



"People Helping People Build Community."

2008-2009
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The Promise of
Community Action

"Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

FIRST STATE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Front Line News

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Summer-Fall 2009



Bernice Edwards

Summer has passed and fall is come and for First State Community Action Agency that means one thing: ANNIVERSARY TIME!! The year 2009 marks the agency's 44th year of service to Delawareans in need. It's a time of great celebration, a time to recognize our loyal staff, sponsors and community partners who make the programs we do possible, and a time to bring awareness to the issues of poverty. It's also a time where we generate support for the agency's ongoing efforts to eliminate and reduce poverty in the State of Delaware. And it's a time to reflect upon our Promise.

First State: Still Keeping Our Promise

Since 1965, First State Community Action Agency has pledged to meet the needs of Delaware's poor by providing programs of relief and hope to communities affected by poverty. We've seen a lot over the last four decades, including the current economic crisis that is sending many new faces to our agency and causing greater demand for services. At the same time, we've seen hard-working families we serve on a regular basis struggle even more as jobs are lost, homes are foreclosed on and health care and energy costs rise. Yet, through it all First State continues to help hundreds of low-income individuals, families and communities every year achieve economic stability and self-sufficiency. I think that's worth celebrating!

This year, we were fortunate to receive Economic Recovery funds to

handle our growing caseloads. We partnered with 39 other social service organizations throughout the state to maximize the reach and impact of those funds. It's all part of keeping our promise. A promise to identify and eliminate the root causes of poverty and help alleviate the impact of poverty on individuals and families wherever and whenever possible.

'Keeping the Promise—Helping People and Changing Lives' is the theme for our Annual Dinner this year. As we look back on the past 44 years, we can see that many things have changed – some for the better, some not. However, one thing will never change and that is our commitment to this promise of helping people and changing the lives of Delawareans in need.

First State Receives Rotary Grant for Youth Programming

First State received \$1500 from the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club to assist with the agency's summer youth programming. The Rotary organization—which is based on service above self—provides monies twice a year to support local organizations helping people in need. First State, was fortunate to be among 3 other organizations to receive an award. "It's a privilege to be selected as second-year recipient," said Bruce Wright, manager of community-

based youth programming at First State. First State announced it will utilize the monies to fund the "Discovering the Dream" program—a one-week entrepreneurial training workshop for youth ages 10 -14. Students learned the basics in creating a business and gained knowledge on how to select and market products to sell, identify target markets, price items, and determine their net profit.

This year made it the fourth year First State has provided this program and the youth were excited! So far over forty (40) youths in Sussex County have benefitted from the program. Students have sold items from handcrafted jewelry pieces, concession foods, and baked goods. "The kids really enjoy going out and making money," said Sandi Hagans, coordinator of the program. "We all benefit from the fruit of their labor."

Executive Director Bernice Edwards comments, "I think it's important that we teach our children the value of entrepreneurship. This program helps those kids with dreams of becoming successful business owners actually achieve their dreams." What an awesome opportunity for our kids.

Special thanks goes to the Rotary organization for their support in making this possible."



2009 Grant recipients and leaders (l-r): Rotary Club President Bill Purnell; Shirley Hickey of U-Count; Aaron Scott, Charles "Buzz" Matthews and Shamireia Sheppard of Georgetown Boys & Girls Club; Bernice Edwards and Bruce Wright of First State Community Action Agency, Kathy Macklin of Alzheimer's Association, and Ray Hopkins Grant Chairman.

First State among others receive Stimulus Awards

39 organizations received extra funds to boost the economy and the poor



Recently, the State of Delaware received \$5 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Stimulus dollars to boost the state's economy and meet the economic and employment needs of Delawareans impacted by the recession. For families struggling all the more to put food on table or to pay their mortgage, these monies will provide much needed assistance and peace of mind.

A 38 year old single mother of two comments. "It's easier to breathe when you don't have to worry about paying the electric bill versus putting gas in the car. *Should I buy groceries for food or pay last month's rent instead?* In my opinion, S-T-I-M-U-L-U-S spells Relief."

The CSBG stimulus monies fall under the umbrella of President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), more popularly known as the Stimulus package which was enacted in February 2009.

