

ECHSA, Inc.'s 2nd Annual Agency, Family, Community (AFC) Involvement Week and Anti-Poverty Festival

From June 25 - 29, 2018, Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc. (ECHSA, Inc.) will host the agency's 2nd Annual Agency/Family/Community (AFC) Involvement Week; followed by the 2nd Annual Anti-Poverty Festival on June 30, 2018. During last year's AFC week, ECHSA, Inc. strengthened the agency, family, and community connection through a variety of outreach, recruitment, marketing, and service campaigns including, but not limited to: door-to-door outreach in the most impoverished locations within the agency's service areas (*Walking the River and the Creek*); interactive, motivational and self-sufficiency focused forum with the NC LINKS: Foster Care Independence Program (youth ages 16-21) (*LINKing Up*); sponsored gifts and prizes for Scott's Hill Senior Bingo Night (*E.C.H.S.A.*); hosted an information session for single, low-income mothers who are independently providing for themselves with the desire to return to work and school (*Power of One*); donated new stuffed animals, gifts, and learning materials to the Betty H. Cameron Women & Children's Hospital Pediatric Department (*Cares & Bears*); distributed canned food/non-perishable items to a local food pantry (*Every Little Bit(e) Helps*). In addition to last year's events, this year's AFC Week promises to include more volunteerism, opportunities for collaboration and resource development. There will also be an emphasis placed on the opioid epidemic, considering that two (2) of the agency's three (3) CSBG service areas are ranked #1 (*Wilmington*) and #12 (*Jacksonville*) in the nation for opioid abuse.

As the finale to the close of another successful fiscal year of fighting this war on poverty; on Saturday, June 30, 2018 - ECHSA, Inc. will host the agency's Second Annual Anti-Poverty Festival at Jack Amyette Recreation Park, 1825 South Drive, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. At last year's festival, participants and their families, as well as the public, were granted an opportunity to enroll in agency programs; as well as, the ability to collaborate with approximately eighty (80) partners/vendors providing access to: education/training opportunities; applications/interviews on-site (employment/better employment/jobs w/medical benefits); housing, and emergency assistance. Over one hundred (100) attendees interacted with community resources to include, but not be limited to the areas of: law enforcement, emergency management, child care, medical assistance, financial wellness/credit repair, personal hygiene, and personal development. Minority and small businesses (private) also provided various services and specialty items for purchase. Live music, a wide variety of food choices, games/activities, basketball tournaments, and Jacksonville's first Splash Park provided enjoyment for attendees of all ages and cultural backgrounds. View a full list of vendors, photos, and press releases from last year's activities on the agency's website at echsainc.com – Community Outreach tab.

These events afforded ECHSA, Inc. with an opportunity to provide service delivery using a multifaceted approach while encompassing outcome measures outlined within the CSBG Work Plan, the Six National Goals, and through the utilization of the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) framework. The agency is hopeful that the second year will be just as, if not more, successful than the first. The entire NCCAA network are welcome to take part; please spread the word. Admission is FREE! Vendors are welcome. Volunteers are needed. Donations, whether large or small; as well as, items to be used as gifts for those in need and/or festival game prizes are greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please feel free to submit checks or money orders payable to: Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency, Inc., ATTN: Finance/AFC, P.O. Drawer 796, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540; OR donate via Go Fund Me at <https://www.gofundme.com/26nh4sc>. For your tax deductible donation, the ECHSA, Inc. Federal Tax ID number is 56-6067763. Questions? Feel free to contact Chiquitta Lesene (CSBG Program Director) or Sherry Harris (Event Coordinator), at (910) 347-2151. ECHSA, Inc. hopes to see you there!

