

## **T&MA Contractor Staff**

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*For programmatic questions please call  
Owyne Gardner or Pam Price at (580)  
326-5165.*

*For more information, contact  
LIFT Community Action Agency,  
Inc.'s Mutual Self-Help  
T&MA Contractor Department  
for guidance and counseling.  
We can provide a qualified and  
experienced Self-Help Specialist  
to assist you at no charge to  
your organization.*

### ***Application Assistance***

### ***Financial Management Training***

### ***Staff Training***

### ***Program Reviews***

### ***Grant Management***

## ***LIFT CAA, Inc.***

*(formerly known as Little Dixie CAA, Inc.)*

*209 North 4th Street*

*Hugo, OK 74743*

*(580) 326-5165 telephone*

***Helping People, Changing Lives***

## **Lift CAA, Inc.**

*(formerly known as Little Dixie CAA, Inc.)*

### **Mutual Self-Help**

### **Housing T&MA Contractor Department**



### ***Self-Help Housing...***

***Providing opportunities for families to work  
together to realize the American dream of  
homeownership.***



## ***Self-Help T&MA Contractor Department***

Lift CAA's Mutual Self-Help T&MA Contractor Department provides technical and management assistance to potential and existing Section 523 Self-Help Housing organizations.

Lift began operating a Regional Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance program in 1980 through funding from USDA Rural Development. We work closely with USDA Rural Development offices to implement this service to the South Central Region of the United States, -Arkansas, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and Wyoming.

Since 1980, Lift CAA T&MA Contractors have assisted more than 100 Self-Help Housing grantees in obtaining millions of dollars for program oversight and management.

Our T&MA Contractor Department strives to keep the South Central Region properly informed of current issues and updates that impact the self-help community.

We conduct both onsite and group workshops and training to current or prospective grantees to provide both fiscal and management training and technical assistance. We also work to facilitate communications between grantees, prospective grantees and industry resources in order to help them achieve their goals.

## **Lift Community Action Agency, Inc.**

Housing for Rural America through the Rural Development Self-Help Housing Program

### **Self-Help Housing**

Self-Help has been around for many years and it grew out of the early barn raising tradition of the Amish and Mennonites. Mutual Self-Help Housing is families working together to participate in the construction of their homes. The work performed by the families is referred to as "sweat equity" and the value of their contribution results in significant cost savings, making these homes affordable for low and very-low income households.

Homes are financed utilizing USDA Rural Development's 502 home ownership loan program. This is a very low interest loan based on the family's income and is available to low and very-low income credit worthy families in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America and supports that commitment by providing affordable housing opportunities for low and very-low income individuals/families. The Self-Help Program can make the American dream of homeownership for individuals/families become a reality.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex and family status. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs)

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

### **Assisting the Grantee**

The Mutual Self-Help T&MA Contractor Department assists organizations with training in areas such as pre and final application training, and overall program structuring, planning and operational management including budgeting, staffing, staff training and accounting requirements.

### **Assisting Rural Development**

The Mutual Self-Help T&MA Contractor Department provides monitoring services to Rural Development offices within their region in program compliance reviews, administrative funding expenditures, expenditures of participating family funds and construction quality.

### **Assisting the Community**

Communities benefit from money that will generate into the local economy through purchasing of supplies, building materials, employment of subcontractors, sale of real estate, enlargement of tax base and utility sales. The program brings pride into the community through revitalization of neighborhoods as well as the stabilization of the community by providing the opportunity for individuals and families to obtain affordable, safe and decent housing and homeownership.

### **Who is Eligible**

Eligibility requirements include: Must be a State, political subdivision, or public nonprofit corporation including Indian tribes or Tribal corporations or a private nonprofit corporation. Nonprofit organizations must be organized under state and local laws; in good standing with the Secretary of State; tax exempt under IRS Section 501 c (3); have a board of directors with no less than 5 members and have the "production of affordable housing" as one of its purposes; must have at least five board members, the financial and administrative capacity to operate the program and must have previous experience operating housing programs.