Achieving Excellence in Challenging Times
Who We Are

The Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA) is the state association for Connecticut’s Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federal designated anti-poverty agencies empowering people throughout Connecticut’s 169 cities and towns.

Our Mission

The mission of the Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA) is to strengthen the capacity of its members to empower people in need and improve the communities in which they live.

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.

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2017 Annual Report designed and written by Susanne Kenney
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A message from CAFCA

This past year has been one of the most trying for Connecticut’s Community Action Network and the people we serve.

Lagging economic growth continues to plague our state. Connecticut is one of just five that have yet to recover from the economic recession that hit a decade ago. And, our income disparities remain one of the worst in the nation with the second-highest rate of income inequality. This, coupled with ongoing budget uncertainties at the state level and the threatened elimination of several core federal funding streams, pushed Connecticut’s Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to find ways to meet an ever-increasing customer need for services.

While Connecticut is still one of the wealthiest states in the country, our precarious economic and budget situations point to a different truth: the safety net is shrinking, the middle class is losing ground, and household budgets are being pushed to the limit as expenses outpace wages. Considering these stressors, there is a pressing need to ensure people have a place to turn for assistance, opportunity, and hope when they are facing financial crisis and run out of options. Many times that place is their local Community Action Agency.

In addition to providing critical services to help individuals and families, Community Action Agencies are a driving force in our economy. Each year, they help struggling residents and the State of Connecticut solve problems, avoid crises, and save money. Our agencies reach people in every corner of the state and through their Community Needs Assessments know what services to address. This year, CAAs connected more than 313,500 people to essential programs and services such as food, child care, employment and training, and heating assistance that helped them plan a path to and achieve economic sustainability.

Despite the tremendous challenges we faced this past year, our network never wavered in its commitment to shift the conversation and move the needle toward making a profound, lasting impact on limited income individuals, families, and communities. Connecticut’s CAAs apply Results Based Accountability (RBA), enabling them to track and measure significant agency, customer, and community-level change outcomes and results—providing transparency, a positive return on investment, and a blueprint for moving forward. This is what you will read about in our report, and what truly sets Community Action apart.

Our strong, deep-seated history lends itself to a collective understanding of the causes, conditions, and realities of poverty, and Community Action Agencies know the most effective ways to help individuals and families deal with poverty’s challenges. We believe in the power of community. We believe that those we serve are an integral part of the work we do, and have a voice in shaping their future. And we believe that Connecticut’s children, youth, families, seniors, the working poor, and everyone in between are valued members of our communities and bring strengths, diversity, and skills to all the places where we live. In these very difficult times, that certainly gives us much to celebrate.
Here are some highlights of CAFCA’s work from 2017 to assist our Community Action Agency Network in empowering people in need and improving the communities in which they live.

**Community Action Day**
CAFCA and over 200 Community Action Agency (CAA) leaders, board members, staff, and customers convened in March at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford for Community Action Day to oppose the Governor’s reduction in Human Services Infrastructure (HSI)-Community Action Program (CAP) funding and the President’s budget proposal, which eliminated or reduced critical funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and Meals on Wheels Program. A number of legislative leaders including Representatives Matthew Ritter, Toni Walker, William Petit, Larry Butler, Edward Vargas, and Geraldo Reyes attended and talked about the importance of these funding streams to those in need across Connecticut. CAA customers from several agencies shared their stories about how Community Action positively and directly impacted their lives.

**Working with National Partners**
CAFCA works closely with the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) on federal legislative priorities, and attended NCAF’s annual conference in Washington, D.C. in March. Many CAA leaders and staff met with Connecticut’s congressional delegation to discuss the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and other critical programs and services like Head Start, Weatherization, and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The CAA leaders talked about the positive and significant impact these services have on their customers and communities back home, and stressed the importance of continuing to support these vital funding streams. CT’s congressional delegation is strongly supportive of the CAA Network and have been leaders in congress for Community Action.

CAFCA staff also works hand in hand with the National Association for State Community Service Programs (NASCSP), and attended its Spring Training Conference. The conference provided opportunities to discuss strategies to meet new challenges in improved performance, innovation, and accountability in the fight to change the face of poverty across the nation. Finally, CAFCA staff works closely with the Community Action Partnership on a number of projects and attended its Annual Convention. The convention theme was Transforming Communities, Changing Lives, and focused on innovative approaches to transforming families and communities.

