

January 2006

Southeast RCAP Board of
Directors Meeting

Progress in North Carolina

NCRCAP: A Contractor for Southeast
Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.



Recent Project Highlights in North Carolina

NCRCAP Publishes Research Paper on Latino Housing Conditions

This fall, NCRCAP staff spent time finalizing the text and layout of a resource publication documenting health and housing conditions within the Latino community. The report, entitled, "*Rural Housing and Health among Latinos in Eastern North Carolina*," is based on a detailed survey of individuals at two community health centers. This report is unique in that it captures information from undocumented as well as documented Latino residents and highlights several key challenges faced by this population with regard to housing, safe drinking water and wastewater treatment, and access to healthcare.

In the report, the large majority of the surveyed population lives in undesirable rental housing or barrack-style housing. Crowded housing is ubiquitous and individuals noted problems with sewage treatment and/or drinking water quality. Together these conditions translate into elevated environmental and public health risks. When

health issues arise, specifically those associated with unsafe drinking water or inadequate wastewater treatment, only a small percentage of individuals seek treatment by a physician. This was particularly true of undocumented individuals. The report concludes with several recommendations for policy-makers at the state and local level as well as for service providers working directly with the rural Latino population. Recommendations include: implementing minimum housing codes; offering pre-purchase counseling for homebuyers; increasing the availability of affordable housing in rural areas; screening for inadequate housing conditions during health care visits; improving health providers' understanding of the rural Latino community; and strengthening environmental health outreach and education efforts. The publication was provided as a tool to agencies, organizations, and service providers working with the rural Latino community on their housing and healthcare needs and challenges and can be found on NCRCAP's website.

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Statistics in North Carolina

Technitrain
7 projects

EPA Wastewater
3 projects

EPA Safe Drinking Water
3 projects

OCS
2 projects representing 26 individual
households



Elaine Chiosso, Director of the Haw River Assembly, demonstrates strategies to protect Jordan Lake, a drinking water reservoir. NCRCAP photo

Safe Drinking Water Workshop

In September, NCRCAP hosted a workshop entitled "Protecting Your Drinking Water at its Source" at the UNC-Greensboro campus. Forty people attended and learned how to protect public health and groundwater resources, recognize emerging threats to drinking water, and effectively utilize Source Water Assessment Protection reports.

NCRCAP's Housing Rehabilitation Work in Rural Communities featured in National and State Publications

Through the Safe Housing Initiative (SHI) program, NCRCAP works to eliminate the health and safety hazards posed by substandard housing. Despite the proximity to the Triangle and Triad areas, many rural households in Chatham and Randolph counties lack complete indoor plumbing. Since starting the SHI program in 1999, NCRCAP has worked with well over thirty households and built eight bathrooms. Based on the success of this program, NCRCAP continually receives phone calls from families living in severe housing conditions who have no other means of receiving assistance.

This fall, NCRCAP was featured in the Housing Assistance Council's national magazine, *Rural Voices*. This issue was part of a Green Building/Healthy Homes Initiative promoting the use of green building in affordable rural housing projects. NCRCAP received \$10,000 from the HAC Green Fund to incorporate conservation measures within the SHI program.

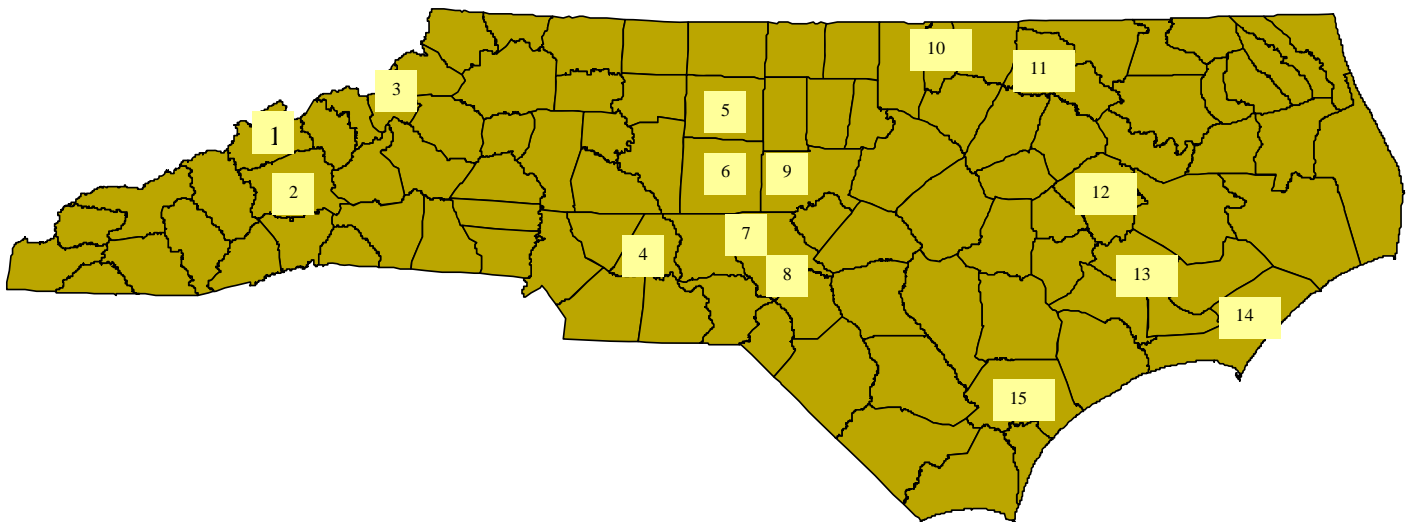
The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, a leading resource for rural people and communities, also featured NCRCAP's work on substandard housing in the Partner Profile section of their *Rural Routes* publication.

Copies of these articles may be found at www.ruralhome.org and www.ncruralcenter.org



NCRCAP photo

NCRCAP Project Locations



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| 1. Fairview Water Association Water System Upgrade | 10. Franklin Road Sewer Line Extension |
| 2. Ridgedale Capacity Development | 11. Hollister Wastewater Feasibility Study |
| 3. Cranberry Water Association Water System Upgrade | 12. Emorywood Wastewater Feasibility Study |
| 4. Cottonville Water Line Extension | 13. Tuscarora-Rhems Wastewater Feasibility Study |
| 5. Brady's MHP Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance | 14. North River Wastewater Development |
| 6. Safe Housing Initiative | 15. Maple Hill Decentralized Wastewater Study |
| 7. Jackson Hamlet Community Development | |
| 8. Midway Sewer Line Extension | |
| 9. Healthy Homes for All | |