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 help people help themselves and each other.

Our Mission

To serve as a professional organization for the Georgia Community Action Network by strengthening partnerships and providing tools and capacity building strategies to reduce poverty.

Our Vision

We envision the Georgia Community Action Association as a strong, united network of effective community action agencies, guided by excellence and integrity in the promotion of social and economic justice in the State of Georgia.

Our Goals

**Strategic Goal #1**
Active Participation and Engagement of Members

**Goal Statement:** Members actively involved by contributing time and resources, and volunteering. They are engaged in discussions, participating in training, demonstrating commitment to participate with dedication and willingness to serve. Communication is enhanced through the use of technology.

**Strategic Goal #2**
Financially Sustainable Organization

**Goal Statement:** The association increases revenues, diversifies income and has the funding needed to support quality programming and technical assistance to members.

**Strategic Goal #3**
Organizations of Excellence

**Goal Statement:** Member organizations achieve national benchmarks and standards for excellence. Support agencies with training and access to experts, technology, fundraising, marketing, and dissemination of best practices.

**Strategic Goal #4**
Increasing Revenue for Member Organizations

**Goal Statement:** A priority for members is increasing and diversifying their revenue and funding sources. The Association assists members in the development of new funding sources and revenue streams.
Why Community Action?

Community Action equips low-income citizens with the tools and opportunity to become self-sufficient. The structure of the program is unique – federal dollars are used and leveraged locally to offer specialized programming in communities. It is a coordinated effort to address the root effects of poverty and to ultimately move families and individuals to self-sufficiency. With 20 Community Action Agencies and 4 CSBG County Offices in the State of Georgia, we comprise a human service network capable of serving all 159 counties with assistance to our most vulnerable populations.

Community Action Agencies in Georgia Provided Services*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Assistance</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Family Stability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>163,693 individuals and households received emergency Services</td>
<td>145,178 participants with low incomes in the CSBG Network</td>
<td>137,155 participants with low incomes obtaining support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAMILY TYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY TYPE</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Female Parent</td>
<td>17,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Male Parent</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Parent Household</td>
<td>3,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Person</td>
<td>31,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Adults/No Children</td>
<td>5,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EDUCATION LEVELS OF ADULTS 24 YEARS OR OLDER

COMMUNITY ACTION POPULATION SERVED BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS SERVED INCLUDED:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td>58,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people who lacked health insurance</td>
<td>61,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seniors</td>
<td>56,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people with disabilities</td>
<td>32,105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE OF FAMILY INCOME

COMMUNITY ACTION POPULATION SERVED BY RACE & ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE &amp; ETHNICITY</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>80,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>38,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino, Hispanic or Spanish Origin</td>
<td>2,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Races</td>
<td>2,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>1,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian &amp; Alaska Native</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FFY 2017 State CSBG Fact Sheets data.
Community Action Agencies create solutions that improve people’s lives, homes, communities, and the nation.

The association provides, training, technical assistance and information on issues that are critical to our members as each member agency carries out their local organization’s purpose and mission. While each organization is uniquely different, we have one common interest, and that is to help individuals and families find ways to matriculate out of poverty. As a membership organization, we realize that there are multiple approaches that are needed to tackle the problems of poverty in all our communities. As an association, we realize that poverty has many causes and these causes are different for each community in which our members provide services.

The association and our member agencies require the human and financial support of many to accomplish their missions. Federal, state and local governments, as well as private foundations, United Way, the business community, private individuals who volunteer and who make personal contributions, religious organizations, and social and civic organizations are all a part of our progress. It is these partnerships that help our network help families and individuals transition out of poverty. The continued support of our partners is critical to finding new and innovative ways to address poverty in all our communities in Georgia. Our member agencies services are both similar and unique, as are the communities in which our member agencies operate in rural and urban settings.

CSBG PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES FOR GEORGIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYMENT 145,178</th>
<th>Participants with low incomes in the CSBG Network employment initiatives obtained supports which reduced or eliminated barriers to initial or continuous employment, acquired a job, increased their income, or achieved “living wage” employment and benefits.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECONOMIC ASSET ENHANCEMENT AND UTILIZATION 5,742</td>
<td>Households with low incomes increased their financial assets or financial skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT 59,471</td>
<td>Infants, children, youth, parents, and other adults participated in developmental or enrichment programs facilitated by the CSBG Network and achieved program goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH LOW INCOMES 100,871</td>
<td>Vulnerable individuals with low incomes received services from the CSBG Network and secured or maintained an independent living situation as a result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY STABILITY 137,155</td>
<td>Participants with low incomes obtained supports which reduced or eliminated barriers to family stability through assistance from the CSBG Network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE 163,693</td>
<td>Individuals and families with low incomes received emergency assistance from the CSBG Network.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

640,358 outcomes were achieved through services and strategies provided by GA Network for participants and communities with low incomes.