**Southern New England Conference**
CAFCA provided the planning and convening leadership for the 2017 Southern New England Conference, *Achieving Excellence in Challenging Times*, held in October on Cape Cod. More than 150 Community Action leaders, staff, and board members from across Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and the northern New England states attended. It was an exciting and successful conference that offered tracks on ROMA Next Generation; Board Governance; Organizational Standards; CAA Best Practices and Applications; and, Management and Leadership Development. The conference featured keynote speakers David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation; Alex Kotlowitz, award-winning journalist and best-selling author; and, Dr. Lenette Azzi-Lessing, Professor, Wheelock College School of Social Work, Leadership, and Youth Advocacy.
Statewide Services for CAA Customers
CAFCA and the CAA network continued to administer statewide services through the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Case Management contract and SNAP Outreach contract from the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS). SSBG provides case management intervention, referral, and emergency service to those who qualify. The program can help eligible customers with things like strengths-based goal planning, life-skills training, job readiness training, education and employment assistance, and crisis intervention. SNAP Outreach conducts activities and provides application assistance to limited income individuals and households, including the elderly and working poor that are potentially eligible for SNAP benefits but are not receiving them.

Strengthening Member Agencies with Training and Technical Assistance
Each year, CAFCA works with the Connecticut Department of Social Services to ensure that Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) is offered to our member Community Action Agencies to support, enhance, and strengthen their organizational capacity. This year’s offerings included sessions on finance, the child support referral process, ROMA, Family Development Credential (FDC), Case Management/Case Notes and Case Management Audits, DSS programs, and our customer-focused, integrated service delivery system, the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI).

CAFCA has six national certified Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) trainers. ROMA is a management and accountability framework that focuses on the results achieved through Community Action Agency services and interventions. Trainings on various aspects of the ROMA cycle were provided throughout the year. In 2017, three CAA staff became Nationally Certified ROMA Implementers (NCRI), and two are in the process of becoming certified.

Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC)
CAFCA continues to be the lead grantee for the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) for New England for 2016-2019. CAFCA works in close partnership with the State Associations and state CSBG offices in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont to implement this important initiative. This includes capacity building, strengthening exemplary practices, and assisting Community Action Agencies in Connecticut and across New England in maximizing and aligning T/TA resources, meeting and implementing the Organizational Standards, and encouraging and operationalizing a ROMA Next Generation learning culture.

New England Community Action Partnership (NECAP)
CAFCA’s Executive Director serves on the board for the New England Community Action Partnership (NECAP), and CAFCA staff continues to provide staff support for NECAP. NECAP serves the collective interests of its member CAAs and the limited income population of New England through representation and education, and there are three representatives from each state on the NECAP board. The regional association provides an opportunity for CAA directors and staff within the region to come together to discuss and share trends, mutual concerns, and best practices that address poverty-related policy issues on a state, regional, and national level. This year, we’ve been busy planning the 2018 NECAP Issues Forum, which will take place in January at The Charles Hotel in Cambridge, MA.
THE COMMUNITY ACTION APPROACH

Connecticut’s Community Action Agencies (CAAs) utilize a customer-focused, integrated service delivery system called the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI). Through this approach, individuals and families can enter a CAA for any reason and get connected to programs, services, and resources to help meet their short and long-term needs like food, shelter, heating assistance, child care, and housing. As important as this approach is, our multigenerational focus on the entire family is equally important. And, most of the services CAAs provide—heat, food, housing, and health counseling—are critical social determinants of health.

HSI is designed to respond directly to the specific needs of customers and their communities across the state in the best way possible, helping to change people’s lives for the better. Through agency innovation as well as local, state, federal, and community-based partnerships, CAA customers are empowered and equipped with the tools, skills, and support they need to move towards and reach economic security and sustainability, and overall general well-being.

Around the state, 1,153 limited income people took a stake in their community and participated in formal community organizations, government, boards, or councils that provide input to decision making and policy setting.
CAFCA administers the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Case Management contract to all nine Community Action Agencies. SSBG Case Management is goal-oriented and strengths-based, providing mutually agreed upon services that help individuals and families throughout Connecticut meet their needs and work towards self-sufficiency. All services are free and available to anyone who is likely eligible.

