

Displaced Homemaker Programs



North Carolina's 35 Displaced Homemaker Programs (DH Programs) help clients achieve economic self-sufficiency through education, counseling, job training and placement.

Annual Report to the General Assembly 2011-2012

G.S. 143B-394.10

N.C. Council for Women
www.councilforwomen.nc.gov

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About Displaced Homemaker Programs

What is a Displaced Homemaker Program?

The 1970's ushered in a sharp increase in divorce in the United States. Homemakers working primarily at home were forced to seek outside work to support their families yet many did not have skills to qualify for positions. Displaced homemaker programs were created to help women secure jobs and achieve self-sufficiency through education and financial management. Clients were encouraged to develop careers with incomes sufficient to support their family. In 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated funding for county-level displaced homemaker programs operated by local non-profits, community colleges and governmental agencies. Funding is administered by the N. C. Council for Women, a division of the N. C. Department of Administration, and awarded annually on a competitive basis. Current North Carolina law permits funding for thirty-five displaced homemaker programs throughout the state.

North Carolina General Statute 143B-394.4 defines displaced homemakers as an individual who:

- Worked in his/her household providing unpaid services.
- Is not able to secure employment due to lack of required training, age, experience or is unemployed/underemployed.
- Is dependent on the income of another household member but is no longer adequately supported by that income or is receiving support but is within two years of losing the support.
- Is supported by public assistance as the parent of minor children but is no longer eligible or is within two years of losing eligibility.

Displaced homemakers include underemployed women with a disabled spouse, a spouse who escaped domestic violence but is financially dependent on the abuser, and grandparents with custody of grandchildren who must re-enter the workforce to sustain the family.

About Displaced Homemaker Programs

Mission of Displaced Homemaker Programs

Displaced homemaker programs seek to support and educate families in various stages of economic and employment life transitions. North Carolina General Statute 143B-394.8 outlines the following mandated services programs to fulfill its mission:

- **Job counseling programs** - Displaced Homemaker programs help clients enter the job market and acquire needed skills.
- **Job training and job placement services** - Programs refer clients for public/private sector jobs.
- **Health education & counseling services** – Client receive education about nutrition, family health care, physician selection, etc. to improve their health.
- **Financial management services** – Clients receive training on financial management concerning loans, mortgages, taxes, and insurance and estate/probate matters.
- **Education services** - Clients receive information on secondary and post-secondary education opportunities.

Measurable Results

- **Job counseling programs** served four thousand four hundred and seventy-seven clients.
- **Job training and job placement services** – programs provided over four thousand clients with job preparation, job readiness and job skills. Over thirteen hundred clients secured full or part-time employment.
- **Health education, financial management and life skills** training was provide to over thirty-eight hundred clients.
- **Education placement:** One hundred and eleven participants enrolled in a 4-year college, seven hundred enrolled in a community college and over four hundred participants received trades or other training to further their educational goals.

In 2011-12, the thirty-four displaced homemaker programs served 5,828 clients. Six hundred and sixty-three clients were placed in full-time jobs while six hundred and eighty-two clients found part-time work.

Displaced Homemaker Success Stories

Safe Haven of Person County (Person County):

As a participant I would like to express my support for the Transitioning into Greatness program. Transitioning into Greatness is a program I learned about through the Work First Family Assistance program. This program has an abundance of tools accessible to the community to assist in Job search. There is a bulletin board with the latest job openings in our area, job readiness training, resume and interview skill-building, and workshops and classes for life transitions.

This project is important to me because the staff took the time to know me on a personal level to better help me. They gave me hope when I had given up on myself. On my first visit I filled out an intake form listing my job skills and educational background. Next I was taught how to prepare a resume and the importance of constructing cover letters. Soon after returning home from my first visit, I had received emails informing me of job opportunities in the community and how to apply for them.

The Transitioning into Greatness staff are wonderful ladies. They are genuine, sincere, and want to see their clients succeed in the task set before them. Since my first visit I have felt welcomed and unafraid to ask for help. I have received two job offers and accessed the opportunity to volunteer and serve my community. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities I've been allowed by taking advantage of this program. Recently I was offered the chance to gain work force training through Transitioning into Greatness. In doing so I am able to gain clerical, office, and computer skills to help me gain better employment opportunities.

Without Transitioning into Greatness I would be a single unemployed mother with zero confidence. If this program were to be confined, unemployed Personians will miss out on copious amounts of job training and opportunities. Closing would be a grave indecency to the community and would aid the rise of unemployment. Transitioning into Greatness is an integral part of our community. The hands on training being provided have only reaped advantageous opportunities for the employers and hardworking individuals of our town. After gaining employment with the assistance of Transitioning into Greatness I am thankful for their services and plan to help others in my area through this organization.

