

1999 Annual Report Executive Summary

Accomack-Northampton Enterprise Community

Many agencies, grassroots organizations, civic groups, residents, municipal and county governments made significant contributions to community revitalization efforts within the Accomack-Northampton Enterprise Community (EC) this past year. Among them are these:

- Noteworthy progress was made by the Accomack Airport Industrial Park and the Port of Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Industrial Park to provide quality jobs by retaining existing businesses and attracting new ones.
- The number of riders on our rural public transportation system, STAR transit, increases nearly every month.
- The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and Housing and Redevelopment Authority continue to secure block grant funding and implement several housing development and community infrastructure projects.
- Low-wealth communities like New Road and Bayview are removing abandoned houses, acquiring safe drinking water, and are steadily moving towards fulfillment of their community redevelopment plans.
- The Eastern Shore Economic Development Commission has assisted several businesses to relocate or expand, and the Commission continues to seek Free Trade Zone status for the area.
- The Virginia Coast Reserve of the Nature Conservatory, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, the Northampton Chapter of the NAACP, The Northampton Economic Forum, local agencies, governments, and many others are actively assisting revitalization of the Bayview community.
- The EC's lead entity, the Virginia Eastern Shore Economic Empowerment and Housing Corporation was very active in supporting many community revitalization efforts, including working with two local banks, USDA Rural Development, and others, to successfully provide first-time homeownership for several families in the EC.

A foundation continues to be laid to achieve more spectacular regional revitalization achievements in the near future.