

# Report to Community



## Stability & Hope

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[www.accaa.org](http://www.accaa.org)

April 1, 2023- March 31, 2024

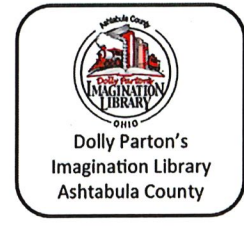
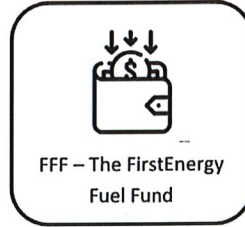
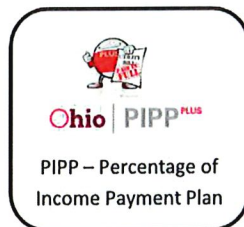
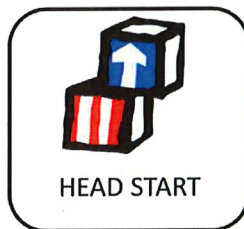
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# Introduction

## Stability & Hope

It can be difficult to balance all of the many responsibilities and obligations of life. Whether an unexpected situation or the ongoing struggles to keep up, Ashtabula County Community Action Agency is here to help. We have many programs to assist you to solve the problem and help you to create a better tomorrow. In this report we will provide information on our core programs as well as the various COVID support programs that have been winding down over the past year.



# Mission

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency will help people achieve self-sufficiency and rise above issues of poverty.



# Self-Sufficiency

We work to empower those we serve- enabling them to attain skills, knowledge, and motivation to move to the next level and achieve success. Everything we do is designed to align with our mission by combatting the causes of poverty and helping change people's lives by addressing the challenges and barriers they face.



# Major Supporters

The programs and services of Ashtabula County Community Action would not be possible without our major funders and supporters...

ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

**Ohio** Department of  
Development

**Ohio**

**Ohio** Department of  
Health

Ashtabula  
**Job & Family  
SERVICES**

**YES  
for  
Seniors**  
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy

Department of  
Education &  
Workforce

**Healthy Families  
America** - AFFILIATE -

**DIRECTION  
HOME**  
OF EASTERN OHIO  
RESOURCES ON AGING & DISABILITIES

**United  
Way**

United Way  
of Ashtabula County



# Information & Referral Services

## 2-1-1 Ashtabula County

### Assistance Through:



12,449  
Inquiries



15,498  
Referrals

### 2-1-1 Resource Database:



291  
Agencies



796  
Programs

### Website Visits:



14,881  
Unique Visitors

### 2-1-1 Demographics:



Over 1 in 3 callers have  
minor children in their home\*



Over 1 in 3 callers are  
older adults (60+)\*

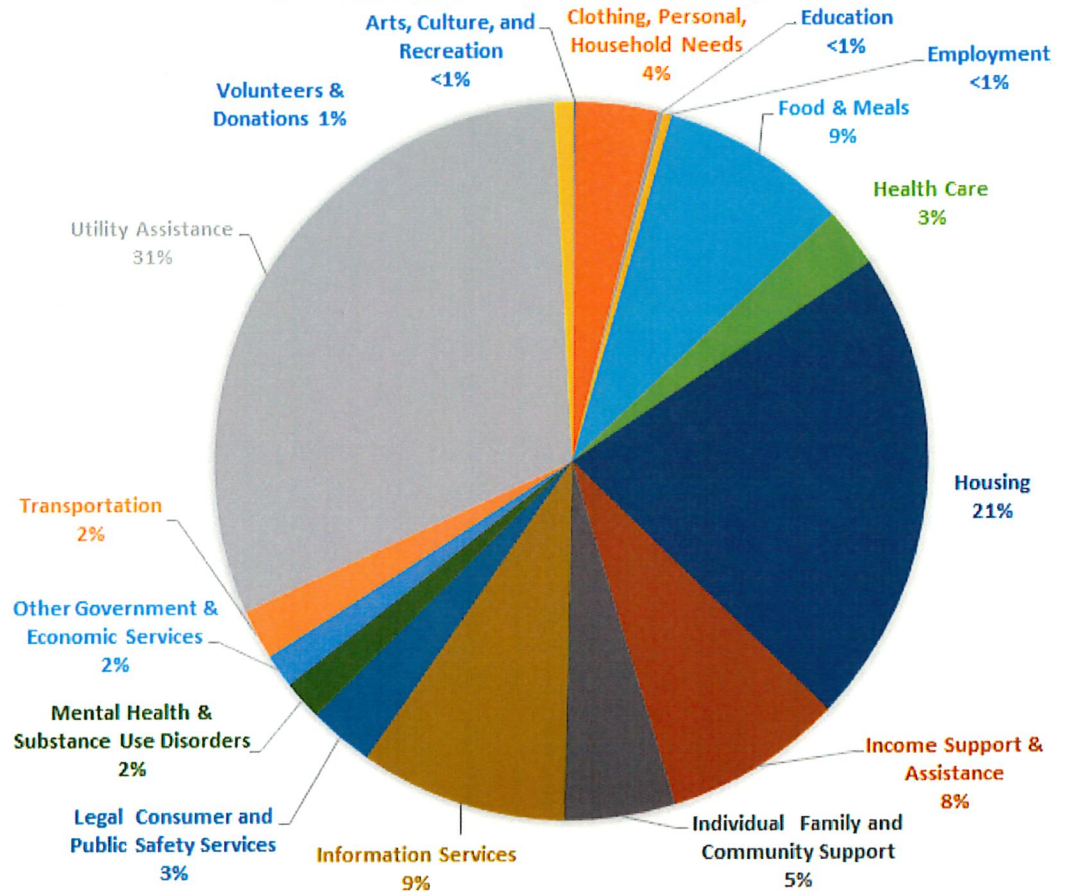
\*out of info gathered

2-1-1 Ashtabula County connects people in need with services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For over 20 years, Community Action has offered callers hope by providing the vital link to resources through the 2-1-1 Ashtabula County program.

