REPORT TO COMMUNITY

Ashtabula County Community Action Agency

APRIL 1, 2025- MARCH 31, 2026

Dedicated to Service



accaa.org



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.

accaa.org

MISSION



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

Dedicated to Service

The past year has again been a time of change and adaptation for our agency. Many of the programs of Ashtabula County Community Action Agency are funded through federal, state and local grants. As the focus and needs of our nation shifts, so too do the priorities for funding of various services. We always do our best to absorb and restructure so that we are able to meet the needs of people we serve with as little disruption as possible. This is the Community Action way-- for more than 60 years we have been "dedicated to servce" and will continue to provide the quality programs needed.

Values - How we R.E.S.P.O.N.D.

- **R – Respectful & Resilient**

We treat all people with dignity and rise to challenges with strength and perseverance.

- **E – Empathetic**

We lead with compassion, seeking to understand and support those we serve.

- **S – Service-Oriented & Supportive**

We work together to uplift our community through collaboration and shared purpose.

- **P – Professional**

We uphold high standards in our work, behavior, and accountability.

- **O – Open & Innovative**

We embrace flexibility, creativity, and new ideas to better serve our mission.

- **N – Nurturing & Trustworthy**

We build trust through integrity, care, and meaningful relationships.

- **D – Dedicated & Dependable**

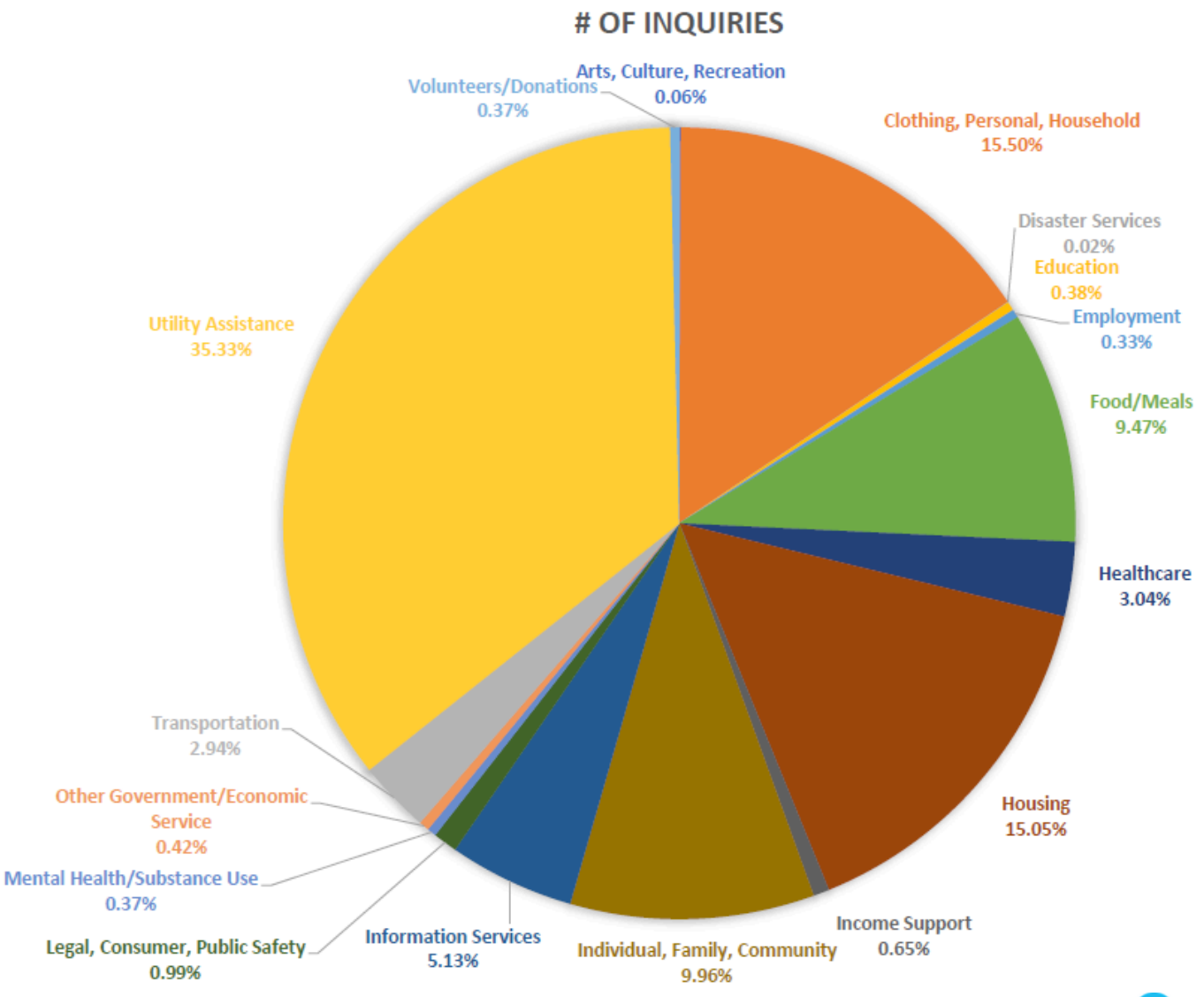
We are committed, responsive, and reliable in all we do.

INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICES

2-1-1 Ashtabula County

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

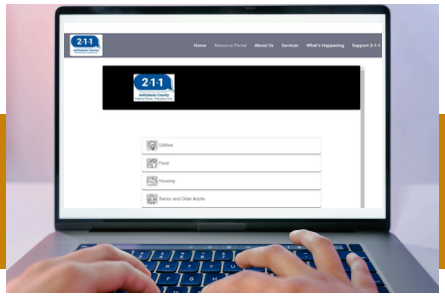
Ways to get information through 2-1-1 Ashtabula County

Providing easy access to information is the goal of the 2-1-1 Ashtabula County program and we know that not everyone will prefer accessing our service in the same way. So, we provide multiple ways to find the resources you need during critical situations, as well as connections and opportunities to prevent future emergencies. The easiest way is to call us...by simply dialing our three-digit number... 2-1-1. But here are some other ways to contact us...



Dial 2-1-1

All day. Every day.



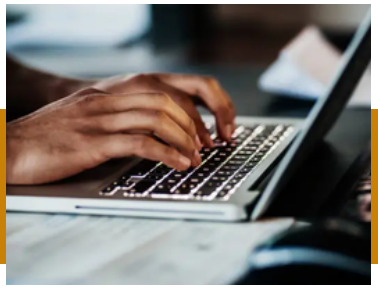
Search our online database at any time

www.211ashtabula.org



Text Your Zip Code to: TXT211 (898211)

M-F, 8 am-4 pm



Email us and describe your need

211@accaa.org

Inform USA ACCREDITED
Alliance of Information & Referral Systems

The Inform USA Accreditation Program is the only organizational credential geared explicitly for the Community Navigation sector (formerly known as Information and Referral (I&R)). It measures a program's compliance with expected practices within the field as defined by the Inform USA Standards and Quality Indicators for Professional Information and Referral.* 2-1-1 Ashtabula County is proud of our accreditation; by meeting or exceeding these standards, we can ensure that we are providing the highest quality of service to our customers.

*informusa.org

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.

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.

72 total jobs



Dedicated to Service

- 100% would recommend the service
- 98% rate the Application Process as “easy”
- Over 90% rate their furnace and insulation work as “excellent or good”
- 4 in 5 rate their overall experience as “excellent”

“All the staff were very friendly. I've told a few people already. Bedroom & living room is easier to cool & electric bill is lower than last year…”

”All of the guys were very kind & hard working. When they arrived they told me what they were going to be doing & let me know what they did when they left. Would definitely recommend.”

HOUSING SERVICES

Home Repair

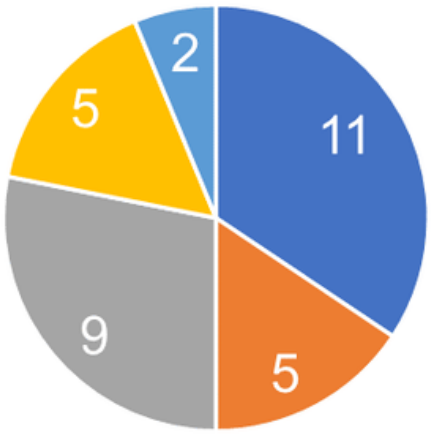
We have some funds available for small repairs under our Special Programs, to help homeowners maintain the health and safety conditions of their residence. The program offers non-emergency, minor home repair and accessibility modification on a limited basis including grab bars, disability modifications,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

27
households served

32
various repairs completed







numbers 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.



9 individuals or families housed

63
rental payments on behalf of participants

58,120 total rental assistance paid

ENERGY SERVICES

Utility Services

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

The goal of the energy assistance program is to secure continued utility service for the next thirty days, as well as determine a plan for ongoing payment. Whether help is needed for heating in the winter, or cooling during the summer.

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.

