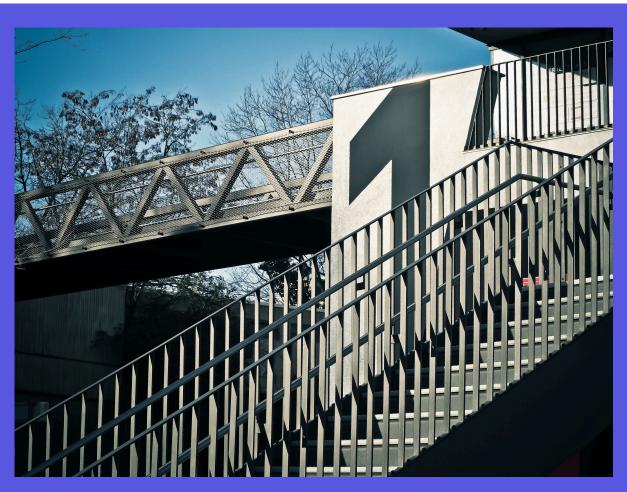


April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Report to Community

Transitions & Trust

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency



A Year of Change and Continuity





Introduction



Transitions & Trust

A Year of Change and Continuity

Moving ahead while preserving the legacy.

A key Community Action tenet is the belief in positive change and growth. Throughout this report you will see how Ashtabula County Community Action Agency (Community Action) shows forward progress while continuing its long-standing commitment to the citizens of Ashtabula County.

Transitions



No organization can stay exactly the same from year to year. If they are to remain viable and relevant they must adapt and change. Community Action is no different and we have constantly evolved to meet the needs of those we assist, maximize the resources available, and promote partnership and collaboration. In our most recent transition, this past year the agency ushered in the next generation of Community Action leadership.

WELCOME...

Alissa Holdson, Executive Director- April 1, 2024

Holdson took the helm as Executive Director just as Fiscal Year 2024 began. She hit the ground running, handling oversight of the entire agency, while transitioning her prior program responsibilities to new staff.

Holdson started her career with Community Action in 2015 working with our Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) programs such as 2-1-1 Information & Referral, New Hope Homeless & Housing Assistance, and Empowerment Programs. She then added important youth development initiatives to her responsibilities. Her unique blend of empathy and ambition, coupled with her passion for history, made her a perfect fit in our efforts to help people reach their full potential.



More About the Changes...

New Directors join the team.

Robinlyn Vogel, Director of Youth Services- March 25, 2024 Samantha Dragon, Director of Senior & Community Services- May 6, 2024 Lea Petty, Director of Human Resources- June 3, 2024 Ilana Litwak, Director of Health & Nutrition Services - April 1, 2025

Leaders passing the torch.

Last year saw the retirement of many individuals who were key stewards of the mission and vision of Community Action. They navigated the complex programmatic and administrative landscape for decades, allowing the agency to provide valuable services and improve the lives of the people in our community.

FAREWELL...

Judith Barris, Executive Director- Retired March 31, 2024

Barris started with Community Action in July of 1999 and served as Executive Director (ED) from January 2011 through March 2024. During those 13 years she guided the agency through many challenges while facilitating improvements to enhance its ability to better assist its customers.

Carmen Kuula, Director- Retired January 12, 2024

Joining Community Action in 1998, Kuula served in many of the agency's departments. Her tenacious and energetic work ethic spurred growth for the agency during her tenure, ranging from varied programs such as community gardens to local schools supportive services.

Diana Brook, Director- Retired March 31, 2025

Brook began her career with Community Action in November 1984 and served in many of the agency's programs over those 40 years. Most recently as the Director of Health & Nutrition Services, Brook inspired consistency in serving the needs of the community of all ages, from children in WIC to seniors in the Meals on Wheels program.

Noting all the many achievements of these individuals, with a combined 90 years of institutional knowledge and expertise, would be immense. They leave behind a legacy that is both innovative and progressive, yet rooted in the traditional values of Community Action. Each has mentored their successors and instilled in them the same commitment, first and foremost, to the individuals and communities we assist, to preserve the uniqueness of our organization, and to continue the vital work of the agency.





Continuity

Rooted in traditional values.

The year 2025 marks the 60th year that Ashtabula County Community Action Agency has been assisting our community. We begin this next decade, by reaffirming our mission, upholding our commitment to "Helping People. Changing Lives", and reviewing the impacts our major programs have made over the years. These demonstrate the resiliency of our agency in addressing the existing and emergent needs in our local area.

