

Appalachian Council of Governments Begins CEDS Annual Report

The ACOG is beginning work on the 2005 update to the Appalachian Regional Strategic Plan for Economic Development, which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as required by the Economic Development Administration. Projects must be identified and included within this plan in order to qualify for EDA grant funding. Inclusion in the plan also increases the competitiveness of projects for grant funding under several other programs, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The CEDS covers a five-year period from 2002 to 2006. In each of the interim years (2003-2005), an annual report, tracking project status, economic development activities, and necessary adjustments to the plan is required to be developed and submitted for approval.

The annual report will be a short document, readily accessible to the public and decision makers in the region, and will include the following information:

- Adjustments consistent with the overall strategy of the plan that have developed due to unforeseen opportunities or unexpected challenges.
- A report on the previous year's economic development activity and any significant changes in the region's economic conditions.
- An evaluation that measures the effectiveness in meeting the goals of the strategy.
- A schedule of achievable goals for



The CEDS focuses on infrastructure and resource development projects that are necessary to support economic development.

the upcoming year.

To produce the Progress Report, copies of each county's project and strategy sections will be distributed to county steering committee members. County steering committees are comprised of citizens, elected officials and professionals involved with economic development, including infrastructure projects and initiatives related to water, sewer and transportation. The steering committee will report on the status of projects currently included in the plan, develop a schedule for projects that will likely begin within the next year, and identify any additional, significant economic development projects that have been identified since the plan was adopted last year. Once this information is received from the steering committees and is endorsed by each county, the full annual report for the region will be developed and submitted to the Appalachian Council of Governments Board of Directors for approval in August.

Please contact Steve Pelissier for additional information on this initiative.

The Upstate Welcomes Two New City Administrators



From left to right, David Smith of Westminster and Steve Wolochowicz of Landrum.

Two municipal government professionals have just recently assumed the reins of city administration in Westminster and Landrum. In May ACOG staff conducted an all-day orientation for the new administrators to familiarize them with South Carolina Home Rule, our local laws, finance, administration, planning and other governmental practices. ACOG staff will continue working with the new administrators as they get settled in their new jobs.

David Smith was hired in April to be City Administrator of Westminster. He was previously the Director of the Westminster Commission of Public Works (CPW) and was offered the job of City Administrator after the City assumed control of the utility. Before coming to Westminster he was the city manager of Cairo, Georgia, and was Cairo's utility director for 13 years before becoming city manager. David now lives in the Westminster area with his family.

Before moving to the area, Steve Wolochowicz worked for the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, for 28 years,

(Administrators continued on page 4)

Legal Matters: Managing Financial Affairs

At some point, you may have to make financial decisions for your loved ones. To do so, there are a number of legal tools that can be utilized by older adults to allow another person to act on their behalf. You may want to consult an attorney regarding what may be appropriate in your particular situation.

Power of Attorney - A Power of Attorney (POA) is a way for one person to allow another to act on his/her behalf to manage legal and/or business affairs. The person wishing to create the Power of Attorney, called the "principal" or "grantor," must be mentally competent at the time the document is signed. The person being authorized to act for the principal is the "agent" or the "attorney-in-fact." Ask your attorney about durable powers of attorney for your loved ones.

Durable Power of Attorney - A Durable Power of Attorney for finances gives the caregiver management over the principal's affairs, such as paying bills and dealing with everyday household affairs. Through very specific language in the document, it ensures that the agent may continue in the role even when the principal has become mentally incompetent. The authority will end when the principal dies.

Healthcare Power of Attorney - Have the power to make medical decisions, you should consider this POA. Choosing an agent means choosing an individual you trust completely. There should be an open pattern of communication to make sure the agent understands the principal's desires. He/she must always consider what is best for the principal when making decisions, and must be willing and able to spend the time that managing another's affairs often entails. The best choice is usually a spouse, adult child, or other family member. However, because of age, incapacity, distance or estrangement, family may not always be the best choice. A

trusted friend or perhaps an attorney may sometimes be a valid option. It is also wise to consider an alternate agent in the event that your first choice is unable to serve.

Trusts - A trust is a legal device used to manage property. It is established by one person (donor) for the benefit of another (beneficiary). A third person manages the trust and is known as the trustee. The *Testamentary Trust* is set up in your loved one's will and comes into existence upon their death. The trustee administers the trust. In most cases, the assets funding these trusts will still go through the probate process. The *Living Trust* is put into effect while the grantor is still alive. It is often used as a way to avoid having assets in an estate go through probate at the time of an individual's death. Many conditions must be met in order to avoid probate. The *Revocable Trust* is one that can legally be changed or ended by the grantor as long as he/she remains legally competent. A revocable trust can avoid probate and gives the grantor greater flexibility, but by itself may not provide any tax advantages. Most living trusts are revocable. The *Irrevocable Trust* cannot be changed or terminated before the time specified in the trust. An irrevocable trust also helps to avoid probate and may have tax advantages. A trust can provide for family members or beneficiaries without allowing them direct control of assets. It is an effective estate planning device, if done correctly.

