

A Demonstration of Collaborative
Partnerships for Impactful
Empowerment

2024-2025

Annual Report



CAROLINA
COMMUNITY
ACTIONS, INC

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About Us

On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act as part of his "War on Poverty," which created the nationwide Community Action Network. The purpose was to expand educational opportunities, eliminate poverty, provide health and financial assistance to the elderly, and increase assistance for the poor and unemployed. The York County Economic Opportunity Commission had been previously established and by August 2, 1965, Carolina Community Actions, Inc. (CCA) was incorporated to include Chester, Lancaster, and York counties as the service area. The said purpose of the corporation " is to do all things necessary and proper under the Economic Opportunity Action of 1964, Public Law 88-452, and/or subsequent related federal legislation or under any applicable state, county or local legislation which has as intent to aid in improving the education, economic opportunities, living environment and general welfare of the people living in Chester, Lancaster and York counties in South Carolina, either directly or through other private or public organizations." On December 8, 1965, CCA was officially recognized and approved by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and received its first grant funds. Due to the geographic service area being altered through federal directions and actions, the Board of Directors voted on November 4, 1974 to amend the charter to add Union County as part of the CCA service area. Fairfield County was added to CCA service area in 1998. CCA is currently the designated community action agency for Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties of South Carolina.



Mission of CCA

To mitigate poverty issues by empowering individuals, families and communities to achieve self-reliance.



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Leadership

Board of Directors

<u>Chester County</u>	<u>Union County</u>
Azilee Hill	Edith Foster
Burley McDaniel	Sonya Glenn
Davida Schultz	Pamela Sloss
Angela T. Perry	Harold Thompson
<u>Fairfield County</u>	<u>York County</u>
Oren Gadson	Kendra Cherry
Brian Glover	Denise Lowry
<u>Lancaster County</u>	<u>Melvin McCullough</u>
Timothy Cureton	Regeana Phillips
Susan Dolphin	John Sanders
Leocadia Francis	Isaiah Venning
Elaine McKinney	

Executive Director

Karen Brackett Browning

2024-2025 Head Start Policy Council

<u>Chester County Parent Representatives</u>	<u>Union County Parent Representatives</u>
Amber Collins	Haley Cothran
Gertrude Price	
<u>Community Representatives</u>	<u>York County Parent Representatives</u>
Kendra Cherry	Ashley Marsh
Kimberly Davis	Heather Ware
Isaiah Venning	Latoya Wylie

Households Served

Levels of Household Income Served by CCA

6092 House Holds Served

% of HHS Guidelines for 2024	Annual Income Household Size of 1	For each additional person in the household, add the amount corresponding to the % for Annual Income	Income Level % of Total Households Served by CCA
Up to 50%	\$7,530	For each additional person, add \$2,690	22%
51% to 75%	\$7,531 to \$11,295	For each additional person, add \$2,744-\$4,035	11%
76% to 100%	\$11,296 to \$15,060	For each additional person, add \$4,089-\$5,380	35%
101% to 125%	\$15,061 to \$18,825	For each additional person, add \$5,434-\$6,725	17%
126% to 150%	\$18,826 to \$22,590	For each additional person, add \$6,779-\$8,070	10%
151% to 175%	\$22,591 to \$26,355	For each additional person, add \$8,124-\$9,415	4%
176% to 200%	\$26,356 to \$30,120	For each additional person, add \$9,469-\$10,760	1%

Family Income Level

MIT's 2025 Living Wage Calculator indicates (Updated Feb. 2025) that a family of four with one working parent and three children in each of the service areas needs to earn above \$95,576/year before taxes just to meet basic living expenses. The income threshold for a family of four, living at or below 100% of the poverty level was \$32,150/year.

Family Size – 1 Adult 3 Children
2025 Poverty Level at 100% – \$32,150
2025 Poverty Level at 200% – \$64,300

County	Living Wage Rate	Poverty Wage Rate	Gap
Chester	\$106,683/yr. \$51.29/hr.	\$32,157/yr. \$15.46/hr.	\$74,526/yr. \$33.83/hr.
Fairfield	\$104,520/yr. \$50.25/hr.	\$32,157/yr. \$15.46/hr.	\$72,363/yr \$34.79/hr.
Lancaster	\$122,158/yr. \$58.73/hr.	\$32,157/yr. \$15.46/hr.	\$90,001/yr. \$43.27/hr.
Union	\$95,576/yr. \$45.95/hr.	\$32,157/yr. \$15.46/hr.	\$63,419/yr. \$30.49/hr.
York	\$127,816/yr. \$61.45/hr.	\$32,157/yr. \$15.46/hr.	\$95,659/yr. \$45.99/hr.

