



ISOTHERMAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 841
RUTHERFORDTON, NC 28139

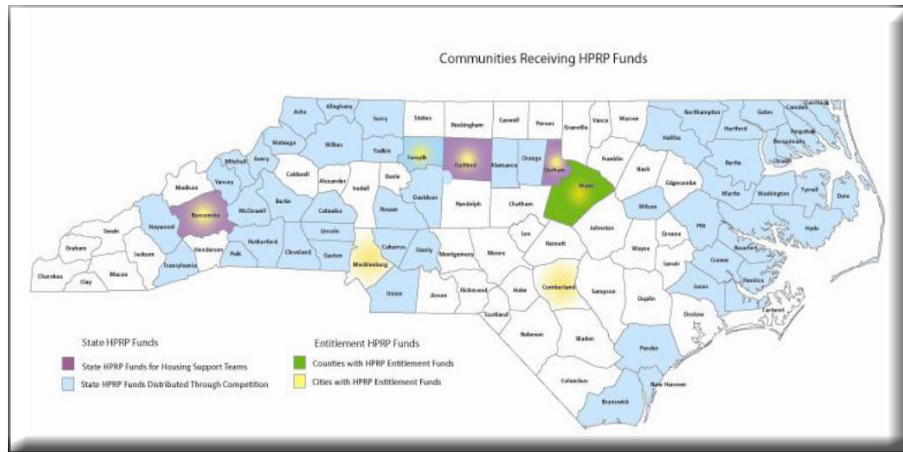
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

Table of Contents

HPRP	1-2
Regional Snapshot	2
News Tidbits	3
RPO News	4
Calendar of Events	4

The Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program is one of the programs that resulted from the 2009 Stimulus Act, also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Federal funds allocated to the State of North Carolina were awarded to 20 grant-ees across the state through competition. Isothermal Planning & Development Commission received a grant award in late November 2009 of \$800,000 for Cleveland County and an additional award of \$400,000 for Rutherford and Polk Counties for a total of \$1.2M.



In this three-year grant program, funds will be directed towards:

- Homeless Prevention
- Diversion (finding alternative housing as soon as people become homeless, so they do not have to spend the night in a homeless shelter), and
- Rapid-Rehousing for people who are currently homeless.

Through case management and outreach to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, the HPRP program provides flexible financial assistance to enable households to become or remain housed. This flexible financial assistance could be provided in form of rental assistance (including back rent for up to six months in arrears where the family has been unable to pay), utility deposits and/or arrears, security deposits, and/or moving costs. By federal regulation, the funds must be used for housing-related expenses and cannot be used for foreclosure prevention.

HPRP services will be provided for currently homeless and/or persons at risk of homelessness that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The household must be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI);
AND
- No appropriate subsequent housing options have been identified;
AND



ISOTHERMAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 841
RUTHERFORDTON, NC 28139

- The household lacks the financial resources and support networks needed to obtain immediate housing or remain in its existing housing.

The primary focus of HPRP is on HOUSING STABILITY:

- What the client will do to GET and KEEP housing; and
- How HPRP can assist the client to GET and KEEP housing.

HPRP contracts with private landlords via a Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) agreement with flexible terms on the amount and length of assistance. The HAP agreement has no impact on the lease between the landlord and the tenant. Landlords interested in participating with HPRP should submit information on available units to the appropriate location. Clients are seen by appointment only for determination of eligibility and should be referred to HPRP offices in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk Counties:

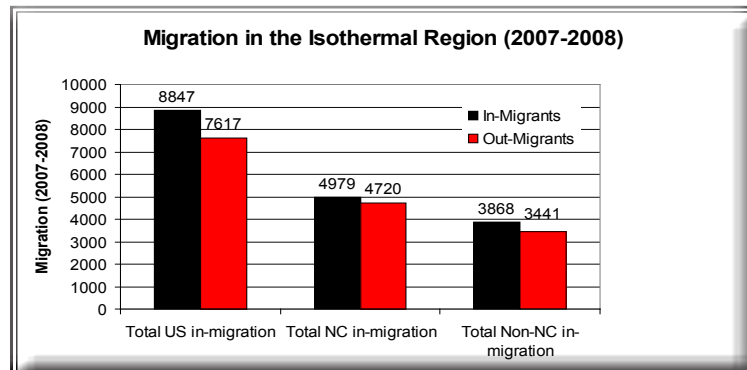
Yvonne Simmons – Case Manager
Section 8 Housing Office
127 W Graham Street, Shelby 28150
PH: 704-487-0476 Ext 3

Della Rose Stacey – Case Manager
Rutherford County Department of Social Services
389 Fairground Road, Spindale NC 28160
PH: 828-287-1245

- Note: Polk County referrals should be made to Polk County DSS, 330 Carolina Drive, Tryon NC PH: 828-859-5825.