Information gathered from the "Since You Care" guide, 2003.

Your Local Ombudsman: Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Sandy Dunagan, Celia Clark and Rhonda Monroe; phone: 864-242-9733.



Chesnee Administrator Receives SCCDA Award



Rebecca (Becki) Hood, Administrator for the City of Chesnee, received the Hettie Rickett Leadership Award presented by the South Carolina Community Development Association (SCCDA) at its annual meeting on May 24. Becki was nominated for this award by the Appalachian COG for her long and tireless work on behalf of Chesnee and its citizens. The Hettie Rickett Leadership Award is presented annually to a person "in recognition of outstanding leadership and community building skills, exemplifying the spirit of community development."

Over the past six years, Becki has worked with the Mayor and Council, various local partners, and with the Appalachian COG to obtain approximately \$3 million to improve the City. These include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a housing rehabilitation project in the California Avenue neighborhood; funds to rebuild a dilapidated building along Highway 11 in downtown Chesnee for the Cherokee Foothills Artisan Center; Transportation Enhancement Grant funds to improve the area downtown by installing new lighting, brick sidewalks, trees and shrubs, curbs and gutters, and crosswalks; funds from several sources to build the community/senior center serving both the youth and the older residents of Chesnee; CDBG funds to upgrade and replace aging and malfunctioning sewer lines in a mill village adjacent to the community/senior center; and CDBG funds to rehabilitate sub-

(Awards continued on page 3)

A New Way to Calculate Unemployment

In January 2005, the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the S. C. Employment Security Commission (SCES) adopted a new methodology for calculating monthly labor force and unemployment data. As a result, many questions and concerns have been raised by Upstate economic development professionals with regard to the effect this change may have on data used for industry recruitment.

In response to these concerns, the ACOG hosted a Labor Force and Unemployment Information Forum on May 23, 2005. Representatives of the SCES and BLS facilitated the forum, explaining in layman's terms the methodology changes and fielding questions and concerns from the attendees.

The changes in labor force methodology can be summarized as follows:

- The new models ensure that state estimates sum to national estimates. The new models also provide monthly error measures and improved seasonal adjustment capabilities.
- "Real-time" benchmarking to the Current Population Survey is now conducted every month. The previous method benchmarked data only at year's end, resulting in the need for significant year-end revisions.
- The new methodology offers enhanced procedures for adjusting sub-state (county, MSA, etc.) worker data for residency and multiple jobs. The previous residency adjustment ratio was based on commuting patterns in the estimating area, whereas the new system incorporates a dynamic residency ratio. This represents a major improvement in labor force estimation for bedroom communities and areas with rapid employment growth.
- Another improvement is the incorporation of enhanced procedures for estimating sub-state unem-



ployed new entrants and reentrants. The previous method underestimated the number of persons in sub-state areas entering the workforce for the first time or reentering the workforce. New entrants are now distributed to sub-state areas based on the area's share of the statewide population age 16 to 19 years old, and reentrants are now distributed to sub-state areas based on the area's share of the statewide population age 20 years and older. The allocation of statewide model estimates reduces the underestimation of new and reentrants at sub-state levels.

- The new methodology uses Census 2000 data as a benchmark for all other employment, including self-employment, unpaid family workers, private household workers, and agricultural employment.

For more information on labor force methodology, please contact Sam McClary with the SCES, at (800) 205-9290. For Upstate labor force and unemployment data, please contact the Information Services Department at 242-9733 or click "Fact Finder" at WWW.INFOMENTUM.ORG.

(Awards continued from page 2)
standard houses in the Kentucky/Georgia Avenues area.

Congratulations to Becki Hood and to the City of Chesnee on this well-deserved award.

