



Community Action Council
of Howard County

2025

IMPACT REPORT

Together, We Build a Stronger Community



www.cac-hc.org 

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Columbia, MD 21046 

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CAC is a proud member of the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) and the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP).

NCAP is the national hub that links the nation's 1,000+ local Community Action Agencies and State Associations to each other and to leaders looking for solutions that connect families to great opportunities.



CAC'S IMPACT SNAPSHOT

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.



309 students educated



2,372 families kept their lights on



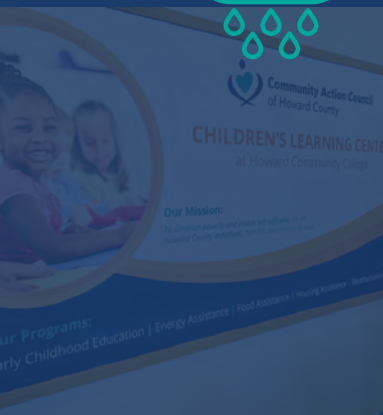
1,021,154 meals distributed



202 families saved from homelessness



651 homes weatherized



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Valued Partners,

With pride and deep gratitude, it is my pleasure to share the Community Action Council of Howard County Inc's (CAC) Fiscal Year 2025 Impact Report. This year has been defined by resilience, bold action, and the power of community. Together with our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, generous donors, tireless volunteers, and steadfast partners, we have expanded opportunities for hard-working families moving through crisis toward stability and self-sufficiency.

Every commitment fulfilled reflected in the pages of this Impact Report is rooted in CAC's unwavering promise to service and advocacy. By advancing meaningful systemic change alongside direct services, our work embodies dignity, compassion, and a shared belief that when families thrive, our entire community grows stronger.

I am especially inspired by the families we serve. Their hard work, determination, and courage in the face of adversity fuel our mission and remind us why this work matters so deeply. It is an honor to stand alongside them as they build brighter, more stable futures.

Looking ahead, CAC remains ready to act with impact. The establishment of CAC's Route One Corridor Campus and launch of our Cornerstone of Opportunity capital campaign mark the next chapter in our historic journey. These initiatives reflect not only our responsiveness to community need but also our collective vision for building community, dignity, and opportunity with our neighbors.

At CAC, our core values guide us. They shape how we support one another as colleagues and how we serve our community with compassion and integrity. I am humbled to lead an organization where change begins from within, grows through partnership, and blossoms into lasting impact.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Together, we are helping people and changing lives today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Broccolino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tracy Broccolino, President

MISSION, PURPOSE, PROMISE



[Pictured: Howard County Food Bank Team]

To diminish poverty and enable self-sufficiency for all Howard County individuals, families, and children in need.

Purpose

For 60 years, the Community Action Council of Howard County, MD Inc. (CAC) has served as the county's designated non-profit anti-poverty organization. As part of a nationwide network of Community Action Agencies, CAC helps hard-working individuals and families overcome economic challenges and achieve lasting self-sufficiency.

CAC delivers impact through five core service areas:

Early Childhood Education (including Early Head Start, Head Start, and MSDE-funded Pre-K), **Food Assistance** (at CAC's Howard County Food Bank, Community Garden, and partner pantries), **Housing Assistance**, **Energy Assistance**, and **Weatherization Assistance**.

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.

- **National Community Action Partnership**

COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY'S CORE VALUES

Living Our Values

At the Community Action Council of Howard County, our work is grounded in values that guide both how we serve and how we lead. These values are more than words on a page, they are commitments to our community that shape every decision, every program, and every partnership.

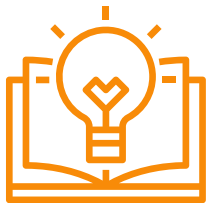
From affirming the worth and dignity of every individual to fostering collaboration, compassion, and accountability, our values reflect who we are and what we believe is essential to helping people and changing lives.