The graph below shows the needs the callers to 2-1-1 Ashtabula County are seeking assistance with.



2-1-1 ASHTABULA COUNTY NEEDS 2023



2-1-1 Ashtabula is





# Getting Information

Providing easy access to information is the goal of the 2-1-1 Ashtabula County program and we know that is different for different people. So we provide multiple ways to find the resources you need...



Search our online database at any time:  
[www.211ashtabula.org](http://www.211ashtabula.org)



## Dial 2-1-1

All day. Every day.



Text your zip code to:  
**TXT211 (898211)**  
M-F, 8 am- 4 pm



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Facebook

[Facebook.com/ashtabulainfo](https://www.facebook.com/ashtabulainfo)



Email us:  
[211@accaa.org](mailto:211@accaa.org)

The 4-1-1 on 2-1-1 The week of July 14th, 2024

### The 4-1-1 on 2-1-1



2-1-1 updates for the week of July 14th, 2024

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- KEYS TO THE COMMUNITY
- OPERATION BRIDGE DAY
- FREEDOM FROM SMOKING
- PET FOOD DISTRIBUTION
- BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
- SHOE GIVEAWAY
- SENIOR PICNIC
- AND MORE

Find our newsletters online at:  
[www.211ashtabula.org/newsletters](http://www.211ashtabula.org/newsletters)

#### What Am I Reading?

First of all, thank you for your interest in sharing Ashtabula County resources! This newsletter, "The 4-1-1 on 2-1-1" is created by 2-1-1 Ashtabula County to share timely and relevant resource information.

This newsletter is released weekly, on every Monday. You can find it on our website at [211ashtabula.org](http://211ashtabula.org) or on our Facebook page, 2-1-1 Ashtabula County.



Attend one of our  
"Keys to Community"  
presentations

Find our newsletters  
online at:  
[www.211ashtabula.org/newsletters](http://www.211ashtabula.org/newsletters)

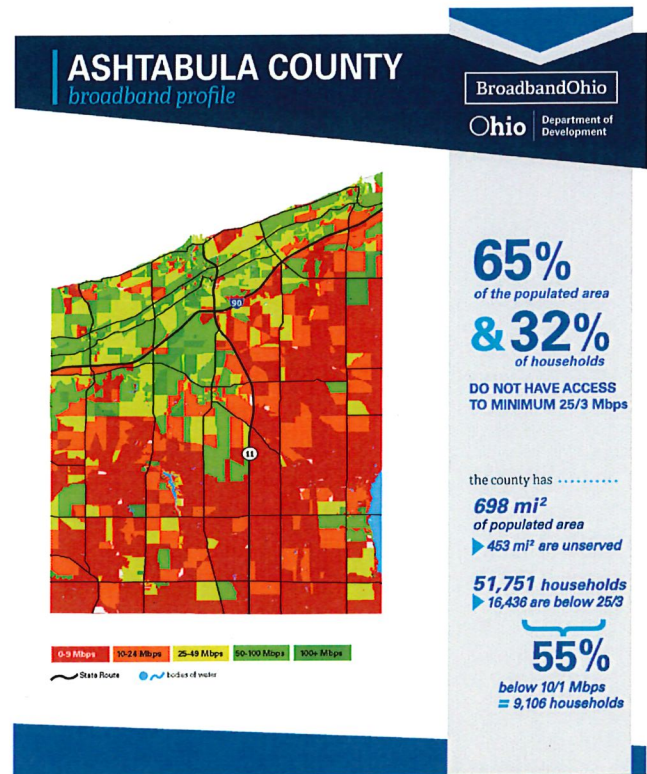


# Broadband & Digital Access

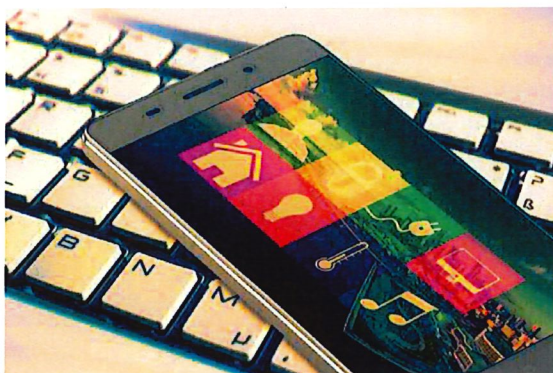
During the COVID 19 Pandemic, in order to minimize contact between people and halt the spread of the virus, there was a big shift to doing many everyday activities online. Education, business, healthcare, and government all moved to electronic interactions.

This shift clearly illustrated a problem of lack of access to internet for low-income households, those not skilled with computer use, or those living in areas where there was no or inadequate internet/broadband service.

Community Action is proud to be a member of the Broadband Taskforce that is working to bridge the digital divide.



## Affordable Connectivity Program



Seeing the need to ensure greater access to the digital world for Ashtabula County residents, Community Action applied for a special grant to help people understand and enroll in discounted service with a local internet provider offered through the Affordable Connectivity Program.

