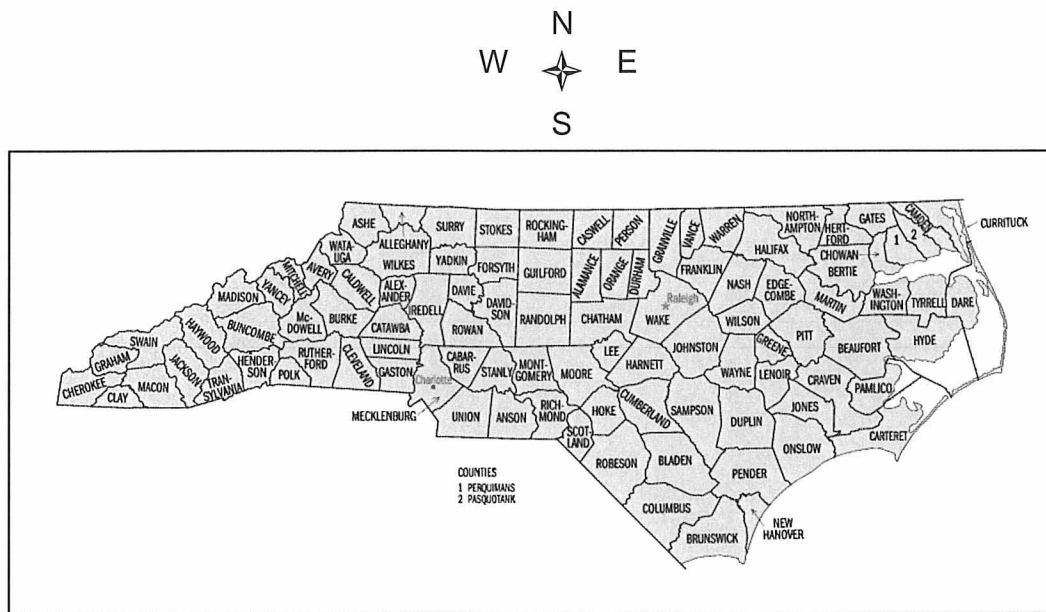


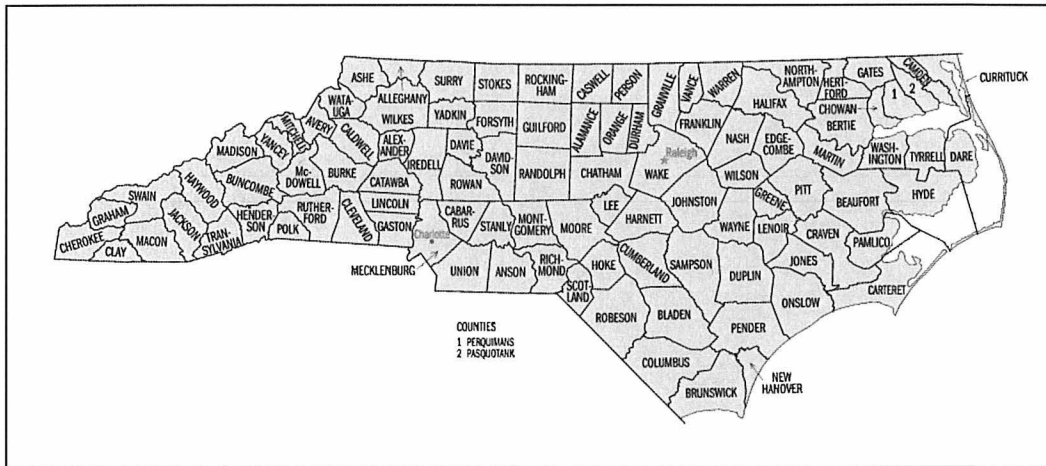
Illustration A is a map of the State of North Carolina in which we have outlined the geographical service area for Southeastern Community Action Partnership. The service area extends from the south-central district of the state to the Atlantic coast and is bordered by South Carolina to the south. The Community Services Block Grant Program currently provides services in all six counties defined in the service area.

The Agency's central office is located in Lumberton, Robeson County, North Carolina. Because of the distance from the central office to the most distant point (approximately 85 miles), a satellite office is located in Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina to help insure the delivery of timely services to all Neighborhood Service Centers. The Program Director and Case Management Field Supervisor are housed in both the Laurinburg and Whiteville Offices to provide daily contact, technical assistance and support to each center.

The eight CSBG Neighborhood Service Centers are distributed throughout the service area as follows:

- Bladen County: 106 West Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
- Brunswick County: 143 Holden Beach Road, Suite 1B, Shallotte, NC 28459
- Columbus County: 425 South Lee Street, Whiteville, NC 28472
- Hoke County: 366 Thomas Drive, Raeford, NC 28376
- Pender County: 810 S Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425 / 1411 Hwy 117 S., St Helena, NC 28425
- Robeson County: 4721 Fayetteville Road, Suite B, Lumberton, NC 28358
- Scotland County: 915 South Main Street, Laurinburg, NC 28352

County Profiles



Bladen County

Bladen County is the fourth largest county in North Carolina with 879 square miles and is in Southeastern North Carolina in what is known as the Coastal Plains, lying within twenty-five miles of the Atlantic Ocean. The terrain is flat, with maximum altitudes of 120°. Temperatures in Bladen may reach 105° F in summer and get as low as ten in winter. The average yearly temperature is sixty-three and the average yearly precipitation is 49.06 inches.

Bladen County is an ideal location for industry, offering a workforce, an abundant water supply and easy access to four major highways: NC 41, NC 87, NC 53, and US 701. The County has a diversified economy with industry, manufacturing and tourism being significant contributors. The average farm size is 238 acres, with total reported agricultural receipts for 2015 of \$367,080,868. The Labor & Economic Analysis Division of the NC Department of Commerce reported the largest number of employers in the fourth quarter of 2016, each reporting one hundred or more employees. These companies include Smithfield Foods, Inc. Gildan Yarns LLC, Bladen County Schools, Bladen County, Cape Fear Valley Health Systems, Danaher Controls, Packers Sanitation Services Inc. Ltd, Bladen Community College, First Source Staffing Services LLC, NC Department of Transportation, Lineage Logistics LLC, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., Genesis Administrative Services LLC, and Fresh Foods LLC.

The 2022 U.S. Census reported a population of 29,446. Bladen County is abundant in natural recreation areas. There are three rivers within its boundaries, with the Cape Fear River, the largest, bisecting the county. White Lake is commercially developed and attracts thousands of visitors annually. Bay Tree Lake is a growing private resort development. Jones and Singletary Lakes are state owned parks offering outdoor recreation as well as an educational visitors'

center. The figures in The Economic Impact of Travel on North Carolina Counties report showed that Bladen County received \$36.9 million with approximately 239 workers in the tourism industry in the county.

Housing figures initially indicate affordable housing opportunities, with the median value of owner-occupied housing units at \$106,000, compared to the state median of \$197,500, and a home ownership rate of 65.9%. However, the estimated median household income for 2021 as projected by the U.S Census Bureau is \$39,259. The Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) conducted by the Census Bureau reports that the median household income for the United States in 2021 was \$70,784 while the median household income for North Carolina totals \$60,516. Bladen poverty rates are at 21.6% based on the 2021 Small Area Income & Poverty Estimate. The July 2023 Bladen County Unemployment Rate is at 4.20%, compared to 4.40% last month and 4.50% last year. This is lower than the long-term average of 7.88%.

The Bladen County School System operates thirteen schools, serving 3,981 students in grades PK through twelve in the 2021-22 school year. Higher education opportunities are offered at Bladen Community College, located in the County. Bladen County students also have convenient access to Mt. Olive College and the University of North Carolina – Pembroke.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership operates one Neighborhood Service Center in Bladen County – which is in the County Seat, Elizabethtown. The center is equipped with a dual case manager which serves Robeson and Bladen counties.

Brunswick County

Brunswick County, located in Southeastern North Carolina on the Atlantic seaboard, covers over 854 square miles. The weather is ideal for year-round visits. During the spring and summer months the average temperature ranges from 81° to 90°. During the fall and winter months the average temperatures range from 56° to 84°. The sub-tropical climate and beach access have made Brunswick County a highly desirable recreational area.