WELL-BEING	COMPASSION	UNITY	COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY	PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY
WE BELIEVE in the worth and dignity of all individuals. WE BELIEVE investing in well-being leads to greater productivity, engagement, and fulfillment. WE BELIEVE positive relationships and community connections enhance personal and organizational well-being.	WE BELIEVE treating individuals with empathy, understanding, and kindness fosters trust, openness, and collaboration. WE BELIEVE in supporting individuals during difficult times with grace and care. WE BELIEVE respect and professionalism should be upheld in all interactions.	WE BELIEVE every person's perspective has value and should be considered. WE BELIEVE collaboration and teamwork are essential for achieving shared goals. WE BELIEVE productive conflict strengthens relationships and unity.	WE BELIEVE that community is created through intentional actions that prioritize collective success over individual gain. WE BELIEVE cultivating a compassionate community strengthens our ability to serve and lead effectively. WE BELIEVE that accountability and transparency are essential elements to establishing a fair and just organization.	WE BELIEVE that integrity is demonstrated through ethical decision-making and consistency in our actions. WE BELIEVE that professional excellence is achieved through honesty, reliability, and dedication to our mission. WE BELIEVE that providing individuals with personal agency fosters collective growth and resilience.

WHOLE-FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY SERVICES





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

CAC's ECE program is comprised of our recently launched Early Head Start, Head Start, and MSDE Prekindergarten classrooms that serve children between the ages of six weeks and five years old. Students are provided full-day, full-year programming designed to prepare them socially, emotionally, and academically for kindergarten.



COMMUNITY NEED

In fiscal year 2025, CAC **received 762 applications** for the Early Childhood Education Program, which has the capacity to serve 400 students.

One hundred children were unable to enroll because they were under the age of three. To address this urgent need, CAC, with the support of County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball and his administration, **opened a classroom for two-year-olds** at the Children's Learning Center at Howard Community College. This **no-cost program for income-eligible student parents was the first of its kind in Howard County**, made possible through the MSDE Child Care Scholarship and supplemental funding.

OUR IMPACT

Educated 309  Howard County children across **5 locations** throughout the county.

Enrolled 105 Howard County children in our **Before and After Care program**.

Opened in August 2024, CAC operates the **only Head Start program located on a Community College Campus** in Maryland (pictured above).



On July 17, 2025, CAC proudly announced the award of an **historic \$12.6 million Head Start grant**. This funding continues CAC's role as Howard County's sole Head Start grantee and supports the launch of the **county's first-ever Early Head Start program**. This award expands access to high-quality early education for infants, toddlers, and their families.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAC provides income-eligible homeowners and renters with utility bill assistance to avoid utility termination and to help them get utilities turned back on after shut-off.



COMMUNITY NEED

In fiscal year 2025, CAC **received 7,105 applications** for Energy Assistance from Howard County households.

“*Since receiving energy assistance from CAC, our family has experienced a significant improvement in our quality of life.*” - **CAC Client**

OUR IMPACT

3,032 households were approved.

Provided **\$2,229,958** in Energy Assistance funds to **2,372** Howard County households.

\$735 = average amount awarded **per Energy Case**.

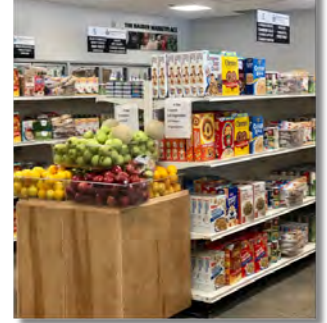
7,173 individuals

from approved households benefitted from CAC’s Energy Assistance Program, keeping their lights on and homes heated.



FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAC's Howard County Food Bank follows a client-choice model, giving families the dignity to select the foods that best meet their needs, just like in a grocery store. We are committed to providing fresh, healthy, and diverse options, sourced from local farms, grocery partners, and our own Community Garden. Each year, volunteers plant, weed, water, and harvest thousands of pounds of fresh organic produce that go straight to the Food Bank and onto the tables of Howard County families.



COMMUNITY NEED

The 2023 Howard County Food and Nutrition Survey conducted by the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) and responded to by 406 residents reveals an overall **Food Insecurity Rate in Howard County of 79%** with Hispanic, Black, and Asian residents experiencing this insecurity at significantly higher rates than white residents.