27

households enrolled

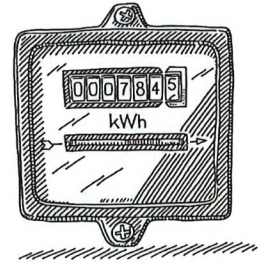
92

outreach events

\*Grant period October 2023- February 2024

# Energy Services

## Utility Assistance



### Winter Crisis Program

1,219

households served

\$458,103

total WCP utility assistance payments made

There are several programs offered by Community Action to assist residents with help paying their utility bills. The assistance that is available is generally for gas, bulk fuel, or electricity, but sometimes help may be available for other utilities.

The goal of the Energy Assistance program is to secure continued utility service for the next thirty days, whether it is for heating in the winter, Winter Crisis Program, or cooling in the summer, Summer Crisis Program.

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan, also known as PIPP/PIPP Plus, allows eligible households to make affordable monthly energy payments on a year round basis.

### Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

4,161

households served

The PIPP program helps households stabilize their monthly energy costs

### Summer Crisis Program

646

households served

\$75,241

total SCP utility assistance payments made

401

air conditioners distributed

908

fans distributed



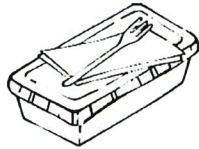
# Senior Services

## Senior Nutrition

A key factor in creating stability for our older citizens is to provide services that allow them to stay in their own homes as long as possible. From the vital, nutritious, and delicious homemade hot meals delivered to our homebound seniors weekdays by our dedicated Meals On Wheels drivers, to the Senior Dining Sites that provide that same tasty meal in the company of friends, to our Homemaker services... we help keep people safe and healthy.

### Home Delivered

79,464

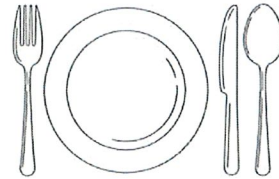


101,820

total meals

### Congregate

22,356



92%

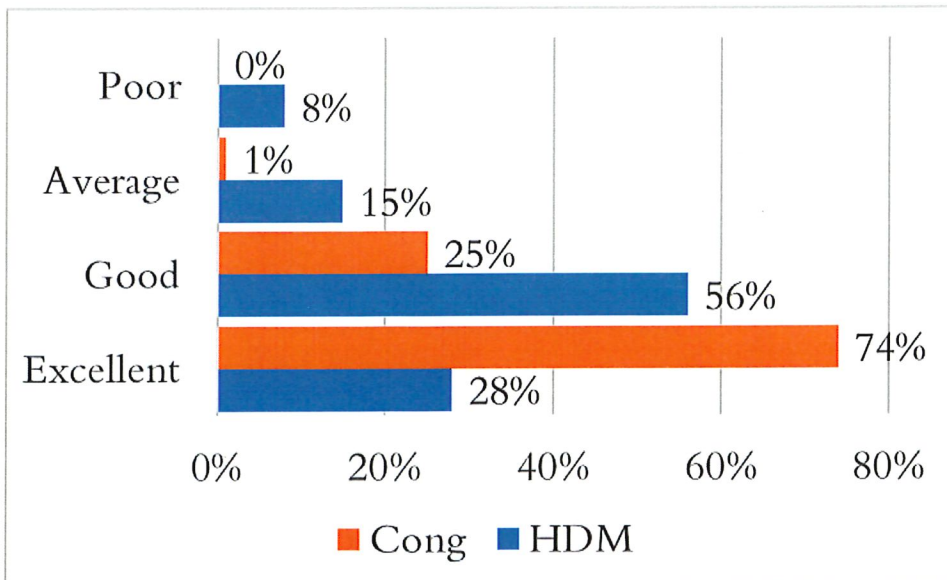
HDM seniors feel receiving meals has helped them to remain in their homes

100%

HDM seniors say their drivers are courteous and professional

99%

of Dining Site seniors say the meals have improved their health



Ratings of the Taste of the Meals

# Senior Services Homemaker

Our dedicated staff perform light housekeeping duties to ensure a clean, healthy home environment for our senior citizens.

**105** unduplicated clients  **1,537** total hours of Homemaker service to clients

## Enhanced Information & Referral for Seniors

The social and human service systems can be difficult for anyone to navigate, but it can be even more confusing and frustrating for our older adults. At 2-1-1 Ashtabula County, we provide extra assistance to seniors to ensure they get connected to the help they need.