For every $1 of CSBG, the GA Network leveraged $12.58 from federal, state, local, and private sources, including the value of volunteer hours.*

*Value of Volunteer Hours calculated using federal minimum wage, except in those states with a higher minimum wage.

DATA SOURCE: Program year 2017 - 2018 EasyTrak data.
Alexis Bryant completed the Community Action Youth Leadership Initiative (CAYLI) with new-found confidence and leadership qualities that will benefit her for life. Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority, Inc., located in Brunswick, GA, developed CAYLI for youth to enjoy a wide range of structured experiences where they will both learn and apply essential leadership skills such as team building, ethical decision making, time management, goal setting, public speaking, interpersonal skills, financial literacy and conflict resolution. Ms. Bryant states, “I’ve learned from encouraging mentors on how to be confident, the power of my voice, how to own my opinions, keep good eye contact and engage others. Because in CAYLI, we learn how to put our skills into action through practice and real-life settings that will last a lifetime. I have truly come a long way from not being able to speak in front of a crowd to running for a leadership role at my school and being more involved in my community. If it had not been for CAYLI I don’t believe I would have made it this far without the knowledge I have gained from being in this program. CAYLI has taught me how to be a leader and push to achieve more than just the minimum.”

**Strengthening the Reach of Community Action with Volunteers**

Across the nation, 1.2 million volunteers donate their time every year, expanding the reach of Community Action.

Mrs. Marty Sirmans is one of these invaluable volunteers. Mrs. Sirmans was nominated by Overview, Inc., and she was selected to receive the Wilbur P. Jones Award in 2018 for her dedication and commitment to positively impact her community. Mrs. Sirmans is the River Of Life Director for First United Methodist Church of Milledgeville. Overview, Inc., located in Milledgeville, GA, has partnered with River of Life for several years and through that partnership their clients have received the benefit of receiving new wheelchair ramps, yard work, their homes painted, etc. Mrs. Sirmans goes above and beyond her role with River Of Life by participating in Overview’s ministry partners meetings and, on several occasions, has went to members of her Sunday School class to solicit monetary donations, donation of materials, plumbing fixtures and furniture on behalf of our clients. The work which Overview, Inc accomplishes is multiplied as a direct result of Mrs. Sirmans involvement. Mrs. Marty Sirmans could never be thanked enough for everything she does for Overview, Inc. and the clients they serve; and, she expects no thanks (that’s part of what makes her so special).

In fact, Community Action, Inc. is governed by volunteers. As with all Community Action Agencies, the Community Action, Inc. board of directors is made up of local elected officials, private and, public sector representatives, and low-income residents who donate their time to ensure the agency is effectively meeting local needs. That’s how Community Action works - side by side with neighbors collaborating to make their hometowns better places to live.

When Mosi reached out to the Enrichment Services Program (ESP), a Community Action Agency in Columbus, Georgia, she didn’t have a job. And because she didn’t have access to childcare to support her job search, she and her children were at risk of becoming homeless while she was out of work. Today, Mosi works for Georgia’s Division of Family and Children Services, helping to ensure the stability of Georgia families and protect Georgia’s children.

ESP serves nine Georgia and Alabama counties facing a range of barriers to economic opportunity. Lack of education makes it difficult for people to find work that fits their skills, and the jobs they can get don’t pay a living wage. The area is also largely rural, adding access to reliable transportation and affordable childcare to the list of obstacles.

ESP was able to help address the childcare challenge—families could come to the agency for quality early childhood education through Head Start. But the agency realized that a more comprehensive approach would make a real difference for parents who needed a stable job and help meeting basic needs. ESP developed an integrated services approach believing it would make a stronger impact for families throughout the area. Now, every family that walks through ESP’s door is introduced to a bundle of services. Instead of looking at just one symptom of poverty, ESP considers all of them. The agency’s services include employment training, energy assistance, food assistance, Early Head Start and Head Start, financial capability services, and more approaches that serve the whole family.

Like many Community Action Agencies across the country, ESP measures a family’s progression to stability using a crisis-to-thriving scale, which looks at factors like permanent employment, completed education, or saved money. The agency works with families like Mosi’s to provide services and resources that help them take incremental steps toward economic security.

Mosi reached her goals of gaining employment and care for her children with the help of ESP. Access to Head Start for her children gave Mosi the stability she needed to find a job. The agency also connected her with a partner organization in Columbus so Mosi could secure housing for her family. When a family faces obstacles at every turn, a job often isn’t enough to turn it around. But Community Action Agencies are there to answer the call, offering the individualized, comprehensive supports families need to find stability and, over time, to thrive.
Financial Accountability

Assets

Current Assets
Cash $100,214
Investments $151,719
Grantors $11,653
Members’ Receivables $2,790
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS $266,376

Property and Equipment $0

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities $73,074
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES $73,074

Unrestricted Net Assets $193,302
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $266,376

Revenues and Other Support

Federal/State Funds $512,400
Membership Dues and Assessments $198,376
Conference Fees $83,571
Other Income $49,805
Interest Income $0
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT $844,152

Expenses

Consortium $400,000
Management and General $327,798
CSBG Activities $112,033
TOTAL EXPENSES $839,831

Achievements

Legislative Day each year in February
The Georgia Community Action Association Board Members, Community Partners, and Volunteers gather in Atlanta to meet with State Representatives of both the Georgia House and Senate to advocate for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. Information is distributed, and GCAA is available for the Representatives and their staffs to answer questions, share member agencies’ successes and challenges, and enlighten representatives and their staff to the ongoing work of Community Action in uplifting communities, enhancing family stability, supporting children and senior citizens, and so much more.

