

COMMUNITY ACTION IN VIRGINIA

Virginia's **thirty-one Community Action Agencies** are a robust state and local force, reaching children and families throughout the Commonwealth with comprehensive services that create opportunities for self-sufficiency and prosperity.

Annually, we reach:



This includes:



19,700 people received quality free income **Tax Preparation** services, providing over **\$24 million** in federal and state refunds (including **\$13 million** in Earned Income and Child Tax Credits)

The **\$9.25 million** annual Community Action state investment leverages over **\$11 million** in federal community service block grant (CSBG) funding. This investment enables Community Action to serve as a fundamental and innovative component of the Commonwealth's human services, housing and workforce delivery system to reach low-income individuals, families and children.

The Governor and General Assembly's investment in Community Action is central to Virginia's ability to leverage every **\$1** of state investment to **\$14** from other federal, state, local and private sources. Community Action Agencies are locally run, responsive to the specific needs of their region and are excellent stewards of a range of public and private resources that enable them to create pathways out of poverty for Virginians.

2025 State Legislative Priorities

Hold Harmless Community Action Capacity Investment

Increase TANF Discretionary Funds to Community Action Agencies (CAA) by an estimated \$4 million annually beginning July 1, 2025, to bring the total to \$13.25 million

- The requested increase is critical to avoid reductions in funding to the statewide network due to mandated federally required national census updates to CAA formula funds and a new locality designation into the CAA portfolio
- Cuts would decrease availability of locally directed economic mobility programs
- This funding is efficiently leveraged 14 to 1 and utilized to meet the most pressing needs of low-income Virginians such as employment services, education services, asset building services, housing services and more locally identified gaps in services.

Whole Family Initiative Investment

Invest new funding of \$1,125,000 annually in TANF discretionary funds beginning July 1, 2025, to allow expansion of Whole Family Initiative from six to twelve sites across Virginia

- Current effort is nationally recognized Virginia Community Action initiative that is transforming lives at six Community Action Agencies
- New funding allows expansion to an additional six Community Action Agencies
- Aligns with state efforts to increase workforce participation and connection to job training programs and employers

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES:

- Connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed and achieve economic mobility. This includes high-quality education programs for children, job training for adults, stable and affordable housing for families, assistance for seniors and free income tax preparation services.
- Promote community-wide solutions to challenging problems in our urban, suburban and rural areas.
- Share expertise with state and local leaders providing evidence on what works to promote greater economic opportunity for children and families.