The County, located between Wilmington, N.C. and Myrtle Beach, S.C., had a population of 136,694 as reported in the U.S. Census of 2020. The projected population for 2022 is 153,064. The recorded percentage of growth in 2022 was 12.0%.

While Brunswick County income is derived from or associated with tourism, creating more than 4,500 jobs. This county ranked sixth among the state's one hundred counties in visitor spending in 2021. Travel generated a \$975.11 million payroll in 2021. The area is home to several manufacturing facilities as well as having a healthy agricultural economy. 542,033 acres of the county are being used for agriculture, with a total of 254 working farms.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce released a report reflecting the top 25 Employers and percentage of workers in each sector. The employers reporting 100 or more employees include: Brunswick County Board of Education, Progress Energy Service Company, County of Brunswick, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., Food Lion, Brunswick Novant Medical Center, Brunswick Community College, Lowes Foods LLC, Liberty Healthcare Group LLC, McAndersons Inc., Doshier Memorial Hospital, Troon Golf LLC, SBH Wilmington LLC,

Department of Defense, Lowes Home Centers Inc., Charter Day School Inc., Novant Health Corporation, Archer Daniels Midland Company, U.S. Postal Service, Portus Terminals LLC, Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation, Victaulic Company of America, Walgreens, Coating & Adhesive Corporation, and Securitas Critical Infrastructure.

Housing indicators for Brunswick County have a high home ownership rate of 82.6%. The median value of owner-occupied houses is \$238,800. The 2021 estimated median household income is \$64,400 which is \$3,884 higher than the 2021 median household income for North Carolina as reported by the U.S Census Bureau. Brunswick County reports a 9.8% poverty rate. The unemployment rate is at 4.10%, compared to 4.00% last month and 5.00% last year. This is lower than the long-term average of 7.21%.

The Brunswick County Board of Education, one of the largest employers in the county, operates a total of twenty schools and serves 12,640 students. Higher education is offered through Brunswick Community College, which has two campus locations, and the University of North Carolina – Wilmington.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership operates one Neighborhood Service Center in Brunswick County – located in Shallotte. The center is equipped with two Case Managers, one which is dual with Pender County.

Columbus County

Columbus County, located in Southeastern North Carolina, covers over 937 square miles. The county enjoys a warm climate, with an average elevated temperature of 74° and an average low of 49°. The 2020 U.S. Census report shows a total population of 50,625. The projected 2022 total population is 49,885.

Columbus County is located halfway between Maine and Miami, Florida, which offers strategic access to Eastern United States consumers, suppliers, and business partners. Less than an hour east is the Port of Wilmington, with the Port of Charleston a short drive south. A web of four lane highways offers convenient surface transit, including U.S. 74. A CSX mainline traverses the county, and passenger air service is available in easily accessible communities.

Columbus County has a diversified economy which includes farming, manufacturing, and tourism. Tourism added a total of \$60.7 million to the county's economy in 2022, generating more than 290 jobs. The spending generated \$2.0 million in local taxes.

The county has developed an economic development commission to actively solicit industry and offers incentives in the form of tax rebates, job creation grants, site development assistance, free training, and management relocation support. The Labor & Economic Analysis Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce released a report on the largest number of employers in the fourth quarter of 2016. These companies report having 100 or more employees and includes Columbus County Board of Education, NC Department of Public Safety, International Paper Company Inc., Century Employer Organization LLC, Columbus County, Columbus Regional Healthcare System, BB&T, Whiteville City Schools, Southeastern Community College, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., Atlantic Corporation, Community Innovations

Inc., National Spinning Company Inc., Food Lion, Liberty Healthcare Group LLC, Carolinas Home Care Agency Inc., West Fraser Inc., McDonalds, Wayne E. Bailey Produce Company, Lowes Home Centers Inc., Boys & Girls Homes of NC Inc., Blacks Tire, Interim Health Care, and Premier Living Rehab Center LLC.

The home ownership rate is moderate at 71.9%. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is \$102,300. The 2021 estimated median household income is \$40,562, \$19,954 less than the 2021 median income for North Carolina as reported in the U.S Census Bureau. Unemployment rates were reported at 6.3% in 2021 which is 3% higher than the state average of 3.3%. The county poverty rate is 23.4%.

Columbus County is host to two school systems: Whiteville City Schools with five schools serving 2,103 students, and Columbus County Board of Education which consists of fourteen schools with more than 5,326 students.

Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. operates a Neighborhood Service Center in Columbus County which is in the county seat, Whiteville, North Carolina. Staff housed at this site include a Supervisor and a Case Manager.

Hoke County

Hoke County is in the southern part of Central North Carolina, and is bordered by Cumberland, Moore, Robeson, and Scotland Counties. Hoke encompasses 391.2 square miles of primarily rural land, part of which is connected to the Fort Bragg Military Installation.

The estimated total population for Hoke County as of 2022 is 53,787 according to the U.S Census Bureau. The 2020 Census population of 52,081 was a 90.2% increase over the 2010 Census. Hoke has exhibited an almost 91% growth over the past 10 years. The major contributor to this population growth is the closing of several military bases and the subsequent relocation of those personnel to Fort Bragg and Edwards Air Force Base.

Formed in 1911, the county was originally covered with cotton plantations, with cotton being the primary basis of its economy. As agriculture declined, Hoke County attracted industrial development to replace agriculture. Agriculture receipts now contribute \$48 million to the local economy. However, in 2020 12.7% of residents, were working in the manufacturing field. Interstate 95, US 401, and state routes 20 and 211 provide quick access to major metropolitan areas and markets. Air transportation is available at Fayetteville's Granis Field, approximately thirty miles away.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce released a report on the largest employers for the fourth quarter of 2022. Companies reflected in that report which employ one hundred or more people include Hoke County Board of Education, Butterball LLC, Hoke County, Staffing Alliance LLC, Cape Fear Valley Health Systems, Conopco Inc., Burlington Industries V LLC, NC Department of Public Safety, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., First Health of the Carolinas Inc., and House of Raeford Inc.

The US Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts reports the 2017-2021 home ownership rates at 69.3% which is higher than the state average of 65.9%. The median value of owner-occupied houses for this period is \$154,400, \$43,100 below the state median. The poverty rate for Hoke County is 15.5%. The unemployment rate in 2021 is reported at 6.4% which is 3.1% higher than the state average of 3.3%.

Hoke County School System operates a total of fourteen schools serving 8,874 students. Five colleges are located within 30 minutes of the center of the county, and Sandhill's Community College-Hoke Campus is in Raeford, the County Seat.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership has one Neighborhood Service center in Hoke County. Hoke Neighborhood Service Center is in Raeford and has a dual case manager which serves Hoke and Scotland counties.

Pender County

Pender County is in the southeastern section of North Carolina and was formed in 1875 from New Hanover County. This county was named for William Dorsey Pender, a Confederate General who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean and New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow counties. Pender encompasses 933 square miles. Burgaw is the county seat.

The 2020 Census population for Pender County totaled 60,208. The US Census Bureau reports the 2022 projected population total at 65,737. Pender County is a remarkably diverse area which affords a unique opportunity to create a balanced economic base. Major interstate and highway corridors include I-40, I-140, US 74 (future I-74), US 421 and US 17. The industrial park is located only 15 minutes from Wilmington International Airport.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce released a report on the largest number of employers in the fourth quarter of 2021. Employers reporting 100 or more employees include Pender County Schools, Pender County, NC Department of Public Safety, Pender Memorial Hospital Inc., L Building Products (A Corp), Food Lion, Pender EMS and Fire Inc., Wal-Mart Associates Inc., C.W. Wright Construction Company LLC, R.C. Recreations LLC, Woodbury Wellness Center Inc., Lowes Home Centers Inc., Daybreak of Rocky Mount Inc., Huntington Health Care & Retirement, and Harris Teeter. Agriculture is also a major contributor to the economy of Pender County. In 2015 cash receipts totaling \$162,022,290 were generated through livestock, dairy, poultry, and crops.

