Mission-Driven Efforts
To Meet Needs and Impact
Lives and Communities

2025-2026 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

Chester County
Azilee Hill
Burley McDaniel
Angela T. Perry
William King

Fairfield County
Oren Gadson
Brian Glover

Lancaster County
Timothy Cureton
Susan Dolphin
Leocadia Francis
Elaine McKinney

Union County
Edith Foster
Sonya Glenn
Dale Goff
Harold Thompson

York County
kwasi Amposa
Wakita Barksdale
Kendra Cherry
Melvin McCullough
Regeana Phillips
John Sanders
Isaiah Venning

Executive Director/ CEO

Karen Brackett Browning

2025-2026 Head Start Policy Council

Chester County Parent Representatives
Alexix Jimenez
Dawana Hinton
Allison Murphy

Union County Parent Representatives
Aaliyah Cureton

Community Representatives
Kendra Cherry
Dina Cole
Sara Moss
Isaiah Venning
Latoya Wylie

York County Parent Representatives
Nauria Wilmore
Sara Moss

Households Served

Levels of Household Income Served by CCA

3654 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%	$7,825	For each additional person, add $2,720	24%
51% to 75%	$7,825 to $11,737	For each additional person, add $2,720-$4,126	17%
76% to 100%	$11,738 to $15,650	For each additional person, add $4,126-$5,500	21%
101% to 125%	$15,650 to $19,562	For each additional person, add $5,500-$6,865	18%
126% to 150%	$19,563 to $23,475	For each additional person, add $6,875-$8,250	12%
151% to 175%	$23,476 to $27,387	For each additional person, add $8,250-$9,625	6%
176% to 200%	$27,388 to $31,300	For each additional person, add $9,625-$11,000	2%

Family Income Level

MIT's 2025 Living Wage Calculator indicates (Updated Feb. 2026) that a family of four with one working parent and three children in each of the service areas needs to earn above $98,300/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 $33,009/year.

Family Size – 1 Adult 3 Children
2026 Poverty Level at 100% - $33,009
2026 Poverty Level at 200% - $66,018

County	Living Wage Rate	Poverty Wage Rate	Gap
Chester	$108,534/yr. $52.18/hr.	$33,009/yr $15.87/hr.	$75,525/yr. $36.31/hr.
Fairfield	$105,955/yr. $50.94/hr.	$33,009/yr 15.87/hr.	$72,946/yr $35.07/hr.
Lancaster	$122,720/yr $59.00/hr.	$33,009/yr $15.87/hr.	$89,711/yr. $43.13/hr.
Union	$98,300/yr. $47.26/hr.	$33,009/yr $15.87/hr.	$65,291/yr. $31.39/hr.
York	$128,710/yr. $61.88/hr.	$33,009/yr $15.87/hr.	$95,701/yr. $46.01/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 Coronovirus 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)

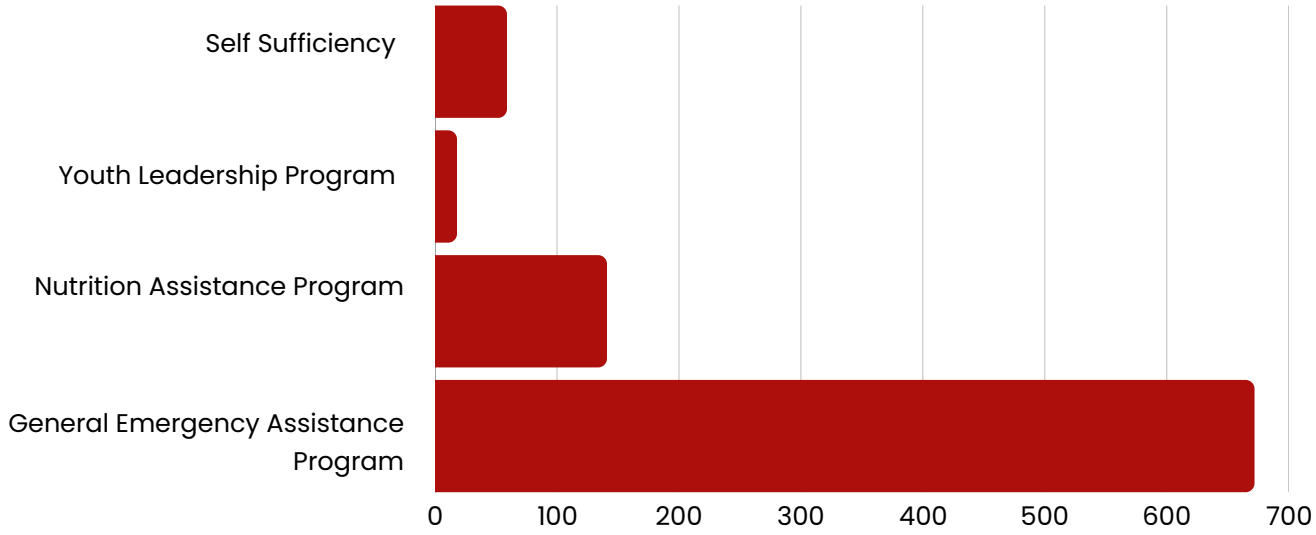


Head Start/ Early Head Start (HS/EHS)

