

By John Marek, Anson EDP Director: Over the past few weeks there has been some healthy discussion about what organizations like AnsonEDP do to assist small businesses. The simple answer is A LOT, but I thought this might be a good opportunity to review some of the specific programs we offer to new and "emerging" businesses and to solicit feedback on new programs we could offer in 2019 to jump start new businesses.

Grants In June, AnsonEDP announced the creation of the Bootstrap and Enterprise grant programs. The Bootstrap grant offers to make the first three payments, up to a total of \$2,500, on loans which Anson-based start-ups secure through the Rural Center's Thread Capital program; a state initiative which itself helps to break down the barriers preventing new business owners from acquiring the capital they need to launch their businesses.

The Enterprise grant similarly matches 10% of the Thread Capital loan, up to \$5,000 for enterprises that have been in business for more than 2 years and are looking to expand. Unlike many grant programs for small business, AnsonEDP has specifically made this program easy to use. The online application can be filled out in a matter of minutes and approval of the grant is generally made within a week or two of completing the Thread Capital loan process. There are no strings attached. This is free money which AnsonEDP offers to small businesses.

Building Lease and Acquisition We sometimes hear that building owners can be difficult to work with or not willing to rent space at a reasonable rate. While some owners may be reluctant to rent space for a variety of reasons, and that's their prerogative, I have spoken with multiple building owners over the past few months, and they have been THRILLED to learn that there was an interest in someone renting space from them. The rents seemed to be reasonable and in some cases the owners were even willing to work with the business to offer decreased rates for the first three or six months. The inventory of available space may not be vast, but there are certainly willing landlords in both the Uptown and 74 Strip areas and we are happy to work with small businesses to facilitate finding a space that works at a price that makes sense for both parties.

Cutting The "Red Tape" One of the most common criticisms of our business environment is that the county and/or the town doesn't want new business, so they make it difficult to start one. There will always be a perception that government entities are anti-business because those entities are required to enforce the rules regarding where and how businesses operate. Zoning, where applicable, is in place to prevent businesses from locating in areas which are not appropriate for them, and while that can sometimes seem like an unnecessary restriction. I think we can all agree that certain types of businesses should be kept a reasonable distance from schools and churches. Everyone is a fan of laissez faire government until someone wants to build a chicken house on the lot next door.

Similarly, code ordinances, which I will be the first to admit can sometimes border on overkill, are in place to protect the public safety. The purpose of these laws isn't to prevent businesses from starting, it's to prevent bad things from happening in those businesses.

Economic developers are specially trained to assist businesses in working their way through the sometimes labyrinthine process of zoning changes and code enforcement. We cannot always get the outcome the business wants but if anyone can, it's us. And, yes, it can be a lengthy process. A zoning change or special permit simply cannot be done overnight. Not in Anson County. Not in Mecklenburg County. Nowhere.

Training and Collaboration Finally, AnsonEDP, in partnership with the Anson Chamber, South Piedmont Community College and Uptown Wadesboro, offer a wide variety of FREE classes for small businesses on topics ranging from social media marketing to bookkeeping. We also offer CoWorking Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for small business people and people considering starting a business to work together in a relaxed, collaborative environment, make some new contacts and even make a few free copies.

Okay, so what else should AnsonEDP be doing to promote small business in Anson County? We would genuinely like to hear your ideas, but please be realistic. It would be great if we could give every entrepreneur \$100,000 in seed money or instantly make all onerous regulations go away, but we don't have the budget or the authority to do either.

Anson County 12 Step Recovery Meeting Schedules

The Anson County 12 Step Recovery meeting schedule will be having a few schedule changes as of January 8.

- Saturday Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting format will change
- Chemically Dependent Anonymous (CDA) will change days
- The Anson Al-Anon Family Groups, a group for family and friends of alcoholics and the addicted, will restart

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

The Anson Alcoholics Anonymous group meets on the following schedule:

- Mondays at 8 p.m. for an Open Discussion Meeting. Except every 1st Monday is an Open Speaker Meeting.
- Thursdays at 8 p.m. for an Open Discussion Meeting.
- Saturdays at 9 a.m. for an Open Discussion Meeting.