By federal law, Community Action Agencies nationally, including First State Community Action Agency, were entrusted with the task of determining what programs will be funded with a portion of the monies. First State's position as the only Community Action Agency in Delaware under the auspices of the law made us the primary beneficiaries of the stimulus dollars. First State was allotted \$4,950,000 dollars of the dollars to disperse and/or use.

"It is our goal to make Delaware a model state for administering the ARRA funds with successful outcomes," said Bernice Edwards, Executive Director.

First State retained \$706,545 (14%) for in-house expansion of its existing the Adult and youth culinary arts training program, food pantry and emergency services as well as the creation of new community-based programs and services. The newly developed programs include three afterschool programs in Kent & Sussex County, a pris-

oner re-entry program and a mortgage/credit counseling program. The remaining CSBG Stimulus dollars were then awarded to other non-profit and faith-based organizations through a one time, competitive grant process.

"This was an enormous task and one we took seriously, Edwards stated. We worked closely with our board members, state government, and community members to determine where the funds will make the most impact."

Last May, First State partnered with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Division of State Service Centers to issue a public announcement of the availability of these funds. A special proposal review committee of ten highly diverse and capable individuals was formed. After days of exhausting deliberations, the committee awarded the remaining \$4,243,455 to thirty nine (39) organizations across the state for the creation and expansion of important programs and much needed services. These projects would help revitalize distressed communities, provide education and positive alternatives to young people, and create jobs for those unemployed and underemployed. Altogether, these stimulus-supported programs would come as a big help to the thousands of individuals and families in Delaware who've lost their jobs during the recession, not to mention, the smaller and oftentimes overlooked communities like Coverdale Crossroads and Capital Green which house some of the state's poorest children.

"These are programs that may help rescue communities and save lives," said Edwards.

Peggy Strine, Board President of First State Community Action Agency also comments. "Although funding for these Stimulus-supported programs is set to only last 12 months, we hope that the impact is ongoing. We hope these dollars help create major progress in the economy while at the same



(L-R) First State Board Vice-Chair Harold Stafford, Executive Director Bernice Edwards and U.S. Senator Tom Carper

time, enrich communities and empower individuals for years thereafter."

First State is grateful to our congressional delegation for recognizing the role that Community Action Agencies play in the communities and for wholly supporting the Stimulus legislation to help Delaware.

ARRA Recipients

Grassroots Initiative

- ◆ Lutheran Community Services
- ◆ Newark Senior Center
- ◆ Limen House, Inc.
- ◆ West End Neighborhood House, Inc.
- ◆ Beautiful Gate Outreach Center
- ◆ The Arc of Delaware
- ◆ West Rehoboth Land Trust
- ◆ The DELAWARE HELPLINE
- ◆ Community Legal Aid
- ◆ Nanticoke Senior Center, Inc.
- ◆ Catholic Charities, Inc.
- ◆ Sussex Child Health Promotion
- ◆ Claymont Community Center
- ◆ CHEER, Inc
- ◆ Brandywine Counseling
- ◆ The Way Home

Youth Development

- ◆ U of D Cooperative Extension (4-H project)
- ◆ Delaware Futures, Inc.
- ◆ Boys & Girls Club/Merit
- ◆ Connecting Generations, Inc
- ◆ West End Neighborhood House, Inc.
- ◆ Serviam Girls Academy

Job Creation

- ◆ Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults
- ◆ West End Neighborhood House, Inc. (Micro Contractor Certification)
- ◆ Latin American Community Center
- ◆ Gateway House, Inc.
- ◆ Neighborhood House, Inc.
- ◆ T.E.A.C.H.—Children and Families First
- ◆ Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing, Inc.
- ◆ Connection Community Support Programs, Inc.
- ◆ Wilmington Hope Commission
- ◆ La Esperanza
- ◆ Delaware Center for Horticulture
- ◆ Goodwill of Delaware and Delaware County (Computer Tech)
- ◆ Hogar Crea International of Delaware
- ◆ The Ministry of Caring
- ◆ Food Bank
- ◆ New Castle County Pride (Library)
- ◆ New Castle County Pride (Job Training)



SUMMER CAMP 2009 -Celebrations & Reflections
A summer to remember...



Georgetown—First State Community Action Agency’s Summer Enrichment Camp hosted its end of summer celebration event on July 30, 2009 at the Georgetown Elementary School. The event recognized 110 of its participants ages 6 – 14 for their participation and achievements throughout the program.

