



THE CENTER BUZZ

Volume 1, Issue 1, June 2007

A b o u t N A C C I

The Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives (NACCI) is a non-profit, public charity corporation incorporated in Calhoun County, Alabama. The objectives and purposes of the Corporation are exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

All work done by the NACCI is done **with** the communities in which the work is done. In other words, the Center's work will be community-participatory. All work within each community is done **only after** an assessment of needs has been done with the specific community.

MISSION

The Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives will work with communities in assessment of the communities' needs and, with the communities, work to improve the public health, improve and promote educational opportunities, enhance environmental and community development efforts and, overall, create and sustain a healthy community for the residents of the northeast region of Alabama.

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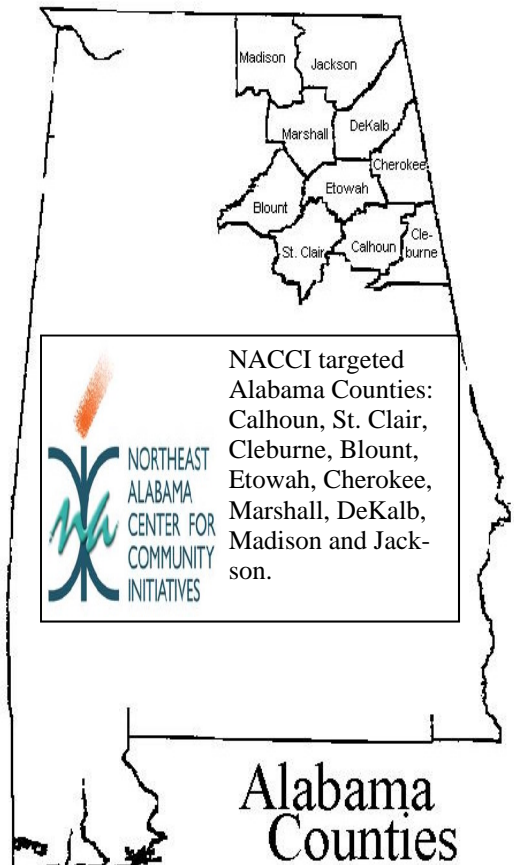
Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives (NACCI)

Purposes/Objectives of the Corporation

- Assisting communities in the analysis of their needs, developing strategies to address these needs and acquiring the resources necessary for implementing these strategies and all other efforts, including research, in the development and sustainment of community capacity as may be determined by the Corporation’s Board of Directors;
- Developing and implementing community-based programming specifically designed to improve the health outcomes of the residents of the target communities;
- Researching, developing and implementing programs to improve air quality, land quality and water quality, including efforts to promote, build and sustain environmental justice components within the communities targeted by the Corporation; and
- Promoting education and increasing awareness of existing educational systems and engaging parents and families through motivational, community-based educational programming.

NACCI *Service Area*

The service area for the NACCI or the “Center” is comprised of the ten (10) northeast counties of Alabama. This area includes Calhoun, St. Clair, Cleburne, Blount, Etowah, Cherokee, Marshall, DeKalb, Madison and Jackson Counties. Through Board members’ respective affiliations, various assessments have been done for Calhoun County, Blount County, St. Clair County, Cleburne County and DeKalb County. As a result, for the first 3-5 years, the majority of the Center’s work will specifically focus on these counties.



Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives (NACCI)

Typical Programs of the Center

The corporation's mission and purposes/objectives direct all activities of the Center. Following assessment of needs, we are developing and implementing projects that impact the health, education, and environment and increase the community capacity of the populations we serve. The **populations** served by our projects will vary depending on the project. For example, some projects will target one county and further target an at-risk population. Some projects will target multiple counties, further target an at-risk population and further target a specific age group.

Health projects include wellness and healthy lifestyle promotion projects, substance abuse prevention and intervention, physical fitness promotion, obesity prevention and intervention, health education and outreach on various health outcomes experienced by the residents of the communities

we serve, projects that include health screenings, and other health projects that aim to reduce adverse health outcomes.

Educational projects include projects that aim to increase parental involvement in school programming/activities, projects that work **with** the school systems in developing and delivering youth skill-building programming and youth character-building programming, and projects that—in collaboration with the school systems—improve the quality of educational programming.

Environmental projects include projects that deliver health education on hazardous materials, projects that aim to improve the land, water and air quality, and projects that develop and deliver environmental justice programming.

Community capacity projects include those projects that are collaboratively developed and implemented and seek to further increase the capacity to serve. These include organizational capacity-building projects. For example, through collaborative relationships, we seek to increase the capacity of organizations that serve at-risk youth and adults.

Contact Information

Mailing Address

Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives
230 East 10th Street
Suite B1 (Basement)
Anniston, Alabama 36207

Phone, FAX, Email, and Web

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Web: www.naCENTERci.org


Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Coalition (SAPAC)

What is a Coalition?

A coalition can be defined as, “An organization of diverse interest groups that combine their human and material resources to effect a specific change the members are unable to bring about independently.”

Effective coalitions work from the premise of “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.”

What is an Anti-Drug Coalition?