North Carolina HPRP State Partners include the NC Office of Economic Recovery and Investment, NC Department of Health and Human Services and NC Housing Finance Agency. Program outcomes will be tracked via the Carolina Homeless Information Network to enable Congress and HUD to access the impact HPRP funds had on homelessness.

Regional Snapshot



--from IRS data, 2008.



ISOTHERMAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 841
RUTHERFORDTON, NC 28139

News Tidbits

Western JobLink Coordinators Forum Held

On Thursday January 28, 2010, a forum was held at McDowell Technical Community College in Marion. This event was sponsored by the Region C WDB with opening remarks provided by Bill Robertson, Board Administrator. Jerry Broome and Christina Blanton. Several other JobLink coordinators from across the western region also participated in this learning exchange that sponsored by the NC Department of Commerce – Division of Workforce Development.

The Census is Coming

Census Day - **April 1, 2010** is fast approaching. Local governments should be encouraging all residents to complete their forms. It is important that citizens understand the importance of the Census to government service funding. It is estimated that approximately \$3,250 is lost for each person not included in the Census count. Since the Census only occurs once every ten years, that one missed person could result in a loss of over \$32,000 in federal and state funds during the next ten years. In past years, black males and Hispanics have typically been undercounted. Special efforts are being made to encourage participation by these and all segments of the populations.

New Publication from UNC's School of Government

Development Moratoria: The Law and Practice in North Carolina examines the law on when and how moratoria on regulatory development approvals may be used. It also sets out how North Carolina cities and counties have used this tool, with a particular focus on their experience following adoption of a state statute on this topic in 2005. You may purchase a hard copy through the link; <http://shopping.netsuite.com/s.nl/c.433425/it.A/id.2340/.f?sc=7&category=4125> .

McDowell County Manufacturer Recognized for Environmental Practices

Industrial Timber & Lumber Company, an Ohio-based manufacturer and producer of hardwood lumber with a kiln drying facility in Marion, has won the 2009 Forest Stewardship Award by the National Hardwood Lumber Association. The award is given to NHLA members who exemplify excellence in five areas of forest stewardship: public education, political involvement, promotion to private forestland owners, land management practices and mill/business activities. ITL is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international nonprofit, multi-stakeholder organization established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests.

-from AdvantageWest Economic Development Group



ISOTHERMAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

P.O. Box 841
RUTHERFORDTON, NC 28139

RPO News

US-221 Rutherfordton Bypass Route Selected

After years of debate and studies, NCDOT has reached a decision on the US-221 Bypass. RPO Staff met with members of NCDOT, State Historic Preservation Office, US Fish and Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and others at the Feb. 17 Merger Team meeting in Raleigh. The decision will mean the relocation of up to 30 business and many more homeowners. There is still no timeline for funding this project but the RPO hopes to have more information in June when the next draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is released. Maps are available for public viewing in the lobby at IPDC offices in Rutherfordton and also at Town Halls in Rutherfordton and Spindale. The RPO will be working closely with Rutherford County EDC, the towns, and site owners to assist in the relocation process. The public can contact Josh King, RPO Planner, at (828) 287-2281 or jking@regionc.org for more information.

RPO Scores Well in First Ever Evaluation

Transportation Planning Branch of NCDOT evaluated the RPO's performance last year and gave the RPO good marks. The RPO scored a 2.0 out of 3.0 in an overall scoring process. The RPO is focusing its future efforts on providing local governments with highly usable data for sidewalk, bicycle facilities, and accident reports. This will be in addition to our efforts in parking management, GIS mapping, and STIP project development. The draft PWP will be on IPDC website in the middle of April and a final adopted PWP will be released in May.

Calendar of Events

- 3/9 IPDC Board meeting at IPDC's office in Rutherfordton at 6:30 PM. 6:00 Budget Committee meeting.
- 3/9-3/11 2010 Community Development Academy. School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Register NOW! , visit www.sog.unc.edu/courses/0676. Registration deadline is March 2.
- 3/13 Bicycle Rodeo at Harmon Field. Contact Josh King at jking@regionc.org or 828-287-2281 ext. 1264 for more information.
- 4/27-29 2010 Community Development Academy. School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Register NOW! See www.sog.unc.edu/courses/0676. Registration deadline is March 2.
- 5/7 IPDC's Annual Meeting (tentative). More information will be available closer to date.
- 5/26 RPO TAC/TCC Meeting at 12 Noon at IPDC's main office.