

Whatcom Asset Building Coalition

The mission of the Whatcom ABC is to foster collaboration in the community to increase the financial stability of low-income people in Whatcom County.

The coalition aims to:

- Increase cooperation and mutual support among agencies and individuals working to address financial stability and financial literacy needs.
- Facilitate widespread knowledge about existing financial resources, both for people in need and the organizations that are trying to help.
- Raise community awareness about the need for asset building and encourage community support for strategies to address the problem.
- Increase awareness of and participation in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The Coalition meets monthly to:

- 1.) Encourage a high level of understanding and mutual support among members, which include free-tax prep sites, local non-profit organizations and financial institutions.
- 2.) Provide a regular forum for networking and brainstorming about cooperative ventures that can be proposed and “spun off” to those individuals and organizations who are directly interested.
- 3.) Maintain up-to-date, county-wide statistics of levels of service which can be easily accessed for media and advocacy efforts.
- 4.) Ensure that financial resource and referral materials for service providers, clients, and the community at large are annually updated and widely distributed.
- 5.) Reinforce a community message that *financial stability and literacy is an essential part of alleviating poverty* by supporting a select number of county-wide events and promoting these events through agency networks and through the media. These events are either ones that are initiated by the Coalition, or are actively supported by the Coalition as an opportunity to raise community awareness about financial issues.

The Whatcom Asset Building Coalition is open to anyone who wishes to join. Members contribute in a variety of ways to support the work of the Coalition, including the contribution of administrative support, meeting space, printing, etc. The Opportunity Council serves as the lead agency for the Coalition. For more information, contact Anjali Englund, 734-5121 ext. 233, or email anjali_englund@oppco.org

Also see our webpage at www.whatcomcounts.org/assetbuilding

The Whatcom Coalition meets

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
AT THE BUILDING PERFORMANCE CENTER, 1322 NORTH STATE STREET.