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 2025 - December 2025



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)
  - 59 individuals participated in the program in 2025
- Nutrition Assistance Program - provides education on proper food choices and identification of nutrition resources
  - 141 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
  - 18 youth completed the program objectives
- General Emergency Assistance Program - provides emergency financial assistance
  - 672 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: 252 families that included 230 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

40

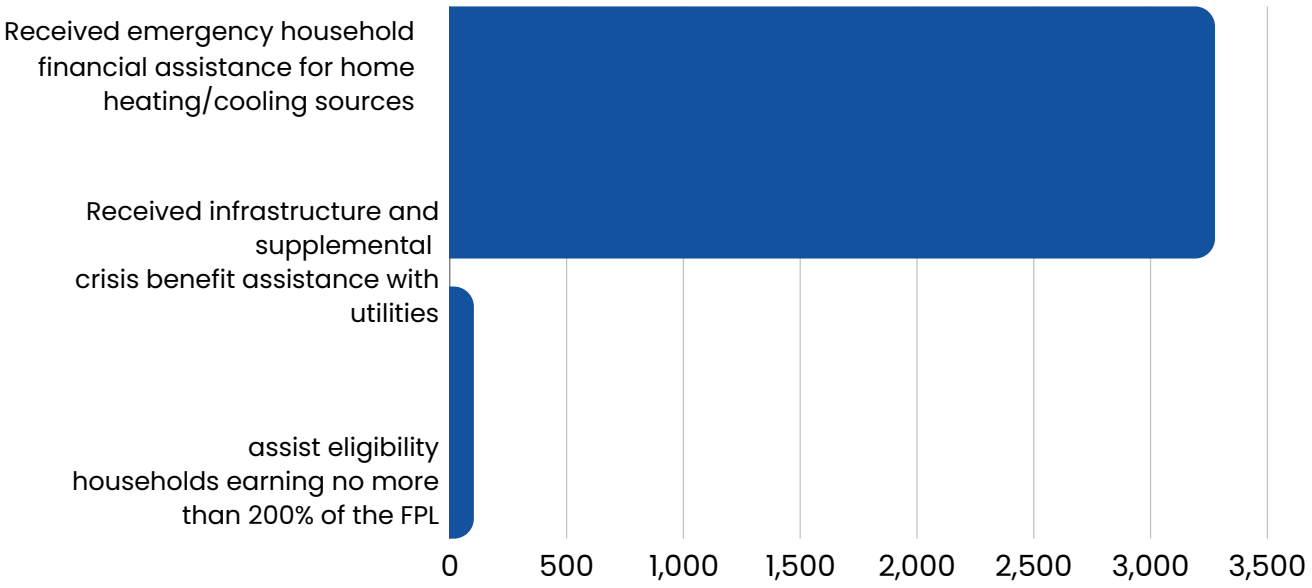
The number of LWAP & DOE, DOE BIL

4/1/25 to 3/31/26

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 2025- December 2025



Additional achievements in 2024:

- 103 families received emergency fuel/utility assistance from Dominion Westinghouse Funds Designed to assist eligibility households earning no more than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines
- 3276 services were provided for energy assistance through the Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) funds to households to pay their utility bills, avoiding disconnection in 2025

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 2025- 2026	Early Head Start SY 2025- 2026
258 preschoolers received high-quality Pre-K education at no cost to the family, 68.9 percent (178) were at or below 100% of poverty guidelines for Head Start	32 infant and toddlers received high quality Early Head Start (EHS) services at no cost to the families, 100 percent (32) were at or below 100% of poverty guidelines
111 Families Received Public Assistance	No pregnant women were enrolled in EHS
33 Children received disability services	25 Families received Public Assistance
191 Children received preventive and primary oral health services	22 Children received preventive and primary oral health services
86 Fathers/significant males were involved in the child's development experiences.	12 Fathers/significant males were involved in the child's development experiences.
207 Families received at least one family service	32 Families received at least one family service

During the 2025–2026 program year, children included in the Fall-to-Spring comparison demonstrated progress across all six developmental and learning areas measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD. By Spring, 64%–96% of assessed children were meeting or exceeding widely held expectations in social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics development. From Fall to Spring, the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations increased by 18–33 percentage points across the six areas. The greatest gains occurred in Social-Emotional development, followed by Physical, Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, and Language development.