- **Over 70% of respondents indicate they worry if they will run out of food before they have money to buy more.**

OUR IMPACT

1,021,154 meals

were provided to the Howard County community through CAC's operation of the **Howard County Food Bank** and **partner pantries**. Additionally, in partnership with **Howard County Public School System** and **The Roving Radish**, we brought food support to **eight designated Community Schools**.

Provided 22,512 services to households in Howard County.

With the assistance of our partners **Neighbor Ride** and **The Roving Radish**, CAC made **1,094 deliveries** of groceries to **homebound clients**. Out of those deliveries, 410 were to senior citizens over the age of 65.



1,225,385 pounds of food distributed

in Fiscal Year 2025, including over 3,000 pounds of produce harvested from CAC's Community Garden.



HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAC offers housing assistance to income eligible Howard County families, including eviction prevention, first month's rent, and One Month's Rent.

Due to very limited funding with increased restrictions, CAC served fewer households in FY25, and families continue to struggle.



COMMUNITY NEED

In fiscal year 2025, CAC **received 351 applications** for Housing Assistance.

Howard County renters hold the highest rent debt per household in the region when compared to contiguous jurisdictions.



OUR IMPACT

219 applications were approved.

Provided **\$405,195**

in Housing Assistance funds to **202** Howard County households.

\$1,850 = average amount awarded **per Housing Case.**

632 individuals from approved households benefitted from CAC's Housing Assistance Program, staying in their homes and avoiding eviction.

“

"For a long time, I felt like we did not deserve things. With CAC's help we were able to find a house. From the moment we stepped inside, I knew we were home. We would not be where we are without CAC." - **CAC Client**

”



WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAC's Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest nonprofit weatherization program in the state of Maryland. We help homeowners and renters improve the comfort and quality of their home environment, lower their monthly energy bills, and reduce their environmental footprint. These services are provided at no cost income eligible Maryland residents.

Weatherization may include:

- New insulation
- Air sealing to stop drafts
- New or repaired heating and cooling systems
- Hot water system upgrades
- New smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Fuel-switching
- Rooftop Solar



COMMUNITY NEED

In September 2024, CAC launched a new repair program to help homeowners improve their homes and take advantage of no-cost weatherization. This program is funded by the local Howard County government, the US DOE's Weatherization Program, Housing Opportunities Trust Funding, and a \$2 million grant through HUD's Healthy Homes Program. This critical funding enables CAC to address issues such as roof and basement leaks, mold, pest infestations, and more that would previously have made homes ineligible for weatherization. CAC's Weatherization Readiness work broadens the benefit of the Weatherization program in Howard County and across the state.