Home ownership rates at 80.4% are higher than the state average of 65.9%. The median value of owner-occupied housing units for the period of 2017-2021 totals \$210,600. The 2020 estimated median household income is \$65,681, \$5,165 higher than the State median household income. The poverty rate of Pender County is reported at 10.8%. The unemployment rate for 2021 is 4.2% representing .9% higher than the state average of 3.3%.

Pender County School System operates a total of nineteen schools, including four high schools. NC Report Card reports that 10,332 children were enrolled during the 2021 school year. Cape Fear Community College is centrally located for easy access to all Pender County residents.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership has one Neighborhood Service center in Pender County. Pender Neighborhood Service Center in two satellite offices, one in the Pender Department of Social Services and in the Safe Haven Administrative office. There is a dual case manager which services both Brunswick and Pender.

Robeson County

With over 949 square miles of land area and two square miles of water, Robeson County is the largest county in the State of North Carolina. Situated in the southern part of Central North Carolina, the average annual temperature is 58°; annual snowfall average is three”, and annual rainfall is forty-nine”. Population density is primarily rural, with 37% urban and 63% rural. The 2020 U.S. Census reports a population of 116,516. The projected 2022 population as reflected in ACCESSNC through the NC Department of Commerce totals 116,663.

The highway system in Robeson County is outstanding with major north, south, east, and west highways, including I-95 and the proposed I-74. Trucking, rail, local air, and nearby major airports are available for shipping of manufactured goods. Lumberton, the county seat, sits on I-95 and is a mid-way point between New York and Florida. The Tourism industry in Robeson County employs 3,510 local workers, which is a little less than 10% of the total workforce locally.

Major employers in Robeson county, providing jobs to 100 or more individuals, include Public Schools of Robeson County, Mountaire Farms of North Carolina, Inc., Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Robeson County, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Campbell Soup Supply Company LLC, Two Hawk Employment Services LLC, Staffing Alliance LLC, BB&T, Kayser-Roth Corporation, NC Department of Public Safety, Prestige Foods, City of Lumberton, Food Lion, Sroriginals, RHA Health Services LLC, McDonalds, Elkay Southern Corporation, Quickie Manufacturing Corporation, Graphic Packaging International Inc., Mega Force Staffing Group Inc., and M. J. Soffee LLC. Robeson County Economic Development Commission has been organized to promote Robeson County’s economic growth by offering incentives to new and existing industries for creation of new jobs, business retention and expansion. Industrial development grants and research and development tax credits are available to qualify business within the region.

The median value of owner-occupied housing is low at \$77,900, which is less than half of the State median of \$197,500. Home ownership rates are low at 65.5% for the period of 2017-2021. The 2020 estimated median household income is \$36,736, \$23,780 less than the median household income for North Carolina. The poverty rate for Robeson County is reported at 27.9%. The unemployment rate as reported for 2021 is 7.6% which is 4.5% higher than the state average of 3.3%.

Public Schools of Robeson County operates thirty-seven schools, including seven high schools and serves 20,783 students. Opportunities for higher education are available at Robeson Community College and the University of North Carolina – Pembroke.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership operates two Neighborhood Service Centers in Robeson County located in Red Springs and Lumberton. The administrative offices of SCAP are also housed in Lumberton, providing jobs to thirty-three individuals. Through the Community Services Block Grant funding the agency employs a Program Director, three managers, and two intake specialists and a program specialist.

Scotland County

Scotland County, located in the area known as the Sandhill's Region, covers 319 square miles. It is adjacent to the State of South Carolina. This is the smallest county served by Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. Scotland County is located halfway between Charlotte, the State's largest city, and Wilmington, the State's largest port, and is one hundred miles south of Raleigh, the State Capital, and one hundred miles north of Columbia, the State Capital of South Carolina. The 2020 U.S. Census reports a population of 34,180 with ACCESSNC of the NC Department of Commerce projecting the population as of 2022 at 34,162.

Choice industrial sites, available workforce, convenient location to the coast and the Research Triangle area, and readily available shipping make Scotland County an ideal choice for business locations. Major highways US 15, 401, 501 and the proposed I-74 bisect the county, and industrial railway spurs are available through the locally owned Laurinburg and Southern Railroad.

The Scotland County Economic Development Corporation has been established to actively solicit businesses to the region, working with new and expanding companies to provide incentives for job creation and capital investment. Major employers identified as companies providing employment to 100 or more individuals include Scotland County Schools, Scotland Memorial Hospital (A Corp), NC Department of Public Safety, FCC North Carolina LLC, Scotland County, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., Pilkington North America Inc., Maverick Transportation LLC, Farmers Furniture Company, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Hanesbrand Inc., Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems LLC, Presbyterian Home, Inc., City of Laurinburg, Nics Pic Kwik Inc., Railroad Friction Products Corporation, Scottish Pines Rehabilitation and Nursing, Debbie's Staffing Services, Kordsa Inc., Mega Force Staffing Group Inc., Olsten Staffing, Carolina Container Company (A Corp), and Cascades.

The home ownership rate in Scotland County for the period of 2017-2021 is 59.4%. The median value of owner-occupied housing is \$89,600. The 2021 estimated median household income is \$39,866, \$20,650 less than the median income for North Carolina according to the U.S Census Bureau. The county poverty rate is at 24.4%. The reported unemployment rate in 2021 was 9.5% which is 6.2% higher than the state average of 3.3%.

The Scotland County School System operates a total of ten schools serving pre-k through high school and serves 5,450 students. The county is home to St. Andrews Presbyterian College and a satellite of Richmond Community College. Higher education opportunities are also provided through proximity to the University of North Carolina – Pembroke campus.

Southeastern Community Action Partnership operates one Neighborhood Service Center in Scotland County located in Laurinburg. The Scotland center houses a dual case manager that serves Hoke and Scotland counties.

Demographics

As of the 2010 Census, each of the counties in our Community Services Block Grant Program service area had consistently showed a positive population growth since 1990. Three counties, Brunswick, Hoke, and Pender were among the nation’s top one hundred fastest growing counties in 2010. The 2014 and 2019 population estimate as published by the North Carolina Department of Commerce shows a slight decrease in the population for Columbus and Scotland Counties with the projections for Brunswick County having the highest increase.

County	2020	2021	2022
Bladen	29,606	29,565	29,446
Brunswick	136,693	144,814	153,064
Columbus	50,623	49,953	49,885
Hoke	52,082	53,235	53,787
Pender	60,203	63,072	65,737
Robeson	116,530	116,229	116,663
Scotland	34,174	34,175	34,162

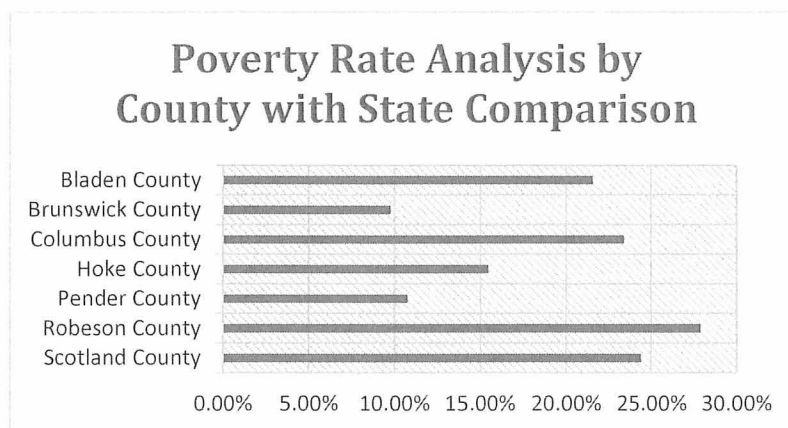
Racial and Ethnic Diversity of Families

Hispanic population growth has nearly doubled in the State over the past decade. Each county in our service area has had a significant increase in that facet of the population, with as much as a 2.4% increase in Hoke County.

