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Conference Takes Aim at Strategies to Forge Vibrant, Resilient Communities

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Amid the expansion of North Carolina's economy in recent years and rapid population growth, the state's poverty level still stands at 17.2 percent, with a child poverty rate of 26 percent. Wealth inequality has also widened along racial and ethnic lines, with the median wealth of black households nationally falling over 33% from 2010 to 2013, according to a 2014 study.

At a one-day conference today in Raleigh, the NC Association of Community Development Corporations (NCACDC), and its affiliate network, in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, will spotlight initiatives representing new ways of thinking to inform collaborative, emerging strategies that connect housing, health, food and economic development to help change struggling neighborhoods into vibrant, resilient communities.

"We must energize local community builders and help them continue to effectively fight inequality by focusing on bold and innovative solutions for creating opportunity-rich communities that are healthy places to live, learn, work and play—places that put families on more solid economic footing," said Susan Perry Cole, NCACDC's President and CEO.

"Creating a venue at our conference to strengthen the dialogue and unity among NCACDC's network of community-based practitioners, the philanthropic community, the financial services sector, state and local decision makers and other partners, can spur new ways of thinking and moving the field forward to adapt to changing conditions," stated Perry Cole.

The theme of conference 2015 is "*Resilience and Rebuilding: CED Road to the Future*. The event will feature keynote speakers from the Calvert Foundation in New York and the Dorchester Bay EDC and CDC in Massachusetts. Workshops will address a range of topics including financial resiliency; the use of fair housing to mitigate gentrification; making homes safer for older adults; and food based development opportunities.

Background: For a complete listing of the Conference 2015 program, visit www.ncacdc.org

About the North Carolina Association of community Development:

The NCACDC is a statewide nonprofit whose mission is to strengthen the North Carolina economy and build a better tomorrow for all North Carolinians by advancing innovative, community-based economic development strategies that create opportunity-rich communities where North Carolina residents live and work.