

# THE BCCAP BUZZ

## BURLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



### A Message From the CEO

We are excited to be able to share many of our “impact” moments with our community and customers. The BCCAP organization has served the Burlington County community for over 50 years as an anti-poverty Agency concerned about our most vulnerable citizens. The BCCAP organization, as you will read in this edition, is also proud to announce newly established partnerships, which include the re-opening of the Nesbit Center in partnership with Pemberton Township that will house many of BCCAP services as well as two Head Start classrooms. The BCCAP organization and Pemberton Township are confident that our services and community involvement, especially within “Sunbury Village” will have a positive impact on those customers we serve. The *Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships Program* will focus on civic engagement, anti-poverty advocacy and developing partnerships. In this issue you will read about the nearly \$500,000 in renovations completed at the historic Roebling Village Inn in partnership with Florence Township. We hope you will enjoy this issue.

Please feel free to join us any time for volunteer opportunities, community partnerships, college internships, and more as we continue to move forward toward our vision that all people will become self-sufficient.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ruben A. Johnson,  
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the first issue of our new quarterly newsletter, *The BCCAP Buzz!* We will be sending a new issue out at the end of each quarter, to keep you up to date on the latest BCCAP happenings. You'll find news about BCCAP as a whole, individual programs, new staff members, upcoming events and much more! We encourage you to visit our website at [www.bccap.org](http://www.bccap.org) for more information.

### New This Quarter



### Women’s Resource Center (WRC)

In April 2019, BCCAP launched a new program, the “Women’s Resource Center”. The mission of the [Women’s Resource Center](#) is to help women effectively navigate life’s transitions and inspire others to do the same by providing Resources, Recommendations, and Support. The WRC has also launched a hotline for providing resources and referrals. That number is: 833-218-4458.

This program will also provide Case Management Services and Referrals for women throughout Burlington County as well as host monthly Workshops & Events. WRC’s goal is to collaborate with existing programs for women in order to fill in the gaps to provide services based on the needs in Burlington County.

### The Nesbit Community Center

Following the re-opening of the Nesbit Community Center in Sunbury Village, Pemberton, BCCAP has launched the *Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships Program*.

The Center will also be a satellite office for the [Home Energy](#) and [Housing Programs](#). This will allow local residents to gain access to more of BCCAP’s program services.

In the near future, this Center will also be the home of two *Head Start* classrooms, providing free early childhood development to a total of 30 pre-school age children, whose families may not otherwise have access to our other Head Start locations.



### Roebling Village Inn

The *Roebling Village Inn* has been providing 14 units of affordable senior housing since 1997. As years passed, BCCAP noticed a great deal of wear and tear and desperately needed to identify funding sources in order to continue maintaining this historic structure. The BCCAP organization was approached



by Florence Township, who also recognized the need for renovations. A meeting was held and it was determined that “affordable housing” dollars were available for renovations of the RVI property. The partnership between BCCAP and Florence Township was immediately established, resulting in over \$400,000 in renovations. RVI now stands fully functional and beautifully restored.



**TO OUR NEW STAFF!**

The following people have joined our ranks during the April-June quarter.

Please join us in welcoming them to BCCAP:

**Elayne Schermerhorn**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

**Gary Mease**  
*Accountant*

**Larcina Frazier**  
*Accounting Temp*

**Antoine Nelson**  
*Area Council Coordinator,  
Nesbit*

**Gerlini Garrido**  
*Receptionist, Nesbit*

**Kendra Plummer**  
*Intern, Women's Resource  
Center*

**Kayla Black**  
*Energy Intake/Processor,  
Home Energy*

**Shirley Matthews**  
*Energy Intake/Processor,  
Home Energy*

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The following staff members have accepted other positions within BCCAP.

