

Practitioner Roundtable:

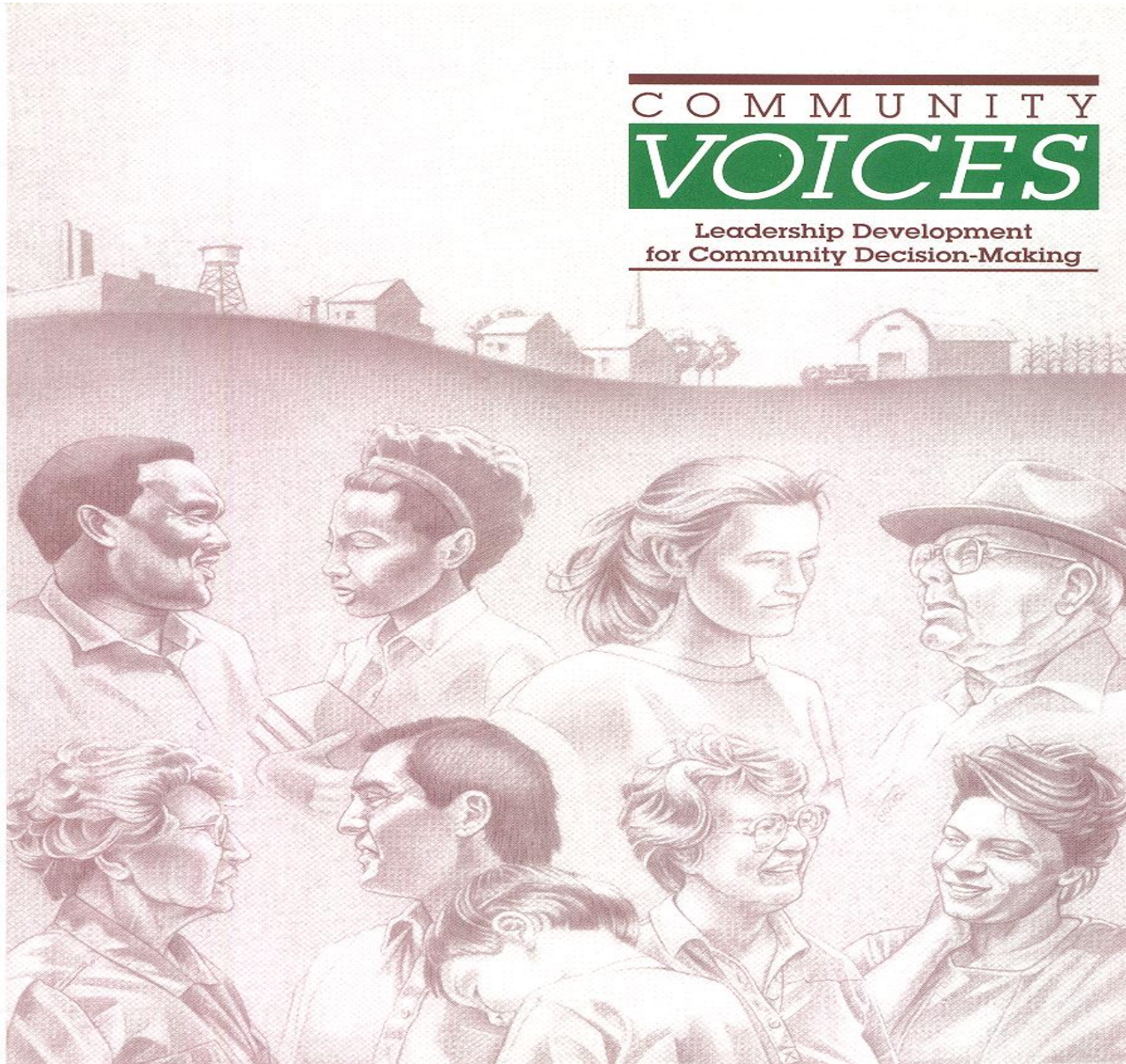
*Sample Approaches to Working
Limited-Resource Communities at
the Grassroots Level*

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COMMUNITY
VOICES

Leadership Development
for Community Decision-Making



Community Voices Program:

Leadership Development for Community Decision-Making

- ▶ Two goals of this program include:
 - To establish new groups of leaders (existing and emerging leaders)
 - To develop a shared group leadership process
- ▶ All levels of the training are based on participatory approach
- ▶ The program has 15 sessions, which are divided into four units
- ▶ Implementation Requirements
 - Training: Approximately six months
 - Individuals are taught how to co-facilitate the training curriculum
 - Staff members are involved directly with the planning and implementation

