Annual Report
July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

People Helping People
It has been my distinct pleasure to serve the prestigious counties that comprise the Mid-East Commission this past year. All of us have so much for which to be thankful and to continue the work set before us to further the progress of those we serve.

This past year, I have had the occasions to actually observe many of your people as they go about their work weeks. It truly has stirred my heart to see and to know that “people serving people” and “people working together” are not just sayings. It actually does describe what I have seen. But to go beyond that, to include that work is being done with a courteous smile and sincere effort means so much to amass pride in an organization such as this one. Yes, competency is certainly obvious, but to feel the care for others is a great thing.

The following are just examples of situations during the past year and even before.

I have watched Cynthia Davis and heard various comments from her co-workers, have seen Walter Dorsey and Eddy Davis up close and personal to know that they truly care about their roles. I have been involved with Linda Roberts and exchanged e-mails especially when someone we know needs extra prayers, have been at numerous meetings and social settings where Tim and his wife were also in attendance and sensed the feeling of being with “good” people. There are many others such as Janet Dodge who I feel are doing outstanding jobs. I know what an opening that I have made for myself, naming names; however. I just want all of you to know that the Mid-East Commission is an outstanding group of people who do good work for the five counties that it serves. There are numerous others who could very well be mentioned but I was asked to make my comments brief.

Suffice it to say that I have enjoyed the association of efforts and do appreciate all that has been done on my behalf. I hope that all of you have felt that I served you with a level of kindness and integrity that is rightfully due this group. May the good works continue for the finest natural resource any state could have… its people.

Sincerely,

Lynn Johnson
Chairman
As the Executive Director of the Mid-East Commission, I am pleased and honored to report to the Board of Directors, our elected officials and citizens of the five county region that we continue to experience progress in the delivery of quality programs and services to our local area. I would like to thank the Officers, the Executive Committee members and the Board of Directors for their support given to me as well as the staff during the past year. This overwhelming support from all of these qualified and diligent volunteers allows our organization to expand and improve the total operation of the Mid-East Commission.

This past year saw the staff invest much time and effort in improving our existing programs in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations. As the decreasing availability of state and federal funding due to a weak economy continues to be an issue, we rely heavily on our staff to offer creative solutions to difficult problems. Our Aging Program staff has been very successful in providing services to the older adults in the region and have been proactive in finding ways in which to make the lives of our older adults more productive, safe, healthy and secure.

The Workforce Development Department continues to be a state leader in providing services and innovation to our five county region. Our JobLink Centers are instrumental in providing one stop shopping to customers and continues to grow in both quality service and products.

Our Community, Planning and Economic Services Department continues to expand it’s services to local governments in the region. Technical assistance and planning continues to be crucial to member governments. Our Community Development and Economic Development services provide for products that will enhance the quality of life for all of our citizens. In addition, the department continues to administer the Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the counties of Beaufort, Martin and Pitt.

Thanks to a dedicated and professional staff, the Mid-East Commission continues to be a partner to our local governments called upon to deliver quality service and programs. We look forward to many more years of service in order to serve the citizens of Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin and Pitt Counties.
### Board of Directors

#### Beaufort County Members

- **Representative**
  - Ed Booth  
  - Grace Bonner*  
  - Comer Griffin  
  - Mac Pigott  
  - Louise Furman  
  - Robert Edwards  
  - Doug Mercer*  
  - Tom Richter  
  - W.C. Boyd  

- **Representing**
  - Beaufort County  
  - Aurora  
  - Bath  
  - Belhaven  
  - Chocowinity  
  - Pantego  
  - Washington  
  - Washington Park  
  - Beaufort County

#### Martin County Members

- **Representative**
  - Derek Price*  
  - Elizabeth Harrell  
  - Ben Jones  
  - Kim Edmondson  
  - Mildred Briley  
  - Jim Williams  
  - Patrice Rosario  
  - Walter Wilett  
  - Noah Daniels*  
  - Brenda Turner  
  - Willie Peele  

- **Representing**
  - Martin County  
  - Bear Grass  
  - Everetts  
  - Hamilton  
  - Hassell  
  - Jamestown  
  - Oak City  
  - Parmele  
  - Robersonville  
  - Williamston  
  - Martin County

#### Bertie County Members

- **Representative**
  - Lewis Hoggard III*  
  - Gloria Bryant  
  - Joe Jernigan*  
  - Robert Kaylor  
  - Tommy Bracy  
  - Dayle Vaughan  
  - Gary Johnson  
  - Collins Cooper  
  - Irma Robbins  
  - Dennis Wilder  