Family Racial and Ethnic Composition – 2012 US Census American Community Survey Estimates							
Race/Ethnicity	Bladen	Brunswick	Columbus	Hoke	Pender	Robeson	Scotland
White	60.8%	87%	63.4%	48%	82.6%	30.1%	43.2%
Black/African Amer.	33.1%	9.3%	29.8%	36.4%	13%	23.8%	39.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.4%	0.8%	3.8%	8.5%	1%	41.9%	13.2%
Asian	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	1.7%	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Two or More Races	2.1%	1.9%	2.3%	5.0%	2.5%	3.2%	3.0%
White, non-Hispanic	54.7%	82.6%	58.9%	37%	76%	23.7%	40.8%
Hispanic	8.6%	5.3%	6.3%	15.4%	8.3%	9.8%	4.0%

Poverty

In North Carolina poverty remains elevated and touches the lives of more than 1.7 million Tar Heels. Poverty continues to keep the fiercest grip on communities of color, children, and single parent households.



The U.S. Census Bureau 2021 poverty estimates shows that the state poverty rate was 12.8%. Robeson County's poverty rate is estimated at 27.9% while Scotland County's rate is estimated at 24.4%. These rates are significantly higher than the state average. Hoke, Columbus, and Bladen Counties estimated poverty rates are also significantly higher with only two counties reporting a poverty rate that is less than the state poverty rate – Brunswick County reports a poverty rate of 9.8% while Pender County reports a rate of 10.8%.

The North Carolina Department of Justice released a BTC Brief. Research was conducted to evaluate the problem of concentrated poverty in North Carolina's neighborhoods. This study shows that a growing number of people in our service area are living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Those living in these areas face restricted access to jobs, education, and networks that can improve their financial standing. The disadvantage of being poor and residing in a poor neighborhood magnifies and perpetuates the problems they face. Research shows that the residential segregation of people who are poor can lead to negative neighborhood effects including low-quality educational opportunities, weaker employment networks, poorer health outcomes, and elevated levels of crime. Changes have been seen in the concentration of poverty nationally. The number of poor people living in concentrated-poverty neighborhoods increased twofold from 1970 to 1990 and declined by 31% from 1990 to 2000 only to see an increase of one-third from 2000 to 2005-2009.

The map below reflects the areas of concentrated poverty. Throughout the seven-county service area of Southeastern Community Action Partnership there are high percentages of people living in areas of concentrated poverty. This study also reports that African Americans who were poor were 2.7 times more likely to live in concentrated-poverty neighborhoods than Latinos who were poor, and 3.5 times more likely than whites who were poor. Studies show that living in areas of concentrated poverty results in higher stress levels, higher dropout rates,

and more emotional problems. Focusing outreach efforts in areas of concentrated poverty can help us break the cycle of poverty.

Childcare Programs

Children from moderate- and higher-income families tend to achieve higher academic success than those from lower income backgrounds. However, families at all income levels tend to struggle with childcare. State childcare subsidies can help parents afford the dependable childcare they need to work every day, but there are children who are on waiting lists for those subsidies. Difficulties with childcare force parents to quit, change jobs or give up on searching for employment altogether. Lower-income parents are more than twice as likely to make job changes based on childcare issues than moderate to upper income families. Compared to the national average, North Carolina has one of the highest rates of working mothers with young children; thus, making the need for childcare one of the state’s top priorities.

According to the North Carolina Division of Child Development, a total of 288 licensed day care facilities are in the Southeastern Community Action Partnership. Community Services Block Grant Program service area. These facilities include Head Start Centers, which are operated by Southeastern Community Action Partnership in six of the seven counties served. There are also public-school Title 1 and pre-k programs, and privately owned day cares. It would appear at first glance that there are ample quality facilities to provide day care to this age group. However, the rising cost of day care or tuition puts this option out of reach for, particularly those who are unemployed and those who are among the working poor. Low or no wages as well as lack of transportation make it difficult for families to secure these services.

Education Overview of the SCAP Service Area

The table below shows the educational levels of each county in our service area for 2021. Graduation rates have improved since 2012 in Brunswick, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, and Scotland Counties. The graduation rate was reduced in Bladen, Columbus, and Pender Counties. However, figures for the population having less than a high school diploma and those achieving degrees in higher education still indicate a pressing need for basic and continuing adult education in each county.

County	Less Than HS Diploma	High School Diploma	Associate degree	Bachelor’s Degree or Higher
Bladen	14%	34%	11%	14%
Brunswick	9%	28%	14%	27%
Columbus	16%	33%	11%	12%
Hoke	11%	27%	14%	21%
Pender	10%	23%	10%	32%
Robeson	21%	32%	11%	14%
Scotland	15%	36%	11%	12%

Post-secondary education has become a prerequisite in our increasingly competitive job market. However, the excessive cost of education has made it difficult for individuals from low-income families to achieve this milestone. Additionally, individuals living in poverty face other challenges because of their socio-economic background. They are two ½ times more likely to repeat a grade, resulting in lowered academic achievement and socio-emotional adjustment. They are also less likely to participate in after school activities, sports and community service activities which are associated with better academic outcomes, higher self-esteem, and improved social skills. All these factors contribute to low educational outcomes and limited skills, both of which are associated with unemployment and low earnings potential.

2020 Births – Teens and Adolescents

County	Age Group	# of Births	Total Births All Age Groups	% of All County Births
Bladen	15 - 19	53	370	14.3%
Brunswick	16 - 19	97	1,046	9.3%
Columbus	14 - 19	96	672	14.3%
Hoke	14 - 19	76	930	8.2%
Robeson	12 - 19	383	2,103	18.2%
Scotland	12 - 19	102	506	20.2%

2021 Births – Teens and Adolescents

County	Age Group	# of Births	Total Births All Age Groups	% of All County Births
Bladen	14 - 19	36	342	10.5%
Brunswick	15 - 19	71	1,047	6.8%
Columbus	13 - 19	97	652	14.9%
Hoke	13 - 19	90	1,008	8.9%
Robeson	13 - 19	315	1,886	16.7%
Scotland	14 - 19	94	457	20.6%

While rates are dropping through a concerted education and preventative effort, the effects of teen pregnancy are long reaching:

- Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school; only one-third receive a high school diploma or GED.
- Teen mothers are more likely to live in impoverished conditions. Teen pregnancy makes it harder to escape poverty, with more than 40% reporting that they live in poverty at age 27.
- Teen fathers have a lower probability of graduating from high school.
- The children of teen mothers have lower birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in school, and are at a greater risk of abuse and neglect.

- The sons of teen mothers are 13% more likely to end up in prison, while teen daughters are 22% more likely to become teen mothers themselves.
- Risks for medical complications are greater for girls 14 years of age and younger, as an underdeveloped pelvis can lead to difficulties in childbirth.
- The occurrence of developmental disabilities and behavioral issues is increased in children born to teen mothers.

Teen pregnancy and motherhood can influence younger siblings. In a study conducted by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina it was reported that the younger sisters of teen mothers were less likely to place an emphasis on education and employment, and to accept early sexual behavior, parenting, and marriage at younger ages.

- One-fourth of adolescent mothers will have a second child within 24 months of the first.
- Women exposed to abuse, domestic violence and family strife in childhood are more likely to become pregnant as teenagers.
- Girls whose fathers left the family early in their lives had the highest rates of early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy.
- Teenage mothers are more likely than older mothers to experience single parenthood, as well as serious health and emotional problems.

2023 Community Needs Assessment Survey

During Program Year 2022-23, SCAP, Community Services Block Grant program conducted an assessment survey of staff, volunteers, partners, and community representatives.

The survey was distributed electronically, via Survey Monkey, as well as in paper format. To make the public aware of the survey, a notice was placed on SCAP's website, on the agency's website, via social media sites, and by word-of-mouth.

378 surveys were completed during the process. Surveys were submitted from each of the counties served by SCAP (Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, and Scotland Counties). It is important to know that 378 surveys were collected; however, every participant did not complete all the questions of the survey. In addition, COVID-19 prevented some surveys from being completed due to lack of internet to complete online, lack of transportation to get survey turned back in and the inability to complete door to door surveys. Questions 1-7 is the demographic break-down of participants:

Q1) What is your gender?

Answered: 374 Skipped: four

Female:	14.17%	53
Male:	85.83%	321
<hr/>		
TOTAL		374

Q2) Which County do you reside in?

