

This *is* Community Action

In the Spotlight...

Annual Report 2021



CAFCA

Connecticut Association
for Community Action

Incorporated in 1974, the Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA) is the state association for Connecticut's nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federally designated antipoverty agencies, established by President Johnson to help fight the War on Poverty.

Through our strong partnership with the state and federal agencies, community-based organizations, and other state, regional, and national partners, we work to address the causes and conditions of poverty in Connecticut.

Vision

A just and equitable world where socially and economically disadvantaged people thrive and realize their highest potential.

Mission

To support, strengthen, and promote the work of the Community Action Agencies statewide to advance economic, racial, and social justice.

CAFCA Team



Deb Polun
Executive Director



Rhonda Evans
Deputy Director



Katrina Bresnahan
*Director of Social
Service Programs*



Alexis Soucy
*Director of Communications
and Special Projects*

A Message from CAFCA

America's 1,000+ Community Action Agencies have been at the forefront of helping people in need for almost 60 years.

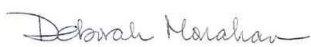
Here in Connecticut, that commitment and our community connections have never been more important than they have been since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March of 2020. People of all ages and demographics across our state have experienced economic losses, while dealing with shutdowns, uncertainty, and health concerns. During this time, Connecticut's Community Action Agencies have been steady hands – meeting the needs of hundreds of thousands of people across the state, some of whom have never needed our help before. Our nimble, creative, and compassionate approach has allowed us to provide energy assistance, case management, nutrition services (including SNAP Outreach/Enrollment and Meals on Wheels), child care, housing assistance, and more, on a continuous basis throughout the pandemic.

In 2021, the Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) continued to provide support to our state's nine Community Action Agencies, enabling them to meet the needs of people in their communities. We also worked with our Board to restate our Vision and Mission statements, to serve as our guiding stars this year and into the future.

Vision: We envision a just and equitable world where socially and economically disadvantaged people thrive and realize their highest potential.

Mission: Our mission is to support, strengthen, and promote the work of the Community Action Agencies statewide to advance economic, racial, and social justice.

We hope you will join us in these goals. With your partnership and support, we will continue to help all people in Connecticut reach their full potential and contribute to the well-being of their communities.



Deb Monahan, Board Chair



Deb Polun, Executive Director

Connecticut Community Action Network Reach

181,183 individuals from **89,034** families received services from the nine Community Action Agencies.

72,432 households received assistance through the CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP).

Over **14,300** individuals received emergency bags of food and **10,828** received food through Meals on Wheels.

9,095 individuals received free tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA).

4,390 children participated in Head Start, School Readiness, and other Early Childhood Education programs.

2,721 people received rental or mortgage assistance, providing them secure housing.

199,590 hours were donated to Community Action Agencies by volunteers. 69% of those hours were donated by individuals with low incomes.

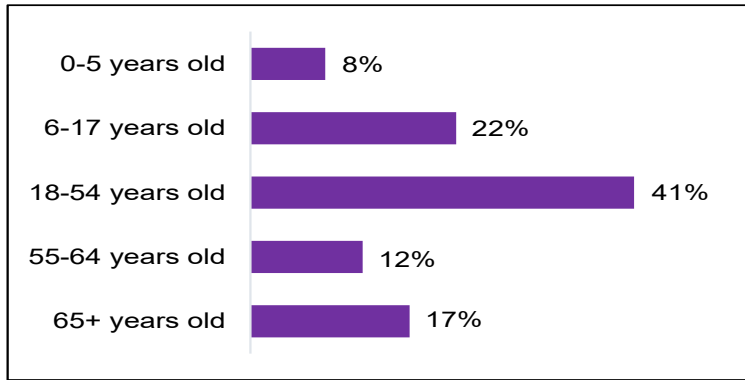
The Community Action Agency Network partnered with **2,189** organizations to help low-income CT residents meet their needs and expand opportunities.