- **Representing**
  - Bertie County  
  - Askerville  
  - Aulander  
  - Colerain  
  - Kelford  
  - Lewiston-Woodville  
  - Roxobel  
  - Windsor  
  - Bertie County  
  - Bertie County

#### Pitt County Members

- **Representative**
  - Kenneth Ross*  
  - Christopher Padgett  
  - Mike Whitehurst  
  - Ginger Little  
  - Richard Hicks  
  - Benji Holloman  
  - Merrill Flood*  
  - Sammy Whitehurst  
  - Brian Cooke  
  - Don Duff  
  - Tony Moore  
  - Marvin Moye  

- **Representing**
  - Pitt County  
  - Ayden  
  - Bethel  
  - Falkland  
  - Farmville  
  - Fountain  
  - Greenville  
  - Grifton  
  - Grimesland  
  - Simpson  
  - Winterville  
  - Pitt County

#### Hertford County Members

- **Representative**
  - Dupont Davis*  
  - Charles Hammonds  
  - Darrell Partlow  
  - Kevin Hibgee  
  - Roy Worrells  
  - Lynn Johnson*  
  - William Pierce  
  - Robert Richardson  

- **Representing**
  - Hertford County  
  - Ahoskie  
  - Cofield  
  - Como  
  - Harrellsville  
  - Murfreesboro  
  - Winton  
  - Hertford County

* Executive Committee
Administration Department Staff

Janet Dodge  Finance Director
Linda Roberts  Executive Administrative Assistant

Dianne Adams  Sherri Respess  Margaret Holland  Janet Dodge
Bookkeeper  Fiscal Specialist  Fiscal Aide  Finance Director
# Source of Funds 2008-2009

## Source of Funds 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Local ARRA</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Agency on Aging</td>
<td>1,421,366</td>
<td>1,362,099</td>
<td>13,470</td>
<td>6,933</td>
<td>2,023,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>96,266</td>
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<td>245,276</td>
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<td>Planning</td>
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<td>157,169</td>
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<td>Community Development</td>
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<td>Economic Development</td>
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<td>33,497</td>
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<td>89,179</td>
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<td>State Technical Assistance</td>
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<td>44,099</td>
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<td>Senior Employment</td>
<td>1,723,811</td>
<td>41,572</td>
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<td>440,963</td>
<td>12,260</td>
<td>2,218,006</td>
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<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>2,834,050</td>
<td>476,447</td>
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<td>3,310,497</td>
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<td>Revolving Loan Fund</td>
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<td>92,272</td>
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<td>Intermediary Re-lending Program</td>
<td>127,657</td>
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<td>127,657</td>
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<td>Drug Task Force</td>
<td>16,280</td>
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<td>16,280</td>
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<td>Hispanic ESL</td>
<td>788</td>
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<td>788</td>
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<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>1,001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1,031</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Girls Club</td>
<td>29,234</td>
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<td>29,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEC Dues/Interest Income</td>
<td>106,124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,730</td>
<td>111,854</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Per Source</strong></td>
<td>6,174,304</td>
<td>518,019</td>
<td>1,514,305</td>
<td>750,013</td>
<td>12,260</td>
<td>279,895</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage</strong></td>
<td>66.76%</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
<td>16.37%</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
<td>3.03%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*American Recovery And Reinvestment Act Funding*
Mission Statement

We will work to position this region to address the demand from our communities to remain at home by building:

- capacity in our local aging network and resources,
- self-empowerment in our seniors, caregivers, people with disabilities, and stronger supports for our grandparents raising grandchildren.

We will strive to create consumer choices in community based services and resources that are readily available to address needs. Communities will have good, timely information with easily, seamless access to services and resources. Financial and physical resources will be used responsibly and equitably to ensure safe and comfortable communities in which to grow older. Communities will lead healthier lifestyles from education and evidence-based wellness programs.

Vision Statement

Our livable communities will be empowered for self-advocacy to generate proactive approaches to successfully age in our region.

Area Agency on Aging

The work of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is mandated by requirements under the Older Americans Act as amended. Along with the operations in relationship to the implementation of services funded through the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG), the AAA provides direct support and services through two other programs: Family Caregiver Support Program and Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Six performance areas comprise the Performance Standards for Area Agencies and include: Management and Staffing; Planning; Funds Administration and Quality Assurance; Information Brokerage; Program and Resource Development; and Advocacy.