Sincerely,
Anna Little
Roxboro, NC

Displaced Homemaker Success Stories

Diakonos, Inc. (Iredell County):

We have initiated a new partnership with I-Care, an organization that works with the impoverished to teach skills necessary to successfully enter the workforce. This results in more referrals for our program and access to more resources. We also partner with Grace Baptist Church. A scholarship fund has been set up that will provide assistance for those individuals working toward a certificate program at Mitchell College. One of those successes involves a 40 year old with 2 children who achieved perfect attendance in every class. These classes included keyboarding, parenting, character education, budgeting, health and interviewing skills. She also earned her Silver Career Readiness Certificate from Mitchell College. Upon completion of her certification, she received a job offer from Kmart and became one of their top performers. Another success, a 42 year old with 4 children who completed every class offered through our program. We arranged to have private tutoring by a nursing professor at Mitchell College so that she may take the NC Certified Nursing Assistant exam. She passed the exam and a few weeks later she was hired full time by a local nursing home.

REACH of Macon County (Macon County):

Our Program has found much success in assisting clients in utilizing their talents and skills this year. As a result of the economic downturn and lack of traditional employment opportunities, the program has continued to focus on unique strategies to assist clients in creating opportunities for self-growth and economic viability. This strategy has been very successful in not only our traditional client base, but also within the Latino New Choices Program. This area of the program has focused on beginning a small business and has partnered with “Mountain Biz Works” to assist interested clients. Classes have been given on making environmentally safe bath and household products, candle making, professional sewing/tailoring, gardening and preserving foods. As a result, we have had clients begin their own natural soaps business, tailoring services, selling hand-made scarves and many other items. In addition, many participants have worked together to create a community garden at the REACH office property. These items have been used for the clients involved, utilized in sessions on preserving foods, and donated to the REACH emergency shelter for victims in our community. This project has been so successful that we have submitted an application to the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to expand the small business portion of the New Choices Program for Latinos so that we can add additional staff and time to devote to this project.

Displaced Homemaker Success Stories

Women's Resource Center of Greensboro, Inc. (Guilford County):

New Choices – Strategies for Success Program, a Dress for Success Workshop garnered significant attention from local television and print media as it was conducted by a former New Choices Program graduate who now manages a retail clothing store. In addition to the workshop, she spearheaded a clothing drive to provide subsequent program participants access to appropriate professional attire and accessories in order to project their best during job interviews as well as on the job.

Harbor, Inc. (Johnson County):

The biggest accomplishments for our program are always the success stories of the participants. One of the past program graduates received her Basic Law-Enforcement Training Certificates and is now gainfully employed as a law-enforcement officer. She is caring for herself and her children without any kind of assistance. As a result of her success she was the keynote speaker at our annual Valentine's Ball. In addition, one program participant was hired as a Security Officer on a college campus and is able to support her family through increased salary and benefits and another graduate is employed as a Veterinarian's Technician. Helping displaced homemakers become gainfully employed and independent is what the program is all about!

Hope Harbor Home, Inc. (Brunswick County):

Samantha's story is that of a motivated client, staff creativity and community involvement. Samantha, a newly separated mother of a 3-year-old, was paired with "Frosty Knickers" clothing design (which was recently featured on "Project Runway"), where she began an apprenticeship in textile design and sewing. She was assisted with finding affordable housing near the business location; and is currently working on an as-needed basis. While she works, her daughter is able to attend dance class at the business next door. Her prospects for long-term work and advancement are excellent. She will set a good example for her daughter and will be a good provider.

2012 Displaced Homemaker Program

The North Carolina Council for Women hosted a Displaced Homemaker Conference on Thursday September 20, 2012 at the Senior Services Center in Winston-Salem, NC. This conference brought together executive directors, program coordinators and volunteers from Displaced Homemaker Programs from across the state to share strategies for building self-sufficiency and success.

Fifty-six program participants representing twenty-seven programs from across the state, six Council for Women board members and twelve staff members of the Council for Women attended the conference.

Program Highlights

Bringing Effective Practices to Life

CFW's Eastern Region Director Linda Murphy, with 20 years of program development and experience, moderated a lively discussion with seasoned executive directors and program managers about successful Job Training/Placement, Health Education, and Financial Literacy and Education services.

Sustaining Your Displaced Homemaker Program in today's Fiscally Volatile Times

Beth Briggs, Executive Director, Council for Women and expert on philanthropy and nonprofit board development presented a program on challenges and strategies for fundraising and long-term sustainability.