Voices Reaching Visions

Creating Strong Organizations
to Enhance Communities

Participatory Training Guides for Community Co-facilitators

**Part 1: Assessing Your Organization's
Structure and Mission**

**Part 2: Refining Your Organization's
Visions and Goals**

**Part 3: Planning for Community and
Economic Development**

**Part 4: Securing Funds for Your
Organization**

**Part 5: Developing Working
Relationships with Community
Assets**

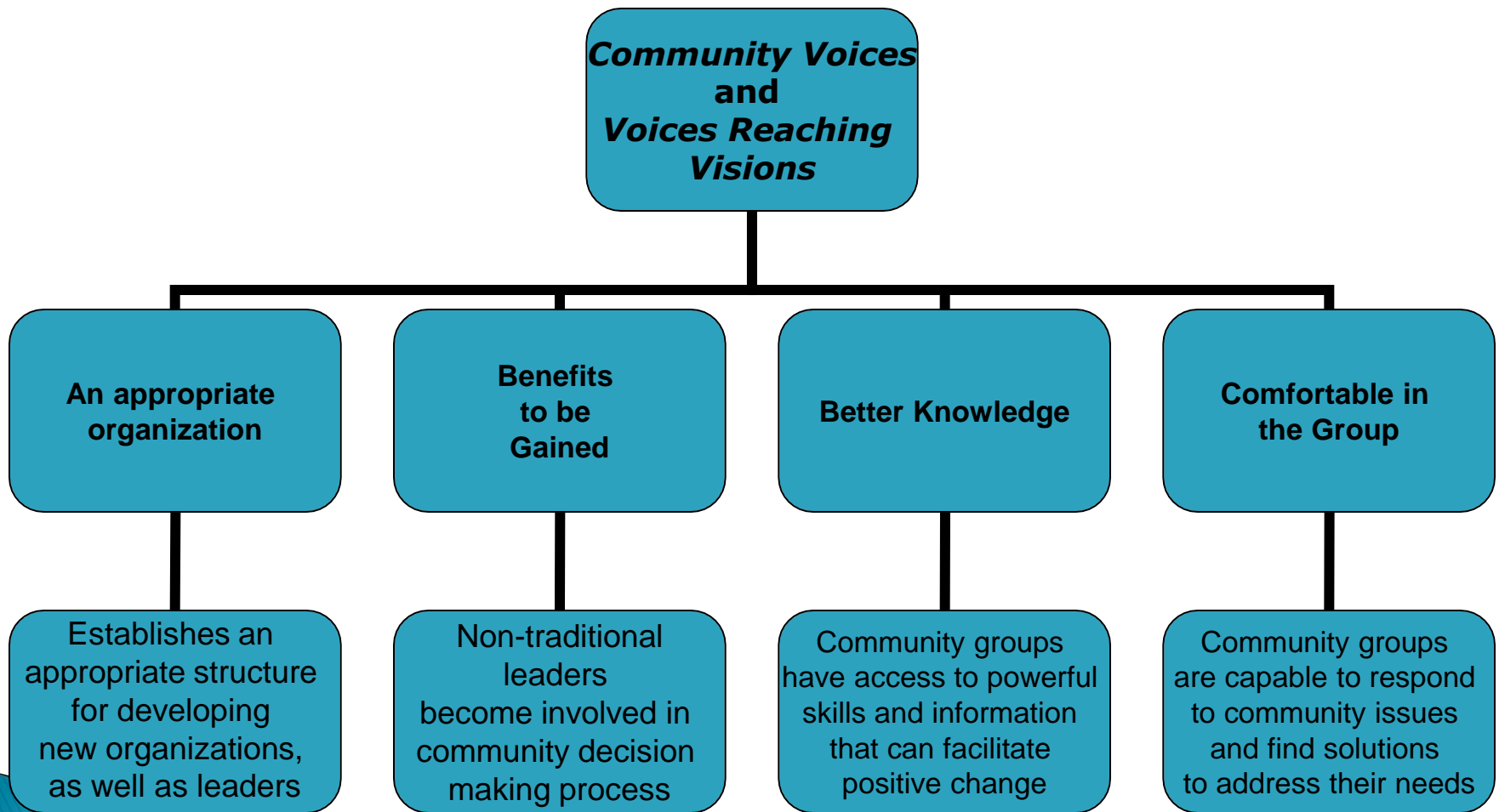
**Program sponsored by:
Cooperative Extension Program,
N. C. A&T State University**