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is non-professional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

Chemically Dependent Anonymous (CDA)

- The We Ain't Saint's CDA Group Meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for an Open Discussion Meeting. (As of January 8.)

Chemically Dependent Anonymous is a 12-step fellowship for anyone seeking freedom from drug and alcohol addiction. We of CDA do not make distinctions in the recovery process based on any particular substance. The basis of our program is abstinence from all mood-changing and mind-altering chemicals, including street-type drugs, alcohol and unnecessary medication.

The primary purpose of CDA as a whole is to remain clean and to help others like us gain recovery. By sharing our Experience, Strength, and Hope with each other, we solve our common problem and help others recover from chemical dependence which has made our lives unmanageable.

CDA is not affiliated with any political, religious, or commercial organizations or institutions. CDA remains grateful to the co-founders and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous for the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions which are the basis of our program.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

- The Surrendering For Survival NA Group meets on Fridays at 8 p.m. for an Open Discussion Meeting.

NA is a nonprofit fellowship or society of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. This is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs.

Al-Anon Family Groups

- The Anson Al-Anon Family Group meets on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for an Open Discussion Meeting. (As of January 8.)

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.

Al-Anon is not allied with any sect, denomination, political entity, organization or institution; does not engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause. There are no dues for membership. Al-Anon is self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions.

Al-Anon has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps, by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and by giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic.

All Meetings are located at the Anson County AA Building, located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro. All Meetings are non-smoking and handicap accessible!

The disease of alcoholism and addiction does not discriminate! It affects people and family members of all ages and backgrounds! You are never too young, nor too old to be affected! If you need help or if you are just curious what AA, Al-Anon, CDA or NA is all about, please feel free to attend any of the meetings listed above.

North Carolina's Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. Families must meet all of the following:

- 1) an income test,
- 2) be responsible for its heating bills and
- 3) include a US citizen or an eligible alien.

To apply for the program the following information is needed: name, date of birth, and social security numbers for each household member; household's income; savings and checking accounts; and property, stocks, bonds, and other assets.

Applications for a household member age 60 and above or disabled person receiving a service through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) began December 1. All other households may apply beginning January 1. Applications are available at the Grace Senior Center, Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center, and Polkton and Morven meal sites. Also applications can be accessed through dhhs.gov. It is important to have a valid phone number and signature on the application.

This program will end March 31, unless funds are exhausted. For more information contact Anson County Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

Church News

JANUARY 20

Healthy Cooking Class

at Pathway to Peace Ministries, 3-5pm

ONGOING

Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy

Bible Study

Wednesdays, at Henderson Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 6:30pm

Prayer Service

Intercessory Prayer at Voice of Evangelism Church every Sat 9am & Sun 8am

Schedule

At New Hope Methodist Church, Hwy 742 South. Preaching 1st & 3rd Sun, 9:45am. Sun School 1st & 3rd Sun, 10:45am - 2nd & 4th Sun, 9:45am

Come Worship With Us

At New Life Church, 600 Camden Road in Wadesboro w/Pastor Chris Jackson. Sun-10:30am & Wed-6:30pm

Bible Study

At Voice of Evangelism Church every Wednesday & Friday at 7:30pm

Prayer Meeting / Bible Study

Wednesdays, at Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 6:30pm

Bible Study/Prayer

Every 3rd Saturday at noon, Faith Believers of Deliverance Holiness Church, 215 Brown Creek Rd, Wadesboro

Bible Study & Prayer

At Savannah AME Zion Tuesdays at noon & 6pm. The public is invited

Live on the Radio

Min Gregory Williams on WADE 1340AM every 1st & 3rd Saturday, 2pm

Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 6pm at Flakes Chapel MBC. Everyone is invited