Collaboration:

Building a Stronger Program Model

Helping clients with education and new choices for a successful life requires collaboration. This

session examined partnership that support clients' needs while expanding program marketing and outreach goals. Participants included Christy Barton, New Choices Director, Center for Economic Empowerment & Development, CEED, Sylvia Ray, Founder/Executive Director, CEED and Suzy Hrabovsky, Chief Operations Officer for CEED.

Client Management:

Serving Clients with Special Needs

Displaced Homemaker programs value and embrace diversity and are required to serve all qualified clients while embracing challenges of illiteracy, substance abuse, language, intellectual and developmental disabilities. The workshop leaders included Wanda Horvath, Executive Director and Renee Neal, New Choices, Catawba Valley Community College.

FY 2011-2012 Displaced Homemaker Budget

The North Carolina General Assembly allocates state funding which is distributed to the selected displaced homemaker programs at the beginning of the fiscal year. Programs also receive a portion of the divorce filing fees allotment that is distributed quarterly. Below is the 2011-2012 displaced homemaker budget:

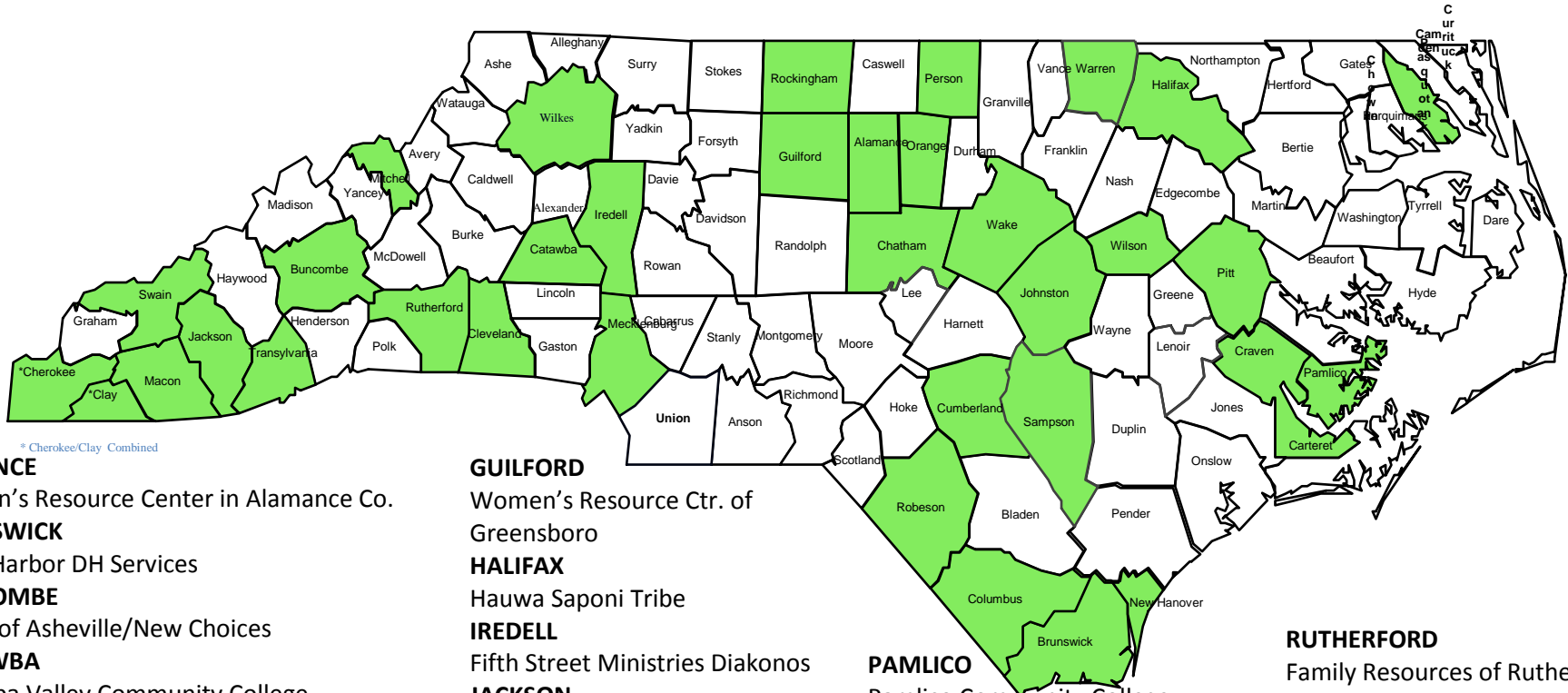
General Fund Appropriation	\$289,700.00
 <u>Grant Expenditures</u>	
Grants – Displaced Homemaker	\$280,611.11
Grants – Divorce Filing Fees	\$1,612,747.26