The AAA provides technical assistance and information support to county planning committees to develop the County Funding Plan for HCCBG funds. The AAA monitors local provider performance, quality improvement, risk assessment, and compliance in providing HCCBG services. Technical assistance and trainings are coordinated by the AAA to improve service delivery, monitoring, development and implementation of response and recovery strategies for older adults in the event of disasters, as well as workshops on other aging issues. The AAA works with senior centers on state certification – with 3 centers being certified as Centers of Excellence within the past 2 years.
The AAA facilitates and supports quarterly meetings and activities of the Regional Advisory Committee on Aging. The AAA assists the Senior Tar Heel Legislators and Delegates through training, technical assistance, management of listserver, and staffing support.

The AAA regularly provides electronic mailings to local providers and senior advocates on aging issues and on scam and predatory lending practices and alerts. Home Equity Conversion Counseling is provided. The AAA maintains an up-to-date webpage at www.mecaaa.org and is a Data Hub for NCcareLINK for information on services and resources. NCcareLINK, www.nccarelink.gov, is a statewide information and referral database that links human services and resources to the citizens. This is a collaborative project with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

The AAA also provides Evidence Based Health Promotion programs to the Region. Through these programs, older adults are able to safely increase their level of physical activity and become better able to manage their own health. The AAA staff has received training in Matter of Balance, Walk With Ease, Chronic Disease Self-Management, allowing the AAA to train providers and conduct participant workshops for providers. In FY ’09:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Participants/Classes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk With Ease:</td>
<td>1 class 6 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matter of Balance:</td>
<td>Participant class: 1 class 4 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coach class: 5 classes total of 36 coaches trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Self Management:</td>
<td>2 classes 9 participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Home and Community Care Block Grant
Home and Community Care Block Grant supports community based services to seniors and their caregivers through a network of local aging providers in our region. Below provides a breakout of the services this past fiscal year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>People Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation-(general &amp; medical)</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Assistance</td>
<td>1,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Aide-LV1, 2, 3</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition (Congregate)</td>
<td>2,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-Delivered Meals</td>
<td>1,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health Care</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center Operations</td>
<td>11,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center Outreach</td>
<td>36,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center General Purpose</td>
<td>1,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Promotions and Disease Prevention</td>
<td>2,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Development</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Caregiver Support Program

Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) provides support and services to local providers and caregivers through five categories:

1) Information about available services;
2) Assistance in gaining access to services;
3) Individual counseling, organization of support groups, and caregiver training;
4) Respite care; and,
5) Supplemental services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FCSP Services</th>
<th>Total Served</th>
<th>Conferences and Consumers</th>
<th>425</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information and Assistance</td>
<td>1843</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Senior Fairs, Health Fairs,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer requests)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Groups and Caregiver</td>
<td>5 groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respite Care</td>
<td>12 care recipients for our support group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respite Care for Grandparents</td>
<td>18 children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising Grandchildren</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Briefs and Supplemental Nutritional Services for all Senior Centers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman advocates for residents rights. The Ombudsman attempts to resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long term care facilities. The program provides help to long term care facilities and providers through the assistance of staff training regarding resident rights and long term care. The Ombudsman also provides training and technical assistance to Community Advisory Committee members on concerns and issues affecting residents.

The Ombudsman Program for Region Q serves five counties in rural eastern North Carolina. This program is housed under Mid-East Commission Area Agency on Aging (MECAA), located in Washington, N.C. This program serves the following counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin and Pitt. There are 70 long-term care facilities and a total of 2,778 beds within the region. These facilities are made up of 12 Nursing Homes, 22 Adult Care Homes, 35 Family Care Homes and 1 Hospital Vent Unit. The program currently has 44 volunteers serving as Community Advisory Committee members and one full-time Ombudsman. Fifteen new members were appointed and trained this year in Region Q. There were 26 complaints filed by residents or family members this year.
Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)

The Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) answers questions and counsels Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers about Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare prescription drug plans, long-term care insurance and other health insurance concerns. The AAA has two SHIIP counselors on staff who provide free and unbiased counseling on Medicare health care products.

North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol Program (NC SMP)

The North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol Program is housed within SHIIP. NC SMP is a preventive educational program. NC SMP helps to reduce Medicare/Medicaid error and fraud and abuse through statewide educational and promotional activities. The AAA regularly provides educational presentations to Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers on Medicare/Medicaid error and fraud and abuse.