This year, CAFCA’s SSBG Case Management program provided services to almost 5,000 individuals and families throughout Connecticut. These individuals and families received over 16,000 services during the year. The most common services received included housing and rehousing advocacy, referral and assistance; state and federal application completion (including SNAP, health insurance, and cash assistance); emergency food referral and assistance; employment and employability skills assistance; clothing referrals and assistance; financial literacy and money management services; and, energy services and referral. All participants began their service with the creation of an Individual Service Plan that identified their own specific goals and needs.

SSBG Case Management is outcome focused, and SSBG staff have been successful in providing clients with the following: basic needs assistance; help applying for public assistance; appropriate treatment plans to improve their overall life-functions or to resolve personal conflicts; medical services referrals; competencies required for employment; and, helping them obtain employment and maintain it for 90 days.

CAFCA administers the SNAP Outreach contract to all nine Community Action Agencies. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps limited income people buy the food they need for good health. CAAs assist potentially eligible individuals and families with eligibility prescreens and application assistance. Throughout the State of Connecticut, CAAs conduct community partner information sessions and community event information sessions to inform households about the availability, requirements, and benefits of SNAP.

In September, CAFCA and its CAA network concluded year one of the SNAP Outreach program. In the first year, several thousand individuals received eligibility prescreens and application assistance. Agency staff conducted eligibility prescreens to every customer that came to their agency to determine if they were eligible for SNAP benefits. If a customer was likely eligible, staff assisted customers with the SNAP application to ensure completion. Across the state, 516 community partner and event information sessions were held to inform potentially eligible individuals and families about SNAP. CAFCA and its CAA Network began year two of SNAP Outreach in October. Every agency will continue to focus on eligibility prescreening, application assistance, and community partner and event information sessions. CAFCA will continue to work with its CAAs to provide outreach services to limited income individuals and families that are potentially eligible for SNAP benefits but are not receiving them.
Early Childhood Programs

EARLY SERVICES WITH VALUABLE RETURNS

The research is clear: quality, early childhood education services benefit children and society. Effective early childhood services can improve life outcomes for kids facing adversity and generate positive returns on investments. Early childhood programs lead to increased worker productivity, increased wages for parents, lower long-term costs for law enforcement, welfare, health care, and special education.

CAA early childhood services are multigenerational. Children benefit from opportunities to learn and grow developmentally and physically through learning experiences, dental and health screenings, and daily nutrition from snacks and meals. To achieve positive outcomes for children experiencing significant adversity, it is essential that the adults who care for them are supported to transform their own lives.

While parents and caregivers receive access to nutrition, literacy, and developmental education and parenting skills that improve their role as a parent, it is their efforts to identify their own goals and barriers that make a major difference. CAAs help them connect to appropriate programs and services to help achieve their goals and move forward.

How much did we do?

Over 4,600 children participated in preschool activities that develop school readiness.

4,682 children obtained age appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.

How well did we do it?

4,634 children participated in preschool activities and demonstrated improvement in school readiness skills.

More than 12,000 infant and children’s health and physical development were improved as a result of adequate nutrition.

Is anyone better off?

Over 4,600 children are healthier because they received medical and dental care.

3,580 children are better prepared to start and succeed in grade school.

CAA Early Childhood programs give children and families the tools they need to succeed in school.

CAAs help them connect to appropriate programs and services to help achieve their goals and move forward.

High-quality early childhood development programs can deliver an annual return of 13% per child on upfront costs through better outcomes in education, health, employment, and social behavior in the decades to follow.
Housing & Shelter

ADDRESSING HOUSING NEEDS AND CONDITIONS

The National Center for Housing Policy recognizes the connection between housing and health. A healthy home is structurally sound, free of environmental hazards, and complies with applicable housing, building, and fire safety codes.

Nearly 24% of CT homes were built in 1939 or earlier, resulting in the unsafe and unhealthy conditions that exist in much of today’s housing stock.

This includes exposure to allergens, toxins, and other safety concerns. To help address this issue, CAAs provided a safer, more energy efficient and hazard-free environment for over 4,400 households last year through weatherization services like energy audits, window and furnace replacements, and insulation installments.

ADDRESSING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Connecticut renters are struggling with high housing costs: 51% spend over 30% of their income on housing while 27% are severely burdened, spending over 50% on housing.

