The FASS teams in the three counties have met almost weekly during the quarter from October 1 through December 31, 2000, continuing service (not exceeding the four month limit) to 10 families and enrolling six new families, for an active case load of 16 families in addition to the follow-ups from previous quarters. Of the 10 families, five have employment – four full-time and one part-time, and five are still seeking employment. Of the six new families, four have full-time employment and two are seeking employment. Of the 10 families, two have successfully made the transition to self-sufficiency this quarter. Approximately two-thirds of FASS funds have been expended to-date. 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 six families: three families in Bladen County, two families in Columbus County, and one family in Scotland County.

Of the three Bladen FASS participant families, two got full-time jobs and one is still seeking employment. Of the three, all are on target and in standard housing.

Of the two Columbus FASS participant families, both are on target, one having gotten full-time employment and one having gotten part-time employment. Both are in standard housing.

The one Scotland County FASS participant family has secured full-time employment and is working toward self-sufficiency.

Overall, from the beginning of the FASS project, the three FASS teams have handled 57 referrals. Of the 57 referrals, 39 have been enrolled in the FASS project, of whom 29 have either made the transition out of FASS successfully (9) or are on track to make the transition (20), 9 were removed from the project for noncompliance, and one self-terminated. Currently, 23% of the applicants enrolled have become self-sufficient. Another 51.28% are on track to achieve self-sufficiency this year. We will continue to add new families as long as funds are available.

During this quarter, the three teams developed a list of items that most of the FASS families need initially to assist in assessing reasonableness of requests (car repairs, beds, chairs, etc.)

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. The Employment Security Commission has joined the Scotland County FASS team.

Respectfully submitted by
Gail McRae, HRD