 (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) defines a coalition as, “A formal arrangement for collaboration between groups or sectors of a community, in which each group retains its identity but all agree to work together toward a common goal of building a safe, healthy, and drug-free community.”

What is SAPAC?

The Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Coalition (SAPAC) is an anti-drug coalition serving Calhoun County.

SAPAC’s representative membership includes the following population sectors:

- Youth (18 and younger);
- Parents;
- Business community;
- Media;


- School;
- Youth-serving organizations;
- Law enforcement agencies;
- Religious or fraternal organizations;
- Civic and volunteer groups;
- Healthcare professionals;
- State, local, or tribal governmental agencies with expertise in the field of substance abuse; and
- Other agencies involved in reducing substance abuse.

SAPAC has a defined mission (see below) and governing Bylaws by which the coalition functions.


An effective coalition must have the **human and financial** resources to be effective as a change agent. The required **human resources** include community members from

SAPAC

MISSION STATEMENT



Maximize community resources in the areas of service delivery, health education, training and program implementation to reduce substance abuse and improve health among youth and adults in an environment that fosters community collaboration, cultural competency, reduced peer pressure and positive health outcomes.



Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Coalition (SAPAC)

all relevant sectors of the population (see above). These community members must:

- 1) Be able to stay focused on the coalition's goals;
- 2) Persuade and utilize influential community partners;
- 3) Maintain a collaborative process;
- 4) Diversify, motivate and energize the volunteer base;
- 5) Help resolve conflicts;
- 6) Communicate with the community; and
- 7) Cultivate leadership in members, including youth.

nities Support Program grant on behalf of SAPAC which, if funded, will provide seed money to begin to address these two components.

Specifically, for SAPAC, we need resources to fund the management and coordination of all the coalition work components and all related activities. This includes funds for: 1) A grant/program manager to implement the coalition's work components; 2) Comprehensive training for the coalition, including training on cultural competence and relevance; and 3) Assistance in the development of a community-based, participatory evaluation component. The grant also funds direct service providers to deliver specific substance abuse prevention programming to youth living in Calhoun County.

*Effective Change Agent =
Human resources + Financial resources*

Financial resources are required to ensure successful implementation and evaluation of our coalition's strategic plan. Three components of the coalition's require more human than financial capital—the "assessment" component, the "capacity" component and the planning component. However, to be effective in addressing coalition's goals, we must have financial resources to fund the remaining two components of our work—the "implementation" component and the "evaluation" component.

In April 2007, the Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives (NACCI) submitted a **Drug-Free Commu-**

HOW CAN YOU JOIN SAPAC?

SAPAC requires that you submit an application for membership. The application form can be found on NACCI's website at www.naCENTERci.org. Click on the "SAPAC" button, print out the application form (found in the upper left corner) and mail it to the SAPAC Chairperson, Charity Richey-Bentley, at 230 East 10th Street, Suite B1 (Basement), Anniston, Alabama 36207. You can also fax the form to (256) 237-9001.

Once received, the application form will be presented to the entire SAPAC and voted on. We'd love to have you join us in our efforts to reduce substance abuse!



Grants for School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs



Blount County Schools

The Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives is very excited to tell you about a federal grant award we have received to implement **Grants for School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs** for Blount County Schools.

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$600,000 grant to the NACCI to implement the program.

Random drug-testing will be mandatory for those students who are involved in athletics and competitive, extra-curricular activities, and school clubs with competitive components. Random drug-testing will also be available to students who elect to voluntarily participate and who obtain parental consent. Voluntary programs are usually developed by student leadership. For example, students who want to lead by example may decide to develop a drug-free club and as part of the club's membership requirement agree to random drug-testing.

Blount County Schools is comprised of 13 schools. Of these, 6 are schools with grades 7-12. Up to 3,493 students per year will be tested.

The NACCI, Blount County Schools and Blount County community stakeholders worked collaboratively to develop a School-Based Student Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy which the Blount County Schools Board of Education adopted in April 2007.

The Blount County community came together to make this a reality. The Blount

County Schools Superintendent of Education, James E. Carr, worked with NACCI from the beginning as did Karen Calvert, Director of Federal Programs. Each member of the Board of Education worked with the partnership in getting the policy finalized. Other project stakeholders are school principals, school nurses, school social workers, Blount County Coaches Association, school resource officers, school improvement specialists, parents, students, judges, probation officers, Blount County Sheriff's Department, business leaders, and other stakeholders who are interested in reducing substance abuse among youth.

Blount County Schools sees drug abuse among youth as a health issue and is very proactive in developing and implementing prevention efforts. School-based student drug-testing is the strongest prevention technique that we have available to us. Random drug-testing gives students a reason to say "no" to drugs and that is what we want—less students using drugs.

The funding is \$200,000 per year for three years, beginning with 2007. The grant includes funds for a full-time Project Coordinator/Counselor, a subcontract with the testing company and a subcontract with an evaluator.



For more information on *Grants for School-Based Student Drug-Testing Programs*, please call Charity Richey-Bentley at 256-235-5615 or contact her by email at cmrbentley1@bellsouth.net.