**988** total transactions

**157** Enhanced Senior I&R Callers

**Total Advocacy 18**

**Total Follow-ups 29**

**Total Materials Provided 848**

**Total Research 93**





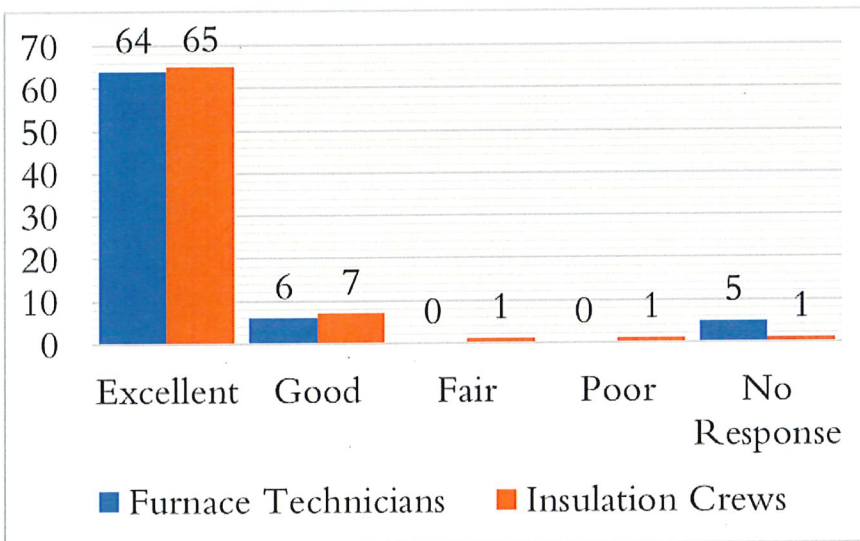
# Housing Services

## Weatherization

Through our Home Weatherization Assistance Program, our team of professionals help make homes healthy, warm, and safe while lowering energy bills and stabilizing the household budget. We install materials to make the home more energy efficient, assess the safety of combustion appliances, and address the quality of the indoor environment.



**75** jobs completed



### Weatherization Service Ratings

**100%**

marked "Yes" to "Staff were professional and courteous"

**100%**

would recommend Weatherization to family and friends

"This was so wonderful, my sister, mother and myself feel this was a gift. A crew of angels for sure."

"Nice people to work with, everyone was prompt, diligent, friendly and professional."

"Everyone was very respectful and explained everything."

"My house is very warm now, no heat escaping and my furnace works now."

"We can already feel the difference in the house staying warm."

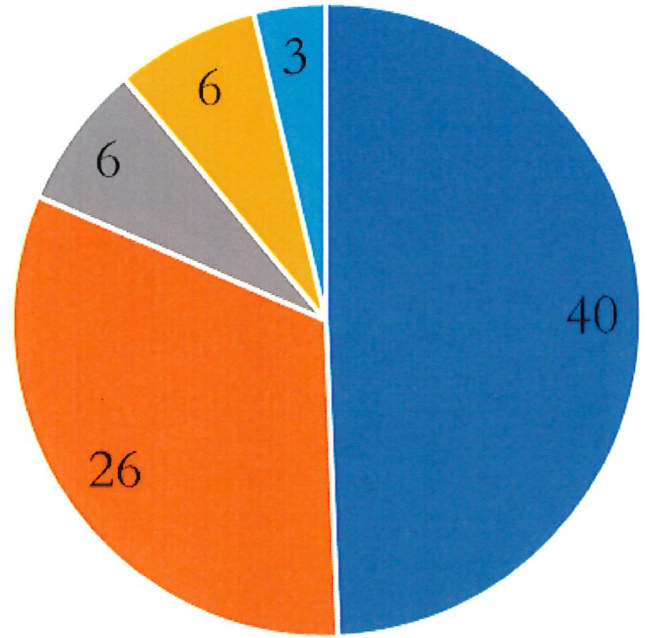
# Housing Services

## Home Repair

Through our Home Weatherization Assistance Program, our team of professionals help make homes healthy, warm, and safe while lowering energy bills. We install materials to make the home more energy efficient, assess the safety of combustion appliances, and address the quality of the indoor environment.

**53** households served

**81** various repairs completed



- Heating/Cooling Repairs
- Structural/Building Shell Repairs
- Plumbing Repairs
- Accessibility Modifications
- Electrical Repairs

Number of Repairs by Type

# New Hope Homeless Assistance

**21** individuals or families housed

**62%** households with children

**115** rental payments on behalf of participants

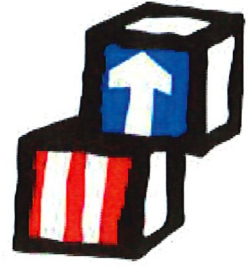
The New Hope Homeless Assistance Program provides assistance to help people get back on their feet after experiencing a loss of housing. The program provides rental subsidy and case supportive services to homeless individuals and families to help them get re-established.

**\$113,108** total rental assistance paid



# Education Services

## Head Start



Head Start is a federally funded school-readiness program that focuses on preschool children and their education. With over 50 years of experience, we know that the success of the child is linked to the success of the family. Children who are struggling in other areas are less able to be successful in the classroom.

**79%** overall attendance

**384** children served

\*2 expectant mothers

**71%** or 271, were preschool age

**96%** of preschoolers received a medical exam

**55%** of preschoolers received a dental exam

**29%** or 115, were infants & toddlers

**90%** of infants & toddlers received medical/dental exams

**\$1,115,538**

total in-kind local support

That's why our Head Start program stresses the whole-child approach and the engagement of the family in the education process of their child. In order to prepare a child for school, we also help the family with setting and achieving their goals. This helps create a stable environment for positive growth and development.

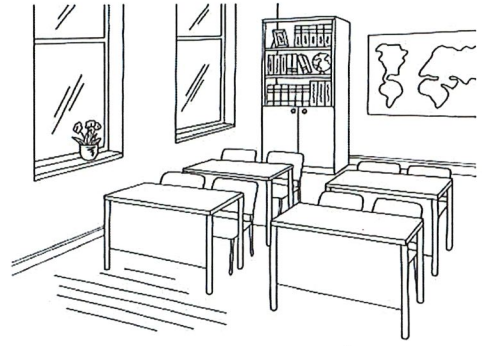
Ashtabula County Head Start is Gold rated preschool program (via the State of Ohio- Step Up To Quality Program) at all sites in operation, meaning each site provides the highest quality educational services.