Project CARE (Caregivers Alternative to Running on Empty)

Project C.A.R.E. (CARE) is a new program that assists the caregivers of diagnosed dementia patients. The menu of Project C.A.R.E services include public awareness and education, direct counseling, family centered assessments, and respite. Respite options include all forms with the exception of consumer driven private pay (not yet available). Included in the Project C.A.R.E case manager’s responsibilities is to help families link to other supportive services as well as ones from Project C.A.R.E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mar – Jun 09 report</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hertford Co.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northampton Co.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bertie Co.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Linkage

Linkage is a program designed to establish linkages between local primary care physicians and the community services for Dementia patients. Through this project, doctors are trained to recognize symptoms of dementia and refer those families to the linkage representative who would then be able to assess their needs and link them with helpful community services. The first goal of the Linkage Project is to get those patients who have early stage and younger onset dementia into the community services cycle for a more pro-active approach. Families who have a loved one suffering from this disease suffer too and the aim is to help them as much as possible.
In honor of National Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the Ombudsman program along with Violence in Aging Council sponsored a quilting show. Quilting materials were donated by Mid-East Commission AAA Ombudsman Program and area businesses. Regional guilders showed off their talents by creating “elder abuse awareness” themed quilts. Our project received recognition in the National Center for Elder Abuse newsletter in August 2008. NCEA later contacted Sara Munzer, chair of VIAC, and invited her to display elder abuse quilts at the National Conference for Elder Abuse Awareness which was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 30-October 1, 2009. We were delighted that our quilts had first made the national newsletter and were now being displayed at the national conference. The quilts caught the eyes of many participants. It proved to be a great way to generate discussion about elder abuse!!!
BEAUFORT COUNTY WIA YOUTH PROGRAM

The Beaufort County (WIA) Youth@Work Program is designed to assist eligible youth in achieving success in school and at the workplace through comprehensive guidance and counseling. The Beaufort County Youth@Work Program served 41 at risk youth from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The Youth@Work Program summer component employed 10 youth on various worksites according to the career pathway identified during the enrollment process. These participants worked approximately 30 hours per week earning at or above minimum wage.

Youth from the program participated in the North Carolina Litter Sweep Campaign again, as well as several community events. They worked with the Area Agency on Agency to help with the Not 2 Hot to Trot race whose proceeds benefited several agencies. The Youth program also assisted area nursing homes by assisting the residents in their daily activities. They also participated in a food drive for the Salvation Army.

Youth and staff participated in the Region Q Quiz Bowl, an event designed to promote teamwork while adding to the educational awareness of our Youth Participants. The team fielded a number of questions ranging from current events to historical data. They all praised the event while appreciating the many hours of hard work necessary to make it a success.

In response to the Summer Youth Employment Program made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), applications were distributed through the schools, Boys & Girls Clubs and several non-profit organizations. 226 applications were received for the program, 142 met the program requirements and 38 were enrolled. Of those enrolled, 20 were out of school youth and 18 were in school youth. All participants completed a 15 hour “ACT PRO- Professional in the Workplace” training session before starting work. Wachovia offered a class on money management and gave all participants the opportunity to open a bank account. Participants were also tested and received training with Work Keys. Eight were also tested and received Career Readiness Certification, CRC. Also included were two training sessions per week which included safety in the workplace, teambuilding, communication, diversity in the workplace, computer skills and dealing with conflict.
BEAUFORT COUNTY ADULT/DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM/CONTRACTS

The WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker Program provides services that focus on the ever changing economy. The Beaufort County Adult/Dislocated Worker Program served approximately 148 customers in pursuit of a Certificate, Diploma, Associate and/or Bachelor degree and provided intensive case management. WIA Case Managers also maintained an active case load of 139 in training at several area training providers including Beaufort County Community College, Pitt Community College, Lenoir Community College, Martin Community College, Craven Community College, Pamlico Community College, Edgecombe Community College, Halifax Community College and East Carolina University. The program has 25 potential graduates for May 2010 successfully completing a degree in training field. The staff of the JobLink Center are also actively working to increase the number of trained healthcare providers by providing financial assistance to 46 Nurses working to complete an Associate or Bachelor degree.