*Calculations of annual salary are based on 2080 work hours in 52 weeks.

Our Work

Herein, we present Carolina Community Actions, Inc. (CCA) Annual Report for the 2024-2025 fiscal and program year. During this period, the agency continued to experience evolving change and growth as opportunities were created to update and expand CCA's capacity to "meet needs and change lives." While still adjusting to the "new norm" as a result of the Coronavirus health pandemic, the agency served individuals and families who were recovering from economic hardship with a variety of new programs and activities. Through coordinated and collaborative efforts with local, state, and national funders, the communities provided by CCA. The communities in Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties in South Carolina were positively impacted by the assistance and services provided. The agency continues to adhere to its purpose by providing valuable services that include: early childhood education and school readiness; adult basic education and career readiness; financial assistance to prevent utility disconnections and homelessness; and installation of home energy conservation measures to reduce energy burdens.



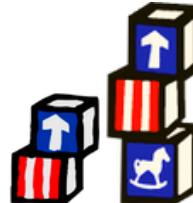
Community
Services Block
Grant (CSBG)



Low Income Home
Energy Assistance
Program (LIHEAP)



Weatherization
Assistance
Program (WAP)

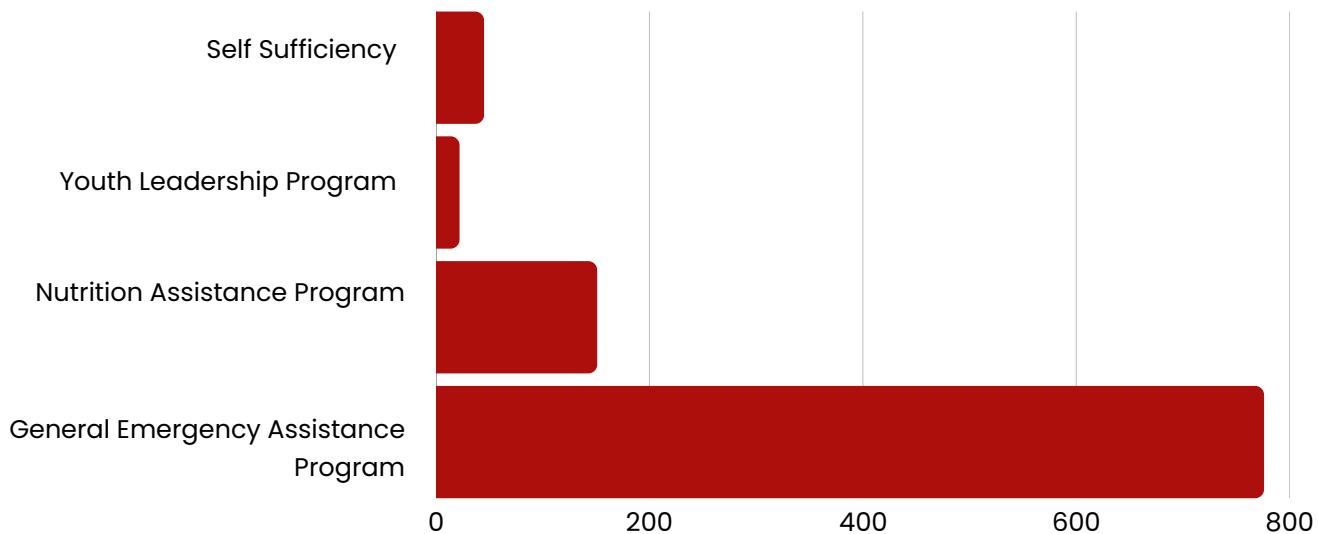


Head Start/
Early Head Start
(HS/EHS)

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

CSBG provides flexible funds for programs that work to meet individual and community needs. CCA uses funds to provide its service users with 4 programs including the following: Self-Sufficiency, Nutrition Assistance, General Emergency Assistance, and Youth Leadership.