This leaves families without the means to build savings for other necessities like a home, car, education for their children, or an emergency fund. Even if a family saved enough to purchase a home, CT’s housing stock does not meet the need: for every 22 low and moderate income renters, there is only one house for sale priced at $160,000 (CHFA’s median price) or below.

CAAs recognize the value for people to own their own home, and address the need through programs that rehabilitate multi-family homes available for purchase and funding to help current landlords improve their properties in exchange for renting affordably to income-eligible tenants.

How much did we do?

Almost 8,000 people obtained or maintained safe and affordable housing.

1,563 people received emergency shelter.

Over 4,400 safe and affordable housing units were preserved or improved through construction, weatherization, or rehabilitation.

Over 1,700 individuals and families received supportive housing services to build self-sufficiency and/or independent living skills.

How well did we do it?

Over 800 individuals avoided eviction through mediation.

Families were able to stay in their homes, made safer and more energy efficient through preservation and improvements achieved by Community Action activity or advocacy.

Is anyone better off?

Families who live in safer, more stable housing can better manage their daily lives and their children’s nutrition, health, development, and academic performance.

Individuals and families in supportive housing do not have to worry about where they will be sleeping night after night.
Financial Literacy & Asset Development

BUILDING STRONGER FINANCIAL FUTURES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Just over 50% of CAA customers have income from employment and/or employment and other sources, but struggle to save money without sacrificing basic needs. Through financial literacy education, the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), CAAs help people create and maintain a budget, and plan their financial future.

When families build assets like a saving account, they teach their children good financial habits and help pave the way for them to have access to a strong future. Findings show that children in homes with few or no assets (e.g., savings, a car, a home) have lower academic achievement scores, high school graduation rates, college enrollment rates, and college graduation rates than children in families that have assets.7

CAAs help individuals and families to better manage their very limited incomes, and money management skills help them develop and build assets.

With the support of CAA staff, customers are becoming more financially literate and able to connect with services that allow them to better manage their money within the budget they develop and potentially build savings.

Services available to income-eligible customers for utilities include:

- The Matching Payment Program (MPP): a payment incentive program that allows eligible utility customers to maintain year-round electric and gas service and pay an agreed upon amount each month to pay down the balance on their heating bill.
- The NuStart Forgiveness Program: available for customers with past due electric or gas bills. Past due balances are forgiven when the customer pays the agreed upon monthly budgeted bill on time.

The Telephone Lifeline program provides a discount on phone service for limited income, qualifying customers, providing them with the opportunity and security that phone service brings. This includes being able to connect to other programs and services, jobs, and their families.
Employment & Training

PUTTING PEOPLE ON THE RIGHT PATH

Last year, 759 youth participated in employment and training programs that taught responsibility, organization, time management, and helped establish work habits, experience, and financial stability. According to youth.gov, limited income youth who work during high school experience higher employment rates and wages in later teen years and lower probabilities of dropping out of high school.9

CAA Employment and Training programs give individuals the tools they need to succeed at work.

SUCCESSFUL JOB DEVELOPMENT

An Aspen Institute study that looked at industry-based workforce development survey participants four years after training participation found there to be an important link between education and advancement. Participants identified the skills and opportunities they developed through the training program, and how they have continued to help their careers. They also found that their ability to continue their education depended on finding support to defray the costs of child care, transportation, housing, and/or food.10

Helping a customer obtain employment is not as simple as enrolling in a job development program. CAAs understand the “extra” work necessary to help participants succeed in job training, employment, and retention. These “extras” include working to identify and remove barriers like child care, food, transportation, and housing. This, combined with a deliberate focus on workforce industry needs to find quality job opportunities for limited income workers, is what makes CAA job development services so successful.

How much did we do?

67,161 barriers to employment were reduced or eliminated.

5,794 people obtained employment or self-employment.

11,969 people learned skills and competencies required for employment.

How well did we do it?

Over 4,500 people increased their earned income and/or benefits from the previous year.

Is anyone better off?

Over 5,700 adults moved closer to self-sufficiency by going to work.

Over 1,300 people completed their GED or post-secondary education in order to maintain their employment or increase their earnings from income.