The celebration would turn out to be the first of its kind highlighting the student’s learning and accomplishments with an awards show, art display and star-studded musical performances. One would’ve thought it was the Georgetown Grammys! Happy parents, family members and friends filled the auditorium as nervous and excited kids awaited their cue to enter the stage. It would be the summer camp’s biggest student musical performance ever—a combination of choreographed cultural dances stemming from Africa to Asia and Central America, as well as a heartwarming tribute to the late Michael Jackson, King of Pop. The reenactment of Jackson’s Motown 25th anniversary performance had the crowd on its feet when 13 year old Davon Justice, as if on ice, moon-walked across the stage!

Other highlights of the event included an decorative display of student projects—a Trap Pond art display, an American Flag created by handprints, and a wax figure display that ‘came to life.’

The theme of the event was “We are the World...We are the Future,” a phrase inspired by the 1980’s hit song, *We are the World* co-written and performed by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. The song about world peace was selected to depict the program’s focus on personal growth, diversity, peace and service. For the finale, the children marched around the auditorium with positive messages in hand. One by one they strode to the rhythm of the tune holding high signs that spelled words like *Peace, Respect, Love one Another, and Service*. It was a tear-jerking moment and a perfect close to a wonderful program.

Afterwards, guests were treated to a bountiful potluck lunch of ethnic dishes prepared by students and their parents. Talk about Mmm Mmm Good!

Reflections...

The 5-week summer enrichment program which began June 29th provided local youth of different backgrounds with educational, recreational, social and character building activities. Youth participated in all kinds of fun classes and activities like the Kids USA course (a self esteem workshop), the

12 year-old Kara McKenzie: *My camp experience was the best experience this whole summer. I learned a lot of new things. I learned that you should never underestimate people and I learned that every body is different and no two people are alike. There were some fun things that the camp did. They offered educational activities that challenged our skills. There was Jeopardy, building boats, and cooking with a top chef. That challenged me! I loved all the experiences; there were some that I didn't enjoy as much but I always learned something. On the field trip to Trap Pond it was very hot and I didn't like all the bugs but I learned a lot. I learned it was man made pond and that the lily pads were put into the pond. I made a lot of new friends and learned different cultures and religions. I liked how they opened many ways to learn new stuff but still keep it fun. The summer was great and I'm glad that I got to spend it here with my new friends and the new teacher and helpers. I am very glad I was signed up to be in this camp."*

ALLSTARS program (which focuses on prevention for at-risk youth and character building), Spanish enrichment, a week-long cooking program funded by the Department of Labor, drama and art classes, reading and computer classes, trivia challenges, sports, physical fitness, AND MORE! Talk about a action-packed summer! Weekly field trips were among the favorites of summer activities. Camp participants visited the Naval Academy, Abbott’s Mills, Fort Delaware, Killen’s Pond, Trap Pond and the Delaware State Fair. To be sure students learned while having fun, trips were coupled with educational activities, craft projects, and games before, during and after each trip.

This year’s summer camp was unique in fostering an atmosphere of diversity, cultural awareness and integration—the outcome of a joint merge between two of First State’s community-based programs. Students and staff of La Casita’s Homework assistance program joined forces with students from Richard Allen’s Afterschool program to create one of their most diverse and successful camps yet. Joe McCarron, Program Coordinator of the La Casita Homework program and assistant-coordinator of the camp, comments. “Our goal was to create a program that would not only focus on recreation, education, and personal development, but also have all the benefits of learning and social interaction that diversity yields.”

From the first day of the program to the closing celebration, the camp proved to be a success. Students learned AND had fun doing it. Aptly summed in the words of an 8 year old participant... “Summer camp ROCKED!”

Shannon Bowers, 12 year old: *The First State summer camp was a wonderful experience for me. When I first arrive I thought to myself ‘this is just going to be regular summer camp like all the others.’ However it was educational, experimental, enjoyable, and rewarding. I was impressed by the professionalism of the camp counselors...they were very open, friendly, courteous, and made sure everyone was treated with respect. There was never a moment in which I mentioned being bored. Each day I looked forward to coming to camp. We took on a cooking class for a week. I really enjoyed that we were able to cook different cuisines from all over the world!!!! Other classes I enjoyed were the drama and art class (they were very fun). I am very thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this camp and I look forward to attending next year.*



First State Launches New Waste Water Management Program

First State Community Action Agency is advancing into more communities with its new Waste Water Management Program! The program, funded by Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc provides technical assistance to low-income rural communities and local officials regarding water and wastewater issues.