The graph (shown below) shows the number of individuals who benefited from CSBG's Programs from January 2024 – December 2024



Achievements in 2024:

- **Self Sufficiency Program** – provides case management services such as education/training (GED, Vocational Skills Training), employment placement assistance, and support services (i.e. uniforms, transportation, etc)
 - 45 individuals participated in the program in 2024
- **Nutrition Assistance Program** – provides education on proper food choices and identification of nutrition resources
 - 151 individuals received nutrition education and access to food
- **Youth Leadership Program** – provides character/personal development and paid work experience for career exploration for youth ages 15-19
 - 22 youth completed the program objectives
- **General Emergency Assistance Program** – provides emergency financial assistance
 - 776 households obtained/maintained safe housing and maintained utilities and provided funds for shelter, i.e. hotel, etc.
- **Other Activities and State/Local Funded Programs** yielded the following results:
 - Diaper Dash: 133 families that included 153 children were provided diapers and supplies to improve the quality of life for the children and families

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

WAP is the largest residential energy efficiency and retrofit program in the United States. It has been in existence since 1976 and its mission is to reduce energy costs for low-income persons using a whole-house approach to improve the energy efficiency of the home. Weatherization specialists use state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment to reduce energy costs and improve the comfort and indoor quality of the home while ensuring the health and safety of the household. The services are funded through federal grants from the Department of Energy (DOE), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Weatherization measures on a home could include any or all of the following:

- Insulation in the attic space, under the home, and/or the sidewalls
- Seal and insulate duct work
- Weatherstrip and/or caulk around windows and doors
- Install smoke alarms and CO2 detectors
- Vent and/or wrap hot water heater and pipes
- Vent appliance such as dryer
- Install energy-saving light bulbs
- Check readings on appliances
- HVAC repair or replacement

In addition to the grants that allow weatherization services, we provided the following services through a special Healthy Homes Grant to address health and safety issues:

- Asbestos removal
- Mold testing and abatement
- Radon testing
- Measures to mitigate the falls risk associated with bathrooms, stairs, etc.
- Roof repairs
- Lighting and electrical repair

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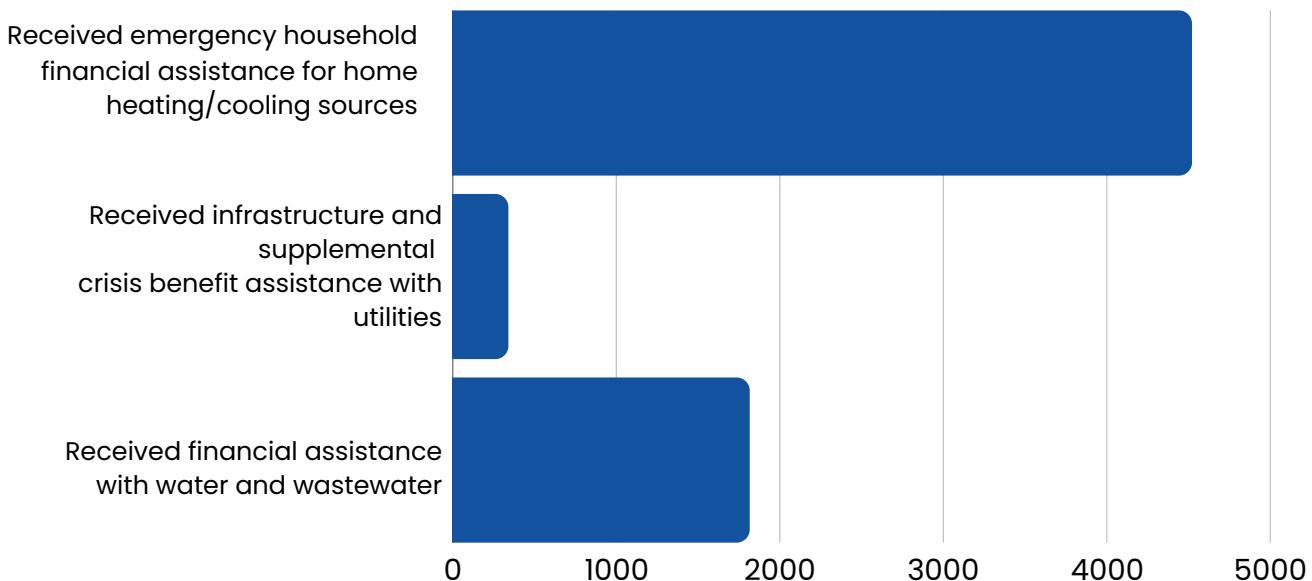
The number of LWAP & DOE, DOE BIL