Answered: 376 Skipped: two

Robeson	24.20%	91
Scotland	24.20%	91
Hoke	21.54%	81
Columbus	13.30%	50
Brunswick	7.71%	29
Bladen	3.46%	13
Pender	0.80%	03
Other	5.59%	21
<hr/>		
TOTAL		376

Q3) What is your age group?

Answered: 375 Skipped: three

55+	27.20%	102
26-35	26.13%	98
36-45	19.20%	72
46-55	17.87%	67
18-25	9.60%	36
<hr/>		
TOTAL		375

Q4) What is your marital status?

Answered: 363 Skipped: fifteen

Single	55.65%	202
Married	22.31%	81
Divorced	09.09%	33
Widowed	06.34%	23
Separated	03.58%	13
Living w/partner	03.03%	11
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>363</u>

Q5) How would classify your race?

Answered: 361 Skipped: seventeen

Black/African American	66.76%	241
White/Caucasian	11.63%	42
Native American/American Indian	11.36%	41
Hispanic	04.43%	16
Multiracial	02.22%	8
Latina	00.55%	2
Other	02.22%	8
Asian/Pacific Islander	00.83%	3
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>361</u>

Q6) What is your highest level of education completed?

Answered: 362 Skipped: sixteen

High School	38.12%	138
Some College	27.62%	100
Bachelor's Degree	11.60%	42
Master's Degree	8.84%	32
GED	6.63%	24
Vocational/Technical	3.87%	14
Middle School	2.48%	9
Doctoral Degree	0.55%	2
Elementary/Grammar	0.00%	0
No formal education	0.28%	1
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>362</u>

Q7) Employment Status (check all that apply)?

Answered: 370 Skipped: eight

Employed (Wages)	50.81%	188
Self-employed	5.14%	19
Unemployed	21.62%	80
Retired	12.43%	46
Student	5.68%	21
Military/Spouse (Active)	1.35%	5
Veteran/Spouse	0.81%	3
Ex-offender/Paroled	0.27%	3
Other	8.38%	31
<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>370</u>

Q8) Household Income (Annually)?

Answered: 364 Skipped: fourteen

Less than \$10,000	29.67%	108
\$10,000 to \$19,999	21.15%	77
\$20,000 to \$29,999	13.74%	50
\$30,000 to \$39,999	13.74%	50
\$40,000 to \$49,999	8.24%	30
\$50,000 to \$59,999	2.75%	10
\$60,000 to \$69,999	2.47%	9
\$70,000 to \$79,999	1.65%	6
\$80,000 +	6.59%	24
TOTAL		364

The following survey questions were created to get an understanding of the thought processes of community needs and issues, as well as to better understand program and services desired by participants. Here are questions 8-20 of the survey, showing the results of the top **five answers** given by respondents:

Q9) COMMUNITY NEEDS: What do you think are the major causes of POVERTY in your community?

Unemployment/Lack of Available Jobs	68.34%	231
Low Paying Jobs	61.54%	208
High Cost of Living	30.18%	102
Lack of Affordable Housing	37.33%	137
Crime/Violence	29.29%	99
Alcohol/Substance/Drug Abuse	26.33%	89
Lack of education	20.16%	74
Lack of Transportation	17.44%	64
Lack of Job Skills	17.17%	63
Lack of Family Support	14.44%	53
Lack of Government/Community Support	12.81%	47
Other	5.18%	19

Q10) Which of the following do you see as the most MAJOR PROBLEM in your community?

Unemployment/Lack of Available Jobs	22.10%	80
Alcohol/Substance/Drug Abuse	10.77%	39
Violence/Domestic Violence	17.68%	64
Single Parent Households	3.04%	11
Homelessness/Lack of Affordable Housing	9.12%	33
Crime/Theft/Homicide/Suicide	8.29%	30
Depression/Mental Health	6.91%	25
Lack of Education	6.08%	22
Lack of Recreational Activities	3.87%	14
Lack of Transportation	3.59%	13
Lack of Resources for Seniors	2.76%	10

Public Health Issues	1.93%	7
Lack of Nutritional Food Resources	1.93%	7
Teen Pregnancy	1.93%	7

Q11) What TARGETED AREAS of programs and services do you think will benefit your community? (Check Only THREE)

Life Skills/Home Management	35.14%	130
Job Readiness/Resume Writing	26.22%	97
Financial Literacy/Banking/Budgeting	26.22%	97
Mental Health	23.78%	88
Housing/First-Time Homebuyer	17.30%	64
Childcare/Head Start	17.03%	63
Elderly Support	16.49%	61
Healthcare/Nutrition	12.97%	48
Computer Training	11.62%	43
Abuse Shelter/Counseling	11.35%	42
Tutoring/Educational Support	10.81%	40
Parenting/Fatherhood/Child Support	9.73%	36
Re-Entry/Post Incarceration	9.19%	34
Anti-Bullying/Peer Pressure	9.19%	34
Entrepreneurship	8.11%	30
Sexual Education	7.03%	26
Conflict Resolution/Anger Management	7.03%	26
After School Activities	19.19%	71
Family Planning/Strengthening	12.97%	48
Other	2.97%	11

Q12) Which of the following do you feel is MOST IMPORTANT in improving one's personal life to make a better community? (Check Only THREE)

Mental/Physical/Emotional Health	47.09%	170
Family Support	39.89%	144
Financial Stability	38.23%	138
Sense of Purpose	19.94%	72
Emergency Assistance	19.39%	70
Personal Accomplishments	16.90%	61
Spiritual Guidance/Support	16.90%	61
Continuing Education	15.24%	55
Transportation/Accessibility	14.96%	54
Mentoring and Peer Support	11.63%	42
Career/Vocation	11.36%	41
Social/Networking Opportunities	9.42%	34
Hobbies/Recreational Activities	8.86%	32
Other:	3.88%	14

Q13) CLIENT NEEDS: Employment: If you could improve your employment status what areas would you focus?

Increase in Pay/Responsibilities	56.18%	200
More Training/Growth Opportunities	34.55%	123

Job Stability	32.30%	115
Increase in Benefits	29.49%	105
Flexible Working Hours	20.79%	74
Career Change	15.73%	56
More Hours	15.17%	54
Transportation to Work	14.89%	53
Location of Job	13.76%	49
Different Job Title/Position with Employer	09.83%	35
No Services Needed	08.43%	30
Other:	04.49%	16

Q14) What are your BARRIERS for better employment? (Check Only THREE)

No Services Needed	27.12%	99
Lack of Training	25.21%	92
Lack of Education	21.64%	79
Lack of Dependable Childcare	16.71%	61
Lack of Reliable Transportation	16.44%	60
Lack of Skills (Vocational)	15.89%	58
Need a Resume	14.79%	54
Poor Work History	13.97%	51
Mental/Physical Disability	11.51%	42
Lack of Interviewing Skills	10.96%	40
Poor Work Ethics	10.96%	40
Declining Physical Health	09.32%	34
Other:	06.85%	25
Lack of Professional Work Attire	05.75%	21
Lack of Adult Dependent Care	05.48%	20
Formerly Incarcerated/Ex-Offender	05.21%	19

Q15) Are you in need of any of the following employment services? (Check All That Apply to Your Needs)

No Services Needed	36.67%	132
Career Planning/Goal Setting	24.44%	88
Computer Skills Training	21.94%	79
Continuing Education Assistance	21.39%	77
Job Readiness	17.22%	62
Financial Literacy/Management	16.11%	58
Leadership/Management Training	15.00%	54
Resume Writing	14.44%	52
Entrepreneurship Training	11.39%	41
Benefits Advice/Counseling	9.72%	35
Vocational Rehabilitation	8.89%	32
Mock Interviewing	4.72%	17
Re-Entry Assistance	3.33%	12
Other:	1.94%	7

Q16) CLIENT NEEDS: Family: If you could improve your family needs what areas would you focus on?