Mission

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

Values

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

Community Action Promise

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.

Governance

The Board of Directors, reflecting its nature as a community-based organization and the Agency's mission, is composed of fifteen (15) members. One third of the members represent public officials, one third are representatives of the private sector, and one third are representatives of the low-income sector. The board members are elected to serve and ensure the organization is properly managed and effectively delivering programs to low-income residents in Ashtabula County. A list of Board members is located on the final page of this report.

Program Updates

Information & Referral Services

2-1-1 Ashtabula County



2-1-1 Resource Database:



Agencies Programs

Website Visits:



9,479 Unique Visitors

2-1-1 Demographics:



1 in 3 callers have minor children in their home*

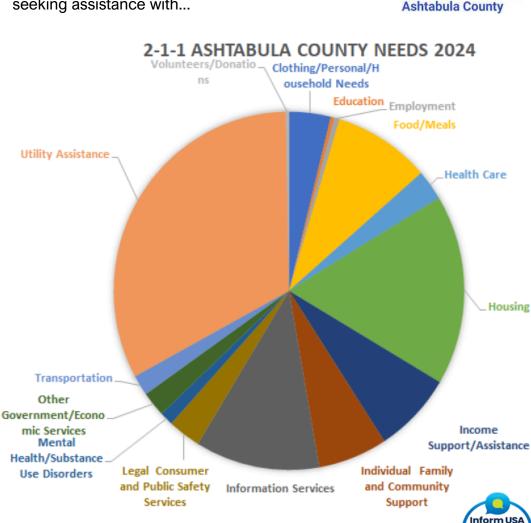


Over 1 in 3 callers are older adults (60+)*

*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 of 2-1-1 Ashtabula County are seeking assistance with...



2-1-1 Ashtabula County is

Information & Referral Services

Ways to get information through 2-1-1 Ashtabula County

2-1-1 Providing easy access to information is the goal of the 2-1-1 Ashtabula County program and we know that may be different for everyone. So, we provide multiple ways to find the resources you need during critical situations, as well as connections and opportunities to prevent future emergencies.



Search our online database at any time

www.211ashtabula.org



Dial 2-1-1

All day. Every day.



Text Your Zip Code to: TXT211 (898211)

M-F, 8 am-4 pm



Email Us 211@accaa.org





Follow us on Facebook

Facebook.com/ ashtabulainfo Find our newsletters online at:

www.211ashtabula.org/ newsletters

Housing Services

Weatherization Program



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.

122

total jobs

Qualifying households receive:

- · an on-site inspection and energy audit
- · safety testing for combustion appliances
- · energy saving education
- cleaning and tune up of heating system
- installation of measures identified in the energy audit

Additional assistance may include repair or replacement of combustion appliances, air sealing measures including window and door repair, caulking and door seals, insulation of attic, sidewalls, floor, or other measures as indicated by audit.

91%

rated the furnace work performed as excellent or good

100%

rated the staff as "professional and courteous"

94%

rated the insulation work performed as excellent or good

100%

would recommend Weatherization services to others "Each step was discussed as to importance. No more drafts at doors, peace of mind with all work. Very courteous and professional..."

"Awesome professional workmanship."

"I had a lot of questions and they were all answered. Staff was beyond good..."

"Crews were professional, friendly and courteous. Vey thankful for assistance."

"I am so very thankful for this program. Thank you!"

97%

found the application process easy

Housing Services

Home Repair

We have some small home repair funds, available under our Special Programs, to help homeowners maintain the health and safety conditions of their residence. The program offers nonemergency, minor home repair and accessibility modification on a limited basis including grab bars, disability modifications, roof repair, and electrical repairs.

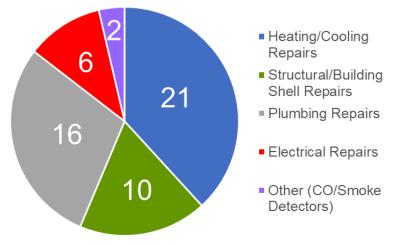
41

served

households various repairs completed







Number of Repairs by Type

New Hope Homeless Assistance Program

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



27 individuals or families housed

rental payments on behalf of participants



\$78,479 total rental assistance paid

Energy Services

Utility Assistance

Winter Crisis Program

1,294

households served

\$505,006

total WCP utility assistance payments made

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

4,153

households served 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 at times assistance 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 through the Winter Crisis Program, or cooling in the summer through the 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.