In response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds received in April 2009, the Adult/Dislocated Worker Program has been able to assist 25 additional customers with career guidance and training support, with many on a waiting list for the upcoming fiscal year. Utilizing these funds, the JobLink Center has been able to assist more individuals with short term training through the Jobs Now programs available at the local community colleges.

The Adult/Dislocated Worker Program has successfully completed 8 OJT contracts: 6 with Beaufort/Hyde Contraction in Belhaven and 3 with CARON of Washington. All of the trainees obtained permanent employment. Staff continue to network with local employers in the public and private sector to create additional OJT and Work Experience slots for our customers.

The Adult/Dislocated Worker Program seeks to assist individuals with barriers to employment to achieve self sufficiency by providing core, intensive, and/or training services.
Hispanic Initiatives started in March of 2005 as a core service for our Hispanic Community, many of whom have little or no access to language training or workforce development. The program has been able to work with businesses to employ several job seekers. In the continuing improvement with this project, the Beaufort County JobLink Career Center, Hispanic Initiatives in partnership with the Beaufort County Community College and the Literacy Volunteers Group of Beaufort County, started an English as a Second Language Class (ESL) every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and a GED tutorial component from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the same day.

The ESL class consists of three class levels: two sections for Beginners, one intermediate and one advanced. The program has reached over 200 students per year. In addition, through the Hispanic Youth Program at Northside High School, an official club has been formed, Future Hispanic Leaders of America (FHLA). 69 students, mostly 9th graders, have been educated as part of this program. They meet every Tuesday at Northside High School from 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and every Saturday at the Beaufort County JobLink Center.

As a direct result of our high number of enrollments we were obligated to outreach to our local businesses in order to keep the program running. Since this program is unique and is totally funded by donations from our community, our English as a Second Language class received approximately $8000 from 2005-2007. In 2008-2009, the program received an additional $2,500 from local businesses, including restaurants and PCS Phosphate.

Our HIP group, in conjunction with the Washington Human Relations Council, the City of Washington, and the Mid-East Commission, developed Smart Cards in English and Spanish. These are information cards which highlight different topics important to our Hispanic community, such as citizenship, green cards, ITIN numbers, etc. More than 1000 copies of our Smart Cards from our Hispanic Issues Panel Committee were printed and are being displayed at local businesses and other services providers.
The Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) serves participants in Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Washington, Wayne and Wilson counties. It offers job training for persons fifty-five (55) and older that meet federal low-income guidelines and who have a desire to return to the workforce. The purpose of the Senior Community Service Employment Program is to offer a temporary stepping-stone back into the workforce. This is done by offering participants a variety of workplace training experiences which allow them the opportunity to acquire new skills.

Additionally, some training in computers and healthcare is also available. Positions with SCSEP are not permanent employment, but are meant to provide the necessary training for our senior community to transition back into the unsubsidized employment.

In April 2009, the Stimulus program was implemented with funding available through SCSEP and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The goals were to: 1) expand the number of SCSEP participants assigned to community service training sites, and 2) expand community service activities.

The Mid-East Commission is meeting the need for seniors by offering them exposure to: individual assessments, workshops, on-the-job training, classroom/occupational training, job development and referrals to unsubsidized employment. This valuable and underutilized segment of our workforce is meeting the challenge offered by a changing economy. This year alone the Title V program, utilizing regular and ARRA funds, has placed 61 trainees into full-time, unsubsidized employment.

**TITLE V STAFF**

Joe Forbes- Job Developer,  
Margie Taylor- Project Director  
Mary Gray, Doris Godley,  
Dianne Griffin, Polly Swindell  
and Mamie Parker
BEAUFORT COUNTY JOBLINK CAREER CENTER
PROJECT NEW HOPE

Project New Hope is a partnership with the Purpose of God Annex, Beaufort Community College, Beaufort County JobLink Center, and the Beaufort County Workforce Partnership Committee. The Project received $100,000 demonstration grant from the Department of Commerce to provide assistance and training to ex-offenders.

Training provided includes personal responsibility, ACT PRO- Professionalism in the Workplace, FOCUS- Diversity in the Workplace, and specific skills training. Seven participants have received National Certifications in Welding. 50 participants received Work Keys testing and 15 received a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC). Project New Hope served 141 applicants and placed 59 in jobs.
BEAUFORT COUNTY JOBLINK STAFF

JENNIE BOWEN
Direct Services Director

Nattalie Castro, Linda Booth, Jennie Bowen
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The Mid-East Commission Planning, Economic Development and Community Services Department provides its Five (5) Counties and Forty (40) Municipalities with direction, information, advice, and technical services pertaining to Land Use and Land Use related ordinance preparation, revision, updating, and enforcement. In addition the Economic Development function of the department assists local governments and private businesses with project development related to various grant applications, including grant preparation and administration services and advice on possible funding beyond our normal scope. The Community Services division of the Department assists local governments with procuring funding for housing rehabilitation and replacement through the North Carolina Division of Community Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as well as The Pitt County HOME Consortium.

