

WAMY received a grant from the AMY Wellness Foundation, part of the Dogwood Trust, to form a Housing Coalition in three of our Counties (Avery, Mitchell and Yancey). The goal of these Coalitions is to bring together agencies, churches, volunteer organizations and anyone in the community that is interested in addressing the quality of housing for low-income families. The Coalition hopes to work together to streamline repair and rehabilitation efforts and create a one-stop application where families can apply for assistance and get help from many different sources.

The vision is that a family will apply for assistance directly to the Coalition. A case manager and a housing specialist will visit the home and do an assessment of their housing needs and their other needs such as transportation, healthcare, childcare, etc. The results of the assessment and the application are brought before the Coalition and the work is spread out among the partners. Coalition staff will direct the work to ensure that it progresses and no one falls through the cracks.

This process has just started, but already agencies are showing excitement and eagerness to get involved. Partners at the table include Habitat for Humanity, Independent Living through Vocational Rehabilitation, United Way, many churches, county government and, of course, Community Action. We are very excited about the possibilities of these Coalitions and the solutions that this dedication group of individuals and agencies may come up with to address this critical issue.