

Capital Area
Community Action
Agency

It's all about...

Getting **Staying**
AHEAD

“Nearly one half of our neighbors struggle living from paycheck to paycheck. Half of them live in poverty – only \$20,000 a year for a family of three. Our community has the opportunity to promote economic security and mobility. You can help!”

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Welcome to Community Action! With a team of more than 100 staff working across eight counties, we work every day to help people in crisis make ends meet while assisting those in poverty to become independent.

Most of us believe in the American Dream of everyone having the ability to move up and get ahead. But it is challenging for many.

Too frequently the story is about income inequality. But, that is not the issue. After all, it is natural that some people will make more than others based on skill, talent and education.

Poverty is not just about a lack of resources, but a lack of options. Many struggle each day to get ahead. But they often lack the understanding and connections in the community to realize their American Dream.

This is not about pulling down the resourced to the unresourced. It is not about new taxes and programs. It is about how we – as a community – can empower families by coming together to bridge the gap from poverty toward middle class. It is about building capacity and relationships.

We can offer options. You can share your relationships and connections. And, together, we can have a stronger, more sustainable community.

Jim

Tim Center, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION CHARTERED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA



A Certified United Way Agency



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Poverty is more than a lack of resources. It is a lack of options.



Authorized by Congress in 1964, your Community Action has a tripartite volunteer Board of Directors. One third represents the low-income communities we serve, one-third are public officials or their designees and one-third represent the private sector. Thanks to those who serve!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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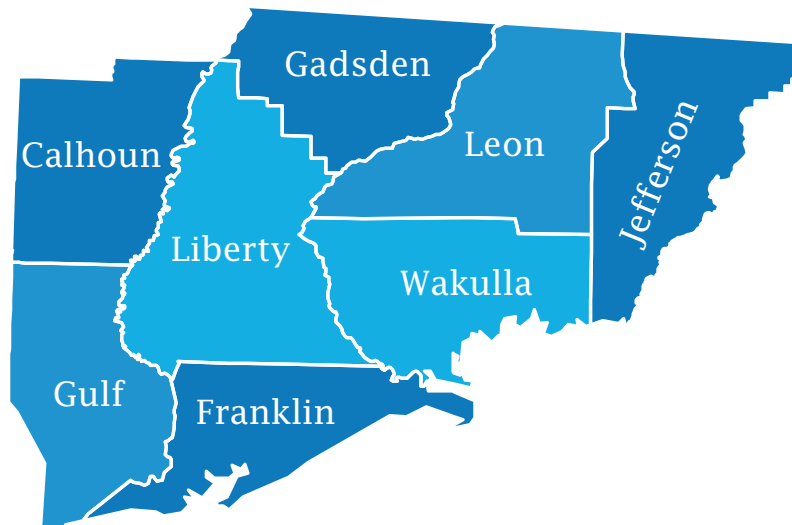
Sandra Saunders
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Capital Area Community Action Agency



Service Area Overview

Capital Area Community Action Agency serves Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla Counties.

How Can Community Action Help?

Low-income families in need of assistance may contact us for services. We also accept referrals from 211 Big Bend, churches, social service agencies and civic groups. To be eligible for assistance, a household must meet the federal income guidelines – up to 125% of poverty – about \$25,000 for a family of three. Services include:

CRISIS

Using federal funds, and in partnership with local energy providers, Community Action can help pay an energy bill, prevent a disconnect or help with a deposit. Sometimes additional funds are also available to assist with rent to help prevent homelessness.

WEATHERIZATION

Low-income housing can have expensive utility bills. Federal weatherization assistance funds can help make a home more energy efficient saving more than \$100 a month.

HEAD START

Low-income families need child care to enable parents to go to work, school or receive job training. Head Start provides free-to-the-family child development and pre-kindergarten instruction.

GETTING AHEAD – STAYING AHEAD

Mentorship and case management can help provide long-term economic security to families wanting to move out of poverty. A four-month class followed by a six-month mentorship promises great outcomes.

ARE YOU IN CRISIS?

Having trouble making ends meet? Sometimes it's hard to keep from going under and staying on top of your bills. Last year, Community Action paid the utility bills for nearly 12,000 families in our region. We help seniors, the disabled, and families with young children:

- Keep the lights on
 - Fill the propane tank to heat a home
 - Help cover a month's rent
-

HEAD START



Nearly 21% of children – 7,500 in Leon County alone – live in poverty. Head Start prepares young children for a life of learning. Family Advocates work with their parents to enable them the chance to move out of poverty. Head Start classes for pre-K students provides robust education, health, nutrition and parenting services to nearly 400 families annually.

Nearly 85% of all Head Start students entering kindergarten have mastered school-readiness skills in language and math. All Head Start Centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



Getting Ahead – Staying Ahead

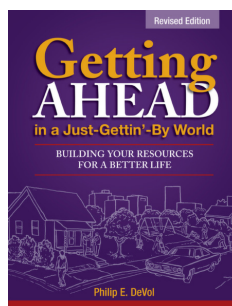
We all should have the goal of – and ability to attain – economic security. *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World* is a four-month, evidenced-based class that is the first step to financial independence for those who desire it. *Getting Ahead* offers a step-by-step discovery that helps those in poverty break from the tyranny of the moment! It's not just about how you got where you are now, but what comes next to build the life you want.

Now in its fifth 'semester' of classes in five communities, *Getting Ahead* participants are demonstrating incredible promise.

- 75% of participants complete the class. They can only miss two classes.
- 71% transition into our *Staying Ahead* program for job training and education
- 49% obtain employment while in *Getting Ahead*
- 15% become income-ineligible and independent of public assistance while in *Getting Ahead*

Staying Ahead

Staying Ahead pairs *Getting Ahead* students completing the program with mentors from the business and educational communities. Over a monthly dinner, mentors meet with mentees to support, offer advice and share connections. One-on-one relationships are developed to reinforce skills acquired in *Getting Ahead* and to encourage upward mobility. Community Action case managers connect participants with education, job training and placement in partnership with CareerSource and others.



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SUCCESS

My Life Then

Shanise Ford is a woman with a dream that is becoming a reality. She is a hard-working mother of two young boys who has overcome adversity. Shanise stated, "Before *Getting Ahead*, I was thinking and living in poverty and did not know it."

My Life Now

"I am proud to say that I am now employed fulltime and supporting my family and myself completely free from all sources of public assistance. The money that I spent carelessly is now put in a savings account to help finance my future business. I know what I want in life and I am no longer "sitting on the fence" waiting for an opportunity. I am putting my plans into action and I am now the "seeker of opportunities".



Benefiting Community Action

Saturday - June 6th, 10AM – North Florida Fairgrounds

A BBQ and Music Festival – with \$10,000 in prize money.

VIP Tent offers food, beverages and a whole hog.

Meet television celebrity and champion pitmaster Myron Mixon!

Listen to Wailin' Wolves, Southern Satisfaction, The Allie Cats, Slap Dog Slim and the Brittany Russell Band on the Florida Lottery and WTWC Stages.

Browse the Marketplace, sample the Food Court and play at the Titus Academy KidsZone.

Tickets are \$10/adults and \$5/youth - \$35 for VIP Tent access



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