



**Capital Area
Community
Action Agency**

50 Years of Helping People. Changing Lives.

“Poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”

~ Nelson Mandela



Dear Neighbor,

Most everyone has had a time in their life when they didn't have the money to buy something they wanted. Whether it was a house or a car or a new pair of shoes, we've all been there. And for many of us, we learned to move on and live without.

But more than one out of every five of us makes that decision every day for necessities like food, utilities and medicine.

More than 20% of our neighbors live at or below the poverty line (about \$19,000 for a family of three). For some it may be a relatively new experience because someone lost a spouse or a job or became chronically ill. For others, however, this has been happening for too long for many children, parents and grandparents.

The Capital Area Community Action Agency staff work hard every day to help our neighbors who can't make ends meet. We help pay the utility bill or reduce the energy usage through weatherization assistance. We offer free pre-school to children in poverty while helping their parents get education or job training. And, we help people move out poverty and into the workforce.

We have been doing this for nearly 50 years. But we could not do it without community support. Learn more about us in the following pages and discover how you can help ensure a better community for everyone.

Tim Center, Esq.
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Our Volunteer Board of Directors is diverse. One-third of the members of the Board are elected public officials, currently holding office, or their representatives; at least one-third of the members are persons representative of the poor in the area served and one third from the private sector. Interested in serving on our Board? Contact us!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Roger Newsome, Chair
Leon County