Individuals who have completed their GED or post-secondary education are expected to earn more in income than those without. In 2016, the median annual earnings for a high school dropout were $26,208 compared with $35,984 for a high school graduate and $60,112 for a college graduate.11
Helping Seniors Maintain Independent Living

How much did we do?
Over 39,000 seniors remained active in their communities by participating in community programs.

Over 20,000 seniors maintained independent living through support services including home meal delivery, home health or homemaker services.

How well did we do it?
Over 20,000 senior citizens avoided institutionalization, saving about $3.2 billion in nursing home costs in 2016.

Over 10,000 seniors citizens remained healthy and active by attending congregate meal sites.

Is anyone better off?
Over 39,000 senior citizens maintained an active, independent lifestyle.

873 seniors stayed active and gave back to their community as a volunteer in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Seniors who socialize benefit from a stronger immune system, improved brain health and memory, physical activity, moderated blood pressure, reduced depression and impact of chronic pain, better nutritional intake, and an improvement in their primary relationships.

Providing services to seniors to help them maintain a high quality of life is the challenge. Community Action meets this challenge every day through home delivered meals to those who are homebound, transportation to medical appointments, in-home assistance, grocery shopping, and meal preparation. These critical services allow them to age in their home and avoid high nursing home costs.

Socialization is another key piece in maintaining independence and quality of life for the elderly. Research shows that older adults with strong social networks seem to have a higher quality of life, live longer, and are healthier than those with little socialization.

Congregate Meals, Senior Companions, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and CAANH’s Mature Adult Activity Program provide the chance for seniors to participate in community activities, talk to others, and share skills and talents. All of these things help bring meaning to the life of a senior who may otherwise feel isolated at home.

Seniors who socialize benefit from a stronger immune system, improved brain health and memory, physical activity, moderated blood pressure, reduced depression and impact of chronic pain, better nutritional intake, and an improvement in their primary relationships.
Energy Assistance & Weatherization Services

PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH SAFE AND WARM HOMES AND THEN SOME

CAAs run the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps people keep their homes warm while using these savings to pay for other critical needs such as food and medicine. Without energy assistance, many limited income customers face the heat or eat dilemma.

Many LIHEAP recipients are vulnerable, and 90% of LIHEAP recipients in CT have vulnerable family members including elderly, disabled, or children.

In a national survey of LIHEAP recipients, 25% went without food for at least one day; 29% went without medical or dental care; 31% did not take their prescription medication; and, 12% got sick and had to go to a hospital or doctor because their home was too cold.

LIHEAP helps lessen these trade-offs that threaten the health and safety of limited income families throughout the winter.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS A WIN~WIN

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) assists limited income persons to minimize energy-related costs and fuel usage in their homes through retrofits and home improvement measures, including the installation of weather stripping on windows and doors and furnace replacement. This also helps to ensure their health and safety.

WAP is the nation’s single largest residential whole-house energy efficiency program. It has created an industry, producing new jobs and technologies, all while helping the most vulnerable families in America.

How much did we do?

97,545 households avoided crisis with energy assistance. Over 4,100 homes were made a more stable and healthy environment, and families decreased energy cost and use through weatherization services. Almost 30,000 people were provided with energy conservation information.

How well did we do it?

Every $1 invested in energy efficiency generates $2.30 in energy system benefits.

$6.4 million was saved by residents that directly affects household budgets, with the average in-home weatherization service reducing energy costs on average by more than $200 a year.

Is anyone better off?

Limited income people avoided utility crises, resolved vendor disputes, improved environmental safety, and learned how to save money through energy conservation measures.
**How much did we do?**

759 youth obtained job skills.

1,129 youth improved social/emotional development.

Over 1,400 youth increased their academic, athletic or social skills through their participation in after school programs.

Over 400 youth avoided at-risk behavior and reduced involvement in the criminal justice system.

**How well did we do it?**

291 children and youth at risk of DCF placement remained with their family because of improved family functioning.

91 youth received supportive services to build self-sufficiency and/or independent living skills.

**Is anyone better off?**

Working families and businesses derive benefits from after school programs that ensure that youth have a safe place to go while parents are at work. Parents concerned about their children’s after school care miss an average of eight days of work per year, costing businesses up to $300 billion annually.

Youth Development & After School Programs

**YOUTH SERVICES THAT ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

After school programs benefit youth, families and communities. They fill the gap between the end of the school day and when parents get home, and positively affect academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide kids with a safe, structured environment.