Congratulations to them!:

**Sheila Hughes**  
*Program Assistant, Parent  
Education*

**Jennifer Craig**  
*WRC Case Manager and  
Facilitator*

**Recent Events**

**The Annual February School Readiness Institute**

*February 15, 2019* - On this day a series of workshops was presented for *Head Start and Early Head Start* staff:

- Developing Communication Skills
- Understanding & Responding to Children's Anxiety
- Lead Education & Prevention
- Enriching Language & Literacy Through Read-A-Louds
- Building Relationships & Creating Supportive Environments
- Explosive Child Workshop
- Cultural Humility
- How to Recognize Human Trafficking
- Teaching Large Groups
- Cultural Sensitivity and You
- Nature-Based Learning & Development
- Kindness Connection
- Math 101 for Preschoolers: Math Through Play
- Mighty Minutes
- Positive Teacher-Child Interactions
- Community Needs Assessment Training
- Early Literacy for Healthy Families
- Food Service Nutrition Training
- Family Partner/Home Visitor Training
- Transportation Training

The annual Professional Development day promotes life long learning, teamwork, leadership, ensures staff is up-to-date on current research and adds to their professional development portfolio. We thank the speakers for each workshop.

**First Annual Women's Resource Fair**

*March 20, 2019* - Vendors and representatives from local resources gathered to provide information and referrals to women of Burlington County. It was a fun-filled evening!



**Head Start's 7th Annual Health, Wellness, Nutrition & Fitness Day**  
**Theme: Code Blue**

*May 10, 2019* - This day stressed the importance of self-care and staff wellness. The staff Wellness Professional Development Day helps to reduce staff absenteeism, promotes an improved sense of well-being and teaches staff the importance of role-modeling healthy choices for HS/EHS students and families. The one-day event featured the movie "Code Blue" which highlights the journey of Dr. Saray Stanic, M.D.'s lifestyle wellness approach to fighting MS and evidence-based research on the positive effects of lifestyle medicine: *daily fitness, stress reduction, limited alcohol and not smoking*. Staff also participated in various *interactive wellness and fitness seminars* and enjoyed a healthy lunch and smoothies. We are grateful to the community and vendors that support this annual event and provide giveaways and prizes for participants.

## Recent Events

### BCCAP Annual Staff Retreat

May 16, 2019 - BCCAP closed all locations and services for the day, for this mandatory staff retreat. We met at the JFK Center in Willingboro, where we learned about breathing techniques from guest, Jennifer Owens of Diva Fit Club. We also learned about self-care from guest, Lindsay Zogheb of Oaks Integrated Care. Howard Alter and his colleagues from John Hancock answered many questions about our new retirement plan. We also received some internet safety tips from Scott Fcasni of 1SEO Technologies. All in all, it was a very informative event.



### Marigolds and Movement Outside

May 23, 2019 - Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Department hosted a Community Gathering entitled, "Marigolds and Movement Outside". Participants learned about creating an outside classroom from two of Burlington County’s very own Family Child Care Providers. Discussions consisted of Nature Based Education and theory, incorporating the outdoors, and connecting families to nature. The night began with networking while enjoying coffee and donuts and participants visited our Resource Table where literature and handouts consisted of such articles as, "Getting the Most out of your Mud Kitchen", "Why Outdoor Play is Essential for Healthy Development", and "From Fear to Freedom". The evening concluded with a raffle drawing where one lucky winner walked away with a child friendly basket of goodies and attendees were awarded two credit hours for attending.

The CCR&R Department hosts a Community Gathering every quarter. The Child Care Providers, Parents and Community Members are welcome to attend. To find out more about our events, please visit [www.bccap.org](http://www.bccap.org) or email Judy Byrne at [jbyrne@bccap.org](mailto:jbyrne@bccap.org).



On June 7, 2019

**220 Head Start students**

completed the Early Childhood Development Program and will be moving on to Kindergarten!

Congratulations to those young students and their families and thank you to all of the Head Start Teachers and supporting staff who made it possible!

**Now enrolling FREE Preschool for children Birth to 5 years!**  
 For more info call **(609) 261-2323**

Summer is here, but the Head Start Staff are already busy preparing for the next semester. If you know a family who can benefit from enrolling their child(ren), please direct them to our website at [www.bccap.org/headstart](http://www.bccap.org/headstart)

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## Recent Events

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### Community Clean Up

May 26, 2019 - BCCAP's Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships Program at the Nesbit Center organized a Community Clean Up of Pemberton's Sunbury Village. Several men turned up for the event and signed a Friendship and Peace Treaty.