4/1/24 to 3/31/25

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is designed to help low-income households meet their home heating and cooling needs and increase energy self-sufficiency, thereby reducing the vulnerability resulting from energy needs.

The graph (shown below) shows the number of households that utilized LIHEAP's services from January 2024- December 2024



Additional achievements in 2024:

- 1,215 seniors (adults 60 years or older) and 1,113 people with 1 or more disabilities received emergency fuel/utility assistance
- 1,656 services were provided for energy assistance through the LIHEAP Infrastructure march settlement and emergency supplemental funds to households to pay their utility bills, avoiding disconnection in 2024

Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS)

CCA Head Start and Early Head Start continues to make progress towards achieving program goals. All components of the research-based Creative Curriculum is fully implemented in all classrooms ages birth to five with fidelity. Children showed progress in the areas of physical, social emotional, cognitive, language and adaptive skills development. Best practices in early childhood education were incorporated into classroom instruction as measured by Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS), South Carolina Early Learning Standards, Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. Children benefited from classroom instructional practices grounded in research that are consistently and effectively implemented in CCA Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms.

Head Start SY 2024- 2025

275 preschoolers received high-quality Pre-K education at no cost to the family, 31 percent (85) were at or below 100% of poverty guidelines for Head Start	31 infant and toddlers received high quality Early Head Start (EHS) services at no cost to the families, 19 percent (6) were at or below 100% of poverty guidelines
155 Families Received Public Assistance	No pregnant women were enrolled in EHS
33 Children received disability services	23 Families received Public Assistance
189 Children received preventive and primary oral health services	24 Children received preventive and primary oral health services
83 Fathers/significant males were involved in the child's development experiences.	24 Fathers/significant males were involved in the child's development experiences.
275 Families received at least one family service	31 Families received at least one family service

Food Services: Total Meals - 79,495; Total Snacks - 38,881

Across the 2024-2025 program year, HS/EHS children showed strong gains in every developmental domain. By Spring, 73%-89% of children were meeting or exceeding widely held expectations in social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics. Spanish Language and Spanish Literacy remained at 100% throughout the year for children assessed. These results reflect effective teaching practices, curriculum implementation, and family engagement across the program.

Financial Information

2023-2024 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs \$14,790,062

Head Start (HS)	\$5,002,062	34%
Early Head Start (EHS)	\$765,797	5%
*LIHEAP	\$4,732,537	32%
CSBG	\$824,805	6%
Weatherization (WAP)	\$1,146,698	5%
USDA	\$339,068	2%
In-kind Contributions	\$1,930,603	13%
**Non-Federal Share	\$47,897	.003%

2022-2023 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs \$13,896,659

\$4,442,460	32%
\$670,200	5%
\$5,348,960	39%
\$709,748	5%
\$966,786	7%
\$295,459	2%
\$1,404,200	10%
\$58,846	.004%

*Includes: LIHEAP(\$3,244,108), LIHWAP (\$51,920), LIHEAP Supplement 23 (\$5,167), LIHEAP Infrastructure 23 (\$757), LIHEAP Emergency 1 (\$320,232), LIHEAP Emergency 2 (\$655,578), LIHEAP Emergency 3 (\$454,773)

**Includes: ABC Quality Longevity (\$20,500), Duke Energy Project Share (\$3,064), Dominion Marsh (\$18,060), Dominion RP (\$6,273)

In 2023, CCA's overall administrative cost was 6%. Ninety-four percent (94%) of CCA's funding directly benefited our service users. In 2024, CCA's overall administrative cost was 6%. Ninety-four percent (94%) of CCA's funding directly benefited our service users.