Summer Crisis Program

532

households served

\$74,493

total SCP utility assistance payments made

480

air conditioners distributed

1,011

fans distributed



The PIPP Program helps households to stabilize their monthly energy costs.

Senior Services

Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) creates stability for our older citizens by addressing their physical and social well-being. Our dedicated Meals on Wheels drivers deliver nutritious, delicious, homemade hot delivered meals to our homebound senior's each weekday, while the Senior Dining Sites provide that same tasty meal in the company of friends. This ongoing connection lets us notice when significant changes to a customer's well-being is observed so we can alert their loved ones (particularly vital for our Meals on Wheels customers). This value-added benefit of our SNP services allows them to stay safe and healthy, in their own homes, as long as possible.



Home Delivered

96,524

Congregate

21,758

118,282 total meals

93%

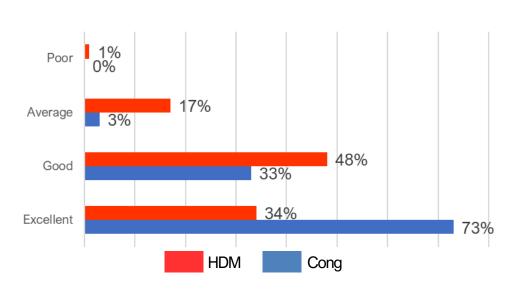
HDM seniors feel that receiving meals helped them remain in their homes

99%

felt their delivery driver was courteous and professional

97%

of Dining Site seniors say the meals improved their health



Ratings of the Taste of the Meals

3 Dining Sites

Ashtabula Senior Center
4148 Main Avenue, Ashtabula
Conneaut Human Resource Center
327 Mill Street, Conneaut
Jefferson Giddings Park Hall
also known as The Village Table Cafe
104 East Jefferson Street, Jefferson



Senior Services

Homemaker

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

13 858

unduplicated total hours of Homemaker clients services to clients



Enhanced Information & Referral for Seniors

The social and human service systems can be difficult 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.

1,078

total transactions

101

Enhanced Senior I&R callers

Total Advocacy 17
Total Follow-Ups 11

Total Research 4

Total Materials Provided 1,007



Education Services

Head Start

Head Start a is child-centered, family focused, comprehensive and community-based school readiness program. Head Start nurtures social and emotional development and helps children build social skills, so they are ready for Kindergarten. The program includes parent engagement ensuring families are ready to support their children's learning.

384

children served

70%

or 269 were preschool age children

93%

of preschoolers received medical exams

61%

of preschoolers received dental exams 30%

or 120 were infants/toddlers

83%

of infants/toddlers received medical/ dental exams

\$1,277,594

total in-kind local support





Imagination Library



ACCAA 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 years in this well-known literacy program that delivers a free book to their home every month.

3,837

children served 37,218

books provided



Youth Services



Dragon Empowerment Center

The Dragon Empowerment Center (DEC)- Community Learning Center, a collaboration with the Ashtabula Area City Schools, has been bringing together community partners to provide support services to students and families since 2018.

The DEC, now our biggest Youth Services program, offers assistance with basic needs, health services, academic supplements, and enrichment activities. This program also takes a wholechild 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.

community partners

parents/community members engaged

students received dental services

hygiene items provided

students received tutoring services

clothing items 1,950 distributed across AACS campuses

tutoring hours 307 provided

2,046

school supplies provided

summer meals provided

books distributed volunteers

volunteer hours



Dragon Plus Afterschool Program

The "Dragon PLUS" program is an after-school program developed to assist students at Lakeside High School (grades 9-12) who are struggling and not on track to graduate. Supported through a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, it has a required focus on reading and math proficiency, and, also provides basic life skills, leadership and teamwork, digital literacy, STEM, arts and culture, plus much more. Specialized tutoring helps aide students to gain proficiency for their grade level and beyond.



students enrolled

program days

out-of-school time learning hours



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.





WIC CLINIC LOCATIONS:
Ashtabula Geneva
Conneaut Orwell
Jefferson

1,466 8,337 families served total visits

Home Visiting

The Community Action Home Visiting program provides education and support to families 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.

376

families assisted

1,616

total visits





Summary of Those We Served

9,109

total assisted



representing...