Some of the program's projects include the National Environmental Services Center (NESC), 'Smart about Water' training, USDA Rural Utilities Service (RCAP/RUS), Technitrain, the U.S. EPA Drinking Water Sustainability Training, and the U.S. EPA Small Community Wastewater Project (SCWP).

First State is providing specialists through its community development department to help improve drinking water protection and wastewater management. Deanna Campagnini, a First State Community Development Specialist will facilitate trainings and communication between the communities, systems, and primary agencies. Together, she and

the community development unit will help communities identify local leadership and provide information to council members about future growth opportunities, budget management, and rate costs as it relates to waste water systems.

Through these efforts, First State will help communities achieve, maintain and/or enhance the quality of their water and wastewater management systems. Technical assistance will be provided to educate and train owners in the monitoring and maintenance of new and existing water systems. First State will also assist communities and residents in identifying available funding and loan programs. First State wants to reach deep in an effort to bridge the gap between water related problems and realistic solutions for low-income communities.



THINKING ABOUT BUYING A HOUSE?



The housing market is not all doom and gloom...

Even with the slump of the current market wonderful opportunities still await you! If you are someone looking to purchase your first home, we can help and now is the time. Fortunately, interest rates are at an all time low and because there are so many homes on the market, your chances of finding a seller who is willing to work with you and meet your price are much greater. If you've been thinking about making the move to a home of your own, attend one of our seminars or call us today. Our trained Housing Counselors will walk you through the process from beginning to end. Let us help you achieve your dream of owning a home!

Call Us Today!!
302-674-1355



Culinary Arts: Cooking Up Hope for a Brighter Future

Many young minority men face tremendous barriers when searching for a good job that will earn enough income to sustain a home and family. Fortunately, some of these men find hope through programs like First State's Adult Culinary Arts Training Program which provides job training to unemployed, underemployed, low-income, disabled and career seeking adults in the field of cooking. For some, the program is a means to an end. But for some others, it's so much more....It's a lifesaver.

The turn of this year marked a major turning point for one of the program's adult students. A Hispanic man, unemployed and desperate to change his life, stepped into the doors of First State's Culinary Arts Training Program. He had struggled with the shame of not being the financial provider he'd once been and often questioned his own self worth and value to his family and society. January 5th, the beginning of the second cycle of

the Adult Culinary Art Training class, opened the door of hope for this young man. Age 46, broken and without hope, Gabriel Torres embarked upon journey that would lead him to self-sufficiency, job security and success. His pathway to success wouldn't come without challenge. He no doubt was tested at every level.

Thankfully, First State's Culinary Arts Instructor, Chef Phillip Harris, was apt to take on the awesome responsibility of restructuring shattered dreams of those enrolled into the program and motivating them to reach their highest potential. Carefully he, along with the job developer and program manager nurtured this young man back to a state of wholeness. Daily Mr. Torres was challenged, encouraged, praised and taught to manage situations that could otherwise cause physical and emotional stress.

The following is a passage taken from a letter written by Mr. Torres on the day of his graduation:

"First of all, I want to start off with recognizing Mrs. Morris and Ms. Patty, two women who displayed nothing but care and concern

toward me and my classmates. Their unwavering dedication to helping me is visibly evident by their actions. I want thank you for your sincerity and I appreciate the opportunity you have afforded me and for believing in me. To Chef Phillip Harris, 'Chef,' you have definitely inspired a positive outlook in my life's daily travel. You have showed me what it means to work hard and strive for excellence. You've instilled in my mind to care for others and that it will come back to full circle (360 degrees). You are a wonderful person and I know that my future is promising due to your teachings."

Today, Mr. Torres is employed for the first time in over a year. He makes over ten dollars an hour and has maintained his job for over 4 months. Through hard work and determination, he has overcome the former barriers that once left him dejected with little hope. Yet today, he has found more reasons to smile. He's constantly growing, reaching more and more milestones in his life. Recently he received a certificate from "ServSafe," the National Restaurant Association Certification. What an amazing turnaround to his story! It just goes to show, anything's possible!