Homeownership	37.26%	136
Employment/Career	30.68%	112
Financial Literacy/Management	28.77%	105
Health/Wellness/Nutrition	28.77%	105
Family Vacations	28.22%	103
Education (for all)	20.55%	75
Hobbies/Recreation	19.45%	71
Happier/Healthier Marriage	13.97%	51
Parenting	12.88%	47
No Services Needed	12.05%	44
Entrepreneurship	8.77%	32
Other:	3.56%	13

Q17) What are your BARRIERS for a better family life? (Check Only THREE)

Lack of Income/Financial Support	43.42%	155
No Services Needed	23.25%	83
Lack of Education	17.93%	64
Mental Health	16.25%	58
Lack of Transportation	14.85%	53
Long/Short Working Hours	14.29%	51
Lack of Dependable Childcare	14.29%	51
Lack of Hobbies/Recreation	11.48%	41
Declining Physical Health	10.64%	38
Poor Living Conditions	9.52%	34
Mental/Physical Disability	9.24%	33
Lack of Spousal Support	8.96%	32
Homeless	6.72%	24
Domestic Violence	6.44%	23
Lack of Adult Dependent Care	5.04%	18
Other (please specify)	2.52%	9

Q18) Are you in need of any of the following family improvement services? (Check All That Apply to Your Needs)

Credit Repair	30.28%	109
No Services Needed	28.89%	104
Home Buying/Selling	23.33%	84
Banking and Budgeting/ Financial Literacy	21.11%	76
Family Goal Setting	18.89%	68
Business Start-Up/Financing	16.67%	60
Mental Health/Depression	15.28%	55
Better Nutrition	14.72%	53
Motivational Empowerment	10.83%	39
College Preparation	9.17%	33
Volunteering/Giving Back	8.89%	32
Physical Health Counseling	7.78%	28
Relationship Management	7.78%	28

Anti-Bullying/Youth Empowerment	4.17%	15
Parenting/Prenatal Care	3.61%	13
Legal Counsel-Mediation	2.50%	9
Alcohol/Substance Abuse	2.50%	9
Foreclosure Prevention	1.39%	5
Other (please specify)	0.28%	1

Q19) CLIENT NEEDS: Housing: Housing is a problem for my family because...

No Services Needed	32.78%	118
Excessive cost of rent/house payments	29.78%	
107		
Affordable housing is unavailable	8.89%	32
Excessive cost of utilities	8.61%	
31		
Excessive cost of housing improvements/repairs	7.50%	27
Available housing is in undesirable/unsafe neighborhoods	4.44%	16
Housing size does not meet my family needs	3.89%	14
Lack of Shelters	2.22%	8
Available housing is not conveniently accessible to work/school	0.83%	3
(Check ONLY ONE)	0.56%	2
Other (please specify)	0.56%	2

Q20) Are you in need of any of the following housing services? (Check All That Apply to Your Needs)

No Services Needed	38.72%	139
Utilities Assistance	30.36%	109
Section 8/HUD	25.91%	93
Rental/Deposit Assistance	24.23%	87
Home buying/Selling	15.04%	54
Weatherization	13.09%	47
Home Improvement Training	8.91%	32
Housekeeping Training	3.34%	12
Temporary Homeless Shelters	2.79%	10
Other (please specify)	0.84%	3
Foreclosure Prevention	0.28%	1

Conclusion

Based on the results of the Community Needs Assessment survey and our research of each county within the Agency's service area, it is evident that the primary barrier to individuals and families attaining self-sufficiency is based on the lack of jobs with a livable wage, job stability, and a need for job training. Additional barriers that are of high importance to breaking the cycle of poverty are the need for training in the areas of banking and budgeting, family planning and goal setting, computer training, and job search training. Another thread that can be seen throughout all responses is the need for reliable transportation in our rural service area.

The Family Empowerment Self-Sufficiency Project (FESS) is designed to provide very comprehensive case management with the long-range goal of helping remove families and individuals from poverty. This program is not designed to just pay utility bills, rent, or other immediate needs identified by the family. It is designed to help meet the individual's immediate need utilizing Agency resources as well as other available community resources. The true strength of this project is found in the comprehensive case management where skills are taught through workshops and one-on-one mentorship where we help break the cycle of poverty and eliminate the barriers that have prevented them from successfully breaking the chains of poverty.

The Agency's goal is to mobilize resources of other community programs first, utilizing Agency resources to meet needs that cannot be readily addressed by other programs. For example, if a barrier to finding employment is the lack of education, we will guide the customer in deciding as to how to address this issue. It may be through an adult basic education program or through enrolling in a local community college. Our case managers will assist the customer in applying for Pell Grants to pay the cost of tuition, books, and other expenses. When Pell Grants and other resources have been exhausted, CSBG funds would then be utilized to pay for additional costs to help ensure the customers' success. This could be through the payment of transportation expenses, for day care services so the parents can attend school, or for the payment of uniforms or other supplies that are not covered by a grant or scholarship. The customer's success will be monitored regularly to ensure that progress is being made in all areas of identified need.

The needs of the population that we serve are ever increasing; therefore, the role of Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. will continue to be a key factor in addressing the needs of families in poverty. The Agency will continue to play a key role by working collaboratively with County Health Departments, Social Services, Mental Health and other agencies and providers in meeting the needs of the individuals and families we serve in each county. We will continue to provide services to all families within the service area and maintain the current locations. Through needs identified through the Community Needs Assessment, the program design will continue to be the Family Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency Project. We will continue to seek input from our Family Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency Teams, the Board of Directors, and community leaders to provide support for our staff and those we serve.

Community Resources Available for Community Services Block Grant Participants

Community Resources	B L A D E N	B R U N S W I C K	C O L U M B U S	H O K E	P E N D E R	R O B E R T S O N	S C O T L A N D
Department of Social Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legal Aid of NC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NC Works	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
American Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vocational Rehab	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lumbee Tribe of NC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public School System	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Security Administration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Churches and Church Affiliated Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Department of Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southeastern Community Action Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Housing Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Staff Service Agencies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sources:

Bladen County Schools
Brunswick County Schools
Columbus County Schools
Hoke County Schools
Pender County Schools
Robeson County Schools
Scotland County Schools
Whiteville City Schools
Bladen County Government
Elizabethtown-White Lake Chamber of Commerce
Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce
Brunswick County Economic Development Commission
Columbus County Economic Development Commission
Murray, Craven & Inman, L.L.P.
Robeson County Office of Economic Development
County of Robeson
Laurinburg and Scotland County Chamber of Commerce
Scotland County Economic Development Corporation
North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center
North Carolina Department of Commerce
United States Census Bureau
The Annie E. Casey Foundation – Kids County Data Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families website
North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics
North Carolina Nutrition and Physical Activity Surveillance System
North Carolina Department of Justice
National Center for Children in Poverty
U.S. Department of Education
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services State Center for Health Statistics
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
North Carolina Health News *Obesity Prevalence in US Remains Unchanged*
Eat Smart Move More North Carolina
National Survey of Children's Health, 2011/2012. Child and Adolescent Health Initiative
North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute, Profiles of NC Children, *Outcomes by Income: Low-income children fare worse on many indicators.*
Rand Labor and Population Research Briefs:
Children at Risk – Consequences for School Readiness and Beyond
Proven Benefits of Early Childhood Interventions

NC Department of Commerce, NC Economic Data & Site Information, ACCESSNC
NC Department of Commerce, Travel Economic Impact

End Of Month Enrollment Report

Reporting Date:09/30/2023

ACF Enrollment Counts by Program

Early Head Start 69

Head Start 589

This report shows children/pregnant mothers who were either enrolled on the Reporting Date or were terminated and not replaced within 30 days prior to the Reporting Date.

The ACF End of Month Reporting System is found at
<https://hses.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hsprograms/>

SCAP, Inc.
2005 - Management Report - End of Month Enrollment
<All Records> Replacement In Same Agency, Reporting Date: 9/30/2023

SCAP, Inc.

