The FASS teams in the three counties have met almost weekly during the quarter from April 1 through June 30, 2000, enrolling 27 families (85 individuals). Twenty percent (20%) of FASS funds were expended. Representatives from the following agencies serve on the Bladen County FASS team: Employment Security Commission, Bladen County Department of Social Services, Support Our Students (SOS), Bladen Family Support Initiative, and Four-County Community Services. Representatives from the following agencies serve on the Columbus County FASS team: Employment Security Commission, Columbus County Department of Social Services, Family Champions, Telamon Corporation, Southeastern Community College Ladder for Success, and Four-County Community Services, Inc. Representatives from the following agencies serve on the Scotland County FASS team: Scotland County Department of Social Services, Laurinburg Housing Authority’s Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Scotland County Probation Office, Sandhills Mediation Center, and Four-County Community Services.

During this quarter, FASS enrolled 27 families (85 individuals): 11 families (38 individuals) in Bladen County, 5 families (14 individuals) in Columbus County, and 11 families (35 individuals) in Scotland County.

Of the 11 Bladen FASS participant families, one got a job but lost it and is currently looking for another, 2 have been removed from the project for refusal to cooperate, 2 are at risk of removal for failure to cooperate, 6 are on target. Of the 6 on target, 5 are now working, 6 are in standard housing, and 1 has gotten a GED and 1 is still working toward a GED. Of the 6 on target families, despite cooperating with the program and being roughly on target, she is still very much at risk because of domestic violence in her home. The level of fear is so great that all efforts at intervention have failed to help the client and her children make the move out of the very abusive relationship. FASS is continuing to work with this family with the hope that having outside support will eventually help this client break away.

Of the 5 Columbus FASS participant families, 4 are on target all of whom have gotten jobs (though one of those subsequently moved out of state) and have secured standard housing.

Of the 11 Scotland County FASS participant families, 8 are on target and 3 are at risk. Of the 3 at risk families, 2 are at risk of removal from the project for failure to cooperate and one is at risk because of difficulty getting a job. Of the 8 on target, 4 are working, one has secured a driver’s license and a car and is looking for work, 4 are in school, and all are in standard housing.

This team approach appears to be working in that it gives weekly information to each agency involved in these cases and allows for interagency troubleshooting the cases that are still struggling to get on track. We expect the Scotland County Employment Security Commission to join the team this month.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail McRae, HRD