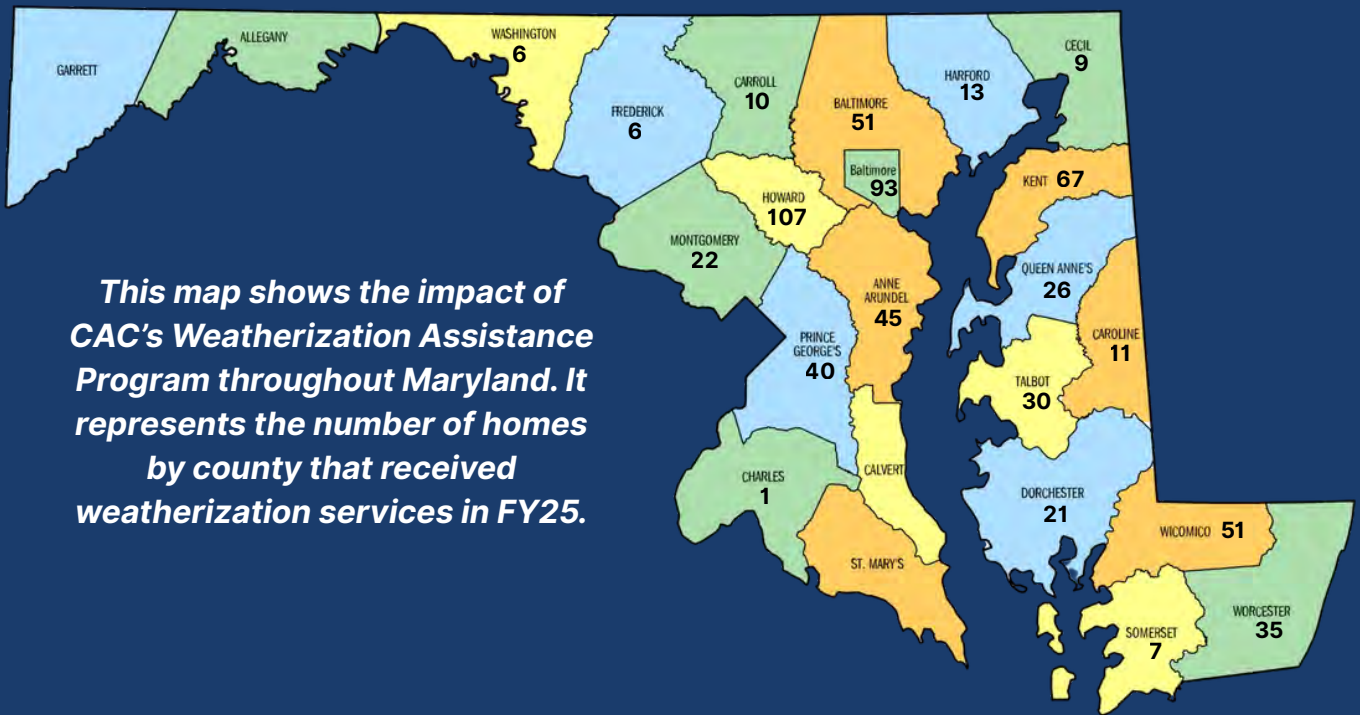
OUR IMPACT

\$8.2 million was received to provide weatherization services to **651 homes** across Maryland, saving each home an average of **\$372** annually in utility costs for a combined savings of **\$242,172!**

65 homes received readiness funds to repair unsafe pre-existing conditions in their home and prepare them for weatherization services.

“CAC's Weatherization Program helped me to save both energy and money while still being warm. - **CAC Client**”

This map shows the impact of CAC's Weatherization Assistance Program throughout Maryland. It represents the number of homes by county that received weatherization services in FY25.



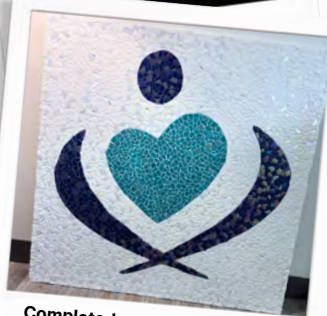
CAC'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

For 60 years, CAC has helped people and changed lives by supporting individuals and families through times of hardship. To celebrate this historic milestone, CAC hosted a 60th Birthday Celebration at Reckless Shepherd Brewing Company in Columbia on May 20, 2025. More than 200 guests attended, making it the most successful event in CAC's history and raising over \$176,000 to support our mission.

Enjoy these highlights from the celebration!



CAC's impact throughout the decades.



Completed community mosaic.



Numerous silent auction items were up for bid, including winery tours, vacation getaways, and more!



Guest working on a community mosaic sponsored by Tiber Technologies.



Opening remarks from CAC's Board Chair, Reverend Dr. Robert Turner.



Performance by The Reagan Years, sponsored by McCabe Insurance Associates.

DAY CELEBRATION

Thank you to our 60th Birthday Sponsors!
You made our celebration possible and our mission stronger.

Champion Level



The Family of
Gayle and Jack
Van Horn

Advocate Level



Beth Leaman and Dino Talamona

Partner Level



The Family of
Earl and Mary
Armiger



Northeast Energy Services, LLC

The Reagan Years Sponsor



Art Project Sponsor



Other 60th Birthday Partners



Friend Level

- Apple Ford Lincoln
- Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists
- Dave Lerer Insurance
- Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny, LLC
- Harkins Builders
- Harry H. Witzke's Family Funeral Home, Inc.

