

Individual Development Accounts Program

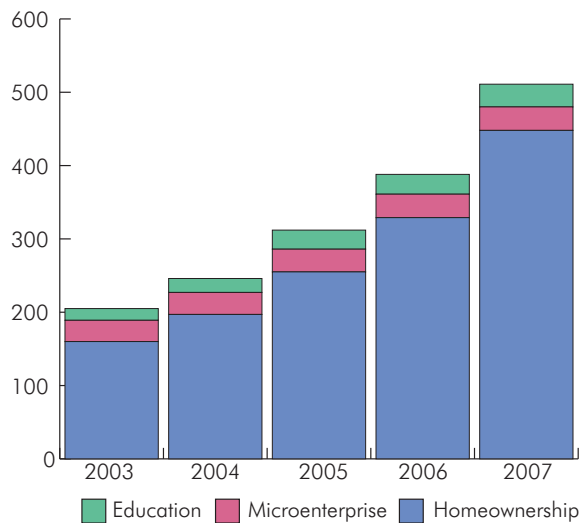
The Individual Development Accounts, or IDA, Program is designed to help low-wealth individuals build assets for the start-up of new businesses, post-secondary educational investments or the purchase of a home. The program seeks to provide assistance to low-income individuals toward attaining self-sufficiency.

The Department of Labor continues to play a major role in the IDA movement. The division is working in partnership with the IDA and Asset Building Collaborative of North Carolina, the N.C. Division of Community Assistance, the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, EITC Carolinas, and the N.C. Division of Social Services to support and increase the number of IDA programs in North Carolina.

The NCDOL IDA Program continues to host trainings for IDA program sites throughout the state, bringing in outside speakers as well as involving members of local program staff who are knowledgeable in various aspects of the program. The training focuses on IDA implementation, best practices, effective outreach and other critical aspects of program development. This training provides valuable information and serves as a support network for everyone involved. In October 2007 NCDOL partnered with the N.C. State Treasurer's Office, the IDA and Asset-Building Collaborative of North Carolina, EITC Carolinas, the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, and other stakeholder organizations to hold another statewide conference on financial literacy and asset building. Approximately 400 people attended the conference. The department closed out its second Assets for Independence (AFI) grant with a total of 214 homeowners.

According to year-end statistics for 2007, the NCDOL IDA Program consists of 27 sites that serve 44 counties. Figure 1 shows the cumulative totals of asset purchases made by NCDOL IDA Program participants.

Figure 1
NCDOL IDA Program Asset Purchases (Cumulative Totals)



Total Graduates From NCDOL IDA Programs: By the end of 2007, a cumulative total of 511 participants had graduated from the IDA Program in homeownership, micro-enterprise or post-secondary education. These graduates purchased 448 homes, started 32 businesses and made 31 educational investments.

Total Savings, Matched Funds and Assets in NCDOL IDA Programs: From 1999 to 2007, IDA account holders saved an aggregate \$1,770,821, acquired more than \$971,607 in matching grant funds, and purchased an estimated \$43,170,794 in assets.