



## News & Views

February 2010

### Addressing CDC Staffing Issues: AmeriCorps VISTA

On January 15, 2010, NCACDC delivered a webinar to explore the possibility of a statewide AmeriCorps State and/or VISTA application in 2010. Click [here](#) to review the presentation. We have decided not to pursue the 2010 AmeriCorps State application, but will continue to explore an AmeriCorps VISTA application. Interested? Contact Lea Henry ([lhenny@ncacdc.org](mailto:lhenny@ncacdc.org)) or Shoneca Evans ([shoneca.evans@gmail.com](mailto:shoneca.evans@gmail.com)).

### Looking for Legal Resources?

Congratulations to Evan Lewis of Legal Aid of NC for his efforts to bring his CED Studies 2008 project, engaging the private bar to provide pro bono legal services to NC's CDCs, to fruition.

NCACDC was one of only two non-profit leaders asked to participate in the NC Bar Associations' Public Service Advisory Committee to discuss the interest and demand for pro bono legal services by the CDC industry. The NC Bar is considering the establishment of a Pro Bono Partnership, similar to one formed in Atlanta, GA (click [here](#) for more information). The partnership could result in the participation of "transactional attorneys" to provide NCACDC members pro bono service hours to perform, such as community benefits agreement negotiations, unrelated business income assessments; and subsidiary formation.

Committee members representing both NC's private and public law firms, such as, Womble, Caryle Sandridge & Rice; Kilpatrick, Stockton LLP; and Legal Aid of NC were interested and enthusiastic to move forward. Plans are now underway to recruit key corporate council and others to participate in an informational session planned sometime this year between April and May.

For more information, contact Vice-President/COO, Brigitte Rasberry ([brasberry@ncacdc.org](mailto:brasberry@ncacdc.org)).

### Second Workforce Housing Study Adds Environmental Impact to the Mix

This spring, NCACDC will release a comprehensive workforce housing study focused on Buncombe and surrounding counties, conducted by The Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill with special assistance from our member organization, Mountain Housing Opportunities.

The study will assess the economic, environmental, and quality of life issues that long commutes into Asheville have on essential workers, their families and the region. It also will consider how housing located closer to employment centers and within the financial means of workers can alleviate many of the problems associated with long commutes.

The study is one part of a multifaceted campaign that will include press events, public meetings, and widely circulated summaries of the study findings and policy recommendations. Look for more information on the study beginning this spring at [www.ncacdc.org](http://www.ncacdc.org). For more information, contact Lea Henry ([lhenry@ncacdc.org](mailto:lhenry@ncacdc.org)).

## Scholarship Opportunity for NeighborWorks Training

Through a partnership agreement with NeighborWorks, NCACDC will be able to offer scholarships for the NeighborWorks training scheduled for August 2010 to current members (click [here](#) for details). This is just one of the many member benefits we're working hard to provide. To put your name on the list, contact Sheila Gilchrist ([sgilchrist@ncacdc.org](mailto:sgilchrist@ncacdc.org)).

## NCACDC Welcomes New Board Leadership -- Membership Grows

During our 2009 Annual Meeting on December 14, 2009, the NCACDC membership elected new Board Members for 2010. NCACDC Board of Directors has also instituted an Advisory Council to cultivate potential Board Members through active participation with NCACDC. Click [here](#) to see the Board Members for 2010.

NCACDC's Board accepted four new members:

Community-based:

- Another Chance CDC, High Point, NC (Guilford County)
- Clinton's Corner of Catawba, Inc., Hickory, NC (Catawba County)

Intermediary:

- Applied Leadership and Community Development, Charlotte, NC (Mecklenburg County)
- The Rural Economic Development Center, Raleigh, NC (Wake County)

Membership dues for 2010 have been reduced to help you meet your budget. Click [here](#) for more details.

## Members Weigh-In on 2010 Priorities

In anticipation of reductions in core and project funding for the entire community economic development (CED) field, NCACDC invited its members to give us feedback regarding:

- the programs, services, and activities that the members wanted and/or needed.
- how we should prioritize our work for 2010.

The Board of Directors and staff have incorporated the responses to develop a realistic program and budget plan that will enable the CED field to survive the economic downturn.

Click [here](#) to review the presentation of the results of the survey, which was part of our 2009 Annual Meeting.

## NCACDC Supports Conference for Small Farmers & Alternative Agriculture

NCACDC supported the eighth Annual Risk Management/African American and Small Family Farmer Conference that occurred on January 8 and 9 this year. Operation Spring Plant, Inc. (OSP) sponsored the event, in conjunction with organizations, such as Land Loss Prevention Project and NC A&T State University.

The regional conference's focus was on farmers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The goal was to increase the viability of local farmers by adding value to their traditional products and introducing new specialty crops.

## Upcoming Event: CED Studies

The scheduled dates of CED Studies are:

- June 18-22,
- July 23-27,
- August 13-17.

For more information, please contact Brigette Rasberry ([brasberry@ncacdc.org](mailto:brasberry@ncacdc.org)).