- Janet Rohner—Realtor—Cummings & Co.
- Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Columbia (MD) Alumni Chapter
- McCabe Russell, P.A.
- Nancy Adams Personnel
- New Line Strategies

- Newrez
- Oxford Planning Group, LLC
- The Family of Dean and Wendy Turner
- The Family of Roy and Susan Appletree
- The Law Offices of Oren Saltzman, LLC
- The Residences at Vantage Point

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



CAC President, Tracy Broccolino received the **2025 Children's Champion Award at the Bridges Heroes for Housing Awards**. This honor reflects CAC's deep commitment to working with community partners and legislative leaders to expand access to affordable housing in Howard County and across Maryland.



CAC was proud to receive the **Community Impact Award** at the **Howard County Chamber's 56th Annual Meeting**. CAC is deeply grateful for this recognition.



JustLiving Advocacy, Inc. honored CAC President, Tracy Broccolino at their **CommUNITY Hands of HOPE** event. CAC is grateful for this partnership and celebrates the important work JustLiving does to support single-parent households.



County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball proclaimed May 20th as **Community Action Council of Howard County Day** in honor of CAC's 60 years of service and impact.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

CAC advanced bold legislative advocacy to address the root causes of poverty. Through advocacy days, testimony, and direct engagement in Annapolis and Washington, D.C., CAC built strong partnerships and secured key policy wins, including the passage of Maryland's Anti-Poverty Fund (SB666). With full delegation support for Head Start and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and consistent collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels, CAC's voice helped drive systemic change to strengthen households and communities.

Highlights

- Cultivated strategic partnerships with legislators and staff at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Engaged in Maryland General Assembly session through in-person meetings, testimony, and briefings.
- Hosted federal legislators at CAC locations and engaged with representatives in Washington, D.C.
- Advanced FY25 statewide community action priorities including:
 - SB666: Establish Anti-Poverty Fund (PASSED)
 - Inclusion of Community Action Agencies in statewide anti-poverty initiatives
 - Support for increased energy assistance funding
 - Advocacy on affordable housing, childcare, early childhood education, and food insecurity

Impact Metrics

- Four coordinated advocacy days (3 state, 1 federal)
- Quarterly meetings with local, state, and federal delegations
- State legislative testimonies delivered: SB666 and HB1465 – both PASSED
- Letter campaigns:
 - Head Start: Full support from State Delegation
 - CSBG "Dear Colleague Letter" with full support from Federal Delegation
- Proclamations/Citations:
 - From Senator Van Hollen, County Executive Calvin Ball, and MDGA District 13



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

*"I received a commitment letter informing me that I was approved for funding to cover my back rent. When I read that email, I literally fell to the floor in tears. As a single mom, the thought of being evicted and having no place for my child and me was overwhelming. CAC's compassion and resilience in handling my **housing** case gave me a lifeline during a dark time. To have the grant approved in such a short amount of time speaks volumes about CAC's dedication and commitment."* -CAC Client

*"CAC's **Early Childhood Education Program** is inadvertently helping me shape my kids' lives in a positive way. They are helping me be able to earn what I need to earn to afford activities for my son and daughter. They are helping me produce good members of society, intelligent, loving beings with good character."* -CAC Client

*"CAC takes great care to be sure that it doesn't look like they're just giving you everything. The marketplace at the **Howard County Food Bank** seems like a market. It doesn't seem like a place that's just giving stuff away. That's very important psychologically. They really try to cultivate an environment where there's not any sense of judgement."* -CAC Client

*"Since receiving **energy assistance** from CAC, our family has experienced a significant improvement in our quality of life. The stress and anxiety of utility bills have eased, allowing us to focus on other essential needs. The impact of CAC's programs extends for beyond the immediate assistance, it empowers families like mine to thrive."* -CAC Client