GCAA Annual Conference
The GCAA Training and Technical Assistance Conference held in Savannah, GA welcomed over 300 individuals to build individual and organizational capacity in Community Action in the State of Georgia. With over 35 different workshops presented by field experts, Town Hall, and full day Preconference courses, attendees return to their respective agencies armed with enhanced knowledge, increased capacity, and an expanded network of colleagues.

Organizational Standards and ROMA
The Organizational Standards and Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) trainings and technical assistance (TTA) activities have served as the foundation for organizational capacity building. Each CSBG Eligible Entity is expected to meet/exceed the Organizational Standards (100%) and have ready access to a Certified ROMA Professional. GCAA facilitated opportunities for organizational standards training and consultations, as well ROMA certification trainings throughout the year.

Training and Technical Assistance
The Association and the State CSBG Lead worked together to develop a joint Training and Technical Assistance Plan for the Georgia Network. Through workshop training evaluations, agency staff feedback, and the annual TTA Survey, the plan was created. GCAA works with each agency to address their need(s) and enhance their strength(s).

Resource Dissemination
GCAA disseminates pertinent information to the network through the quarterly newsletter, board meeting announcements, e-blasts, and the website. GCAA is central to communication efforts within the network and ensuring that members are abreast of relevant information.
Georgia's Community Action Agencies

ACTION, Inc.
Phone: 706-546-8293
Lisa Gautreaux, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton

Central Savannah River Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.
Phone: 706-722-0493
Lola Johnson, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes

Clayton County Community Services Authority, Inc.
Phone: 404-363-0575
Dr. Rhonda Kindred, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Clayton, Fayette

Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority, Inc.
Phone: 912-264-3281
Tres Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer
Counties served:
Bryan, Camden, Glynn, Liberty, McIntosh

Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.
Phone: 229-244-7860
Tanya Thomas, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Ben Hill, Barrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Tift, Turner

Community Action for Improvement, Inc.
Phone: 706-884-2651
Jennifer Corcione, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Meriwether, Troup

Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham County Area
Phone: 912-238-2960
Tom Ella McBeth, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Chatham

Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Phone: 706-649-1600
Belva Dorsey, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Talbot

Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority
Phone: 404-320-0166
Dr. Joyce Dorsey, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Fulton

Heart of Georgia Community Action Council, Inc.
Phone: 478-374-4301
Robin Thomas, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, Wilcox

Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
Phone: 478-738-3240
Sarita Hill, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Bibb

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.
Phone: 478-922-4464
Robin Thomas, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Butts, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Lamar, Monroe. Peach, Pike, Upson, Twiggs

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.
Phone: 770-532-3191
Patsy Thomas, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Heart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

North Georgia Community Action, Inc.
Phone: 706-692-5644
Jonathan Ray, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens, Walker, Whitfield

Overview, Inc.
Phone: 478-453-4111
Wanda Addeo, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Baldwin, Hancock, Jasper, Johnson, Putnam, Washington, Wilkinson

Partnership for Community Action, Inc.
Phone: 404-929-2500
Brittany Eubanks, Executive Director
Counties Served:
DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale

Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Inc.
Phone: 229-985-3610
Randy Weldon, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth

Tallatoona Community Action Partnership, Inc.
Phone: 770-382-5388
Scott Gray, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Bartow, Douglas, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Paulding, Polk

West Central Georgia Community Action Authority, Inc.
Phone: 478-472-3607
Cynthia Brown, Executive Director
Counties Served:
Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, Webster

Georgia Community Action Association
Phone: 404-361-4442
Tres Hamilton, President
Lorraine Daniels, Executive Director
Thank you to our Partners and Investors

Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/
Administration for Children and Families (ACF) - Head Start & Early Head Start Georgia
Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA)
Georgia Public Services Commission
USDA Rural Housing Service
Georgia Department of Education
Georgia Department of Labor
U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
Georgia Department of Education
U.S.D.A. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TEFAP)
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
U.S. Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services/Office of Community Services (OCS)
Georgia Power
SCANA Energy
United Way
REACH Consulting Group, LLC
Smartquest Technology, Inc.

The list of Investment Partners does not include the many partners that collaborate with CAAs at the local level and invest in improving family and community conditions. They include local financial institutions, businesses, volunteers, county governments, community organizations and private donors. We give thanks to each of these partners who are committed to creating a better tomorrow for all.