

Communities of Opportunity Initiative

Community Progress Report
 April 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2010
 Due July 15, 2010

Name of Community: Taliaferro
Date: 7-13-10

Local Champion: Jackie Butts

Co-Op Strategies	List Measures of Success, (Or Barriers If Applicable)	Action Items Completed for Each Strategy	Cost Estimate	Provide a Brief Description of Issues and Action Items to be Addressed Next Quarter
Establish Infrastructure necessary to recruit industry	Funding (Barrier)	The Taliaferro County Development Authority continues to work with state and regional partners to locate and fund a site for a potential industrial park in the community.	\$500,000	This is an ongoing process which will take time. We will continue to search for help in being able to provide a site in Taliaferro County which will be attractive to a potential industry(s).
Develop business and tourism opportunities in Taliaferro County.	Work has begun on website development for the county	Met with person hired to develop websites. He has begun to develop the pages needed.	\$1,500	In addition to the website development, the development authority is working with the Taliaferro Chamber of Commerce to prepare a survey to be distributed at the A. H. Stephens State Park in order to receive feedback from park visitors about what their needs are. The park has 551,470 visitors during the past five years.
Develop marketing plan	NA	Emailed Stefanie Paupeck concerning a Product Development program she did in Brooks County. We are interested in having the same kind of program do in Taliaferro County.	Do not know if there is any cost associated with program yet.	Ms. Paupeck has asked Jeannie Buttrum to contact us. We will work with Ms. Paupeck and Ms. Buttrum to get this assessment of our community done.

Develop the skills of the workforce	Facilities Maintenance Technician Training Class "Handy Man's" Class	Family Connection has been awarded funding to provide the class in the community for up to ten youth ages up to 21 years.	\$ 15,000	Classes for this class will begin in the fall.
	Afterschool program The graduation rate for the Taliaferro County School has risen from 80% last school year to 88% for the 2009-2010 school year.	The afterschool program is funded by a grant funded by the Taliaferro Family Connection which provides tutorial in subject matter, organized recreation, the Mendez Too Good for Drugs program, and an abstinence program continues	\$ 68,714	Funding for the afterschool program continues to September 30, 2010. Application will be made for refunding for this program
	Jobs for Georgia Graduates Program	Jobs for Georgia Graduates program is ongoing during the school year. Funded by the Georgia Department of Labor, the job placement specialist works with high school students to develop leadership skills.	\$50,000	This program will begin when the next school year begins July 13 th .
	Broadband	Supplied letter of support for Wilkes Telephone and Electric Co. for fiber optic. The company was awarded funding for three counties including Taliaferro for door to door fiber optics. Taliaferro County participated in the twelve-county broadband grant proposal to bring a bandwidth loop through the Central Savannah River Area. The grant is in the second stage (due diligence).	\$ 40+ Million	We do not know the time schedule for work to begin. Awaiting the final decision on the grant proposal.
	Work Ready Program	Family Connection continues to work with local citizens to educate them on the Georgia work ready program. Weekly assessment testing continues.	\$35,000/18-month grant	Testing and education of citizens and businesses will continue next quarter. Signs have been ordered to

	Work Ready Region	<p>Taliaferro County is one of five surrounding counties who is in a work ready region focusing on energy. Focus is on educating local business on the value and potential of recognizing the work ready employees and applicants.</p> <p>Locally we are working with the Taliaferro County School to use funding to place whiteboards in the classrooms as well as upgrading the school computer lab.</p>	\$400,000/18 months for five counties	<p>show that Taliaferro County is a Work Ready Community of Excellence. We hope to receive and place these signs during the next quarter.</p> <p>We will educate all businesses located in Taliaferro County on the work ready program to have them encourage their current and future employees to take the work ready assessment.</p>
	Leadership Development	<p>Family Connection has a grant from the University of Georgia Fanning Institute to provide a Leadership Taliaferro Program. Program development meetings have been held with representatives from UGA's Fanning Institute and Georgia Power's Economic Development representative to put together a program which will be beneficial for our community. Local participants have been solicited.</p>	\$ 5,000	<p>Surveys will be sent out during the next months. Personal interviews will be conducted. Program classes will begin on August 26th to determine survey and interview findings.</p>