"Dear Ladies & Gentlemen of Community Action Council of Howard County,

*I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the generous grant you have awarded to the Maryland **Weatherization Assistance Program** through DCHD on my behalf. Your support made a significant impact on the comfort levels in my home, helping me to save both energy and money while still being warm.*

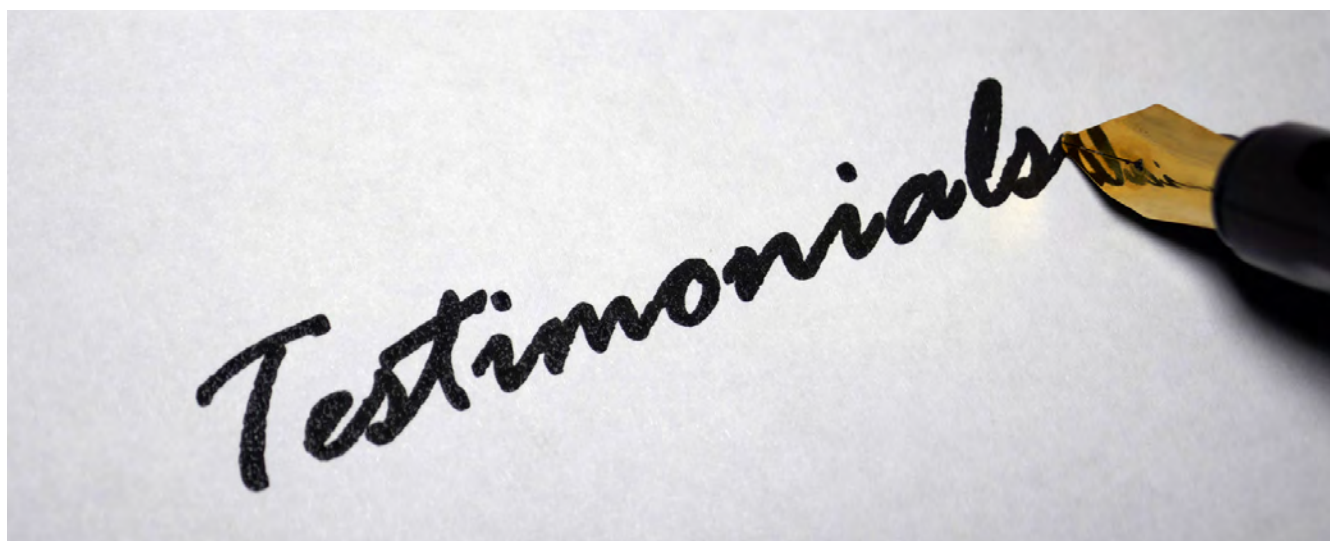
As a spinal cord injury survivor, my body's thermoregulation is significantly compromised. Cold weather is difficult for me to manage. With the lack of insulation in this house, I felt absolutely miserable! Adding in the extreme low temperatures and increase in the price of electricity and gas, I was having a very difficult time.

Seeing the crew from Eco-Mize roll up to my house and start their work brought tears to my eyes. I felt like the cavalry had arrived!

With all of these amazing improvements, thanks to you, the difference here is already apparent. I am deeply appreciative of you for offering this vital program to individuals like myself. I am excited about the positive impact this will have on both my home and my energy costs. Your commitment to helping communities is greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you for your generosity. Words truly cannot express my gratitude!"

-CAC Client



360-DEGREE COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Volunteers donated over 15,193 hours of their time to CAC - the equivalent of over **SEVEN full-time employees!**



All CAC Early Childhood Education (ECE) students were adopted through our **Adopt-a-Student program** and received new coats and holiday gifts, thanks to **St John Baptist Church's Holiday Gift Drive**, providing more than 750 gifts!

This year's annual ECE picnic, sponsored by the **Rotary Clubs of Columbia Patuxent and Ellicott City**, brought 500 students and families to **Clark Elloak's Farm** through a new partnership.



During **Children's Literacy Month**, more than 300 books were donated—enough for every student across our five ECE centers to take home a brand-new book. Thank you to **Tiber Technologies, APL Federal Credit Union, Project Linus, the Howard County Library System**, and all our generous donors.