FY 2011-2012 Displaced Homemaker Budget – Local Program Grants

County	Program	State Appropriation	Divorce Filing Fees
Alamance	Women's Resource Center in Alamance Co.	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Brunswick	Hope Harbor Home Displaced Homemaker Services	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Buncombe	YWCA of Asheville	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Catawba	Catawba Valley Community College	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Chatham	Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Cherokee	Task Force on Family Violence/REACH, Inc.	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Cleveland	Abuse Prevention Council, Inc.	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Columbus	Southeastern Community College/New Choices	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Craven	Coastal Women's Shelter	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Cumberland	Center for Economic Empowerment Development	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Guilford	Women's Resource Center of Greensboro, Inc.	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Halifax	Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe	0.00*	\$45,850.22
Iredell	Diakonos, Inc.	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Jackson	REACH of Jackson County, Inc.	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Jackson	Reach of Macon County	0.00*	\$25,509.15
Johnston	Harbor, Inc.	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Macon	REACH of Macon County, Inc.	\$11,502.79	\$45,850.22
Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg County Women's Commission	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Mitchell	Mitchell County Safe Place, Inc./Fresh Start	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
New Hanover	YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Orange	The Women's Center	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Pamlico	Pamlico Community College	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Pasquotank	Albemarle Hopeline	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Person	Safe Haven of Person County, Inc./Transitioning into Greatness	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Pitt	Center for Family Violence Prevention	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Robeson	Robeson County Committee on Domestic Violence, Inc.	\$11,502.79	\$45,850.22
Rockingham	HELP, Inc./Center Against Violence	\$4,260.29	\$45,850.22
Rutherford	Family Resources of Rutherford Co./New Choices	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Sampson	UCARE, Inc.	\$9,088.62	\$45,850.22
Swain	Swain/Qualla SAFE, Inc.	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Transylvania	SAFE, Inc of Transylvania County	\$11,502.79	\$45,850.22
Wake	YWCA of the Greater Triangle, Inc.	\$9,088.62	\$48,671.70
Wake	InterAct	0.00	\$25,509.15
Warren	Citizens Against Domestic Violence, Inc	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Wilkes	SAFE, Inc.	\$7,668.52	\$45,850.22
Wilson	Wesley Shelter	\$11,502.79	\$45,850.22
FY 2011-2012 TOTAL		\$280,611.11	\$1,612,747.26
<i>*Program closed</i>			

NC Council for Women

FY 11-12 DH Programs



* Cherokee/Clay Combined

ALMANCE

Women's Resource Center in Alamance Co.

BRUNSWICK

Hope Harbor DH Services

BUNCOMBE

YWCA of Asheville/New Choices

CATAWBA

Catawba Valley Community College

CHATHAM

Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services

CHEROKEE/CLAY

Task Force on Family Violence/REACH, Inc.

CLEVELAND

Cleveland Co. Abuse Prevention Council

COLUMBUS

Southeastern Community College

CRAVEN

Coastal Women's Shelter, Inc.

CUMBERLAND

Women's Center of Fayetteville

GUILFORD

Women's Resource Ctr. of Greensboro

GUILFORD

Women's Resource Ctr. of Greensboro

HALIFAX

Hauwa Saponi Tribe

IREDELL

Fifth Street Ministries Diakonos

JACKSON

REACH of Jackson County

JOHNSTON

Harbor, Inc.

MACON

Reach of Macon County

MECKLENBURG

Mecklenburg Co. Women's Commission

MITCHELL

Mitchell Co. Safe Place, Inc

NEW HANOVER

YWCA of the Lower Cape Fear, Inc.

ORANGE

The Women's Center

PAMLICO

Pamlico Community College

PASQUOTANK

Albemarle Hopeline, Inc.

PERSON

Safe Haven of Person County

PITT

Center for Family Violence Prevention

ROBESON

Robeson County Committee on Domestic Violence, Inc.

ROCKINGHAM

Help, Inc. Center Against Violence

RUTHERFORD

RUTHERFORD

Family Resources of Rutherford Co., Inc.

SAMPSON

U Care, Inc.

SWAIN

Swain/Qualla SAFE, Inc.

TRANSYLVANIA

SAFE, Inc of Transylvania Co.

WARREN

Citizen's Against Domestic Violence, Inc

WAKE

YWCA

WILKES

Safe, Inc

WILSON

Wesley Shelter, Inc