

About Community Action, Inc.

Community Action, Inc., is a private non-profit organization that has its roots in President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Established in 1970, Community Action, Inc. is a proud part of a nationwide network of approximately **1,100** local private and public community action agencies that serve **17 million** low-income people annually in **96 percent** of the nation's counties.



(L to R) Susan Wheatley, Executive Director, and Fran Lee, Board President

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is the contemporary federal support for the War on Poverty's community action network. However, CSBG funds only represent **nine (9) percent** (October 2010) of the agency's budget. CSBG funds support the human service structure that allows Community Action to leverage nearly **\$12.09** (October 2010) in additional state, local and private funding for every \$1.00 received from the CSBG, all of which are directed toward the agency's mission:

To alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty through the promotion of public policy that helps those in poverty move to greater self-reliance AND by providing services and resources that meet basic needs, promote self-reliance and enhance the quality of life for individuals and families.

Though not all services are available in all counties - a fact often dictated by the funding source - Community Action's CSBG service area includes Clay, Dickinson, Geary, McPherson, Ottawa, Saline, Shawnee and Wabaunsee Counties in Kansas.

Community Action has a budget of more than **\$7 million**, including housing grants and funds from the 2009 - 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and administers **25 program grants on 8 different fiscal years**. The agency employs **79 associates** and has program facilities at **3 locations** in Shawnee County and **1** in Wabaunsee County. It owns and operates affordable housing projects in Clay, Jefferson, Riley and Shawnee Counties.

www.cactiontopeka.com

Directory

Administrative Services

Early Head Start Home Visitation

HANCOCK CENTER

1000 SE Hancock St.

Topeka, KS 66607-1578

Phone: 785.235.9561 or 866.235.9561 • Fax: 785.235.9564

Community Services, Home and Housing Services, Weatherization/Winterization, The First Tee of Shawnee County, Safe Kids Shawnee County, CACFP

SWYGART CENTER

621 SE Swygart St.

Topeka, KS 66607-2070

Community Services, Housing Services, First Tee,

Safe Kids Shawnee County: 785.235.9296 or 800.792.7056

Weatherization/Winterization: 785.232.3499 or 800.792.7056

CACFP Phone: 785.232.3258

Fax: 785.290.3200

Head Start

HUDSON CENTER

2410 SE Highland Ave.

Topeka, KS 66605-1765

Phone: 785.266.0245 or 800.792.8039 • Fax: 785.266.4967

MCFARLAND OFFICE

208 Main St.

McFarland, KS 66501

Phone: 785.765.2227

Affordable Housing

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

Topeka, KS

Phone: 785.235.9561

MCKINLEY APARTMENTS

Clay Center, KS

Phone: 785.632.6846

SWINGLE HOUSE APARTMENTS

Leonardville, KS

Phone: 785.293.5215

MERIDEN HEIGHTS

Meriden, KS

Phone: 785.484.2109

Funding for this publication was provided in part by the federal Community Services Block Grant through the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation.

December 2010

www.cactiontopeka.com

Community Action, Inc.

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Topeka, Kansas

Serving Counties in Central and Northeast Kansas



Helping People
Help Themselves Since 1970

2011 Brochure

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.



Helping People. Changing Lives.

Community Action, Inc. Programs

Community Action, Inc. programs are designed to help individuals and families conserve resources, maintain optimal health, achieve educational and employment success and live independently. Here's an overview of the agency's departments and the programs that they operate:

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Back to School Fairs are annual public events held in several communities within the Agency's service area. Family-focused exhibitors provide fun activities and information for school-aged children and their families. Starter sets of grade-appropriate school supplies are given to families that meet income-eligibility requirements and pre-apply for the supplies.



Back-to-School Fair

Tax Preparation, E-Filing and Counseling is provided in cooperation with AARP Tax Aide



Tax Prep, E-Filing and Counseling

during the tax season, as well as throughout the year to respond to questions regarding tax credits and tax returns.

Latino Family Development provides services that promote school achievement, family stability and self-sufficiency for low-income, limited English proficient

individuals and families.

The First Tee of Shawnee County shapes young lives through the lessons of golf.



The First Tee of Shawnee County

Homeless Prevention promotes self-sufficiency and transitions homeless persons into permanent housing by providing assistance with rent and utility deposits. Assistance is also available when the disconnection of utilities will result in eviction and homelessness.



Child Car Safety Seat Installations

Child Car Safety Seat Installations are provided in conjunction with "Safe Kids - Shawnee County."

Elderly Services provides a wide array of services that assist persons 60 years of age to better maintain their health, safety and independence, including durable medical equipment loans, liquid nutrition and commodity delivery programs.

Project Attention provides services which support school performance and family stability for low-income elementary school families.

HOME SERVICES

Weatherization provides energy saving improvements to Shawnee County residences that are occupied by individuals who are income-eligible for the service.



Weatherization

Winterization Kits are available each heating season, as is information that enables households to lower energy use and related costs. Income-eligible households are given, at no-cost, a Warm Home and Winterization Kit containing plastic for windows, caulking, fluorescent bulbs and weather-stripping.

HOUSING SERVICES

In **Housing Development and Construction**, Community Action has used its certification as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) to develop and maintain affordable housing in Clay Center (McKinley Apartments), Leonardville (Swingle House Apartments), Meriden (Meriden Heights) and Topeka, KS.



Swingle House Apartments

The agency's **Supportive Housing Program** is a partnership with Valeo Behavioral Health Care. That partnership features a 14-unit apartment complex that is owned and operated as affordable and permanent housing for chronically homeless individuals diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness.



Meriden Heights

Community Action services are provided at no or minimal cost to eligible participants.

Many Community Action programs are designed to be of assistance in moving those in poverty to greater self-reliance. Age, income and/or location of residence define eligibility for certain Community Action services. In some cases, the funding source establishes the eligibility criteria. In all cases, ever-changing and sometimes limited funding may cap services. Not all services are available in all communities -- a fact often dictated by the funding source. An application is required for some services.

Please contact Community Action for the current status and a detailed description of the eligibility requirements for listed programs. Contact information is listed on the back of this publication.

HEAD START

Head Start, launched in 1964, was designed to help break the cycle of poverty facing preschool children in low-income families. Today Head Start is a comprehensive child development program available to income-eligible families at no cost.



Head Start

Community Action is a grantee for Head Start programs in Shawnee and Wabaunsee Counties and offers services for families from the time they learn of a pregnancy until the child is of school age.



Head Start

Community Action Head Start operates multiple program options that include comprehensive preschool, full-day/full-year child care for qualifying families, and home-based preschool in Wabaunsee county, in addition to home visitation for children younger than three years.

All families participating in Head Start receive health and social services, information to enhance their child's development and opportunities to participate in program activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services provides the logistical support necessary for the Agency's efficient and effective functioning. Tasks include facility management, accounting and fiscal services, human resources, purchasing, planning and program development and support services.

Administrative Services provides direct oversight for the **Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP)**, which provides licensed day care providers and Community Action Head Start centers with education and technical assistance related to food services. Reimbursement is provided to participating providers for meals and snacks that meet Federal nutritional requirements.



CACFP