CAC's supporters **donated 1,225,068 pounds of food** to CAC's Howard County Food Bank in FY25.



The **Great Lisbon Farmer's Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade** raised thousands of dollars and collected hundreds of pounds of food for the Howard County Food Bank.



Martin Luther King, Jr. - National Day of Service January 20, 2025

MLK Day, the only federal holiday designated as a day of service, is one of CAC's biggest impact days. Each year, the Howard County Food Bank is supported by the **MLK Jr. Holiday Commission, Howard County Public Schools, Howard County Chamber of Commerce, Jewish Federation of Howard County, and the Divine Nine of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.**



The **Howard County business community** made a powerful difference this year as over 50 businesses and community groups **contributed more than 1,000 volunteer hours** to support CAC's mission of service.

Thank you to the donors and volunteers for making a profound difference in the lives of the families, children, and individuals we serve. Your generosity and dedication fuel CAC's mission, and we could not do it without you.

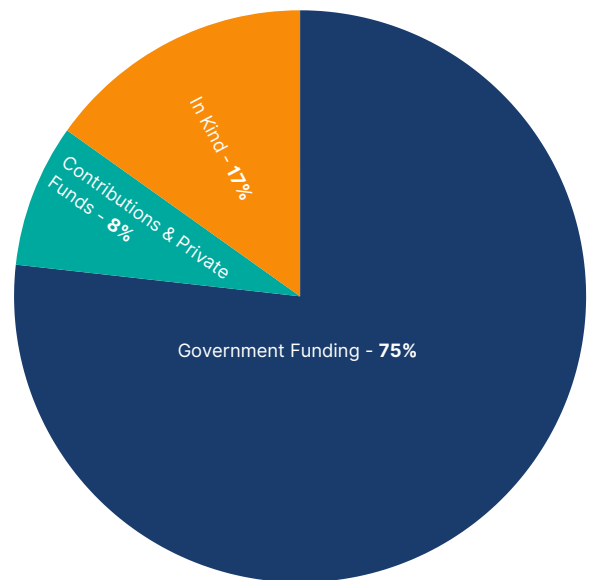
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to generous donors, the Community Action Council of Howard County contributes to the creation of a better Howard County community where all individuals, families, and children can live, work, play, and thrive.

87 cents of every dollar goes directly back into Howard County. Your investment is building our community's future.

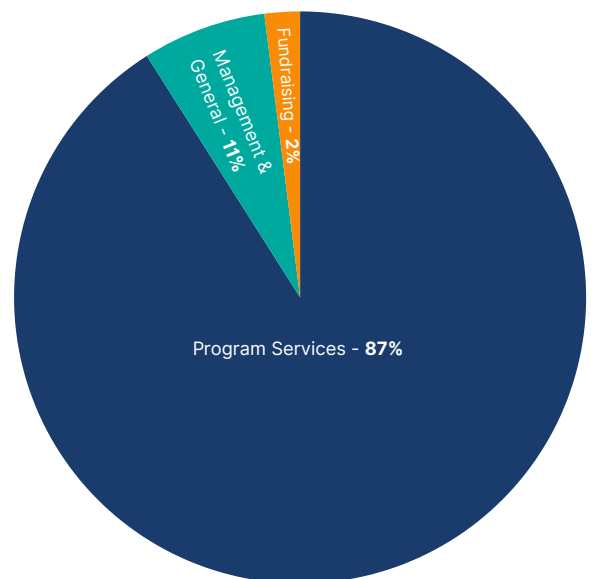
Revenue Sources

- Government Funding **75%**
- Contributions and Private Funds **8%**
- In Kind **17%**