	Total	Actual Enrollment	Vacancies	Days Vacant (Avg)
Allenton Head Start Center				
Early Head Start Totals:	17	16	1	10 (Avg)
Head Start Totals:	40	40	0	0 (Avg)
Allenton Head Start Center Totals:	57	56	1	10 (Avg)
Elizabethtown Head Start Center				
Early Head Start Totals:	4	4	0	0 (Avg)
Head Start Totals:	11	10	1	14 (Avg)
Elizabethtown Head Start Center Totals:	15	14	1	14 (Avg)
Greengrove Head Start Center				
Early Head Start Totals:	16	16	0	0 (Avg)
Head Start Totals:	18	18	0	0 (Avg)
Greengrove Head Start Center Totals:	34	34	0	0 (Avg)
Hoke Head Start Center				
Head Start Totals:	69	66	3	19 (Avg)
Longwood Head Start Center				
Head Start Totals:	59	58	1	17 (Avg)
Maxton Head Start Center				
Head Start Totals:	40	39	1	11 (Avg)
Mt. Olive Head Start Center				
Early Head Start Totals:	8	8	0	0 (Avg)
Head Start Totals:	35	34	1	4 (Avg)
Mt. Olive Head Start Center Totals:	43	42	1	4 (Avg)
Pembroke Head Start Center				
Head Start Totals:	51	48	3	10 (Avg)
Piney Grove Head Start				
Head Start Totals:	52	52	0	0 (Avg)
Red Springs Head Start Center				
Early Head Start Totals:	8	8	0	0 (Avg)
Head Start Totals:	67	67	0	0 (Avg)
Red Springs Head Start Center Totals:	75	75	0	0 (Avg)
Rennert Head Start Center				
Head Start Totals:	42	40	2	23 (Avg)
South Robeson Head Start				
Early Head Start Totals:	16	16	0	0 (Avg)
Head Start Totals:	105	100	5	15 (Avg)
South Robeson Head Start Totals:	121	116	5	15 (Avg)
SCAP, Inc. Totals:	658	640	8	15 (Avg)
Program: Early Head Start	69	68	1	10 (Avg)
Program: Head Start	589	572	17	16 (Avg)

This report shows children/pregnant mothers who were either enrolled on the Reporting Date or were terminated and not replaced within 30 days prior to the Reporting Date
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SCAP, Inc.

2301 - Average Daily Attendance

Enrollment Status: Enrolled Attendance Date: 9/1/2023 - 9/30/2023

SCAP, Inc.

	Attendance Records			Operating Days	ADA ¹	Funded Enrollment		Actual Enrollment	
	Present ⁴	Absent ⁶	Neither ⁷			Count	% Attendance	Count ²	% Attendance ³
Allenton Head Start Center	839	183	0	19.00 (avg)	44.16	56	78.85%	63.78	82.09%
Elizabethtown Head Start Center	216	24	0	19.00 (avg)	11.36	28	40.60%	12.63	90.00%
Greengrove Head Start Center	487	77	0	19.00 (avg)	25.53	35	73.23%	29.68	86.35%
Hoke Head Start Center	1,065	108	0	19.00 (avg)	56.06	72	77.85%	61.74	90.79%
Longwood Head Start Center	834	173	0	18.00 (avg)	46.34	60	72.22%	55.94	82.82%
Maxton Head Start Center	512	106	0	18.00 (avg)	28.45	40	71.11%	34.29	82.85%
Mt. Olive Head Start Center	643	103	0	18.00 (avg)	35.71	68	52.53%	41.45	86.19%
Pembroke Head Start Center	589	194	0	19.00 (avg)	31.00	59	52.54%	41.22	75.22%
Piney Grove Head Start	681	105	0	18.00 (avg)	37.83	80	47.29%	43.67	86.64%
Red Springs Head Start Center	1,049	172	0	19.00 (avg)	55.21	108	51.12%	64.26	85.91%
Rennert Head Start Center	650	98	0	19.00 (avg)	34.21	45	76.02%	39.37	86.90%
South Robeson Head Start	1,624	307	0	18.00 (avg)	90.23	136	66.34%	107.28	84.10%
SCAP, Inc.	9,189	1,650	0	18.54 (avg)	496.19	787	63.07%	585.31	84.78%
Report Totals	9,189	1,650	0	18.54 (avg)	496.19	787	63.07%	585.31	84.78%

Our program has not met the funded enrollment requirement for September - 2023.

The following centers met the met/exceeded the 85% mandate for this month:

Elizabethtown, Greengrove, Hoke, Mt. Olive, Piney Grove, Red Springs, and Rennert.

Recruitment and enrollment are still low despite all efforts being made to increase it. COVID has had a great impact on our attendance and enrollment. Our centers have seen a decline in numbers due to parents/guardians keeping their children home in fear of contracting COVID. In all counties in our service area there has been great difficulty in hiring and maintaining staff; as a result, we have 26 classrooms that are closed. Additionally, our Laurinburg Head Start center has not opened.

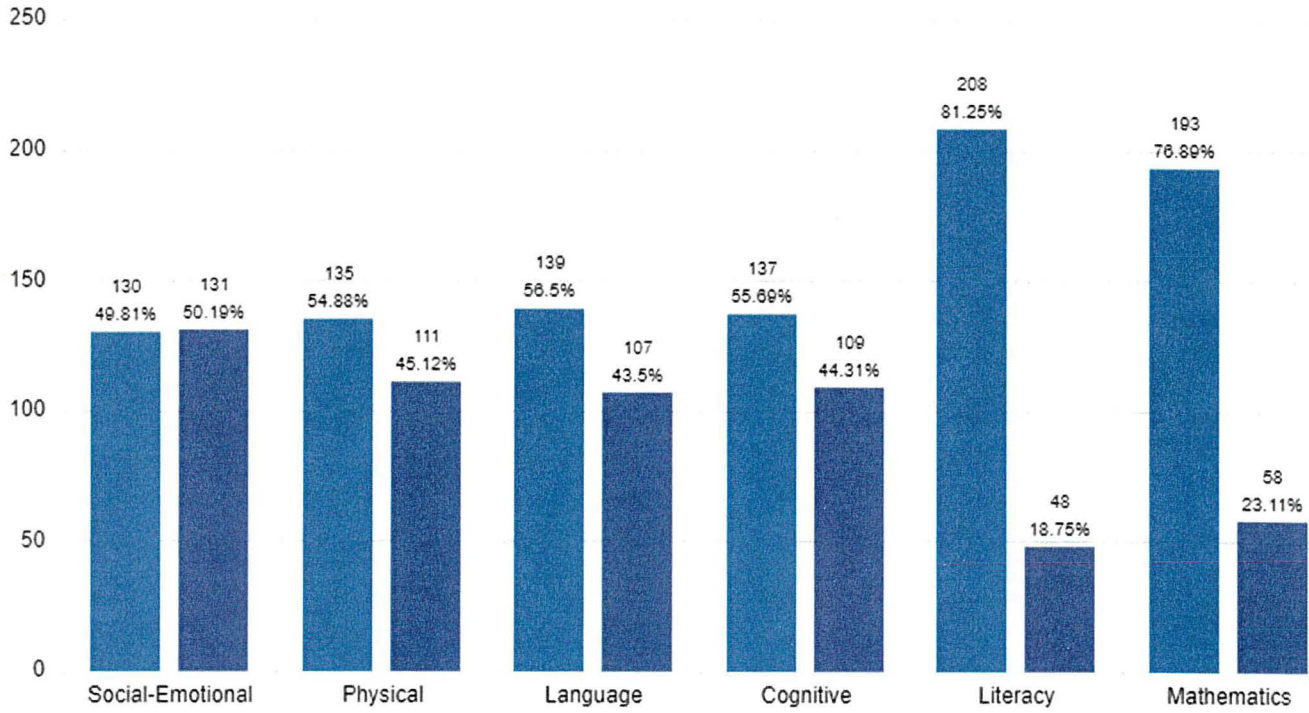
As a result, our Head Start/Early Head Start Programs, overall, did not meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards requirements which references attendance and enrollment.

PLAN OF ACTION: To reach or exceed the requirement for attendance and enrollment, the staff will:

- Continue to utilize waiting lists to recruit age eligible participants.
- Continue to conduct recruitment activities that pay special attention to vulnerable participants, including homeless children, foster children, children with disabilities and pregnant women.
- Continue to recruit potential applicants by setting up in the community at various events such as resource fairs, health fair, etc., canvas the service area by going door-to-door, hand out and post flyers, to take applications and provide resources.
- Doorknockers will be placed on the doorknob with the agency's name, address, and telephone number.
- Provide recruitment posters, flyers, and brochures community locations. Place yard signs in highly visible areas.
- Continue to encourage and educate the parents/guardians about the importance of regular attendance.
- Continue to emphasize (to families and communities) that Head Start and Early Head Start are programs that provides quality and comprehensive services to help children get ready to succeed in school and in life through learning experiences tailored to their current needs and abilities.
- Information will be disseminated to our community partners to inform the partners about the services offered by our Agency and the upcoming program activities.