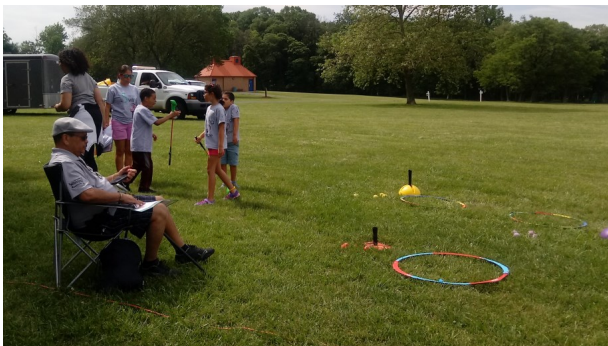
### Food For Thought Luncheon

June 1, 2019 - BCCAP's Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships Program at the Nesbit Center organized a luncheon sponsored by the Willingboro Muslim Educational Circle. This event was open to the public and food was provided.



### National Get Outdoors Day

June 8, 2019 - The Head Start and Early Head Start Programs participated in this annual event by setting up a resource table to provide information to community members that were present.



## Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Events	
Jul 4th	All BCCAP Offices are closed
Jul 10th	Swap Till You Drop
Aug 5th	Milk & Cookies
Aug 24th	First Annual Back to School Family Fun Day
Sep 2nd	All BCCAP Offices are closed
Sep 12th	Yoga for Beginners Hosted by the Women's Resource Center
Sep 17th	Community Gathering

Visit the BCCAP Facebook Page for more information about the above events.

CCR&R Early Childhood Training Opportunities							
Jul 6th	CPR/First Aid	Jul 16th	ASQ-3 Developmental Screening Tool	Aug 7th	Burlington County Child Care Directors' Meeting	Sep 11th	Burlington County Child Care Directors' Meeting
Jul 9th	Grow NJ Kids Overview for FCC Providers	Jul 17th	Emergency Preparedness for Childcare Providers	Aug 21st	Strategies to Manage an Effective Child Care Program	Sep 18th	Supporting Young Children's Social Emotional Development...
Jul 10th	Burlington County Child Care Directors' Meeting	Jul 18th	CPR/First Aid	Aug 24th	CPR/First Aid	Sep 19th	ASQ-SE-2 Developmental Screening Tool
Jul 11th	Orientation for New In-Home Providers	Aug 1st	Orientation for New In-Home Providers	Sep 5th	Orientation for New In-Home Providers	Sep 23rd	CPR/First Aid

For more details about the above training opportunities, please see the full brochure at:  
<http://www.bccap.org/early-childhood-training-opportunities>

## Behind the Scenes

In the past few months, some Agency-wide improvements have been made. Although it has been an adjustment, we are confident that these changes have been and will continue to be progressive and positive steps up for BCCAP as a whole.

Below are some of the changes that have been implemented.

- We have switched email servers and successfully transferred everyone's account to Microsoft Office 365.
- A new telephone system and new telephones were installed and are running successfully.
- We successfully switched to a new network server that runs smoother and faster, with less interruptions.
- A new work order process has been established for reporting and tracking maintenance needs.
- All BCCAP equipment and devices are in the process of being labeled for inventory.



We continue to review BCCAP's technological and operational needs and will be implementing more changes in the near future.



## History of BCCAP

Burlington County Community Action Program (BCCAP) began operating in 1965. The organization was established to address the needs of low-income persons in Burlington County.

Nationally, at the time of the Agency's inception, Congress had declared its War on Poverty and signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It stated that everyone in America should have an opportunity to obtain an education, work, and live in decency and with dignity. As one of the most significant legislative documents of our time, it impacted positively upon the lives of America's poor and disadvantaged of all ages, races, colors, creeds, and ethnic backgrounds. It provided for the creation of Community Action Agencies throughout the nation to work toward the elimination of poverty.