4,403

households

49%

almost half were single family households

22%

female single parent households

3% male single parent households

1 in 4

reported a disabling condition

9 in 10

had health insurance

71% Medicaid; 16% Medicare; 3% Employer Based

71% received SNAP benefits

Age 0-5 874 number of individuals Age by age 60-74 1.651 Age 6-17 2.185 125% 26% to 150% 51% to 175% '6% to 100% 75% to 50% 2 2 51%

level of household income

(% of Federal Poverty Level- FPL)

26% or a quarter of the households have income at or below 50% of the FPL

As reported in the Community Services Block Grant Annual Report 2024. May not be representative of all customers.

Financial Summary

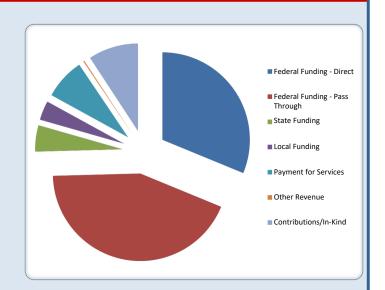
ACCAA

AnnualReport - FY2025

Fiscal Year is April, 2024 through March, 2025

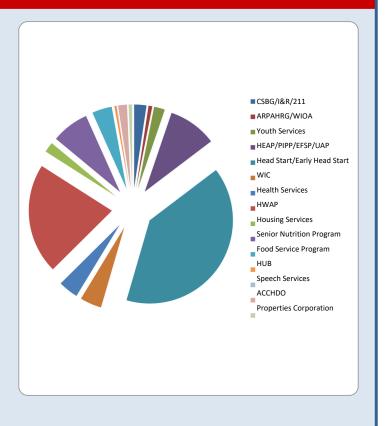
SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Funding - Direct	\$	4,416,438
Federal Funding - Pass Through	\$	6,135,520
State Funding	\$	686,587
Local Funding	\$	503,753
Payment for Services	\$	1,071,765
Other Revenue	\$	28,619
Contributions/In-Kind	_\$_	1,306,987
Total	\$	14,149,669



EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PROGRAM

		_	
	Total	\$	14,118,067
Properties Corporation		\$	99,025
ACCHDO		\$	243,373
Speech Services		\$	7,082
нив		\$	(56,463)
Food Service Program		\$	548,416
Senior Nutrition Program		\$	1,037,191
Housing Services		\$	281,648
HWAP		\$	3,052,989
Health Services		\$	550,460
WIC		\$	597,855
Head Start/Early Head Start		\$	5,667,660
HEAP/PIPP/EFSP/UAP		\$	1,344,480
Youth Services		\$	301,176
ARPAHRG/WIOA		\$	104,182
CSBG/I&R/211		\$	338,993



Financial Summary

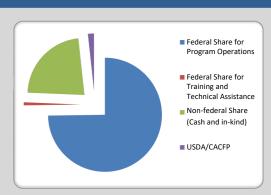
ACCAA

HeadStart/Early Head Start Annual Report FY2025

Fiscal Year is April, 2024 through March, 2025

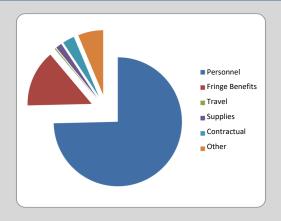
SOURCES OF FUNDS

	Total	\$ 5,647,365
USDA/CACFP		\$ 97,703
Non-federal Share (Cash and in-kind)		\$ 1,277,594
Federal Share for Training and Technical Assistance		\$ 49,173
Federal Share for Program Operations		\$ 4,222,895



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Total	\$ 5,500,489
Other	\$ 349,541
Contractual	\$ 164,625
Supplies	\$ 85,417
Travel	\$ 15,010
Fringe Benefits	\$ 781,075
Personnel	\$ 4,104,821



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.

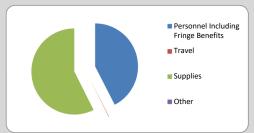
Travel - includes transportation and Hotel/Per Diem charges for out of service area travel.

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

\$ <u> </u>
\$ 93,350
\$ 217
\$ 69,011
\$



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.