PLANNING

This past year the Planning function has assisted several of our member communities with various issues. In addition to the communities we have ongoing Planning and Zoning Administration agreements with, the Department has assisted several of our member communities with guidance and assistance. These include Bath, Everetts, Grifton, Jamesville, Murfreesboro, Pantego, Parmele, and Simpson. Other services we provide in addition to Zoning Ordinance creation/revision, Subdivision Ordinance creation/revision and other specific Ordinances, are assistance with Community Based Hazard Mitigation Plans, Coastal Area Management Administration (CAMA) Plans, Stormwater Reports, and other related plans. Also the Department has ongoing contract services with Beaufort County to assist with their E-911 Addressing System. This agreement, a first of its type for this agency, requires us to administer the current system as well as evaluate the status of the system and offer suggestions for improvement. Finally our Department continues to be the Lead Planning Agency for the Mid-East Rural Planning Organization (RPO). This organization is comprised of Beaufort, Martin and Pitt Counties and all of the municipalities therein; with the exception of Greenville, Winterville, Simpson and Ayden which are members of the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The purpose of the RPO is to provide a mechanism for the rural areas of North Carolina, outside of MPOs, to communicate to the North Carolina Board of Transportation the significant need for transportation improvements in our region. All local governments must work through either and MPO or RPO in order to have their issues, concerns and requests addressed by the Board of Transportation. The department also provides the latest, up to date mapping services through our Geographic Information System (GIS) for both external and internal clients.

Planning & Zoning Administration:
Town of Aurora
Town of Chocowinity
Town of Cofield
Town of Colerain
Town of Como
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This past year the Economic Development section has assisted communities with new grant and funding opportunities as well as comprehensive administration of previously approved grants. Economic Development is involved with various funding agencies including the United States Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA); the NC Rural Center; the US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) which provides Community Facilities and Rural Business Enterprise Grants; North Carolina Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development (CDBG-ED), North Carolina CDBG- Shell Building Program, and North Carolina Basic Building Fund and the North Carolina Industrial Development Fund (IDF) through the Commerce Finance Center at the North Carolina Department of Commerce.; The procedure for procuring these monies is a timely and precise process and requires the Agency to work with several entities such as local governments, state agencies, federal departments, corporations and private business owners. In addition the Economic Development division continues to make contacts with other providers of funds such as the NC Golden Leaf Foundation and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

The department is also responsible for the yearly update of the Mid-East Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This document provides an overview of the economic status of our Region. It also contains strategies to assist with economic development.

The department also assisted the Beaufort County Committee of 100 with a successful application for the NC Brownfields Program.
Below is a summary of the grants that have been prepared by the Economic Development section with Kevin Richards as the grant writer and administrator over the last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Date</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/18/07</td>
<td>Beaufort County</td>
<td>Carver Machine Works</td>
<td>CDBG-ED</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/02/07</td>
<td>B. Co. Comm. Of 100</td>
<td>Project Resin</td>
<td>Golden Leaf</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/06/07</td>
<td>Beaufort County</td>
<td>Carver Machine Works</td>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/05/07</td>
<td>Town of Chocowinity</td>
<td>Southtech Plastics</td>
<td>Rural Center</td>
<td>$260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/05/07</td>
<td>City of Greenville</td>
<td>Aquifer Storage &amp; Recovery</td>
<td>Rural Center</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/28/07</td>
<td>City of Greenville/ GUC</td>
<td>Aquifer Storage &amp; Recovery</td>
<td>EDA</td>
<td>$703,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14/07</td>
<td>Mid-East Commission</td>
<td>Planning Grant</td>
<td>EDA</td>
<td>$53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/30/08</td>
<td>City of Washington</td>
<td>Infrastructure- Penn &amp; Haven</td>
<td>CDBG</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/08</td>
<td>Town of Chocowinity</td>
<td>Southtech Plastics</td>
<td>IDF- Utility</td>
<td>$370,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/20/08</td>
<td>Town of Chocowinity</td>
<td>Southtech Plastics</td>
<td>IDF- Regularly</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/31/08</td>
<td>Town of Chocowinity</td>
<td>Southtech Plastics</td>
<td>CDBG-ED</td>
<td>$740,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/06/08</td>
<td>Beaufort County</td>
<td>Rail Access- Industrial Park</td>
<td>RAIP</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/08/08</td>
<td>Town of Bethel</td>
<td>Waterline from Greenville</td>
<td>IDF-Utility</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL $6,056,000**
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The primary task of this function of the Department is to assist communities with procurement of funds to assist eligible homeowners with rehabilitation or replacement of residences that are considered substandard. This involves extensive contact with residents and local officials to determine the ones that require the most assistance and to prioritize based on need and available funds. The funding sources for these efforts are through the NC Department of Commerce – Division of Community Assistance and the Pitt County/Greenville HOME Consortium.