In 2014, over 99,000 children participated in an after school program while another 109,150 were alone or unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 pm. While the largest number of after school program participants are children in grades k-8, offering them to high school students brings positive results as well. Students who participate in what are known as expanded learning opportunities, which includes after school programs, show higher rates of school attendance, lower dropout rates, and improved attitudes toward school.

Community Action not only recognizes the value of these services, but has seen the impact first-hand through youth participants who demonstrated increased academic, athletic or social skills, avoided at-risk behavior, and improved social and emotional development.
Health & Counseling Services

IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

The Community Action Network is committed to improving the health and well-being of limited income and vulnerable people. Conditions, or the social determinants of health, where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. From assisting with securing health care and mental health services to working with families to improve their functioning, Community Action uses a holistic approach to help customers address these issues.

Strengthening the functioning of a family is a focus of CAAs as it affects the well-being of everyone in the family. CAA Parent Resource Centers, workshops, Fatherhood Program activities, and counseling are some of the services that support this growth for families.

CAAs recognize that there are many vulnerable individuals and families who are homeless or in unstable housing situations due to chronic health conditions, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, young people aging out of foster care, substance abuse, or other substantial barriers like domestic violence. CAAs meet this need by providing supportive housing with wraparound services.

Supportive housing services have a positive effect on housing stability, employment, mental and physical health, and school attendance. They are cost-effective as the number of people in homeless shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, and jails decrease.

CAA Health and Counseling services help people develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle, leading to other positive achievements.

How much did we do?

Over 8,600 people obtained access to needed healthcare.

Over 1,900 youth improved physical health and development.

407 youth learned how to avoid at-risk behavior.

Over 400 youth reduced involvement with the criminal justice system.

How well did we do it?

3,080 participants improved their family functioning and/or behavior because of counseling.

327 fathers participated in classes and activities to strengthen their parenting skills.

Over 3,100 parents/caregivers improved family functioning as a result of their participation in classes or supportive services.

Is anyone better off?

Thousands of limited income people statewide lived healthier lives because of the access to health care they received.

More than 650 individuals and families living in supportive housing received needed services without worrying about where to sleep at night.

Children are living in well-functioning homes because of parenting classes and activities, and are less likely to get into trouble in school, get involved in crime, or need other supportive services.
How much did we do?

Over 80,000 people received emergency or supplemental food from our food pantries and/or obtained SNAP benefits through application assistance.

Over 16,000 seniors participated in congregate meal programs or received home delivered meals.

Over 13,400 children and youth benefited from congregate meals.

Over 6,600 people received emergency vouchers for food, formula and/or diapers.

How well did we do it?

Over 7,100 children and youth received nutritious snacks and meals through Community Action summer congregate meals.

Is anyone better off?

Pregnant women had healthier pregnancies and healthier babies.

Congregate and home delivered nutrition services help bolster seniors’ food intake by providing an additional source for meeting their nutritional needs.28

The day-to-day contact in group settings or in-person contact that occurs when meals are delivered decreases isolation, which has been linked to higher mortality for older men and women.29

CAA nutrition services provide social interaction opportunities for seniors at congregate meal sites. And, home delivered meals allow seniors to age in place and continue to enjoy being at home with the nutritious meals brought to their door. Those receiving daily delivered meals were more likely to report improvements in mental health, self-rated health, decreased feelings of isolation, and felt less worried about being able to remain at home.27

For those older adults who are isolated due to physical and/or mental conditions or who lack transportation, Meals-On-Wheels provides home delivered meals and a daily check-in by delivery staff to help with any needs that may arise.
Footnotes

3From Best Practices to Breakthrough Impacts.
4Peters, “Investment in early childhood programs yields robust returns”
8Ibid.
10Maureen Conway and Ida Rademacher, Industry-Specific Workforce Development, Aspen Institute, https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/03-SF06.PDF
15The Importance of Socialization.
28Kowlessar, “Older Americans Benefit”
29Ibid.