Anna Donaway (left); Patti Miller (right)

Two local seniors were recently honored at an event celebrating Older Workers. Patti Miller and Anna Donaway, both participants of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), received special recognition for their hard work and dedication at the Older Workers Week celebration on Wednesday, September 30th. The event was held at Chandler Heights Community Center in Seaford.

The event commemorated **National Employ Older Workers Week—September 20-26, 2009**—a national effort which recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce and showcases senior employment programs like SCSEP. “It’s time we celebrate and appreci-

SCSEP Celebrating Older Workers!

ate our older workers,” says Roy Hazzard, Program Manager of First State’s SCSEP program. “They’re an important asset to our communities and workforce.”

According to the Department of Labor, older workers are the fastest growing sector of the American workforce. Employers who leverage the skills, work ethic, and maturity of this talent pool will reap big benefits.

SCSEP, a program funded by U.S. Department of Labor and Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, provides employment training and work experience for persons 55 years or older with limited financial resources. The primary goal of program is to transition qualified participants into the unsubsidized workforce where compensation is generally greater. In Delaware the program has trained over 5000 elderly persons since its inception in 1965. In Sussex County, services are administered by First State Community Action Agency.

Hazzard states, “SCSEP provides employers with trained, motivated, older workers who, because of age, demonstrate talent, responsibility, wisdom and experience. Every year we make it our point to recognize these individuals.”

Ms. Anna Donaway received an award as the program’s Oldest Worker. At the age of 83, Ms. Donaway works as a receptionist at the Salvation Army in Seaford DE, Donaway states, “I really love it here. Working

with people to help meet their needs is very rewarding. I can’t thank First State enough for making my experience worthwhile.”

Marion “Patti” Miller was awarded the program’s Most Outstanding Older Worker. Patti has been a part of the senior employment program since 2007 and in the past year has worked as a job developer and information specialist for First State’s Culinary Arts Training Program.

“Patti has an outstanding work ethic and has become an integral part of the success of the program,” says MaryAnn Morris, Program Manager of the Culinary Arts program. “She’s highly skilled, immaculately organized, self motivated and pleasant to work with. She is, no doubt, a wonderful benefit to the program.”

“The dedication and contributions of these ladies far exceeds the expectations and requirements of the employment program,” says Hazzard. “They exemplify commitment and service to persons of all ages.”

Congratulations Ladies on a job well done!

First State Receives Donations from ‘Good Samaritans’



Pictured left to right is First State Executive Director Bernice Edwards, Carolie Collie, Program Manger of First State’s Family Resources Program, and Bev Maddox, Coordinator of Especially For You Organization.

At a time when individual giving seemed to be at its low, First State was blessed to receive a benevolent contribution from good-hearted locals seeking to help others in need. Over ten large bags of men and women’s professional clothing and forty bags of toiletry items were delivered to the agency one autumn morning.

Bags filled with men’s suits and shirts, dressy garments for the ladies and shoes were given to First State’s thrift shop, fitly coined the *Career Closet*, which provides affordable and professional attire for individuals. The clothes were collected as part of the annual fall donation drive organized by *Especially For You*—a volunteer charitable ministry established by the Sound and Roxana United Methodist Churches. *Especially For You* collects donations—ranging from food, furniture, clothes and transportation—and then gives them to individuals and organizations like First State and the Crisis House shelter. In the past seven years, *Especially For You* has donated more than 21,000 items to individuals, organizations, and shelters. Coordinator Bev Maddox, dropped off the donations.

The clothes came from *Deja Vu a Consignment Boutique* located in Ocean View, DE. For the last 4 months, First State’s *Career Closet* has benefitted from donations by this boutique.

In addition to clothing items, the agency also received toiletry bags donated by the Bingo Group at Treasure Beach RV Park. Items like toothpaste, deodorant and lotion were donated to benefit incarcerated mothers in First State’s *Mothers and Children: A Second Chance* program.

Executive Director Bernice Edwards comments. “We’re so appreciative to these organizations for their generous contributions. It couldn’t have come at a better time.”

She adds, “it’s the simple acts of kindness like these that often makes the greatest difference in someone’s life.”



Employee Corner

Look Who's New to First State!



Ms. Shelly Jackson

Senior Companions Coordinator

Ms. Jackson is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the recruitment, placement, and sustainability activities of senior volunteers in the Senior Companions Program.



Ms. Kaneisha Trott

Communications & Public Relations Specialist

Ms. Trott was first introduced to First State as a public ally-intern working in public relations. Now full-time, she is responsible for the internal and external communications/promotions of the agency.