Charlean Lanier, Vice-Chair
Wakulla County

Eugene Hall, Secretary
Jefferson County

Allen Stucks, Treasurer
Leon County

Amy McBride, Member at Large
Gadsden County

MEMBERS

Bishop Willie Green
Gadsden County

Steven Hogge
Leon County

Monica Paris
Leon County

Clarice Powell
Franklin County

Shawnique Turner
Leon County

Sheree Keeler
Wakulla County

Carol Barfield
Franklin County

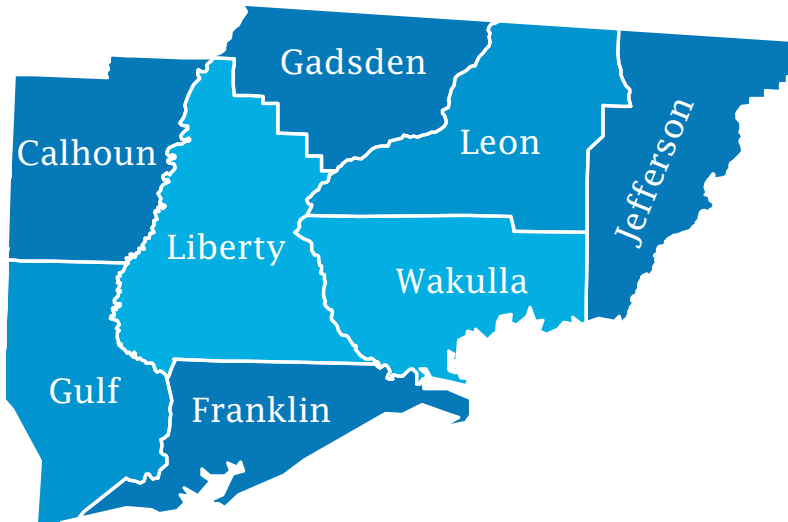
Thomas Thompson
Leon County

Pamela Ridley
Leon County

Fabiola Garcia
Gadsden County

Kim Bodine
Gulf County

Capital Area Action Agency

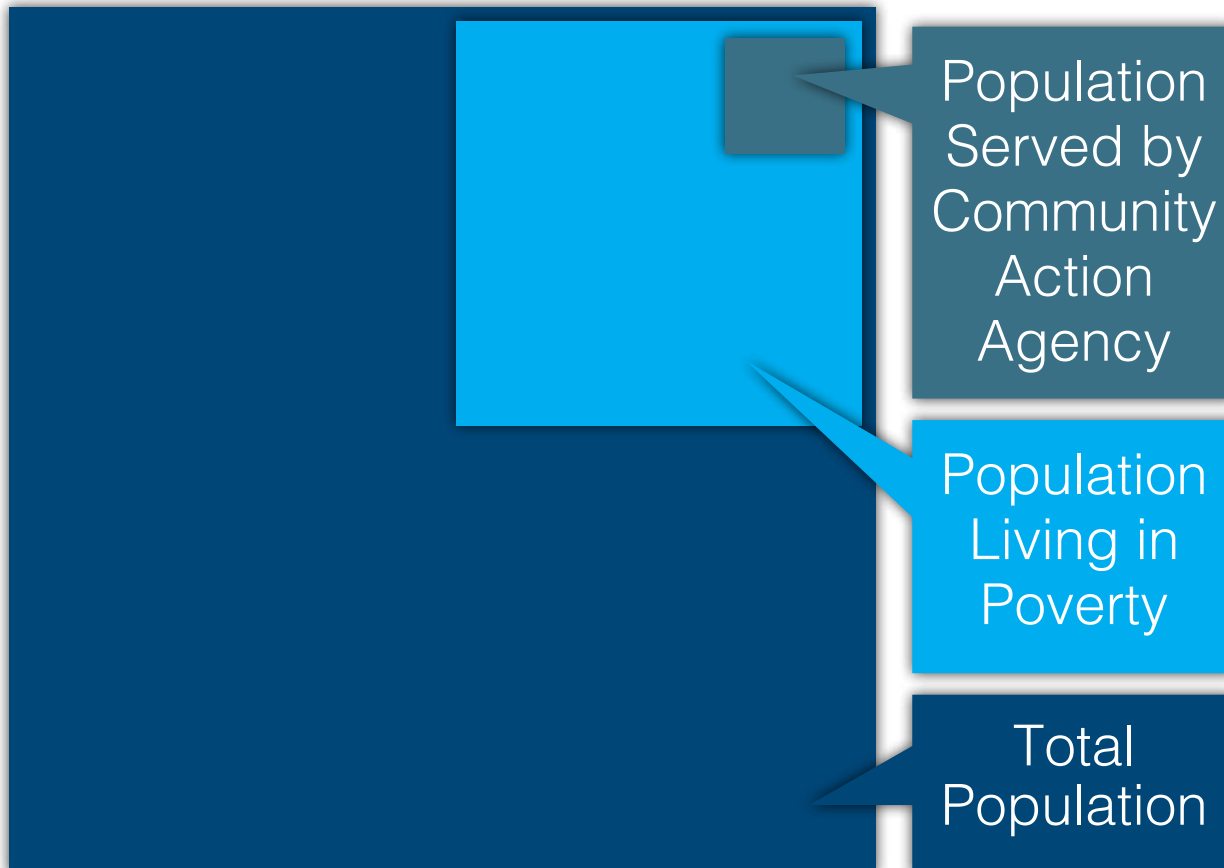


Service Area Overview

Capital Area Community Action Agency serves eight counties (Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon, Calhoun, Liberty and Wakulla).

In our region, 22% of us live at or below the poverty level. Another 20% are considered the working poor. We can work together to reduce these numbers.

This year marks the 50th anniversary since President Lyndon B. Johnson declared “The War on Poverty” during his presidential State of the Union address. The speech announced the passing of the Economic Opportunity Act, creating the Office of Economic Opportunity with the purpose of administering programs to be funded by the federal government, with a local impact. In the pages that follow, you will see how the Capital Area Community Action Agency is helping to fight poverty. You’ll see how many we assist. You’ll see how you can help change a life.



“Getting Ahead is a great class and taking the class made me more aware of what was going with myself and my community as well. I like that the classes are in small groups. This made it more comfortable for me to participate in group discussions.”

“I was new to Tallahassee, and I did not find a job as quickly as I thought I would. The name of the program was interesting (Getting Ahead). Being new to the area, I most definitely wanted to know how to “get ahead.”

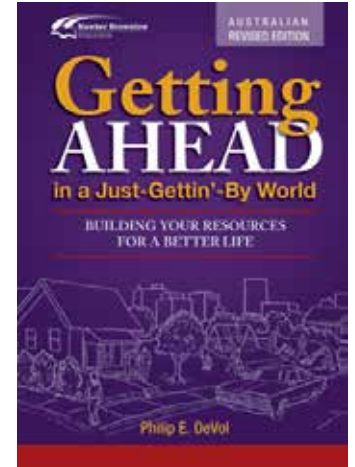
Self Sufficiency Programs

The first step to independence is the desire for it. After that, contact us, we can help. Whether your family has lived in poverty for years or a life changing event has thrown you into poverty, if you want to change your circumstances, we will provide you with the tools to succeed, including a new class called “Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World”.

Capital Area Community Action Agency is pleased to offer Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by-World. It is an exciting 16-week program where participants work together to explore where they are now, the opportunities in our community and, in the end, write their future story.

You can apply for the next class in your community by completing the form online: www.cacaainc.org

You can learn more and support this initiative by contacting: Patrick Mitchell at 850.222.2043 x 308



Getting Ahead students 10
Clients placed in jobs 20

The Getting Ahead curriculum:

- Involves rigorous work done in a safe learning environment with the support of an experienced facilitator and co-facilitator.
- Enables participants, called “investigators,” to examine their own experience of poverty as well as explore issues in the community that impact poverty – banking, housing, jobs, transportation – providing critical information the community can use to take action to end poverty.
- Guides investigators through an assessment of their own resources and how to build those resources as part of their move to self-sufficiency.
- Puts the concepts, tools, and relationships in the hands of people in poverty to make a difference in their own lives and in the life of their community.