1. ADA for each classroom is the sum of statuses selected to count as 'Present' on the setup screen divided by the Operating Days for that classroom.
2. Actual Enrollment Count for each classroom is the sum of the Present and Absent columns divided by the Operating Days
3. Percent Attendance is the Present count divided by the sum of Present and Absent Count
4. Site totals for ADA, Funded Enrollment Count, and Actual Enrollment count are the sum of that count for each of the site's classrooms.
5. Statuses counted as Present: Present(P), Virtual(V)
6. Statuses counted as Absent: Absent(A), Excused(E), Unexcused(U)
7. Statuses counted as Neither: No Class (-)

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc
Kindergarten Readiness Report - Spring 2022-2023



Emerging

Accomplished

SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC.
HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM

DISABILITIES SERVICES SUMMARY REPORT

Date: August 2023Staff Completing Report: Alana Norris

1 IDEA Eligibility Determination		Head Start I Base Grant	Early Head Start I Base Grant	Head Start II Robeson Grant	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant	Agency TOTAL
The total number of children referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).		66	1	23	2	92
A	Of these children, the number who received an evaluation to determine IDEA eligibility.	47	0	14	1	62
1	Of the children that received an evaluation, the number that were diagnosed with a disability under IDEA (Has IEP or IFSP).	12	0	3	1	16
2	Of the children that received an evaluation, the number that were not diagnosed with a disability under IDEA (Does Not Have IEP or IFSP).	35	0	11	0	46
a	Of these children, the number for which the program is still providing or facilitating individualized services and supports such as an individualized learning plan, services through the child's health insurance, supports described under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RTI (Response to Intervention), MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support).	23	0	9	0	32
i	Of these children, the number of supports through child's health insurance.	23	0	9	0	32
ii	Of these children, the number of supports by individualized learning plan.	23	0	9	0	32
B	Of the children that were referred, the number who did not receive an evaluation to determine IDEA eligibility.	19	1	9	1	30
Specify the primary reason that the children referred for an evaluation to determine IDEA eligibility did not receive it:						
1	The responsible agency assigned child to RTI (Response to Intervention) or MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support). {These children are receiving services through health insurance.}	0	0	0	0	0
2	Parent/guardian refused evaluation.	15	0	8	0	23
3	Evaluation is pending but had not been completed by responsible party.	0	0	0	1	1
4	Other (<i>Specify</i>):	1	0	0	0	1
	Child Dropped					
	Have not signed Permission to Evaluate for the LEA or CDSA	3	1	1	0	5
a	Of these children, the number of supports by individualized learning plan.	19	1	9	1	30

2 Infant and Toddler Part C Early Intervention Services		Head Start I Base Grant Current	Head Start I Base Grant Year to Date	Early Head Start I Base Grant Current	Early Head Start I Base Grant Year to Date	Head Start II Robeson Grant Current	Head Start II Robeson Grant Year to Date	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant Current	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant Year to Date	Agency TOTAL Current	Agency TOTAL Year to Date
The total number of children enrolled in the program who had an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), at any time during the program year, indicating that they were determined eligible by the Part C Agency to receive early intervention services under the IDEA.		2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3
A	Of these, the number who were determined eligible to receive early intervention services.	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3
	1 Prior to this program year.	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3
	2 During this program year.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	The number who have not received early intervention services under IDEA.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3 Preschool Disabilities Services		Head Start I Base Grant Current	Head Start I Base Grant Year to Date	Early Head Start I Base Grant Current	Early Head Start I Base Grant Year to Date	Head Start II Robeson Grant Current	Head Start II Robeson Grant Year to Date	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant Current	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant Year to Date	Agency TOTAL Current	Agency TOTAL Year to Date
The total number of children enrolled in the program who had an Individualized Education Program (IEP), at any time during the program year, indicating that they were determined eligible by the LEA to receive special education and related services under the IDEA.		10	10	0	0	3	3	0	0	13	13
A	Of these, the number who were determined eligible to receive special education and related services.	10	10	0	0	3	3	0	0	13	13
	1 Prior to this program year.	10	10	0	0	3	3	0	0	13	13
	2 During this program year.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	The number who have not received special education and related services.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4 Preschool Primary Diagnosed Disabilities		Head Start I Base Grant Current	Head Start I Base Grant Year to Date	Early Head Start I Base Grant Current	Early Head Start I Base Grant Year to Date	Head Start II Robeson Grant Current	Head Start II Robeson Grant Year to Date	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant Current	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant Year to Date	Agency TOTAL Current	Agency TOTAL Year to Date
Report the total number of children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), whose primary or most significant disability was determined by a multidisciplinary team to be one of the disabilities categorized and defined in regulations for the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).		10	10	0	0	3	3	0	0	13	13
A	Speech / Language Impairment	8	8	0	0	2	2	0	0	10	10
B	Developmental Delay	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
C	Hearing Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D	Visual Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E	Orthopedic Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F	Autism	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
G	Multiple Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5 Screenings		Head Start I Base Grant	Early Head Start I Base Grant	Head Start II Robeson Grant	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant	Agency TOTAL
A	Total number of children who completed required screenings for Speech/Language (PLS-5).	101	8	0	0	109
B	Total number of children who completed required screenings for Developmental (Brigance III).	0	0	0	0	0
C	Total number of children who completed required screenings for Social-Emotional (ASQ-2:SE).	0	0	0	0	0
D	Total number of children identified as needing follow-up assessment or formal evaluation.	39	4	0	0	43

		Head Start I Base Grant	Early Head Start I Base Grant	Head Start II Robeson Grant	Early Head Start II Robeson Grant	Agency TOTAL
6	Total Number of Trainings Provided by Program Specialist – Disabilities / Mental Health:	1	1	1	1	4
7	Total Number of Visits by Program Specialist – Disabilities / Mental Health:	0	0	1	1	2
8	Total Number of Technical Assistance provided by Program Specialist – Disabilities / Mental Health:	0	0	0	0	0

Mentor Coaching
Head Start I & Head Start II
 Monthly Summary Report

Month: September	Year: 2023
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<i>Job Title: Mentor Coach & Compliance Specialist</i>	<i>Today's Date: 09-29-2023</i>
<i>Signature of Person Completing Form (Required): Tina Baldwin</i>	

MENTOR COACHING (1302.30)

A. Mentor Coaching	Current	YTD
1. Number of Early Head Start classrooms receiving intensive mentor coaching with agency	9	9
2. Number of Head Start classrooms receiving intensive mentor coaching with agency	10	10
3. Number of teachers receiving coaching from My Teaching Partner	2	2
4. Current number of teachers	124	

B. Goals	Current	YTD
1. Number of Goals Developed	0	0
2. Number of Goals Met	0	0

C. Observations	Current	YTD
Number of CLASS observations	4	4
Number of reflection meetings/contact	0	0
Number of TOTAL visits by mentor coaches	0	0

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. – Head Start Program

Follow-Up Compliance

Head Start I & II

Monthly Summary Report

Month: September	Year: 2023
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Signature of Person Completing Form (Required) : <i>Tina Baldwin</i>	Today's Date: 09-29-23
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FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE (1304.2)

A. Visits	Current	YTD
Number of follow-up compliance visits	9	9

B. Center Visits	Current	YTD
1. Elizabethtown	0	0
2. Hoke	0	0
3. Laurel Hill	0	0
4. Laurinburg	0	0
5. Longwood	0	0
6. Maxton	0	0
7. Mt. Olive	0	0
8. Pembroke	0	0

Month of Report: September	Year: 2023
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Follow-Up Compliance Monthly Summary
Page 2 of 2

B. Center Visits	Current	YTD
10. Piney Grove	0	0
11. Red Springs	9	9
12. Saint Pauls	0	0
13. South Robeson	0	0

C. Recommendations	Current	YTD
Number of centers with recommendations	0	0

D. Assistance	Current	YTD
Number of centers needing assistance	1	1