For 10.01.2019 to 09.30.2020

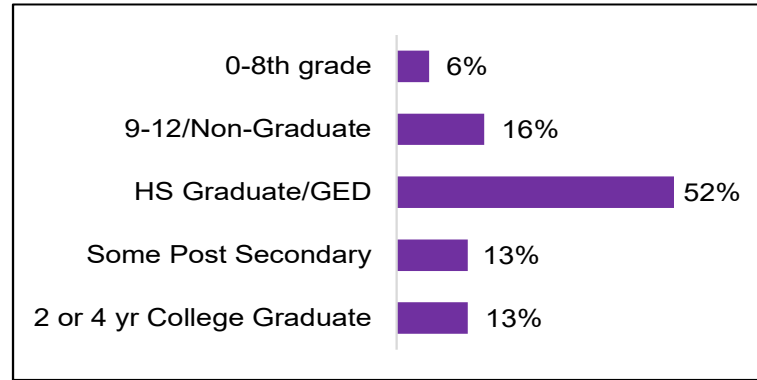


Our Customers for 10.01.2019 to 09.30.2020

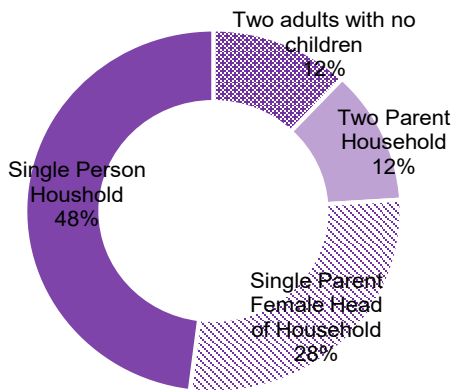
Age



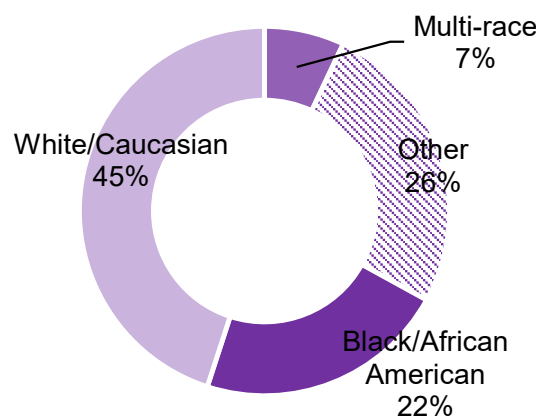
Education Levels Individuals age 25+



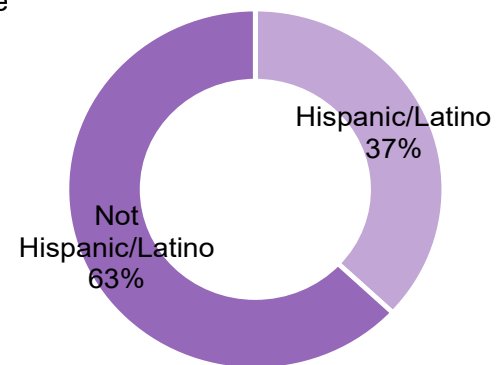
Family Composition



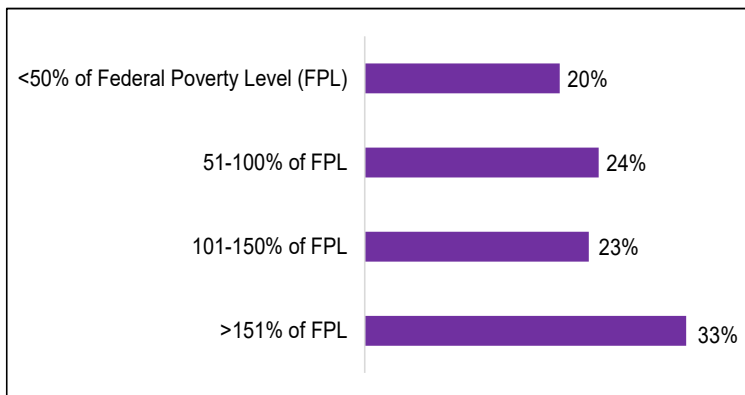
Race



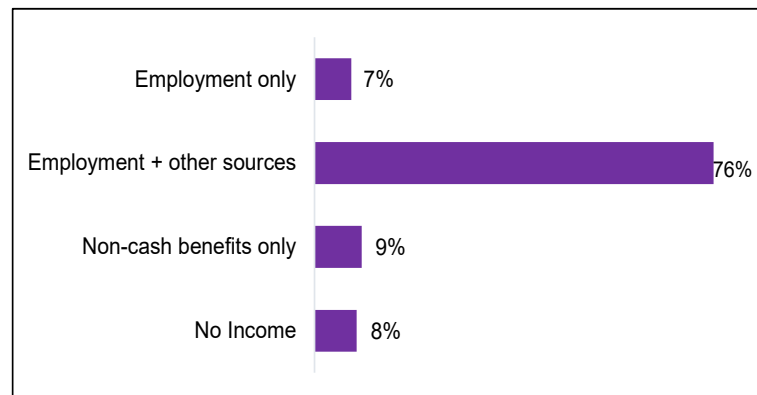
Ethnicity



Income Level*



Sources of Income



*In 2021, 100% of the FPL was \$12,880 for a single person, \$17,420 for a family of two, and \$21,960 for a family of three.



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.

CAFCA Financials for 01.01.2020 to 09.30.2020*

CAFCA's 990 can be found at www.cafca.org or [CAFCA 2020 990](#)

Support & Revenue

Grants & Contracts	\$ 2,732,919
Program & other income/Reclassified funds	\$ 44,277
Total:	\$ 2,777,196

Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 353,367
Pass-through to Community Action Agencies	\$ 1,616,600
Other Sub-recipients	\$ 432,030
SSBG Housing Fund - Rental Assistance	\$ 90,591
Materials & Supplies	\$ 20,198
Occupancy	\$ 19,358
Conferences & Meetings	\$ 7,899
Travel & Transportation	\$ 3,813
Training & Education	\$ 1,925
Other	\$ 22,228
Total:	\$ 2,774,564