Locally, in response to the critical human needs of the poor, a small group of individuals began meeting in each other's homes and in churches to develop strategies for eliminating poverty and removing the barriers to self-sufficiency. With dedication to the mission and a common vision, those unsung heroes carved out the framework for a community-based organization of people helping people to help themselves.

Now one of the oldest of twenty-three community action agencies operating in New Jersey, Burlington County Community Action Program is led by a tripartite Board of Trustees consisting of one-third representation from community stakeholders, one-third from public officials, and one-third from low-income residents.

The number and scope of activities administered by BCCAP has grown steadily over the years. The Agency has moved from a small grassroots direct services program to one that operates projects having long-term effect on the community and totaling more than \$10 million annually. Program funds are used to support Housing and Energy, Community Services, Education and Health; and are reflective of the Agency's commitment to serving low-income persons in Burlington County.

## OUR MISSION

The Burlington County Community Action Program exists to combat the causes and reduce the effects of poverty in Burlington County. It fulfills the purpose by:

- Facilitating a community-based capacity for the human needs planning process, which focuses program strategies on promoting self-sufficiency among low-income people.
- Removing barriers to self-sufficiency among low-income people in the organization and operation of institutions and programs.
- Maximizing participation of low-income people in the development and implementation of programs and projects and in the decision-making process of institutions affecting their lives.
- Testing new approaches to solving basic causes of poverty provided that they do not involve BCCAP as a long-term, direct service provider.
- Supporting self-help groups and other cooperative efforts among low-income people.
- Working to better organize services related to the needs of the poor.
- Broadening resource base of programs directed to the elimination of poverty.
- Providing safe, decent, affordable housing to low- and moderate-income families.
- Providing housing counseling services.

## Our Programs

- ◇ First-Time Homebuyer Education and Pre-Purchase Counseling
- ◇ Permanent Housing with Supportive Services
- ◇ Homelessness Prevention Program
- ◇ Foreclosure Prevention and Foreclosure Intervention Services
- ◇ Housing Counseling Services
- ◇ Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
- ◇ Senior Apartments with Supportive Services
- ◇ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ◇ Universal Service Fund (USF)
- ◇ Healthy Families-TIP
- ◇ Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- ◇ Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)
- ◇ New Jersey Cares For Kids (NJCK)
- ◇ Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)
- ◇ Grow NJ Kids
- ◇ Family Child Care
- ◇ Head Start and Early Head Start Child Development
- ◇ Women's Resource Center (WRC)
- ◇ Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships

For more information about the above programs, please visit our website at [www.bccap.org](http://www.bccap.org).

## Our Locations—Where to Apply

**Administrative Office**

718 Route 130 S  
Burlington, NJ 08016  
(609) 386-5800

**Dickens Community Center**

1 Van Sciver Parkway  
Willingboro, NJ 08046  
(609) 835-4329

Available Programs:

Housing Assistance | Home Energy Assistance | Child Care Assistance | Women's Resource Center (WRC)

**Human Services Facility**

795 Woodlane Rd.  
Westampton, NJ 08060

Available Programs (2nd floor):

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) | Family Child Care  
(609) 261-6834

Available Programs (3rd floor):

Healthy Families—TIP | Parents as Teachers (PAT)  
(609) 239-4719

Head Start Administrative Office  
(609) 261-2323

**Nesbit Community Center**

1 Anderson Rd.  
Pemberton, NJ 08068  
(609) 735-6280

Available Programs:

Housing Assistance | Home Energy Assistance | Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships

Special thanks to our funding sources

BURLINGTON COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BURLINGTON COUNTY OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF STATE - NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT - UNITED WAY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY



**Burlington County Community Action Program**

718 Route 130 South  
Burlington, New Jersey 08016  
(609) 386-5800 | Fax: (609) 386-7380

**Work for BCCAP\*!**

Make a difference in your community, apply for a position with us at:

<http://www.bccap.org/employment-opportunities>

\*BCCAP is an equal-opportunity employer.