Support: How can we help you?



Crisis

When you just can't make ends meet, let us see if we can help.



Head Start

All kids should have the same opportunity to succeed. Head Start offers that opportunity.



Project Independence

If you want to change your circumstances, tell us you want to become Independent and we can help.

I want to help!



Volunteer

Be a part of the move to be more Independent by donating your time.



Donations

Help us help others by making a cash donation to Capital Area Community Action Agency.



More

Find out about other ways you can help out around the community.

Head Start

Did you know, an adult male living in poverty has a vocabulary of 900 words while a child from a family of means knows 1,200 words? Head Start can change that for hundreds of children. Capital Area Community Action Agency Head Start is nationally accredited free school readiness option for families who qualify.



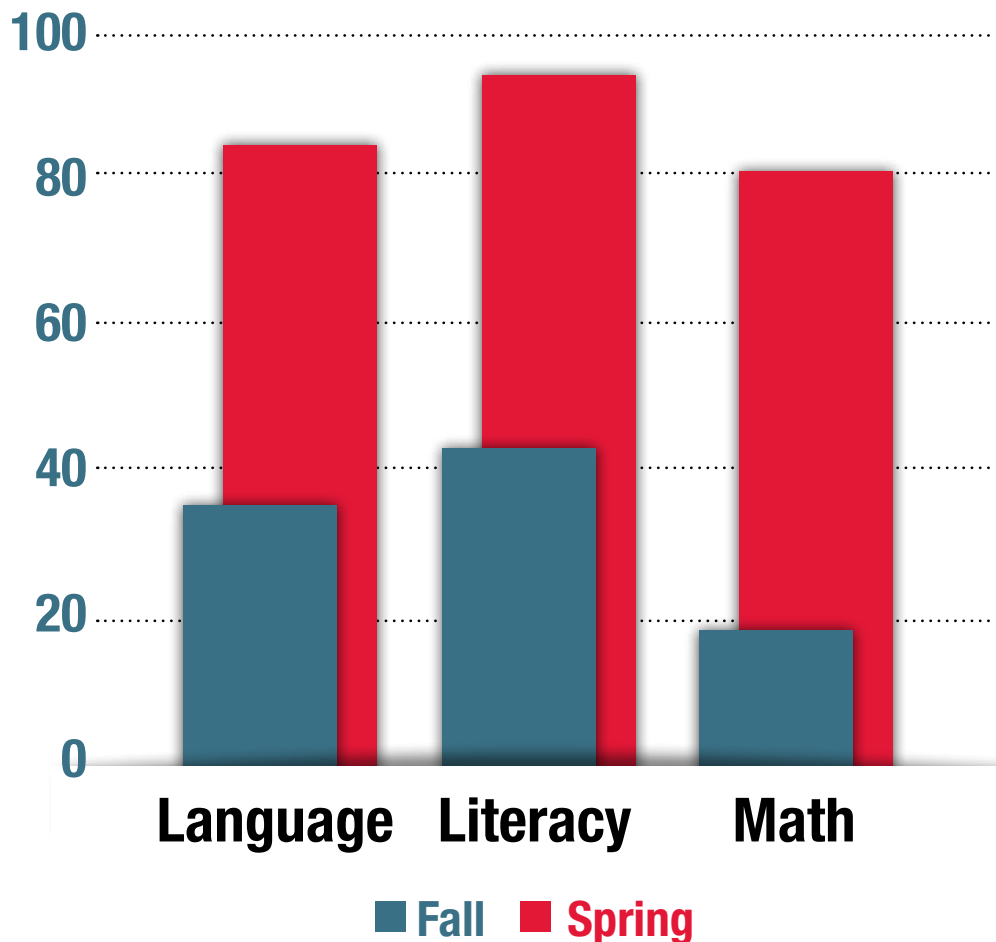
School readiness, medical and dental services, speech therapy and mental health treatment make Head Start an incredible place for three and four year-olds.

Capital Area Community Action Agency operates a center based option for three hundred seventy eight (378) children at nine (9) sites in Franklin, Jefferson and Leon Counties. Services are provided by full and part-time staff, contracted consultants and service providers and volunteers (including parents).

Head Start is MORE than just classes for pre-kindergarten children. Academic health must go hand in hand with physical health. That's why the program not only provides healthy hot meals and snacks, annual physicals, dental exams and immunizations are provided.

Head Start School Readiness Rates Teaching Strategies Gold

Readiness Rates of four year olds transitioning to kindergarten in Fall 2013. Comparison of readiness rates for fall 2012 and spring 2013.



