



## Charleston County News Release

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***Photo of Johnna Murray at CRBJ Awards Banquet:***  
<http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/influentialwomen.htm>

## **Johnna Murray Wins Prestigious Influential Women in Business Award from the Charleston Regional Business Journal**

*July 30, 2012 issue will feature all Influential Women in Business Finalists*

Charleston County Government employee [Johnna Murray](#) recently won the “Rising Star” category of the 2012 [Charleston Regional Business Journal's Influential Women in Business awards](#).

In her current position as a program manager for the [County's Community Services Department](#), Murray is responsible for [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) related long-term community development planning and annual reporting on achievements to HUD.

SC Biz News, publisher of the *Charleston Regional Business journal*, designed the Influential Women in Business Awards to recognize local women who have demonstrated professional excellence and leadership in their careers and community services.

“I am humbled by this recognition and am proud to be in the presence of such a deserving group of empowered women, volunteers, and executives,” Murray said during her acceptance speech. “I am no longer on the front lines of working for nonprofits, but I consider myself lucky to work in a different capacity by which the end result is still about serving the community about trying to be a part of the solution.”

[Charleston County Council](#) recognized Murray during its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 24. Murray and all finalists will also be featured in the July 30 issue of the *Charleston Regional Business Journal*.

“I couldn't be more proud. Johnna is an outstanding employee among our great family of employees of Charleston County,” said [Charleston County Administrator Kurt Taylor](#).

The program handed out at the awards ceremony states: “For the fifth consecutive year, the nominations were numerous and strong. The requirements were that each nominee must be a resident of and employed in South Carolina and fit into one of four categories: Business Owner/CEO, Executive, Rising Star or Volunteer. Nominators were instructed to give specific examples of professional excellence, leadership, vision, community service and mentoring. The judges were then asked to score each nominee individually upon the merits of that submittal, using the scale of 1- 10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest). The judges' scores were tallied and the women with the highest scores in each category are our Influential Women of 2012! It is our ultimate goal that these annual awards will encourage other women to Influence the Business environment around them.”

Professionally, Murray has achieved several certifications, most notably becoming a Certified Grants Consultant. She has graduated from three statewide and regional leadership programs, most recently achieving the honor of Furman University's Riley Diversity Leadership Institute Fellow.

Throughout her advancement within the County's organizational structure, Murray has continued to impact the community, ultimately resulting in her current position as the County's Community Services Program Manager. In her professional role, Murray engages the community through a citizen participation process, whereby long range community priorities such as clean water initiatives, infrastructure developments, housing rehabilitation, and homeless service coordination continue to be established, achieved, and reported annually.

In addition to her professional achievements, Murray has been able to impact the community at large through her personal service and occupational objectives. Volunteerism is prevalent in her life in multiple capacities: serving as a former foster parent; working on multiple community boards and committees including service with Alliance for Full Acceptance, Trident United Way, and training non-profits on grant writing and fund development.

## **SIDEBAR:**

### **Professional Accomplishments/Awards:**

Charleston County Government (9 years of service with 3 promotions)  
Grants Development Officer, Project Officer, now Program Manager Charged with HUD-related long-term community planning and annual reporting on outcomes and achievements. Coordinate consensus building efforts among Charleston County Towns (Mayor and their respective Town Councils), various community representatives, County Council, and the public at large.

Certifications:

- Certified Grants Specialist
- Senior Level Grants Specialist
- Certified Grant Consultant
- Certified Grant Reviewer
- Supervisory Program Graduate

Education:

- Bachelors of Art--Columbia College
- Graduate Degree--Winthrop University
- Graduate Certificate--College of Charleston (pending)

Leadership Programs and Honors:

- Charleston Metro Chamber's Leadership Charleston Graduate
- SC Non-profit Leadership Institute of Francis Marion University Graduate
- Furman University's Riley Diversity Leadership Institute Fellow

### **Community Involvement/Mentoring:**

Community Service

(not all at the present time but over the course of the last 5 years and some are current)

Alliance for Full Acceptance, Board Member

Charleston County Department of Social Services, Foster Parent

Charleston Development Corporation, Executive Director

Trident United Way, Community Investment Review Team Volunteer

Charleston County Government, Citizen's Academy Graduate

Charleston County Project Impact, Steering Committee Member

Alliance for Full Acceptance, "A Taste of Equality" Steering Committee Co-Chair

Russian Blue & Foo-Foo Rescue, Pet Rescue Foster Home

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