



Capital Area Community Action Agency, Inc.

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CSBG ARRA Success Stories

Our first success story is the Job Partnership with CACAA, Workforce Plus and Tallahassee Community College. This opportunity came about due to the ARRA funds. The Weatherization ARRA funds provided CACAA with the ability to weatherize approximate 880 homes versus the 65-80 homes possible under the basic WAP and WAP-LIHEAP grants. As a result, we were able to hire 20 contractors creating and retaining jobs in a depressed construction industry. With our new Partnership with Workforce Plus and TCC we were able to have 3.5 week classes to train entry-level “weatherization installers.” Workforce Plus provided the funding for the course and “ready to work” skills. Using the CSBG-ARRA dollars, CACAA expanded its OJT Program to create incentives for contractors to hire newly trained installers by paying half their salary as an OJT for 12 weeks. CACAA Family Self-Sufficiency clients were enrolled in the course. CACAA also worked with the clients on resume writing and interviewing skills, so upon completion of the course they were ready to compete for jobs at the “meet and greet” with the weatherization contractors held by CACAA. As a result, 20 OJT installers were placed with 14 contractors for continuing employment beyond the OJT commitment.

Our second story is still in progress. Voc-ed training classes can be costly per student and in many of CACAA’s rural counties, the educational opportunities do not exist. Using CSBG-ARRA funds, CACAA designed a Certified Nurse Assistant training course that is being held in 5 of 6 counties: Leon, Jefferson, Franklin, Gadsden and Calhoun/Liberty. Students will receive CPR/First Aid certification and C.N.A. training in order to take the state exam. Once the training has been completed, the students will be closely case managed to ensure that they will be ready for the state exam, and refresher courses will be held to ensure the students become certified. Maximum number of students per class is 20; however, CACAA clients were so excited about the class that in several counties we may have to hold a second class. The first class, Leon County, just completed. The other four classes will be completed by June. The Agency has completed a labor market analysis to determine the areas in which jobs are readily available for each county served. For the small rural counties, the greater employment opportunity exists in the home health, corrections and medical records areas. For that reason, we have signed the C.N.A. courses to be held in each county accessible to the population needing the course and we are in the planning stages for course in the other areas, along with more aggressively promoting our CSBG-funded micro-enterprise program for income-generating and asset building for the low income households we serve.

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