CCA received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 fiscal years.

Impact Stories

Weatherization Assistance Program

Mrs. Mosley is a senior citizen living on a fixed income. She came to the Carolina Community Actions Weatherization Department with extremely high electric bills. An audit was conducted on Mrs. Mosley's mobile home, which revealed that the mobile home belly was damaged due to age and animals' access. In some areas beneath the home, the duct work was detached and laying on the ground. Mrs. Mosley would compensate for her home heating deficiencies by using space heaters and turning her thermostat on ninety degrees just to feel comfortable. When the temperature dropped really low, Mrs. Mosley had to go stay with her daughter.

The CCA Weatherization Dept. was able to repair the belly of the mobile home and the duct work. CCA also installed a new programmable thermostat, tuned and cleaned her HVAC system, installed LED light bulbs, air sealing, weather stripping around doors, and cool seal on the roof. Mrs. Mosley stated, "She could feel the difference right away." CCA followed up with Mrs. Mosley about two months later and she said her electric bill was reduced by more than half from the previous month. Mrs. Mosley said she was pleased with the work. Most of all, she doesn't have to leave her home when the temperature drops.

Impact Stories

Head Start

Jarvis Miller's connection to Head Start spans childhood, education, and professional life. While he did not attend Head Start himself, both his older brother and younger sister were enrolled in the program. Through them, Jarvis became familiar with the Head Start environment, its educators, and its sense of community. He walked the halls of the Edgewood Head Start Center, met teachers, and shared in the experience alongside his family.

That connection deepened when Jarvis' mother pursued her undergraduate degree at Winthrop University and completed an internship with Carolina Community Actions under the guidance of Dr. Ann Cain, CCA's former Head Start Education Manager. During that time, Jarvis remained closely connected to the program. What stood out most to him was the culture of the organization, where professionalism, collaboration, and genuine care for one another were evident in daily interactions.

As a teenager, Jarvis worked in CCA's Youth Programs. Later, as an adult, he joined Head Start as an employee himself. In a full circle moment, he found himself working alongside individuals who had once taught his siblings and supported his family. The same program that once served his family during childhood became his professional home.

Throughout his time as a Family Services Caseworker and graduate student, Jarvis experienced consistent support from Head Start leadership and colleagues. He was encouraged through academic growth, guided in his professional development, and supported during personal loss. His work was recognized and valued, reinforcing a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

Jarvis' story reflects what Head Start represents to many families. It is more than an early childhood program. It is a community that supports individuals across life stages. By investing in children, families, and staff, Head Start builds lasting relationships that extend far beyond the classroom. For Jarvis and his family, Head Start is not simply a program. It is a family.

Agency Locations

- **Administrative Office**
138 S. Oakland Avenue • Rock Hill, SC 29730 • 803.329.5195
- **Chester County Office**
129-A Wylie Street • Chester, SC 29706 • 803.385.5205
- **Fairfield County Office**
414-B South Congress Street • Winnsboro, SC 29180 • 803.635.3606
- **Lancaster County Office**
101 South Wylie Street • Lancaster, SC 29720 • 803.285.2034
- **Union County Office**
506-A Duncan Bypass • Union, SC 29379 • 864.427.0336
- **York County Office**
546 S. Cherry Road, Suite L • Rock Hill, SC 29732 • 803.366.5537
- **Edgemoor Head Start Center**
1966 Westbrook Road • Edgemoor, SC 29712 • 803.789.3040
- **North Chester Head Start Center & Early Head Start**
2135 Quinn Road • Chester, SC 29706 • 803.581.6854
- **Jonesville Head Start Center & Early Head Start**
514 Alman Street • Jonesville, SC 29353 • 864.674.6014
- **Avery Lake Head Start Center**
100 Lestina Court • Fort Mill, SC 29715 • 803.802.7587
- **Clover Head Start Center (Blue Eagle Academy)**
300 Clinton Street • Clover, SC 29710 • 803.222.0736
- **Rock Hill Head Start Center**
929 Sylvia Circle • Rock Hill, SC 29730 • 803.328.3074
- **York Head Start Center (York One Academy)**
37 Pinckney Street • York, SC 29745 • 803.368.2093



www.carolinacommunityactions.org