2025

Trust



Trusted Programs Past and Present

- Car Repair Program
- Dragon Empowerment Center Community School Supports
- Youth Employment Summer Camp
- Rent/Security Deposit Assistance
- Mortgage and Real Estate Tax Assistance
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library Ashtabula County
- Empowerment/Life Skills Workshops
- Audiology & Speech Services
- My Neighborhood
- Local Foods

 Grounds for Growth
- Super Summer Farmers' Market Education
- Home Resource Network

 ReStore
- Action In Motion Truck Driving Academy
- Income Tax Filing Assistance
- Help Me Grow and Maternal, Infants, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Commodity distribution
- Child & Family Health Services
- Information & Referral Services- 2-1-1 Ashtabula County
- New Hope Homeless Housing Assistance
- Home construction/ownership program
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Sickle cell screening program
- Spanish community healthcare assistance
- Weatherization
- Women, Infant and Children (WIC)
- Senior AIDES
- Summer Youth Recreation Program
- Senior transportation
- Senior Nutrition Program
- CHORE/Homemaker Program
- Family Planning Services and Clinic
- Head Start
- Legal services assistance
- Emergency assistance
- Infant formula and vitamin distribution



1965

Head Start

Annual Report Supplement 2024-2025 (Compiled May 2025)



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 386 children and 3 pregnant women from 349 families. Of those served, 269 were preschool age and 120 infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

The percentage of enrolled preschool children that acquired medical exams is 93% and 61% received dental exams. 86% of infant and toddlers also had medical and dental screenings.

The average monthly enrollment from August 2024 - May 2025 was 100%.

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.



<u>Ashtabula</u>

Main Avenue 4510 Main Avenue

Collins

104 W. 45th Street

Edgewood High School 2428 Blake Road

Ontario Elementary School 2304 Wade Avenue

State Road 4200 State Road

<u>Andover</u>

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

Iefferson

ATech – Building B 1565 State Route 167

<u>Orwell</u>

Grand Valley Elementary School

111 Grand Valley Ave. West

<u>Audit Report for FY2024</u> – 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, 2024 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 76 total staff members.

Qualifications of Staff include...

11 Preschool Teachers

- 4 with a Bachelor degree
- 5 with an Associate degree
- 2 In the process of earning a degree in ECE
- <u>6 Infant/Toddler Teachers</u> 6 with a CDA
- 12 Assistant Teachers
 1 with an Associate degree
 11 with a CDA
- 6 Home Visitors 5 with a CDA 1 open position
- 3 Family Advocates
- 2 with an Associate degree
- 1 open position

6 Site Supervisors

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

1 Health Specialist

An RN with a Bachelor degree

3 Program Managers

- 2 with a Bachelor 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 Frog Street 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 and include 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, parent meetings, 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 Reading is our Super Power (dads reading to the class) allow children and the men in their lives time to enjoy special activities together and to welcome men into early education.

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

Early Head Start





Collins Boulevard

Head Start

6920 Austinburg Road

Weatherization & Home Repair, Youth Services, Administration





Agency Leadership

Ms. Alissa Holdson, Executive Director Ms. Renee Sherman, Director of Fiscal

Services

Mr. Dino Mauri, Director of IT/Facilities

Ms. Lea Petty, Director of HR

Ms. Andrea Rosipko, Director of Head

Start

Ms. Marlo Millard, Director of Housing

& Energy Services

Ms. Samantha Dragon, Director of

Senior & Community Services

Ms. Robinlyn Vogel, Director of Youth

Services

Ms. Ilana Litwak, Director of Health &

Nutrition Services

Major Supporters

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



















Board of Directors

PRIVATE SECTOR

Ms. Jill Valentic--- ACCHDO*

Ms. Lori Pawlowski

Rev. Joseph Woods Jr.

Ms. Lori Lee, Treasurer

Mr. Greg Myers

PUBLIC SECTOR

Ms. Ella Stanton

Ms. Annette Griffin

Ms. Sarah Bogardus

Ms. Renee Howell, Secretary

Dr. Debra Barrickman, Vice-Chairperson

LOW-INCOME SECTOR

Ms. Jennifer Kiser

Ms. Tania Burnett

Mr. Ron Loos, Chairperson

Ms. Janis Dorsten

Mr. Drew Thomas***

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

Our Board is comprised of 15 members... including *a seat for an appointee from ACCHDO; as well as **an advisory position for legal expertise with Head Start regulations. ***Indicates board departure FY 2026.

Contact Us

440.997.5957 or just dial 2-1-1

Mail: ACCAA PO Box 2610 Ashtabula, OH 44005-2610

Email: communityaction@accaa.org