Financial Information

2025-2026 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs $13,671,649			2024-2025 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs $14,790,062	
Head Start (HS)	$5,252,871	38%	$5,002,062	34%
Early Head Start (EHS)	$655,197	5%	$765,797	5%
*LIHEAP	$3,682,770	27%	$4,732,537	32%
CSBG	$635,893	5%	$824,805	6%
Weatherization (WAP)	$939,398	7%	$1,146,698	5%
USDA	$363,608	3%	$339,068	2%
In-kind Contributions	$11,930,905	14%	$1,930,603	13%
**Non-Federal Share	$211,607	1%	$47,897	.003%

*Includes: LIHEAP Supplement 25, LIHEAP Infrastructure 25

In 2025, CCA's overall administrative cost was 6%. Ninety-four percent (94%) of CCA's funding directly benefited our service users. In 2025, 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 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 fiscal years.

Impact Stories

Weatherization Assistance Program

Catherine Coleman is a valued member of our community who recently received support through our home beautification and weatherization project. When our team visited her home, we identified several areas where basic yard work, home repairs, and weatherization measures could make her home safer, more comfortable, and energy efficient.

Our team worked alongside many volunteers and Dominion Energy to improve the appearance and condition of her property. The project included yard cleanup, planting flowers, painting the porch rails, and doors. Along with needed home repairs we also did weatherization-related improvements such as: HVAC replacement, air sealing, repairing damaged duct work, and installing attic insulation. These efforts helped address areas that had been difficult to maintain and gave Catherine a cleaner, more comfortable place to call home.

By combining hands-on service with practical home improvements and weatherization measures, our team was able to make a meaningful difference for Catherine and her living environment.

Impact Stories

CSBG/ LIHEAP

Tayari Feemster
Certified Medical Billing and Coding Professional

The support I received through Carolina Community Actions made a meaningful difference in my educational journey. Because of this program, I was able to enroll in and complete my Medical Billing and Coding course. The program also provided the supplies I needed for graduation, which meant a great deal to me at such an important milestone in my life.

I am proud to share that I recently passed my certification exam and am now a Certified Medical Billing and Coding professional. This achievement would not have been possible without the encouragement and resources provided by Carolina Community Actions and its community partners. Their investment in education and workforce development helps people like me move toward stable, meaningful careers.

I am grateful for the opportunity and for the people who believed in my potential. This support has opened doors for me, and I hope to keep building a successful career while giving back to my community.

Impact Stories

Head Start

Serrina began attending Edgemoor Head Start in the 2025–2026 school year, with Ms. Parker and Ms. Mosier as her teachers. Serrina has been diagnosed with a developmental delay, and Head Start was her first experience in a school setting and around other children.

At first, Serrina had frequent temper tantrums, struggled to function in the classroom, and found it difficult to interact with others. The classroom was overwhelming for her, especially when other children were crying, and she would often go into fight-or-flight mode. When her emotions felt out of control, she would turn to Ms. Mosier for comfort. Serrina loves her teachers.

As Serrina continued attending Head Start, she adjusted to the classroom routines and dynamics. She began showing empathy and concern for others in ways she had not before. Her parents, Christopher and Heather, say there have been so many small victories since she started at Head Start that they are hard to put into words. Serrina now functions well in public settings, enjoys the consistency and structure Head Start provides, and is excited to go to school every day.

Serrina is now in her second year at Head Start, and her parents say this year has brought the biggest change. Her positive behaviors and abilities have grown across the board. During her first year, Serrina had little to no speech. Now she is trying to hold full conversations. Her parents say that she used to be unable to acknowledge anyone, but now she greets people on her own with “hello” and “goodbye.” Wherever the family goes, Serrina says “hello,” “goodbye,” and “eat.” Just yesterday, when her parents picked her up from school, Serrina said “goodbye,” gave hugs, and blew kisses to Ms. Parker and her classmates.

Christopher and Heather say Serrina’s quality of life has improved since she started Head Start. The program pushed her out of her comfort zone and reinforced the positive life skills and behaviors she was building. In their words, it is “amazing how far Serrina has come.” She has made so much progress that her Early Interventionist is considering ending her services. Christopher and Heather say they are enjoying watching her grow and thrive at Head Start.

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