Bible Study

Hour of Power at Ebenezer MBC Wednesdays at 7pm

Bible Class

Tuesday nights at Lakeside Holiness Church, 6:30-7:30pm, activities for children

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Bible Study
At Parsons Grove MBC Tue at 6:30pm
Service at Anson Health & Rehab by Cedar Creek MBC every third Monday, 7-7:30pm
Noon Prayer
At Greater St. Mark COD, noon on Tuesdays

Community Prayer
Held on Anson High School campus each Sunday at 4pm
Community Prayer
1st Monday each month, 5:15pm at Hatcher Park in Lilesville, Square in Wadesboro, Polkton & Ansonville, Town Hall in Morven

Events

JANUARY 2

Free Groceries

For families in need. Mobile Food Pantry at Austin Grove Baptist Church, located at 5919 Austin Grove Road in Marshville. Register 8:30am. Call for details 704-694-2445

ONGOING EVENTS

Regular Monthly Meeting

of Wadesboro Housing Authority 2nd Tuesday each month at 12noon at Papa Joes

Anson County Board of Commissioners

Monthly Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm in Board Rm (Suite 209) of Government Bldg, 101 S. Greene St in Wadesboro. Info 704-994-3201

After School Program

Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at Papa Joes Restaurant the 2nd & 4th Thursday each month at 6:30pm

For more info or to purchase a broom please call Jim Chandler 910-571-1448

Childcare Association

Meets every 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30pm. Info 704-695-1666

Ansonville Museum

Ansonville Historical Society Museum open by appointment. Call 704-826-8129

Free Movies

4th Monday of the month at Hampton B. Allen Library, 10am. Info 704-694-5177

Afternoon Out

For ladies & gentlemen at Grace Senior Center each Monday from 2-4pm. Enjoy bingo & activities led by someone from the center. Register & info 704-694-6616

Children's Group Meets

Every Thursday at Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, 5-6pm to discuss how to keep you & your children safe 704-694-4499

MoMs Meeting

Support group for mothers of multiples, third Tuesdays, 6:30pm, Lockhart-Taylor Center, 704-695-1031

Family Caregiver Support Group

First Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Peachland United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, anyone concerned with Alzheimer's disease invited

Lillie Belles Red Hat Society

Meeting, third Tuesdays, 2:30pm, At Lillie Bennett Nursing Center, all Red Hatters invited

Storytime

Tuesdays, Hampton B. Allen Library, 10am

50+ Club

At Hampton B. Allen Library, second Mondays, Pritchett Room, 10:30am, wheelchair accessible

Cub Scouts Pack #530

Meets each Thursday at Peachland UMC at 7pm. Info 704-994-9173

Bariatric Pal Support

Group meets the 4th Monday of each month at CHS-Anson, 6pm. Info 704-475-3024

Anson is Among Counties Able to Provide Temporary Jobs for Hurricane Florence Recovery

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded an \$18.5 million Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant to help the state with Hurricane Florence response in late September. The North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Workforce Solutions requested the grant.

Counties declared eligible for this type of assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are: Anson, Alamance, Guilford, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rowan and Tyrrell, Alleghany, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Carteret, Chatham, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Dare, Davidson, Duplin, Granville, Greene, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pender, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Union, Wayne, Wilson and Yancey.

"Hurricane Florence caused damage in many different parts of North Carolina, from the mountains to the coast, and it's important that we continue to help those communities hire workers to clean up, rebuild and assist their neighbors," Secretary Copeland said.

Through the federal grant, residents of eligible counties are employed in jobs that support either clean-up and recovery from the storm's devastation or humanitarian assistance to residents of the affected areas. Supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Dislocated Worker Grants fund temporary jobs in response to large, unexpected events that cause significant job losses.

Nonprofits and government agencies can employ participants in this program for up to 12 months. Worksites must generally be on either public property or land owned by not-for-profit agencies.

Workers may be eligible for jobs under the grant if they have been temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the hurricane, or if they meet certain other criteria.

To apply for the Hurricane Florence temporary employment program, residents should visit their local NCWorks Career Center, which can be found by visiting www.ncworks.gov.