# Education Services

# School Supports



The Dragon Empowerment Center (DEC)- Community Learning Center is a collaboration with the Ashtabula Area City Schools. Formalized in 2018, this initiative brings together community partners to provide support services to students and families.

The DEC offers assistance with basic needs, health services, academic supplements, and enrichment activities. This program also takes a whole-child approach, because we know that when a child is concerned with non-school related issues present in their daily lives they are less able to focus on learning. In addition to their direct support services, the DEC provides stability and hope by making referrals and connections to valuable resources to help the family.

## Student Services

701

students received dental services

3

students received vision services

6

students received tutoring services

231

students served in summer outreach

35 community partners

## Supports

78

volunteers

553

volunteer hours

340

tutoring hours

809

meals/snacks provided

1,782 parents/community members engaged

\*Statistics for calendar year 2023

The goal is simple... remove barriers so that all children can come to school ready-to-learn.





# Education Services

## School Supports



In school year 2023-2024, Community Action's Dragon Empowerment Center in partnership with the Ashtabula Area City Schools received a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. Lakeside High School had no formal out-of-school-time program to assist students who were struggling and not on track to graduate. Obtaining this grant allowed for the creation of an after-school program for students grades 9-12, filling that gap.

Named the Upper DEC Dragon PLUS program, it is aligned with the mission of the DEC... removing barriers and providing supports so that all can be successful in school and in life. Along with the required focus on reading and math, students learned basic life skills, leadership and teamwork, digital literacy, STEM, arts and culture, and much more. Specialized tutoring helped to aide students to gain proficiency for their grade level and beyond.

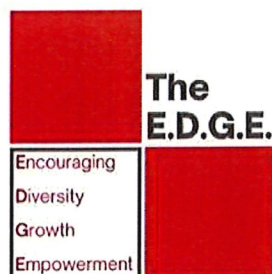
**46** students enrolled

**76** program days

**266** out-of-school time learning hours

Based on the success of the Dragon Empowerment Center for the Ashtabula Area City School district. Community Action partnered with the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center to expand community learning centers (CLCs) to other districts.

**CLC Projects  
Ashtabula  
County**



Working together 2023 saw continued development at the Grand Valley Local Schools, in their Mustang Stable, and the implementation of a new CLC, the EDGE, in the Buckeye Local School District.



# Education Services

## Career Readiness

Creating hope for the future involves providing experiences to broaden an individual's perspective, exposing them to opportunities they may not otherwise have, and helping them to discover new possibilities. Recognizing that many of our youth do not have the chance to extend their learning outside of the school year, Community Action and a variety of community partners developed the Career Summer Camp.



Launching its second camp program in 2023, the goal was to involve low-income high school students in a fun, engaging way while building workforce skills and future employment planning for participants. Held at Camp Beaumont, students learned about in-demand career fields, met with local employers, and engaged in team building activities.

24

high school students enrolled

100%

stated they learned something new about local careers

92%

would recommend the camp to a friend

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# Imagination Library

Community Action is the local affiliate of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio. We are proud to enroll all Ashtabula County children birth to age 5 in this well-known literacy program that delivers a free book to their home every month.

3,709 children served

35,452 books provided





# Health Services

## Women, Infants & Children



The Women, Infant, and Children Program, or WIC, helps eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, and children up to 5 years of age. It provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets.

WIC offers nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental highly nutritious foods and iron-fortified infant formula, and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs.

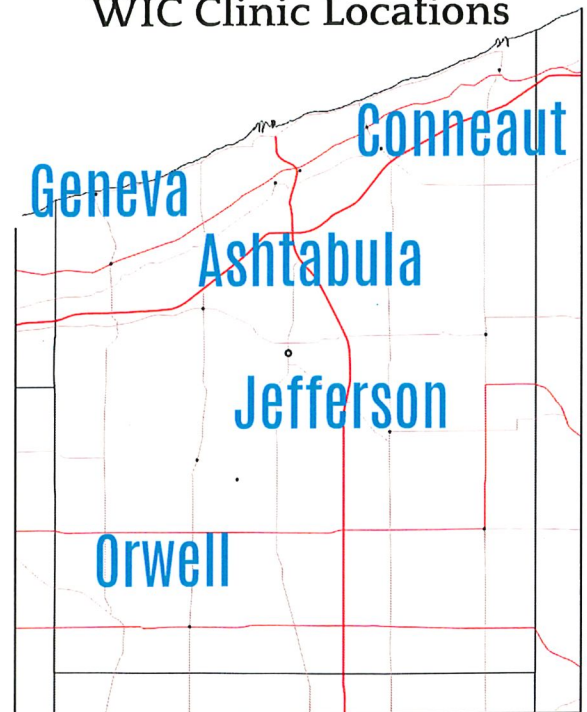
**3,072**

families served

**7,580**

total visits

### WIC Clinic Locations



## Home Visiting

The Community Action Home Visiting Program provides education and support to expectant mothers and families at the birth of their first child up to age 3, to increase prenatal care for improved childbirth outcomes, promote positive parent-child interactions, ensure healthy child development, increase access to healthcare services and promote family self-sufficiency and stability.



**211** families served

**1,899** total visits

# COVID Relief Services

During 2023 several programs continued to provide relief from the lingering effects of the pandemic.



## Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

A program implemented to assist with water and/or wastewater utilities that have been disconnected, are scheduled to be disconnected, need a service transfer, or are a new service start for households who may still recovering from the economic impacts of COVID.