Operating Expenses by Function

- Program Services **87%**
- Management and General **11%**
- Fundraising **2%**



DATA-DEFINED DECISION MAKING



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

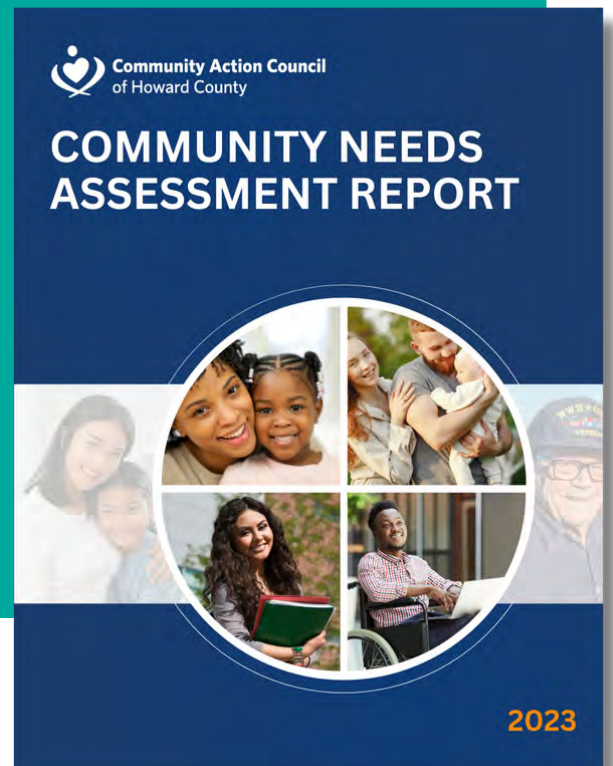
CAC's 2023 Community Needs Assessment highlights current policies and strategies, while pinpointing gaps that must be addressed to mitigate poverty. Conducted every three years, the assessment ensures CAC stays aligned with Howard County's evolving needs. From the data, CAC identified the following root causes and conditions of poverty in Howard County:

Root Causes of Poverty in Howard County:

- Housing and the financial condition of the family
- Physical and mental health
- Food security is directly tied to health

Conditions of Poverty in Howard County:

- Inequities
- Housing
- Absence of a livable wage
- Services cliff
- Single mother families
- Lack of affordable childcare
- Navigation of service providers



CAC'S TOP FIVE PRIORITIES IN HOWARD COUNTY

The Program & Planning Committee of the CAC Board identified the following priorities in the Howard County community for CAC to address:

- 1 Affordable high quality early childhood education
- 2 Food access and security
- 3 Affordable housing
- 4 Energy and utilities assistance
- 5 Physical and mental health with an emphasis on resilience

The Committee also noted the need to address **financial management, credit recovery, and credit building with clients.**

READY2ACT IMPACT

Route One Corridor Campus

On February 13, 2025, CAC purchased 2.75 acres at 7525 Montevideo Road in Jessup, MD. This milestone was made possible through seed funding championed by Howard County Government and County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball.

This investment launches the Route One Corridor Campus, a visionary project that will co-locate a larger Howard County Food Bank with expanded early childhood education services in an area historically underserved by human services. By addressing the rising demand for nutritious food, the shortage of affordable, high-quality early childhood education, and the transportation barriers families face, CAC is expanding access to opportunity where it is needed most.

The Route One Corridor Campus embodies CAC's commitment to being responsive to community need and always ready to act with impact.



CORNERSTONE OF OPPORTUNITY

Building community, dignity, and opportunity with our neighbors.

The land purchase was just the beginning. Bringing the Route One Corridor Campus to life will require bold investment, steadfast partnership, and a shared belief that together we can build a stronger Howard County.

To this end, CAC is planning a capital campaign, **Cornerstone of Opportunity: Building community, dignity, and opportunity with our neighbors**. This campaign invites every member of our community to join us in turning vision into reality, creating a campus where families can thrive and futures can be transformed.

Together, We Build a Stronger Community

When neighbors, partners, and supporters come together, every household grows stronger.

Your involvement makes a difference.

Your gift today makes a direct impact: putting food on tables, giving children the chance to learn and thrive, and helping families build stability for the future.

To learn how you can take part, visit
cac-hc.org/get-involved.

FY2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chair

St John Baptist Church



TONYA AIKENS
Vice Chair

Howard County Library System

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