Change in net assets from operating activities \$ 2,632

*Reflects 9 months, as CAFCA changed its fiscal year to a 10.01 start in 2020



Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	\$ 1,317,632
Census Outreach	\$ 401,372
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$ 348,306
Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIIC)	\$ 266,656
Fatherhood Initiative	\$ 241,803
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	\$ 144,290
Lobbying Dues from CAAs	\$ 26,375
Connecticut Health & Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA)	\$ 19,860
VirtualCAP	\$ 5,911
Graustein Foundation	\$ 2,788
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) CARES Act	\$ 1,625
Miscellaneous	\$ 578

2020 Connecticut Community Action Agency Funding Sources

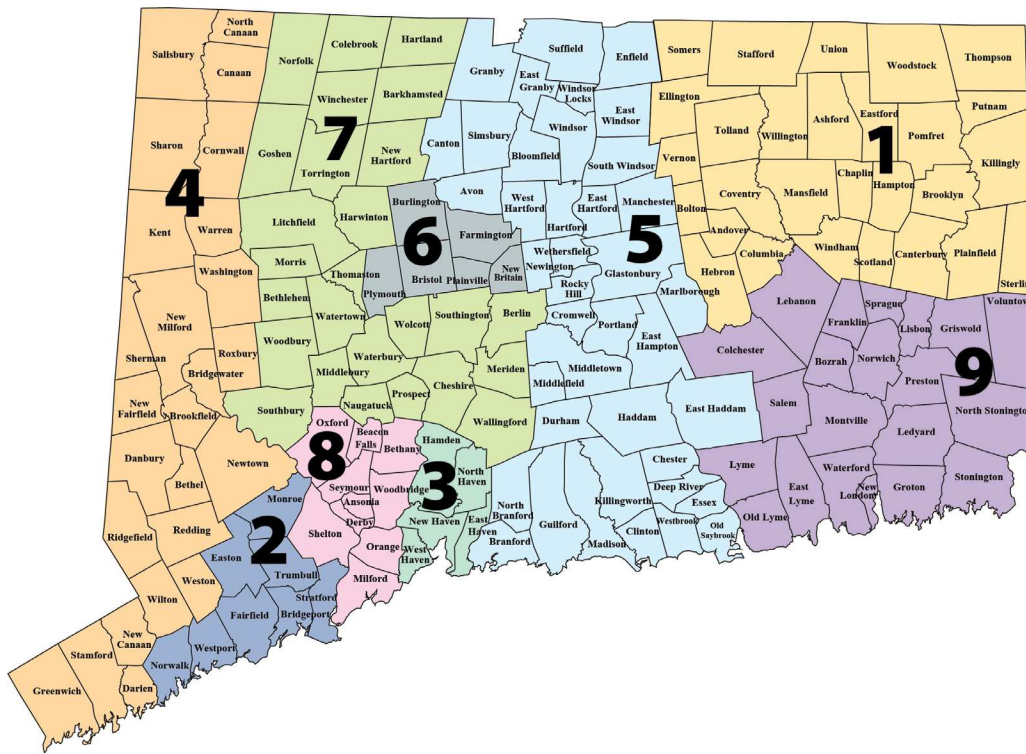
Leveraging resources to end poverty

The core operational funding for CAAs is the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). With that funding (\$8,644,000 in FY 2020), CAAs are able to leverage additional funds, create partnerships, conduct local assessments and plans, and organize volunteers.

Connecticut CAAs utilize diverse funding sources in their anti-poverty work. Mostly through competitive, private, state, and federal grants, Community Action Agencies directed over \$214 million toward fighting the causes and effects of poverty in 2020, providing positive, healthy outcomes for Connecticut residents.

For every \$1 of federal CSBG funds, CAAs leveraged an additional \$23.83 to help improve people's lives.

The Connecticut Community Action Agency Network



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



CAFCA Board Secretary

- 2** Alliance for Community Empowerment (formerly ABCD)
Dr. Monette Ferguson
Executive Director
1070 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 366-8241
www.alliancet.org



CAFCA Board Member

- 3** Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)
Amos Smith
President/CEO
419 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 387-7700
www.caanh.net



CAFCA Board 1st Vice Chair

- 4** The Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. (CAAWC)
Michelle James
Executive Director
78 Triangle Street
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 744-4700
www.cawc.org



CAFCA Board 2nd Vice Chair

- 5** Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)
Lena Rodriguez
President/CEO
555 Windsor Street
Hartford, CT 06120
(860) 560-5600
www.crtct.org



CAFCA Board Member

- 6** Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA)
Dr. Marlo Greppone
Executive Director
180 Clinton Street
New Britain, CT 06053
(860) 225-8601
www.hranbct.org



CAFCA Board Member

- 7** New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)
William Rybczyk
President/CEO
232 North Elm Street
Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 575-9799
www.newoppinc.org



CAFCA Board Member

- 8** TEAM, Inc.
David Morgan
President/CEO
30 Elizabeth Street
Derby, CT 06418
(203) 736-5420
www.teaminc.org



CAFCA Board Treasurer

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



CAFCA Board Chair



CAFCA

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for Community Action

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*CAFCA is a proud member of the
National Community Action Partnership*