Community Development Block Grants/HOME Consortium:

1. Town of Ayden
2. Town of Aulander
3. County of Hertford
4. Town of Pantego
5. Town of Simpson

SUMMARY: This past year has been very volatile in terms of the condition of the total economy. With limited and even diminishing resources we have all had to continuously search for ways to assist our member communities. We have increased our work with assisting communities with Planning and Zoning functions and serve as Planning Staff for several communities. Our goal and mission is to serve our municipalities and counties as they struggle with limited resources and stretched staffs. In addition we are looking to assist communities with other administrative functions such as financing and general administration. We are committed to providing top-notch service while being sensitive to our communities needs and limitations. As an agency that is funded only by the establishment of contracts for services and NC Technical Assistance Funds, we realize our responsibility from a financial point of view. We also realize that having four of our five counties designated as Tier One or “Economically Distressed” counties that from time-to-time we may be called upon to provide a temporary service or research possible funding sources for communities without compensation for the time we spent. It is a delicate balance and frankly we find it hard to say “no”. So we appreciate the support the Board has provided us as we strive to makeover the Department and provide the service you expect and our communities deserve. We are truly “Here to Serve…”.
MID-EAST COMMISSION
Planning, Economic Development & Community Services Staff

Eddy Davis, Director
Kevin Richards, Assistant Director
Peggy Black, Administrative Assistant
Bryant Buck, Planner/GIS Professional
Region Q Workforce Investment Consortium, a public-private partnership, administers a five county system of workforce development programs that prepare citizens for the workforce - including those who are facing economic disadvantages, job loss, and other barriers to employment. Serving Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin and Pitt Counties, these programs also provide a central point for businesses for listing jobs, applicant screening, receiving business assistance and information, and development of training systems. The Region Q Workforce Development Board develops policy and oversees these programs. The Mid-East Commission serves as the grant recipient/administrative entity for the Consortium.

Region Q provided training support and other services to our citizens that resulted in increased employment and earnings, increased educational and occupational skills and decreased welfare payments. The cornerstone of these programs is our system of JobLink Career Centers. The JobLink Career Centers are user friendly facilities that provide job seekers, training/education seekers and employers access to career training and job placement services and also serve as a connection between businesses and qualified workers. By offering a wide range of service options from self-service to full-service, staff and partners work together as a team to provide the most comprehensive and efficient workforce development system possible. These Centers are located in each of our five counties, and are a part of a statewide network designed to improve the quality of the workforce as well as the state’s competitiveness in the global economy. In April 2009, the Hertford County JobLink re-opened at Roanoke-Chowan Community College and as of June 30, 2009, the Pitt County JobLink relocated to the Employment Security Commission in Greenville.
The Workforce Development Board has worked hard to raise the level of awareness in the region and to be seen as a place for all customers. Board members, through their companies, organizations and community involvement have also helped to create a positive image for the Workforce Development Board and Centers. Committed board members, local elected officials, staff and partner agencies have all played a vital role in ensuring that Region Q is recognized as a leader in the workforce development community.

Our JobLink Centers served an ever increasing number of jobseekers and businesses and have had real success in connecting workers and employers. During the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, our JobLink Centers in Region Q served over 13,802 customers.

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council mandated by the Workforce Investment Act provides for significant local community participation in the design and delivery of youth programs. In Region Q, the Youth Council is a permanent committee of the WDB with full authority to act on youth issues. Youth Council members include individuals from Region Q’s five counties who have experience with youth services, including representatives from the faith-based community, education, housing authority, employment programs, vocational rehabilitation, juvenile justice and the private sector.