Ms. Denna Campagnini

Technical Assistance Specialist

Deanna is working as a liaison between communities, agencies, private organizations and municipalities in efforts to address water related issues and improve quality of life for community residents.

ARRA Workers



Ms. Karen Garrett

Culinary Arts Job Developer

As a Job Developer, Ms. Garrett works with prospective employers to provide internships for students enrolled in the Adult Culinary Arts Training Program.

Ms. Christine Esposito

SCSEP Job Developer

Ms. Esposito is responsible for the recruitment, training and job development of older workers in the Senior Employment Program.



Mr. Wade Jones

Family Resource Coordinator

Mr. Wade Jones joins the First State Family as a coordinator for incarcerated men and women in the "Second Chance" re-entry program.



Ms. Josephine Stevenson-Seals & Ms. Charli Tabler

ARRA Grant Monitors

Ms. Jo and Charli are responsible for monitoring the 40 American Recovery Reinvestment Act (Stimulus) project grants throughout the State of Delaware.



First State Making a Difference in New Ways!

First State is ever busy making a difference in people's lives in many ways. Whether it's the development of a new program or humanitarian acts of kindness, First State continues to express our care for the communities and the needs that matter most to them.

Equipping Youth for Success: Afterschool Program gives away Free School Supplies

Monday August 24, 2009- Smiling children entered the room to select their choice of brand new school supplies they would receive for FREE as part of La Casita's School Supply giveaway. La Casita gave away over 50 pounds of supplies and instruments. Spiral notebooks, book bags, folders, pencils and crayons were just some of the supplies given to elementary, middle, and high school students. Over sixty-nine (69) local Hispanic youth grades K-12 received the essentials for the upcoming school year.

This is just one way First State shows we care about children's education and success. Special thanks goes to Tunnell & Razor Law Offices and Wilmington Trust bank (book bags) for their donations of money and school supplies.



First State Gives First Aid

August 7—AframFestival. It was a hot Friday afternoon and the First State volunteer team had just finished setting up their display table for the AFRAM festival. It wasn't long after we unpacked the boxes of new promotional items—custom made pens with highlighters and agency grafted first-aid kits—that First State's act of service would appear. It seemed to have occurred quicker than one could shout "Help!"—a young teenage boy happily riding his friend's bike suddenly falls onto the ground just inches from our table. The result was a 3 inch bloody cut on his left leg courtesy of a popped chain.

Was this an Accident on Purpose? A twisted Coincidence? Fortunately for the young teen, we had everything we needed, not to mention a trained medical assistant able to tend to his wounds. Thanks to those handy dandy first aid kits and some TLC (Tender-Loving-Care) provided by First State staff, he was fixed up in a matter of minutes and well on his way!

I guess there was a reason for ordering those kits after all...



Whether it's supplying free school supplies for eager-to-learn youths or first aid kits that provide emergency care for the injured, First State is finding many ways, big and small, to provide assistance to others.



Is your Home Energy Efficient???

Ever sit by the window and feel a cold draft come in? If so, then chances are your house needs to be weatherized.

Weatherization helps protect your house and you from harsh elements: freezing winter weather, hot summer temperatures, heavy rains and snow. Having an energy efficient home through weatherization will keep your house warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It can also dramatically lower your monthly energy bills!!

Why wait! Call us today to see if you qualify for some necessary home improvement. Call 302-856-7761 ext 149 for more information.

First State Community Action Agency is always promoting and encouraging new partnerships through the state of Delaware. We believe that together we can make a difference, one person, one community at a time. For more information on how to become a partner, call today at (302) 856-7611 ext. 102.



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We're on the Web!
www.firststatecaa.org



First State Community Action Agency is an affiliate member of the United Way. Our Partner Agency Code is **9147**

People Helping People Build Community.

Upcoming Programs & Events



It's Almost That Time Again!

Tax Season is just around the corner and First State's Tax Team is busy sharpening their skills and their pencils in preparation. Last year, our team helped 740 individuals prepare and submit their taxes. Over 100 families qualified for Earned Income Tax Credit refunds. Be sure to visit one of our tax

sites and let us help you get the refund you deserve!

Stay tuned to find out where we'll be hosting a site near you
or Call us at 1-800-372-2240.