A young family was struggling to make ends meet. With twin daughters and a new baby they were faced with the possibility of having to drop out of graduate school and gain employment to pay for the childcare they needed. Mom was in law school and dad was finishing a degree in psychology. They found Head Start and enrolled their twins and then enrolled the baby in Early Head Start. Two years later they both graduates with their respective degree as their older children transitioned to kindergarten. The family has gone on to experience great success in our community.

A single father raising a special need daughter was referred to Head Start by a friend. The child was enrolled in the program. While attending Head Start the child received physical therapy as well as occupational therapy. After two years of Head Start the child was able to enter kindergarten with her peers and participate with her peers without the need for special services. The father feels that without Head Start his daughter would have been placed into a special needs class and labeled throughout her education. By receiving early intervention she was able to learn to overcome her disability and adapt to her special circumstances.

Missy was the mother of 4 young children. She enrolled her oldest child in Head Start at age three and the rest was history. She started out as a parent volunteer and worked her way through the ranks from substitute to cook then teacher assistant. While working as a teacher assistant she was able to return school and get to her AS degree in Early Childhood Education. She later advanced to a teaching position and eventually became a family advocate with the program. As her children grew up they each attended Head Start and went on to be successful students. Her youngest daughter is currently a center director at one of our Head Start centers and is about to complete her BS in Early Childhood Education.

Crisis Services

Having troubles making ends meet? Community Action can help low-income families in times of crisis. Our staff help seniors, the disabled and families with young children

- Find a stable home for their family
- Pay the electric bill to keep the lights on
- Fill the propane tank to heat their home
- Cover that month's rent
- Negotiate lower mortgage payments and so much more.

All clients must meet income and poverty guidelines.

Changed Lives

“I was in the process of being evicted out of my apartment with my kids if I would not have received assistance...had no family to stay with. We would have been homeless.” ~ *Natoya*

“Paid my past due rent up to date, assisted with court costs, assisted with lights, helped me get money saved to start back to being independent. Ms. Lasharn offered me advice on budgeting.” *Natoya*

“I am unsure exactly what would have happened, but it would not have been good. I was on the verge of being completely homeless. The Agency helped me on the job training employment which helped me transition to my full time job.” ~ *Sarah*

“The Agency helped me find on the job employment, paid the security deposit for my duplex and helped me with an unexpected utility bill from the past that would have kept me from getting lights! I would not have been able to become self-sufficient without you.” ~ *Sarah*

We kept the lights on for
13,000 people last year



A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Registration # CH1663.

Weatherization Assistance

Most substandard housing is not energy efficient. Many times this is all some people can afford. Weatherization Assistance helps make homes more energy efficient which helps save money on utilities; saving almost \$200 a month, on average.

Creates Jobs

Community Action creates jobs hiring local contractors to make home improvements at \$769,000.

Helps Homeowners

Energy efficient homes save clients' money on their utility bills at a total of \$400,000 annually.

Return on this investment is recognized in 2 years.



“I didn’t know the weatherization program was for renters too! When I found out, I applied right away because I knew I was paying way too much for my electric bill. My first bill after the house was re-done was almost \$200 less than the month before! That’s a lot of money!”

“My house needed new striping around the windows and doors. The ducts were in bad shape too. I can’t remember all that was done, but it took them less than two days and it was worth it!” ~ *Margaret*

If you would like more information about the Agency, please fill out the form below and let us know how we can help you or how you can help us! This form will help us communicate with you from requests like you would like us to come to your organization for a Lunch & Learn, or you can make a donation.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

How we can help:

How you can help:

“The Capital Area Community Action Agency extends a robust thanks to all sponsors, volunteers, board members and staff who helped make the 5th Annual Southeast Regional Pigfest a success! March 15, 2014’s weather provided for an incredible day for everyone who joined us.

We are in the business of helping others in their moment of need. We are very grateful to each of you who spent some time touting the event on your Facebook page, selling tickets or volunteering your time this weekend. We are equally grateful to all who came out, bought tickets, enjoyed great barbeque, looked at vintage cars, played in the Kidzone, listened to fantastic local bands and just enjoyed a day in the sun, all while supporting our community.

The Agency could not have done this without all of you! We are looking forward to an even better Pigfest in 2015!”



Winners

- 1st Winks Barbeque
- 2nd Glenn Bob's BBQ
- 3rd Hot Wachulas
- 4th Jacks Old South
- 5th Big Daddy's Q
- 6th Sweet Smokes Q
- 7th Team Waterdog
- 8th Barn Goddess BBQ
- 9th Team Pork Rindz
- 10th Awesome Q

Thank you to these wonderful bands who donated their time and music!

- The Keith Taylor Band
- Southern Satisfaction
- Crooked Shooz
- Wailin' Wolves
- Swingin' Harpoon Blues Band

Thank you

