

**Fostering Partnerships to  
Reduce Poverty &  
Create Opportunities**

**2018-2019 Annual Report**



***Mission of CCA***

“To promote self-reliance of low-income individuals and families by forming partnerships, which will provide a systematic reduction of the cause and conditions of poverty.”

***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.

## Our History

On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act as part of his "War on Poverty," which created the nationwide Community Action Network. The purpose was to expand educational opportunities, eliminate poverty, provide health and financial assistance to the elderly, and increase assistance for the poor and unemployed. The York County Economic Opportunity Commission, having been previously established, evolved into Carolina Community Actions, Inc. (CCA) by August 2, 1965 "to do all things necessary and proper...to aid in improving the education, economic opportunities, living environment and general welfare of the people living in York, Chester and Lancaster Counties in South Carolina, either directly or through other private or public organizations." On December 8, 1965, CCA was officially recognized and approved by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) as a designated community action agency and received its first grant funds. Due to the geographic area of service being altered through federal directions and actions, the Board of Directors voted on November 4, 1974 to amend the charter and add Union County as part of the CCA service area. The charter was amended again on October 14, 1997 to include Fairfield County to the corporation's geographical service area.

## Our Leadership

### 2019 Board of Directors

#### Chester County

Azilee Hill  
Burley McDaniel  
Davida Schultz  
Angela Twitty

#### Fairfield County

Curtis Squirewell

#### Lancaster County

Timothy Cureton  
Leocadia Francis  
Elaine McKinney  
Bobbie Murchinson

#### Union County

Edith Foster  
Sonya Glenn  
Lewis Jeter, III  
Pamela Sloss

#### York County

Floretta Anderson  
Fred Garrison  
Denise Lowry  
Melvin McCullough  
Regeana Phillips  
Isaiah Venning

#### Executive Director

Karen Brackett Browning

### 2017-2018 Head Start Policy Council

#### *Parents and Community Representatives*

##### *Chester County*

Preezis Caldwell  
Ken McDuffie

##### *Union County*

Chekasha Jennings  
Edna Jennings  
Shaina Strait

##### *York County*

Gishaey Payne  
Marsha Roberts

#### *Community Representatives*

Fred Garrison

Grace Howze

Ranny Eite

## Our Work

Herein, we present Carolina Community Actions, Inc. (CCA) Annual Report for the 2018-2019 fiscal and program year. During this period, the agency experienced evolving change and growth as opportunities were created to expand CCA's capacity to "meet needs and change lives." The communities in Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties in South Carolina were positively impacted by the assistance and services provided.

The agency continues to adhere to its purpose by providing valuable services that include: early childhood education and school readiness; adult basic education and career readiness; financial assistance to prevent utility disconnections and homelessness; and installation of home energy conservation measures to reduce energy burdens. Some of CCA's achievements during the year included:

- **884** children and adults assisted with the attainment of educational and vocational skills in pursuit of school and career readiness.
- **9,658** individuals assisted in our geographical area.
- Collaborative partnership effort in York County to establish a one-stop community center in which CCA is co-located with agencies to address poverty and homelessness.
- **461** cultivated partnerships with entities to provide services to the residents in the 5 counties geographical area for a systematic reduction of the cause and conditions of poverty.
- **5,452** volunteer hours contributed to assist in achieving the agency's mission.
- **\$47,000** mobilized in private sector resources, i.e. donated funds and services to meet community needs.

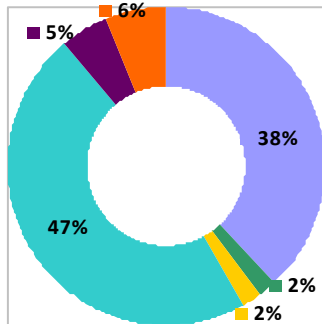
As CCA continues to fight the "War on Poverty" by providing high-impact programs that assist low-income individuals, families and neighborhoods, we realize that there are still too many impoverished families who struggle daily to meet basic needs. Therefore, we remain committed to the Community Action Promise and CCA's chartered purpose: "to do all things necessary and proper...to aid in improving the education, economic opportunities, living environment and general welfare of the people... either directly or through other private or public organizations."

We most humbly express appreciation to all who support our mission. We request that you continue to invest resources to assist neighbors in need as the return on investment is a better quality of life for individuals and families, which improves the entire community.

## Our Customers

The following data includes demographic information for those assisted by CCA in 2018-2019.

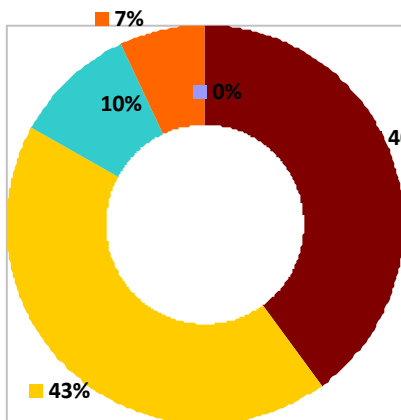
**Family Type**



- Single Parent Female
- Single Parent Male
- Two Parent Household
- Single Person
- Two Adults No Children
- Other

Almost one-half (47%) of the households served were single persons followed by more than one-fourth (38%) headed by single parent females.

**Education Level - Adults Ages 25+**



- 0-8 Grade
- 9-12 Grade/Non-Graduate
- High School Graduate/GED
- 12+ Some Post Secondary
- 2 or 4 Years College Graduate



Forty-three percent (43%) of individuals served possessed a high school diploma while 10% had some post-secondary education and 7% possessed a 2 or 4 year degree.

