

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

Program # 3

1. Name of the Planned Program

Community, Business and Resource Development

Reporting on this Program

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

KA Code	Knowledge Area	%1862 Extension	%1890 Extension	%1862 Research	%1890 Research
602	Business Management, Finance, and Taxation		25%		
608	Community Resource Planning and Development		50%		
805	Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services		25%		
	Total		100%		

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of FTE/SYs expended this Program

Year: 2013	Extension		Research	
	1862	1890	1862	1890
Plan	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0
Actual Paid Professional	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Actual Volunteer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

Extension		Research	
Smith-Lever 3b & 3c	1890 Extension	Hatch	Evans-Allen
0	229847	0	0
1862 Matching	1890 Matching	1862 Matching	1890 Matching
0	152406	0	0
1862 All Other	1890 All Other	1862 All Other	1890 All Other
0	0	0	0

V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Brief description of the Activity

This program area was carried out year-round through various seminars and workshops, and an annual economic development summit, specifically including:

- a series of six working sessions to help farmers develop governing structures for farm cooperatives
- work sessions to develop organizational capacity in Guerryton, Bullock County
- workshop sessions and technical assistance to the director of the Louise O Newman Center for Learning and Human Development
- Continuing organizational and technical assistance to The Wil-Low for Scholars, a community scholarship foundation
- Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit
- Micro-loan opportunity and business development workshops
- Workforce development and resource development workshops
- 4H Volunteer Development Program (online)
- Green Construction Jobs Skills training and Community Business Development Technology Services Incubator at the Tuskegee-Macon County Community Development Corporation (TuskMac CDC) (leveraged)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

2. Brief description of the target audience

The target audiences consisted of start-up entrepreneurs, existing business owners, leadership from civic and social community organizations and leadership from faith-based organizations.

3. How was eXtension used?

Used the Community of Practice on personal and family finances education as source of educational materials

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

1. Standard output measures

2013	Direct Contacts Adults	Indirect Contacts Adults	Direct Contacts Youth	Indirect Contacts Youth
Actual	7107	4836	1361	841

2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)

Patent Applications Submitted

Year: 2013
 Actual: 0

Patents listed

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

Number of Peer Reviewed Publications

2013	Extension	Research	Total
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Actual	0	0	0
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V(F). State Defined Outputs

Output Target

Output #1

Output Measure

- Participants will be trained in leadership skills development, business planning and management, and how to access loans and other resources.

Year	Actual
2013	126

V(G). State Defined Outcomes

V. State Defined Outcomes Table of Content

O. No.	OUTCOME NAME
1	Seventy five will acquire business and leadership development skills. Thirty five will develop business plans, and 15 will have business loans approved.

Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

Seventy five will acquire business and leadership development skills. Thirty five will develop business plans, and 15 will have business loans approved.

2. Associated Institution Types

- 1890 Extension

3a. Outcome Type:

Change in Knowledge Outcome Measure

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Actual
2013	0

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

Many low-income households are eligible for the earned income tax credit (EITC) and other tax credits but do not apply for the annual refunds because they are unaware of their existence. The IRS estimates that 15% or more of EITC refunds are unclaimed by low-income families, amounting to about \$2.7 billion each year. Many consumers are also convinced to take out a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) from the proceeds of their tax refund, at exorbitantly high interest rates, ranging from about 50% to 800% APR. In Alabama, more than 490,000 families claim an estimated \$1 billion through the federal EITC annually. However, with more than 75% of EITC recipients in Alabama paying a commercial preparer to complete their taxes, Alabama families lose more than \$78 million annually to tax preparation and refund anticipation loan costs.

What has been done

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension therefore operates a volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) sites in Macon and Dallas Counties to assist low-income taxpayers and the elderly with tax return preparation while providing educational resources on budgeting, saving strategies, and credit management. The focus is to assist low-income households and the elderly to keep more money in their pockets by applying for the tax credits such as EITC and also by avoiding tax preparation and refund anticipation loan costs.

Results

During the 2013 tax filing season, 102 federal tax returns and 76 Alabama state returns were prepared at the two sites, and generated average amounts of \$1,676 and \$1,168, respectively in earned income tax credits and child tax credits to (31) taxpayers. Also, about fifteen (15) taxpayers qualified for the education credit, which averaged about \$935. Additionally three (3) elderly taxpayers qualified for an average credit of about \$123. An immediate result of financial education through this program is that about fifty-eight (58) percent of the taxpayers using the sites selected to receive their tax refunds by direct deposit.

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
602	Business Management, Finance, and Taxation
608	Community Resource Planning and Development
805	Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services

V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes

- Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)
- Economy
- Appropriations changes
- Public Policy changes
- Government Regulations
- Competing Public priorities
- Competing Programmatic Challenges
- Populations changes (immigration, new cultural groupings, etc.)

Brief Explanation

Program activities were affected by factors such economic conditions in the region and low-asset communities, as well as competing programmatic outreach challenges in the absence of better partnerships or collaborations.

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies)

Evaluation Results

About 42 Taxpayers who used the free tax assistance program received refunds, at an average of about \$ 1,200 each. Seventy percent of these taxpayers selected to receive their tax refunds by direct deposit and more than half indicated an intention to save portions of their tax refunds. Five taxpayers were actually referred to a local bank to open new bank accounts in order to be able to receive their refunds by direct deposit. Another taxpayer also selected to purchase a savings bond with a portion of the tax refunds.

Also, through its revolving loan and entrepreneurship training program, the Tusk-Mac CDC is still making microloans loans to small businesses for a total of nearly \$120,000 still out there. Two new businesses were opened in the area over the past year.

Key Items of Evaluation

TUCE has continued to strengthen its efforts in providing small business development and technical assistance programs as a way of promoting community economic development. As much as housing assistance, personal finance management, and job skills development remain key aspects of this program area, additional effort is being geared towards organizational finance and record keeping in order to assist community-based organizations to improve their financial record keeping practices to be able to attract outside funding and expand the services that they offer to the community. Our resource staff has designed and implemented an organizational finance course that follows a step-by-step approach to understanding organizational finance and cash flow systems.

Participating organizations that have followed the recommended practices, have reported financial savings for their organization, and have become eligible recipients of grants based on the knowledge and skills provided by this training.