



News and Views

September 2010

Successful Sustainable Communities Summit

In June, NCACDC and our partners HUD, NeighborWorks, and the Triangle and Triad chapters of the US Green Building Council sponsored the North Carolina Sustainable Communities Summit. 200 people from a cross section of government agencies, nonprofits and the business community came together around one goal-creating prosperous, sustainable communities in North Carolina. Attendees heard from visionary planners like Dan Douglas, regional economic development leaders, and program participants at one of our state's most dynamic green job training programs, Asheville Green Opportunities. For more resources on sustainable community development, pictures and presentations from the summit, please click [HERE](#).



Congratulations to the CED Studies Class of 2010!

CED Studies 2010 has officially come to an end. This year's class included over 22 participants from across the state coming together on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC to participate in NCACDC's premier community economic development training event.



After receiving three weeks of training, practitioners had to present a project or program proposal to a panel of potential funders and investors to receive feedback on their proposals. Panelists included representatives of The Rural Center, NC Community Development Initiative, Johnson C. Smith University's Center for Applied Leadership and Community Development, the Winston-Salem Collaborative and banking institutions.

The Board Track's training culminated in a Mock Board Exercise as well as a written test to assess their gained knowledge throughout CED Studies.

We are sure that we will see many of this year's participants flourish and grow in our changing community economic development landscape using the knowledge they gained at CED Studies 2010.

Visit Our New NC Sustainable Communities Resources Web Page

Be sure to check out our new NC Sustainable Communities Resources web page. This web page many of the NC Sustainable Communities Summit presentations, speaker bios and media coverage. This page will be updated regularly to provide you with information regarding the development and strengthening of sustainable communities.

To view the web page, please click [HERE](#).

Examining Environmental Impact - Asheville Workforce Housing Study

In June 2010, NCACDC, with the assistance of Asheville-based Mountain Housing Opportunities, published , **"A Long Way from Home: The Impacts of a Limited Supply of Workforce Housing in the Asheville Metropolitan Area,"** a study commissioned by NCACDC and prepared by the Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) at UNC Chapel Hill.



Working families residing in the Asheville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), consisting of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Madison counties, are experiencing documented housing affordability problems. The purpose of the study, which includes recommendations for expanding the supply of workforce housing, is to stimulate productive discourse among concerned citizens and state and local decision makers, resulting in action to correct these burdensome housing challenges.

This study documents the negative impacts of the lack of workforce housing on the environment, the economy and the quality of life in the Asheville metropolitan region. As part of the study, CURS researchers surveyed over 500 essential workers who commute fifteen or more miles into central Asheville. This analysis indicates that:

"(O)n average each worker in (the) sample would reduce their commute by 8,770 miles, which would save each worker \$4,600 in commuting costs."

Based upon the documentation included in the study, we also now know that:

- These long commutes contribute to local health problems, traffic congestion, environmental damage, and global climate change due to tailpipe emissions, among other pollutants.
- "(W)orking families are still facing crushing financial pressure from the combined costs of housing and transportation" despite a modest decrease in average home purchase price. "(F)or some working families, transportation expenditures can exceed housing costs, reaching 29% of their income."

To download a copy of the study, please click [HERE](#).

Connecting Communities to Resources - The Benefit Bank of NC

In our current economic climate, with dubious, jobless Recovery and structural changes in employment in our state, work supports and public benefits that keep families afloat are more important than ever. NCACDC and our members have become an important part of the rollout of The Benefit Bank of North Carolina (TBB-NC), a web-based tool that allows trained counselors to help individuals identify work supports for which they may be able. TBB-NC is managed in North Carolina by Connectinc in Battleboro as a part of the national Work Supports Initiative, managed by MDC Inc. in Chapel Hill. NCACDC has been an early proponent in the state, joining with our partner Legal Aid of NC to hire and place temporary counselors and CDCs and other CBOs throughout the state.

Currently the program allows for a review of eligibility for SNAP, student financial aid, TANF, as well as filing basic tax returns. The service is free and available at dozens of sites across the state. New benefits screens will be added at regular intervals. For more information on TBB-NC, please click [HERE](#).

Scholarship Opportunity to NeighborWorks 2010 Training Institute

In recognition of our members' commitment to NCACDC, and made possible through our partnership with NeighborWorks America, we are offering a limited number of general registration scholarships, on

a first come, first serve basis, for attendance at the 2010 NeighborWorks Training Institute, December 6-10, 2010 in National Harbor, Maryland. For an overview of the Training Institute, please click [HERE](#).

The deadline for registering for this opportunity is **OCTOBER 1st**. To be eligible for a training scholarship offered through NCACDC, your organization's 2010 membership dues must be paid in full. For more information on this opportunity and to register, please contact Sheila Gilchrist (sgilchrist@ncacdc.org).