**Northeast North Carolina Regional Committee**

**to End Homelessness**

**P.O. Box**

**Elizabeth City, NC 27909**

October \_\_\_, 2014

Dear (commissioner, member of city council, etc.)

The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed of our activities relative to homelessness and to share with you how with your help we as a community can best serve the 501(c)(3) organizations in your county/city to access HUD monies that have been allocated for your county/city.

The Northeast North Carolina Regional Committee to End Homelessness (NENCRCEH) represents eight counties in eastern North Carolina. The regional committees across the state form the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness. The North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness is the organization contracted by the State of North Carolina Health and Human Services to assist the regions in applying for allocated Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds awarded annually to all fifty states.

The eight counties that the Northeast Regional Committee serves are Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank and Perquimans and their respective cities.

A portion of these funds are available for use in your county/city providing that the necessary HUD criteria is met. The purpose of the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness is to help the regional committees prepare and meet the criteria established by HUD. The funds are awarded based upon the regional data of the homeless population in each county/city and the specific need of the organization requesting the funds. Organizations cannot submit grant proposals and request funding unless they are currently an active 501(c)(3), define in detail the specific need and how it meets the needs of the homeless population in the county/city it serves.

Being residents and serving the needs of the homeless in rural eastern North Carolina we recognize that the definition of homeless is uniquely different than that of the large counties/cities.

The definition for homelessness adopted by the Northeast North Carolina Regional Committee is:

*“A homeless individual or family is defined as a person(s) being without permanent housing and someone who may be living on the streets; staying in a public or private shelter, single room occupancy facilities, motels, abandoned buildings or vehicles; or in any other unstable or non-permanent situation; an individual or family who is a resident in transitional housing for homeless persons.*

*An individual or family may be considered to be homeless if they are “doubled up”, and forced to stay with a series of friends and/or extended family members.”*

In order for the 501(c)(3) organizations to access the HUD funds to provide their services we first must realistically determine what the potential homeless population is in each county/city. The Northeast Regional Committee has developed a survey to be used to interview homeless individuals/families to determine the number of homeless in each county/city and what services are needed to assist them. We are contacting every 501(c)(3) in each county/city and asking them to conduct the surveys. All volunteers administering the surveys must attend a training session on how to utilize the survey documents and conduct a proper survey. All of the data gathered will then be evaluated by the Northeast Regional Committee to determine the numbers of homeless in each county/city and the services needed. From this information the various organizations can realistically submit grant proposals asking for funds to assist them in providing the services necessary to work with the homeless population in each respective area.

We are asking for your support in this endeavor by encouraging the organizations in your county/city who serve the needs of your homeless population to work with the Northeast Regional Committee to help find the funds to provide the services needed by your homeless residents.

The Northeast Regional Committee will share with each county/city we serve the information that is gleaned from the surveys for your use within your county/city.

Sincerely,

Kelly Lacy

Chair

Northeast North Carolina Regional Committee to End Homelessness