Family Caregiver Advocates

Although the majority of the Family Caregiver Advocates' time is spent providing services, they are also active participants in promoting public awareness of the needs of family caregivers and how they might best be addressed. One such opportunity presented itself through Clemson University's recent symposium: **Aging in Place in South Carolina: Challenges and Solutions.**

The symposium, attended by four delegates from the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging, offered the expertise of elder care authorities from across the nation. Topics ranged from health care, transportation, and housing, to raising the awareness of the public to issues impacting caregivers. Speakers included Nela Gibbons, Director of the Office on Aging in the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Dr. Laura Gitlin, Director of the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health at Thomas Jefferson University, Dr. Harvey Sterns, Director and Senior fellow for the institute for Life Span Development and Gerontology at the University of Akron, Dr. Stephen Golant, Professor, University of Florida, Dr. Paul Franklin, founder of the South Carolina Aging in Place Coalition and a member of the National Aging in Place Council, and Drs. McGuire and Helms of Clemson University. These are people with a special understanding of the issues facing today's aging population.

During the meeting, small breakout sessions were held to determine how best to approach the dilemmas facing caregivers in South Carolina. It was agreed that additional funding was a factor, that a better understanding of the issues should exist within public and governmental entities, and that aging in place is an international issue which could only be addressed through a network of collaborative efforts. It was further agreed that

(Advocates continued on page 4)

Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Project

The Appalachian Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Greenville and Spartanburg Councils on Aging, in partnership with the S. C. De-



partment of Social Services and the Department of Agriculture, will be issuing free coupons to individuals age 60 and older who have limited income. The coupons can be used to purchase produce at designated local farmers' markets from June through October 15, 2005. This is the third year our agency has administered the program in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Unfortunately, the grant from USDA was reduced this year, so there will be a 10.2 percent reduction in the number of individuals that will be served in each county. Greenville County can only serve 700 participants and Spartanburg is slated to serve 600 individuals.

Individuals with a monthly income of \$1476 or less, or those who receive SSI or food stamp benefits, are eligible for the coupons. Individuals must apply in person, provide proof of identity and residency in the county where sign-up is being held.

This program is intended to supplement the diets of seniors with fresh, nutritious produce and to support South Carolina's small farmers. South Carolina is one of several states that received USDA funds to operate the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Oconee older adults can sign up with the United Way of Oconee on June 7-9. Contact United Way of Oconee at (864) 882-9743 for times. The Anderson County Recreation Department is handling sign-up in Anderson County the week of June 20-24. Contact Anderson County at (864) 231-2237 for location and times. Sign-up for Greenville County is June 13-17 and Spartanburg County is June 27-30. For Greenville County locations and times, contact Senior Action at 467-3660. For Spartanburg County information, contact Senior Centers of Spartanburg at (864) 596-3910, or the Appalachian AAA for locations and additional information.



(Administrators continued from page 1)

retiring as the Director of Development Services. He has extensive experience in the areas of codes, inspections, general urban planning, zoning and site plan reviews. He remains a certified planner (AICP) and has been a member of the American Planning Association since the early 1970s. Steve and his wife have lived in Columbus, North Carolina, for the past four years.

Both administrators should prove to be valuable and welcome additions to the Upstate community.



(Advocates continued from page 3)

the skills of social workers, doctors, aging specialists, transportation planners, architects, designers and political advocates will all be needed – if the needs arising for the caregivers across the nation are to be adequately addressed.

Development Corporation News

A loan in the amount of \$75,000 was approved to allow the Eveready Towing business to be purchased from the current owner. The funding will create an additional two jobs to go with the existing two jobs.

The Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) Board approved a \$50,000 loan to ProWeave, Inc., of Anderson to put additional equipment into production. These funds, along with additional financial resources, will allow the company to expand production and add two to four additional employees.

A loan in the amount of \$100,000 to Rasnidhi and Sudha Parikh will allow them, with additional funding from BankAmerica, to purchase a convenience store in Easley. Total employment will be six people.

The ADC Board has approved funding of \$100,000, contingent on the Community Reinvestment Fund providing \$550,000, for Blair Mills. These funds will allow Blair Mills to upgrade its pretreatment facility in Belton to comply with current discharge regulations. The business currently employs 360 people between its Belton and Honea Path facilities.

The \$100,000 loan to Compass Homes, Inc., has been closed and funded. This Greenville County project will allow for the creation of at least 11 new jobs within the next two years.

The \$100,000 loan to Solutience, Inc., has been closed and funded. This Greenville County service company employs eight people and expects to add four additional people within two years.

The loan to Cremation Society of South Carolina in the amount of \$50,000 has been closed and funded, thereby allowing this business to expand.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan for Advanced

(ADC continued on page 5)

VIEWPOINT

**Appalachian Council of Governments
P. O. Box 6668
Greenville, South Carolina 29606**

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, SC
PERMIT NO. 1604

Address Correction Requested

(ADC continued from page 4)

Environmental, Inc., has been approved by the SBA in the amount of \$200,000. Funds will be used for the purchase of a facility located in Greer.