## Family Income Level

MIT's Living Wage Calculator indicates that a family of four with one working parent and three children in each of the service areas needs to earn above \$64,000/year before taxes just to meet basic living expenses. The income threshold for a family of four, living at or below the poverty level was \$25,750/year.	Family Size – 1 Adult 3 Children Poverty Level \$25,100			
	County	Living Wage Rate	Poverty Wage Rate	Gap Between Rates
	Chester	\$64,896/yr. \$31.20/hr.	\$25,750/yr. \$12.38/hr.	\$36,146 \$18.82/hr.
	Fairfield	\$69,181/yr. \$33.26/hr.	\$25,750/yr. \$12.38/hr.	\$43,431 \$20.88/hr.
	Lancaster	\$66,726/yr. \$32.08/hr.	\$25,750/yr. \$12.38/hr.	\$40,976 \$19.70/hr.
	Union	\$64,501/yr. \$31.01/hr.	\$25,750/yr. \$12.38/hr.	\$38,751 \$18.63/hr.
	York	\$70,990/yr. \$34.13/hr.	\$25,750/yr. \$12.38/hr.	\$45,240 \$21.75/hr.
<b>57%</b> of households' income was at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.		<b>34%</b> of households served were living in extreme poverty (annual income at or below 50% of the federal poverty level).		

Comprehensive Early Childhood Education and Development Programs  
Chester, Union and York Counties  
August 2018 – July 2019

**Head Start/Early Head Start Program Gains by Domain**

 <p>Promotes early learning through use of Creative Curriculum in preparation for school readiness. Emphasizes social skills and emotional well-being, along with language and literacy learning, and concept development.</p>	 <p>Provides support for pregnant women, infants and toddlers. Emphasizes the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of children through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving.</p>
<p><b>829</b></p> <p>Preschoolers received high-quality Pre-K childhood education and services at no cost to the family</p>	<p><b>45</b></p> <p>Infants and toddlers received high-quality early childhood comprehensive services at no cost to the family.</p>
<p><b>744 (90%)</b></p> <p>living at/below 100% of the poverty guidelines</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>pregnant women received prenatal health care</p>
<p><b>715</b></p> <p>received preventive and primary oral health services</p>	<p><b>45 (100%)</b></p> <p>living at/below 100 percent of the poverty guidelines</p>
<p><b>778</b></p> <p>received at least one family service</p>	<p><b>45</b></p> <p>received preventive and primary oral health services</p>
<p><b>248</b></p> <p>fathers/father figures were involved in the child's development experiences</p>	<p><b>45</b></p> <p>received at least one family service</p>
<p><b>467</b></p> <p>received transportation services</p>	<p><b>40</b></p> <p>fathers/father figures were involved in the child's development experiences</p>
<p><b>28%</b></p> <p>decrease in families receiving TANF services as a result of participation</p>	

The social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy developmental domains saw **gains of 36%-68%** in the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations. The percentage of children accessed at enrollment below each domain decreased by an average of 52%. The mathematics, science, and technology, social studies, and arts development saw **gains of 19% -66%** in the percentage of children meeting expectations.



**Emergency and Non-Emergency Utilities Financial Assistance**  
**Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties**  
**January 2019 – December 2019**

**2,310** individuals received emergency fuel/utility assistance.

- **514** were senior adults ages 60 (sixty) and older
- **640** were disabled.

**3,131** households received non-emergency financial assistance for home heating/cooling sources

- **1,997** were senior adults 60 (sixty) and older
- **1,968** were disabled

**Initiatives to Address Poverty at the Local Level**  
**Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties**  
**January 2019 – December 2019**

**Self-Sufficiency Program** utilizes a case management approach to provide services that include: education/training (GED, Occupational Skills Training, etc) and employment placement assistance, and support services, i.e. uniforms, transportation, etc.

- **116** individuals received tuition, childcare, books and supplies and medical assistance
- **24** individuals obtained a vocational certificate or degree
- **54** individuals obtained employment up to a living wage

**Nutrition Assistance Program** provides education on proper food choices and identification of nutrition resources

- **448** receive nutrition education and access to food.

**Youth Leadership Program (Youth ages 16-18)** provides character/personal development and paid work experience for career exploration

- **21** youth completed the program objectives

**General Emergency Assistance Program** - emergency financial assistance, i.e. first month's rent/deposit

- **564** households obtained/maintained safe/affordable housing
- **227** households received utility financial assistance

**Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**  
**Residential Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Program**  
**Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York Counties**

*Uses diagnostic equipment to improve the energy efficiency of the home, thereby reducing the energy cost and ensuring the households health and safety .*

**LWAP (11/1/18 - 10/31/19) & DOE WAP (4/1/18 – 3/31/19) - 35 Dwellings**

**2019 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs**  
**\$12,308,028**

Head Start (HS)	\$5,882,818	48%	CCA's overall administrative cost was 6%. Ninety-four percent (94%) of CCA's funding directly benefitted our customers.
Early Head Start (EHS)	\$551,298	4%	
LIHEAP	\$3,001,356	24%	
CSBG	\$998,205	8%	
Weatherization (WAP)	\$438,923	4%	CCA received an unqualified audit opinion for FY18.
USDA	\$279,182	2%	
WIOA	\$120,899	1%	
*In-kind Contributions	\$1,025,802	8%	
Non-Federal Share	\$9,545	.001%	