CAFCA’s 990 can be found online at www.cafca.org

Support & Revenue
Grants and Contracts
   Federal $ 2,595,469
   Program and other income $ 164,987
Total: $ 2,760,456

Expenses
   Salaries and benefits $ 395,478
   Sub-recipients $ 1,555,584
   Professional fees and contractual services $ 579,501
   Materials and supplies $ 46,339
   Other $ 55,771
   Conferences and meetings $ 97,045
   Occupancy $ 26,537
   Travel and transportation $ 15,106
Total: $ 2,771,361

Change in net assets from operating activities ($10,905)

Leveraging Resources to End Poverty

Connecticut CAA Funding Sources The core operational funding for CAAs is the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). With that funding ($8,739,621 in FY 2016), CAAs are able to leverage additional funds, create partnerships, conduct local assessments and planning, and organize volunteers.

Connecticut CAAs utilize diverse funding sources in our anti-poverty work. Mostly through competitive, private, state and federal grants, Connecticut Community Action Agencies directed over $220 million toward fighting the effects and causes of poverty in 2016.

2016 Funding Sources for Connecticut CAA Network

   Federal (non-CSBG) $ 149,449,816
   Federal - CSBG $ 8,739,621
   State $ 41,211,323
   Local $ 3,153,341
   Private $ 21,467,548
Total: $ 224,021,649
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*Social determinants of health—programs that provide critical services which impact health outcomes*
Who we serve

Sources of Income by Benefit
- TANF
- SSI
- Social Security
- Pension
- General Assistance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Other

Source of Income
- Employment only
- Employment + Other Sources
- Benefits

Income Levels
- <50% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- 51-100% of FPL
- 101-150% of FPL
- >151% of FPL

Age
- 0-5 years old
- 6-17 years old
- 18-54 years old
- 55-69 years old
- 70+
Who we serve

Race

- White/Caucasian: 40%
- Black/African American: 27%
- Multi-Race: 9%
- Other: 24%

Ethnicity

- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin: 35%
- Not Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin: 65%

Family Type

- Single Parent Female Head of Household: 31%
- Single Person Household: 10%
- Single Parent Male Head of Household: 43%
- Two Parent Household: 14%
- Two Adults with no children: 2%

Education Level

- 0-8th grade: 18%
- 9-12th grade non-graduates: 13%
- High School Graduates/GED: 10%
- 12th + some Post Secondary: 9%
- 2 or 4 year College Graduates: 50%
The Connecticut Community Action Agency Network

Access Community Action Agency, Inc. (Access)
President/CEO: Peter DeBiasi
1315 Main Street, Suite 2, Willimantic, CT 06226
Tel. (860) 450-7400 www.accessagency.org

Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)
Executive Director: Charles Tisdale
1070 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Tel. (203) 366-8241 www.abcd.org
Towns served: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Norwalk, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport.

Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)
President/CEO: Amos Smith
419 Whalley Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
Tel. (203) 387-7700 www.caanh.net
Towns served: East Haven, Hamden, New Haven, North Haven, West Haven.

Community Action Agency of Western CT, Inc. (CAAWC)
Executive Director: Michelle James
66 North Street, Danbury, CT 06810
Tel. (203) 744-4700 www.caawc.org

Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)
President/CEO: Lena Rodriguez
555 Windsor Street, Hartford, CT 06120
Tel. (860) 560-5600 www.crtct.org
Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA)
Executive Director: Rocco Tricarico, J.D.
180 Clinton Street, New Britain, CT 06053
Tel. (860) 225-8601 www.hranbct.org
Town served: Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth.

New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)
President/CEO: James H. Gatling, Ph.D.
232 North Elm Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
Tel. (203) 575-9799 www.newoppinc.org

TEAM, Inc. (TEAM)
President/CEO: David Morgan
30 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT 06418
Tel (203) 736-5420 www.teaminc.org
Towns served: Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Woodbridge.

Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)
Executive Director: Deborah Monahan
1 Sylvandale Road, Jewett City, CT 06351
Tel. (860) 889-1365 www.tvcca.org

Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA)
Executive Director: Edith Pollock Karsky
144 Clinton Street, New Britain, CT 06053
Tel. (860) 832-9438 www.cafca.org
2. Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. [ABCD]
3. Community Agency of New Haven, Inc. [CAANH]
4. Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. [CAAWC]
5. Community Renewal Team, Inc. [CRT]
6. Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. [HRA]
7. New Opportunities, Inc. [NOI]
8. Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. [TVCCA]
9. TEAM, Inc. [TEAM]