

**CSBG FINAL PROGRAM REPORT DUE OCTOBER 29TH EACH YEAR  
MUST BE COMPLETED AND ACCOMPANIED WITH:  
NATIONAL INDICATORS FORMS, SECTIONS E, F, AND G.**

Name of Agency: Boulder County Community Action Programs Period Ended: October 29, 2010

NATIONAL INDICATOR: Employment and Income Management

This must match with the one identified in  
the application and plan.

Program: Generating Opportunities – Getting Ahead

Actual Amount of the CSBG spent: \$ 570,045

Name & Title of Person Filling this Report:

Janet Heimer, Director

Address: BOX 471, Boulder, CO 80306

3/441-3972 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Director's Name and Title: Janet Heimer, Director

**Please remember that the answers to these questions must relate to your original application.**

1. What **services** did you provide your clients? List all that applies.

There have been **14 Getting Ahead groups** put on by Boulder Housing Partners, the YWCA, Boulder County Housing and Human Services, Sister Carmen Center, Habitat for Humanity, Center for People with Disabilities, OUR Center and Workforce Boulder County. There is a range of 8 to 12 participants per group. The dropout rate for this program is very low. It is approximately 10%.

There have been **140 participants who have graduated from Getting Ahead**. We began with 155.

Participants in the Getting Ahead groups are very satisfied with the Getting Ahead curriculum. There have been a number of positive comments by participants. One person said they had been in a number of different groups in the past and none of them were as good as Getting Ahead. Another person talked about how GA made her look at her own beliefs and how they were affecting her life. She decided she was going to be much more positive about her life starting now.

Getting Ahead participants have developed personal plans for how they are going to become self-sufficient. They are very excited about the Circles Campaign as it provides volunteer allies to support the GA grads in keeping on track with their plan.

All Getting Ahead participants met with the Employment Specialists to talk about their goals and assess their skills. Job readiness was one of the skills provided to GA participants. This includes but not limited to resume writing, interview skills and work expectations. As stated previously, 31 participants were placed in subsidized employment.

We have **17 Personal Investment Enterprise** (IDA or matched savings acct.) participants. One person wants to start a small business; five people want to buy a house and the rest of going back to school. One of the PIE Coordinators' hours was increased with the ARRA funds. She will continue to be employed through the county.

A Circles Coordinator was hired full time to oversee the program. That person has been kept as a county employee with the County Commissioners paying the salary. The Circles Campaign is in place and we have a group going in Longmont. We will be implementing a group in Lafayette and then roll it out in the city of Boulder. Approximately **30 volunteers have been trained in being Allies** to what is called Circle Leaders. Circle Leaders are Getting Ahead graduates. The goal of the Circles Campaign is to support Circle Leaders in staying on track with their plan/goal they developed in Getting Ahead. Each Circle Leader is matched with 2- 3 volunteer allies. Allies meet with Circle Leaders a minimum of twice monthly. Allies provide life skills coaching to leaders.

2. What was the **outcome** for the client as a result of the service? Did they become more self-sufficient? Are they moving out of poverty?

There are eight (8) organizations providing Getting Ahead. The Guiding Coalition, the Advisory Board to Circles, representation from the cities of Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, the faith community, Sister Carmen Center, community members and low –income Getting Ahead graduates. We are proud of the representation of the Guiding Coalition. We started with **155 GA participants and have ended with 140**. These Getting Ahead grads gained job readiness skills, self-confidence and a plan to become self-sufficient. 29% of them found jobs on their own while they were in the GA workshops.

**Thirty-one (31) subsidized employment opportunities** were created with ARRA funds through Workforce Boulder County. There were a few of these jobs that weren't full time. So the FTE count is 29.1. At least 7 people were offered permanent jobs from their intern employers.

There are **40 people who found a job on their own** while they were involved in Getting Ahead.

As stated above, there are **17 participants in the matched savings account program**, Personal Investment Enterprise (IDA). One person is starting a small business; five people want to buy a house and the rest are going back to school. These 17 participants have assets now that will allow them to become self-sufficient.

Staff attended a five-day training to become an official Circles site. We receive national consulting from Move the Mountain who is the holder of the trade marked Circles. We have a **Guiding Coalition of 15 people representing agencies, faith community, business and low income Getting Ahead graduates**. We interviewed 12 Longmont Getting Ahead graduates, and 7 of them are participating in the Circles Campaign as Circle Leaders. There are 12 GA grads in Lafayette and 12 GA grads in Boulder. As mentioned above, each of these Circle Leaders will be

matched up with 2 to 4 allies. We provided food, childcare, and Allies (volunteers) who have made an 18- month commitment to working with Circles Leaders to help them sustainably move out of poverty. We provided participants/Leaders with programming that enabled them to acquire free transportation passes, a computer, computer program orientation, math tutoring, as well as information and contact with a variety of non-profits in the community who provide needed services.

**All 28 Getting Ahead participants who worked with Habitat are guaranteed homes.**

Provide one example of the impact of services provided. Give an overall picture, the struggles/accomplishments, partnerships, other resources utilized and how this made an impact to the intended recipient(s). Use additional paper.

We thought one of the non-profits, Sister Carmen Center, was going to take the lead on Circles. However, they have decided not to and the County Commissioners have decided to have CAP be the lead agency and supervise and house the Circles Coordinator. We did not anticipate having to do this but are happy to be the lead. Because most of the non-profits are focused in one city and not the whole county, it makes sense to have a countywide organization oversee the project.

One of the Circles Leaders who obtained a computer through the program and received computer orientation, has been able to access services on the internet for transportation and has been able to communicate with case workers and other services providers. **The Low-income Transportation Program presented to the Longmont Circles and all 7 Circle Leaders received bus passes.** Because of access to bus passes, two program participants have been able to obtain jobs and are able to get to the store to buy food for their families, which was much more difficult to depend on with transportation available. By providing dinner and childcare, participants are able to attend Circles with almost no absences.

**One single mom of 4 children came into the program homeless and has been accepted into the Habitat program and will be getting a home in the spring. She is very thrilled!** In addition, she is going to be pursuing her college degree.