Voices Reaching Visions:

Creating Strong Organizations to Enhance Communities

- ▶ Builds on the philosophy that “effective organizations need the voices of leaders to be heard in order to build strong communities”
- ▶ The training curriculum builds on the skills taught in *Community Voices*
- ▶ The program assumes that participants know their communities well and that they have many of the skills to work together
- ▶ The training curriculum contains five manuals. Time needed to implement the program will vary, depending on the needs of the group

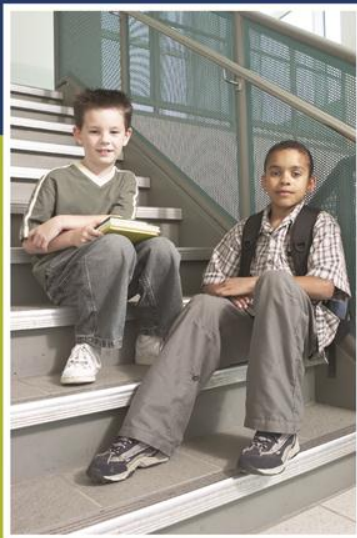
Building Positive Outcomes for Community Involvement

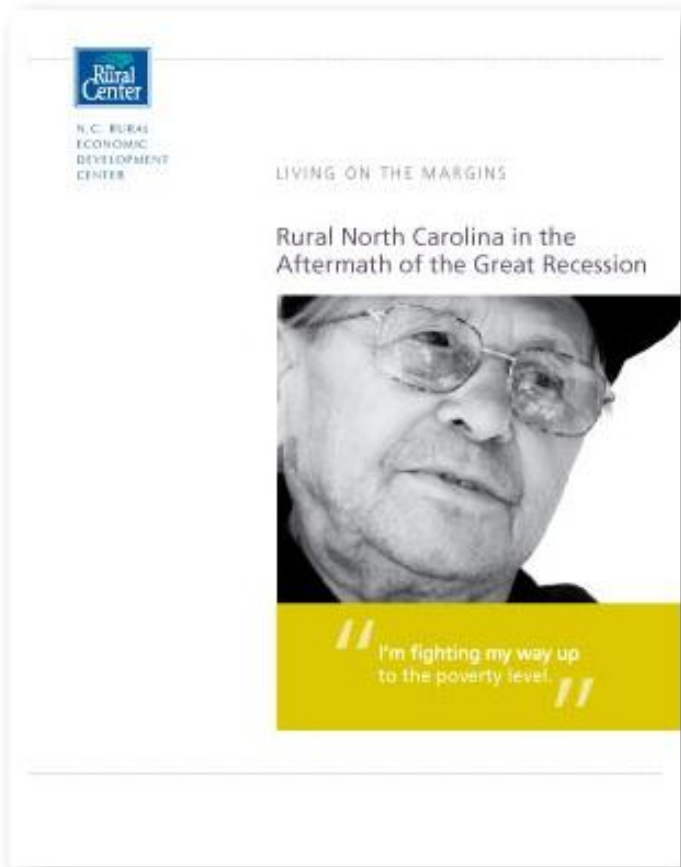




■ Turning the Tide on Poverty:

Creating Vibrant Communities Together





Living on the Margins series produced by NC Rural Economic Development Center

- *Rural North Carolina in the Aftermath of the Great Recession* (2011). This report highlights compelling data on the challenges for those living in poverty and near-poverty, including long-term trends and the effects of the recession.
- *Asset-Building Strategies for Low-Income Families* (2011) -- highlights more than 30 projects with potential for implementation in rural communities.
- *Guidebook for Connecting Individuals to Opportunity* (2011). This workbook guides community groups seeking to connect low-income individuals with economic development opportunities.
- Look under publications (under information tool at www.ncruralcenter.org)

Necessary Conditions for Community Involvement

▶ An Appropriate Organization

- Is there a group for a citizen to join and become involved in the decision making process?
- What organizational structures are in place for citizen participation?

▶ Benefits to Be Gained

- What will people get by participating in the program?
- People must view an activity, a proposed change, or an issue as beneficial

▶ Obligation/Commitment

- Citizens frequently participate because they feel an obligation/commitment to respond to an issue
- Example: Inviting people to serve on the specialized committees and strategic planning councils

▶ Better Knowledge

- People are reluctant to participate in a community activity when they do not have enough to act responsibly

▶ Comfortable in the Group

- What are some invisible blocks that make potential participants uncomfortable?

Questions?