**INCUMBENT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The Incumbent Workforce Development Program provided funding to established North Carolina businesses to provide educational and skills training for current workers. It is designed to benefit businesses by enhancing the skills of employees, thereby increasing employee productivity and the potential for company growth. Training in portable skills results in a more highly skilled and versatile workforce that contributes to North Carolina’s ability to attract new business and creates an environment conducive to expansion. During the period of July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009, six companies in Region Q received grants from the state totaling $98,067.
BUSINESS SERVICES

In 2008-2009, the WDB continued their campaign to enhance employer awareness and usage of services available through our Business Services Specialist. This staff position informed area businesses of incumbent worker training funding and business development by helping area businesses become connected to critical resources needed to sustain and grow their business. Over the last year we conducted face to face interviews to get a better understanding of our local area business needs. Marketing, business planning, succession planning, customer service training, and human resources issues such as locating and retaining skilled employees were some of the top business concerns. To address their concerns, Business Services utilized a data base to keep employers informed of critical business issues including Workers Compensation laws, OSHA regulations, Health Insurance changes and many other important subjects that could negatively impact a business. Most of this information is obtained by research and connection to existing resources.

Business services expanded their implementation of Job Profiling under WorkKeys (ACT). Our Business Services Specialist conducted 22 job profiles for various manufacturing businesses throughout our local area resulting in implementation of the WorKKeys system for identifying and certifying a skilled workforce, aligning economic development and workforce development to promote growth in our local area.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (STIMULUS)

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Program), the Region Q Workforce Development Board received $2,394,866 in funds during March of 2009 to implement programs to serve Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth. For youth, special emphasis was placed on the immediate implementation of a Summer Youth Employment Program, which in North Carolina was known as the NC Summer Jobs Program.

Through June 30, 2009, the following number of individuals were served by the ARRA programs. Stimulus programs continued into the next program year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislocated Workers</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (NC Summer Jobs)</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECOGNITIONS (Local and State)

The “Annie W. Mobley Award” for Outstanding Youth in Workforce Development Programs was created by the Region Q Workforce Development Board in December 2007 to recognize Representative Mobley for her participation as Chairman of the Region Q Workforce Development Board’s Youth Committee for over twelve years. The Annie W. Mobley Award is presented to an outstanding youth participant for their achievements in the Region Q Youth @ Work Program. The Annie W. Mobley Award for 2009 was presented to Brandon Powell of Hertford County.

Annie W. Mobley Award for 2009 presented to Brandon Powell of Hertford County.
The “Sam Carson Award” for Excellence

The “Sam Carson Award” for Excellence in the Promotion of Workforce Development was created by the Region Q Workforce Development Board in December 2007 to recognize the outstanding efforts of the JobLink Career Center, Workforce Investment Act program operator, or JobLink partner in the counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt which has demonstrated outstanding efforts in the marketing and promotion of the Workforce Development system. The Sam Carson Award for 2009 was awarded to the Beaufort County JobLink Center.

The Sam Carson Award for 2009 was awarded to the Beaufort County JobLink Center.
### COMMON MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>Program Group</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>2008 Goals</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Numerator Denominator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entered Employment Rate 10/07-9/08</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>81.25%</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>92.33%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dislocated Workers</td>
<td>96.30%</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>104.67%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate 4/07-3/08</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>93.69%</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
<td>102.96%</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dislocated Workers</td>
<td>95.65%</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>102.50%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult/DW Average Earnings 4/07-3/08</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>$13,208.65</td>
<td>$10,469.00</td>
<td>126.17%</td>
<td>$1,281,238.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dislocated Workers</td>
<td>$13,248.24</td>
<td>$11,939.00</td>
<td>110.97%</td>
<td>$808,142.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement in Employment or Education</td>
<td>Youth 14-21</td>
<td>86.90%</td>
<td>71.00%</td>
<td>122.40%</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Education 10/07 - 9/08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attainment of a Degree or Certificate</td>
<td>Youth 14-21</td>
<td>62.12%</td>
<td>50.25%</td>
<td>123.61%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/07 - 9/08</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy/Literacy 7/07 - 6/08</td>
<td>Youth 14-21</td>
<td>18.97%</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
<td>54.19%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Status of Local Performance**: 
- Not Met
- Met X
- Exceeded