**488**  
households served

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## CARES Home Relief

**\$136,826**

total assistance provided

The pandemic disrupted the housing stability of many households, the CARES Home Relief program provided rental assistance for individuals still struggling to stabilize their housing situation.

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## Save the Dream



For many, the equity they have in their home is building wealth for their household. During the pandemic there were individuals and families threatened with the loss of this major asset. The Save the Dream Program helped homeowners catch up on taxes and other real estate costs, and keep their dream of homeownership alive.

**476** households served

**\$448,256** total assistance provided



# Summary of Those We Served

**14,163**  
total served



**9,386**

total individuals about whom one or more characteristics were obtained

representing **4,442** households



**48%**

or almost half were single person households

**1 in 4**

female single parent households

\*3% male single parent households

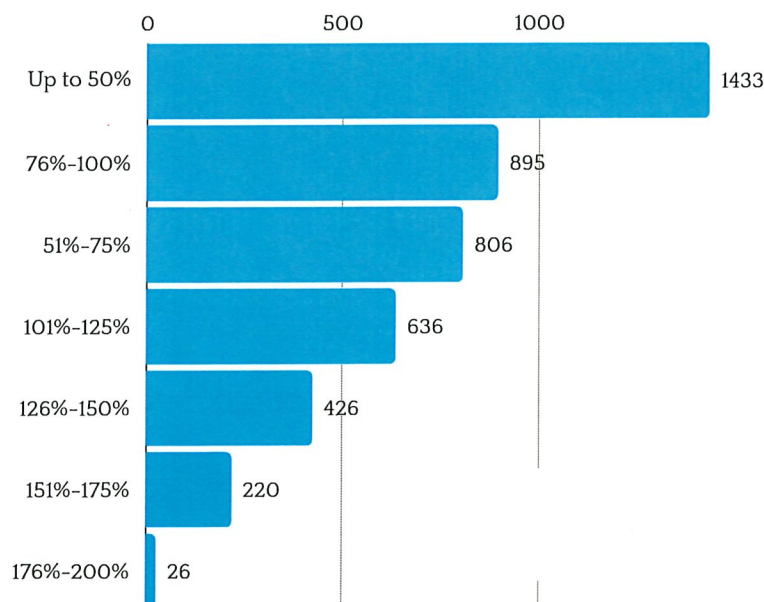
**1 in 4**

reported a disabling condition

**9 in 10**

had health insurance

73% Medicaid; 14% Medicare; 3% employer



Level of Household Income

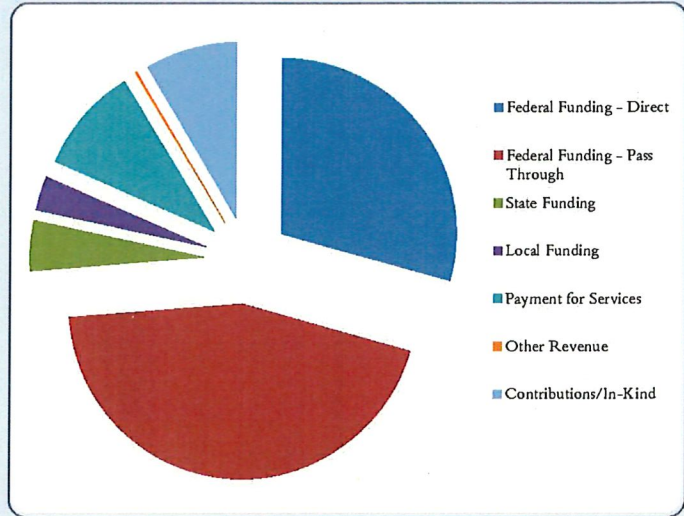
# ACCAA

## Annual Report FY 2024

Fiscal Year is April, 2023 through March, 2024

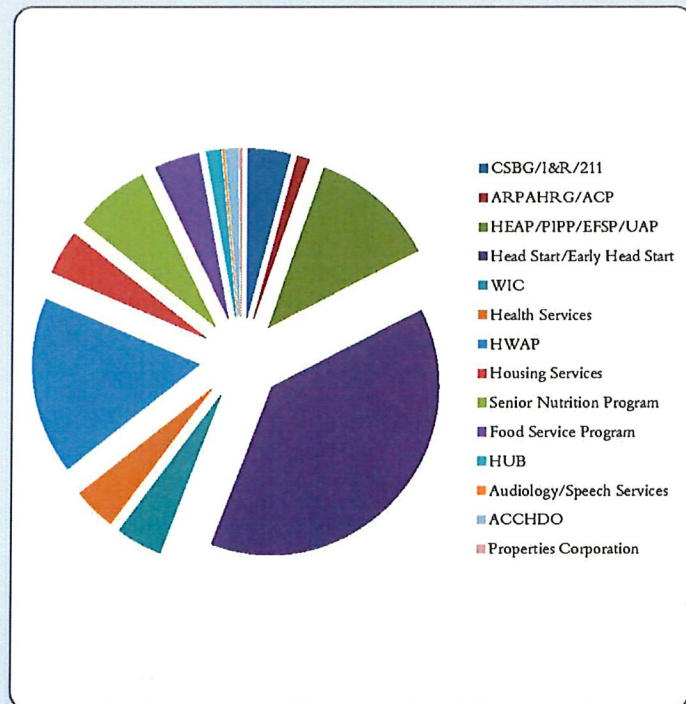
### SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Funding - Direct	\$	4,259,489
Federal Funding - Pass Through	\$	6,455,805
State Funding	\$	671,627
Local Funding	\$	455,224
Payment for Services	\$	1,420,611
Other Revenue	\$	22,948
Contributions/In-Kind	\$	1,239,934
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,525,638</b>



### EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PROGRAM

CSBG/I&R/211	\$	588,511
ARPAHRG/ACP	\$	166,151
HEAP/PIPP/EFSP/UAP	\$	1,724,561
Head Start/Early Head Start	\$	5,420,951
WIC	\$	626,510
Health Services	\$	586,584
HWAP	\$	2,399,778
Housing Services	\$	601,459
Senior Nutrition Program	\$	1,017,749
Food Service Program	\$	612,325
HUB	\$	196,987
Audiology/Speech Services	\$	10,710
ACCHDO	\$	171,521
Properties Corporation	\$	33,692
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,157,489</b>





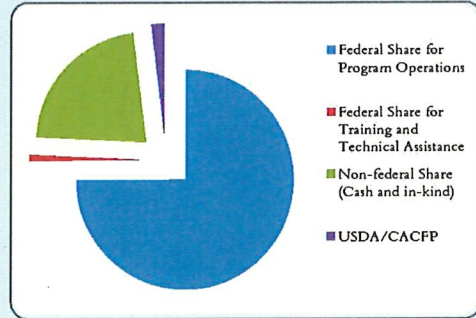
# ACCAA

## Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report FY 2024

Fiscal Year is April, 2023 through March, 2024

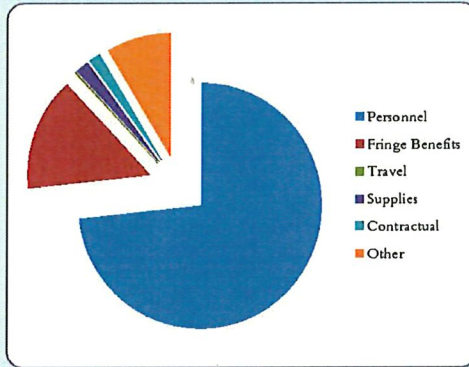
### SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Share for Program Operations	\$ 3,747,651
Federal Share for Training and Technical Assistance	\$ 42,585
Non-federal Share (Cash and in-kind)	\$ 1,115,538
USDA/CACFP	\$ 98,004
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,003,778</b>



### EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Personnel	\$ 3,564,549
Fringe Benefits	\$ 722,361
Travel	\$ 7,215
Supplies	\$ 80,741
Contractual	\$ 72,049
Other	\$ 416,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,863,189</b>



**Personnel** - includes wages paid to employees for their services in the Early Head Start and Head Start Programs. It also includes In-Kind wages for donated services.

**Fringe Benefits** - include the costs for FICA/Medicare, Workers Compensation, Unemployment Compensation, Health/Dental/Life Insurance and Retirement Benefits.

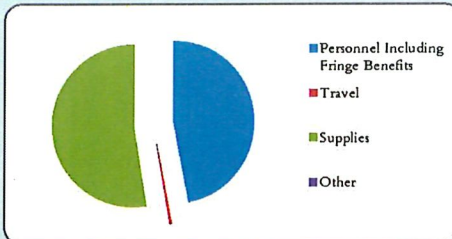
**Travel** - includes transportation and Hotel/Per Diem charges for out of service area travel.

**Contractual** - includes the costs for Training Consultants, Health/Disabilities/Mental Health Consultants, Employment related Consultants, Legal and Auditing services and for Computer/Copier/HVAC contracts.

**Other** - includes costs for all related costs for Buildings/Space, Telephones, Insurance, Vehicles, Staff Development, Postage, Advertising and Recruitment, Local Travel, and Membership Dues.

### CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM BUDGET

Personnel Including Fringe Benefits	\$ 68,598
Travel	\$ 612
Supplies	\$ 76,820
Other	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 146,030</b>



The USDA Nutrition Assistance Programs provide children and low-income individuals access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education. Through the provisions in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-134), any child enrolled in Head Start is now automatically eligible for free meals provided by the USDA Programs. We provide a Breakfast, lunch or afternoon snack while the child attends our Head Start program.



# Locations

Dial 2-1-1 for specific program locations, hours of operation, and other details.

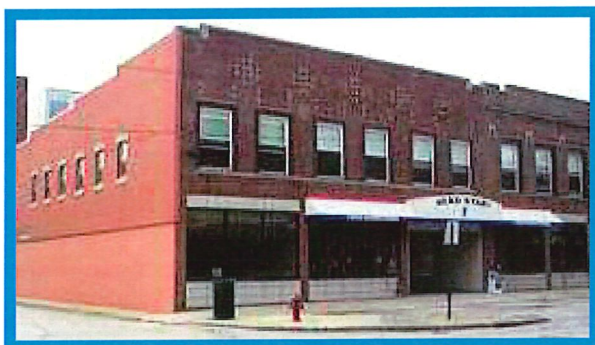


## 4200 State Road

WIC Program & Health Services, Community & Senior Services, Energy Assistance Programs, Head Start Satellite Classrooms

## 4510 Main Avenue

Head Start



## Collins

Early Head Start

## 6920 Austinburg Road

Weatherization & Home Repair, Youth Services, Administration





# Contact Us

440-997-5957 or just dial 2-1-1

Mail:

ACCAA

PO Box 2610

Ashtabula, OH 44005-2610

Email:

communityaction@accaa.org

## Our Values

- Customer service
- Community partnerships
- Interagency collaboration and integration
- Pleasant and efficient work environment
- Continuous improvement and learning
- Communication



[www.accaa.org](http://www.accaa.org)

## Board of Directors

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Pastor Preston Watkins\*\*\*

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Dennis De Camillo, Esq.--- Advisor\*\*

Our Board is comprised of 15 members... 1/3 public officials representatives, 1/3 private sector representatives, and 1/3 participant representatives. \*Also the Board has a seat for an appointee from ACCHDO; as well as \*\*and advisory position for legal expertise with Head Start regulations. \*\*\*Board members departing



# Head Start

Annual Report Supplement  
2023-2024  
(Compiled May 2024)



*Ashtabula County Head Start will empower children, families, and our community by providing support, education, and advocacy.*

## Who We Serve

Head Start is funded to serve 300 children (ages 0-5), expectant mothers, and their families in Ashtabula County.

We service families that have children with disabilities, are low-income or homeless, or any family who meets the income qualifications.

A family with an age eligible child becomes categorically eligible if they are receiving Ohio Works First, Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), is experiencing homelessness, or if a child is in foster care.

## Program Summary

Over the past nine months, Head Start has served 384 children and 2 pregnant women from 341 families. Of those served, 271 were preschool age and 115 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

The percentage of enrolled preschool children that acquired medical exams is 96% and 55% received dental exams. 90% of infant and toddlers also had medical and dental screenings.

## Program Options

The list below identifies the Head Start sites throughout Ashtabula County. The Program also provides services to children and families through a home visiting option.



### Ashtabula

Main Avenue  
4510 Main Avenue

Collins  
104 W. 45<sup>th</sup> Street

Edgewood High School  
2428 Blake Road

Ontario Elementary School  
2304 Wade Avenue

State Road  
4200 State Road

### Andover

Pymatuning Valley Primary School  
5571 State Route 6 West

### Conneaut

Lake Shore Primary School  
755 Chestnut Street

### Geneva

Cork Elementary School  
341 State Route 534 South

### Jefferson

ATech – Building B  
1565 State Route 167

### Orwell

Grand Valley Elementary School  
111 Grand Valley Ave. West

**Audit Report for FY2023** – ACCAA received an Independent Auditors report via S.R. Snodgrass, P.C. d/b/a S.R. Snodgrass, A.C. in West Virginia for the period ending March 31, 2023 and was issued a "clean" opinion. This means that after review of financial and program records, it was determined financial reports are presented accurately and fairly in all material respects and are in compliance with the rules and regulations governing financial and program reporting.





## ABOUT OUR STAFF

Head Start has 68 total staff members.

### Qualifications of Staff include...

#### 11 Preschool Teachers

- 1 with a Master degree
- 3 with a Bachelor degree
- 6 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a CDA (In the process of getting a degree in ECE)

#### 6 Infant/Toddler Teachers

- 4 with a CDA
- 2 open positions

#### 11 Assistant Teachers

- 10 with a CDA
- 1 open position

#### 6 Home Visitors

- 1 with an Associate degree
- 5 with a CDA

#### 3 Family Advocates

- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 2 with an Associate degree

#### 6 Site Supervisors

- 1 with a Master degree
- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 2 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a CDA
- 1 open position

#### 1 Health Specialist

- An RN with a Bachelor degree

#### 3 Program Managers

- 1 with a Bachelor degree
- 1 with an Associate degree
- 1 with a Specialized Certification

#### 1 Coordinator

- Has a Bachelor degree

#### 1 Assistant Director

- Has a Bachelor degree

#### 1 Director

- Has a Bachelor degree

## How We Prepare Children for Kindergarten

- School readiness goals are established and aligned with Creative Curriculum, DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile) Assessments, the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, as well as, Ohio Learning and Development Standards.
- Home visits and parent conferences are conducted with families to assist children with school readiness skills by discussing children's developmental strengths, as well as areas to strengthen for kindergarten entry.
- Monthly Parent Meetings are offered at each site, as well as virtually, presenting a host of parent chosen topics, such as "Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten" and "Developmental Milestones".
- Head Start classrooms are designed to provide developmentally appropriate activities and instruction that will enhance each child's developmental needs.
- Classroom staff continually observe each child, document observations and provide activities to assist each child with specific skills needed to further their development.
- Head Start assists children and families with the transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.
- All children receive developmental, social emotional, speech, vision and hearing screenings within forty-five (45) days of enrollment. These screenings allow for timely referrals to various local agencies, as well as, Local Education Agencies (LEA) if necessary.

## Family Engagement Within Our Program

Engaging families in their child's learning process is a critical piece of Head Start. From being a part of everyday successes in the classroom to having a say in how the Program is run, families play a huge role in the Program.

Informal and planned communication happens every day! Staff and families discuss children's progress, classroom happenings, changes in a family's life including setting and reaching goals, and various resources available. This is done via home visits, conferences, parenting workshops, informal conversations and group socializations.

Behavioral Specialists are available to assist families, as needed, with various issues.

Parent Meetings and Policy Council provide families an opportunity to voice concerns regarding policies and programming as well as helping to plan family events.

Activities to promote male engagement are offered throughout the year. Getting men involved in a child's education as early as possible has many positive effects. Events like the *Cardboard Challenge*, *Men of the Year Awards*, and *Father Engagement Swim Classes* allow children and the men in their lives time to enjoy special activities together and to welcome men into early education.