Winter Crisis Program

838 households served

$386,537

total WCP assistance payments made

Summer Crisis Program

467 households served

$43,387

total SCP assistance payments made

280

air conditioners distributed

540

fans distributed

Dedicated to Service

- 99% would recommend the service
- 87% rate the Application Process as "easy"
- 83% rate their overall experience as "excellent"

"...helped with my needs, great service"

"...very respectful, staff is amazing"

"...I was told everything I needed to bring and answered all my questions"

Percentage of Income Payment Plan

2,597 households served

EDUCATION SERVICES

Head Start

377
children served

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 age 0-5, build social skills, so they are ready for Kindergarten. The program includes parent engagement ensuring families are ready to support their children's learning.

267
were preschool age children

114
were infants/ toddlers



93%
of preschoolers received medical exams

88%
of infants/toddlers received medical/ dental exams

52%
of preschoolers received dental exams

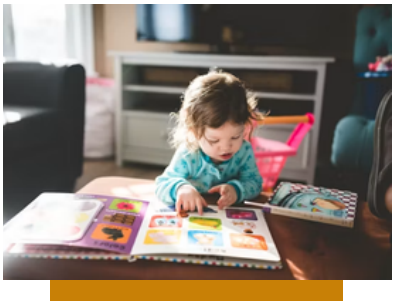
$1,284,323
total in-kind local support

Imagination Library

ACCAA is the local affiliate of the Ashtabula County 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 the child's home every month.

3,219
children served

35,155
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 offers assistance with basic needs, academic supplements, and enrichment activities. The partnership with Ashtabula Regional Medical Center last year also provided on-site healthcare services to students, their parents and the community.

100 community partners

1,311 parents/community members engaged

95 volunteers

298 volunteer hours

1,520 students received dental services

2,102 clothing items/shoes distributed across AACS campuses

1,865 school supplies provided

3,185 summer meals provided

108 homecoming/prom items distributed

148 students received healthcare services through school

58 students received vision services

66 tutoring hours provided

265 students received summer meal service

293 food items and **141** emergency food boxes

Dragon Plus After-school Program

The "Dragon PLUS" after-school program was developed to assist students at Lakeside High School (grades 9-12) who were struggling and not on track to graduate. Supported through a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, it had a required focus on reading and math proficiency, and, also provided basic life skills, leadership and teamwork, digital literacy, STEM, arts and culture, plus much more.

21 students served

149 learning hours provided

76 program days



Data period September 2025- March 2026

SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Nutrition Program

96,876
total meals served

Home Delivered

76,636
meals

Congregate

20,240
meals

SNP 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



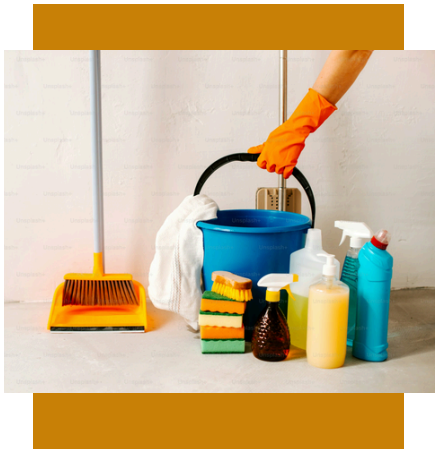
The Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) creates stability for our older citizens by addressing their physical and social well-being. Our dedicated Meals on Wheels drivers deliver nutritious, delicious, homemade hot delivered meals to our homebound senior's each weekday, while the Senior Dining Sites provide 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.

The Senior Nutrition Program has been one of our programs to undergo several changes over the past year. As an agency we have worked to find the best solutions to ensure that our local older citizens have access to nutritious meals that help them to maintain their health and independence. While many of the changes have been difficult to make, we remain dedicated to our senior meal customers.

Dedicated to Service

- 93% HDM seniors feel that receiving meals helped them remain in their homes
- 100% felt their delivery driver was courteous and professional
- 97% of Dining Site seniors say the meals improved their health
- 100% of Dining Site seniors feel that receiving meals helped them remain independent

SENIOR SERVICES



Homemaker Program

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

5 unduplicated clients

99 total hours of Homemaker services to clients

Enhanced Information & Referral for Seniors

1,365 total transactions

13,090 Enhanced Senior I&R callers

Total Advocacy	22
Total Follow-Ups	33
Total Research	30
Total Materials Provided	955



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.



HEALTH SERVICES

Women, Infants, & Children -WIC

1,361 families served

7,329 total visits

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
Conneaut
Jefferson
Geneva
Orwell

Home Visiting

Healthy Families America® – AFFILIATE –

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.

271 families served

1,447 total visits

SUPPORT SERVICES

The unique characteristic of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), the major funding that exists only for Community Action agencies, is the flexibility to utilize the monies to address “local” needs. Based on various surveys and our Community Needs Assessment, we identify the issues affecting individuals and families, and develop programs and services to address them. Below are several support services which have been identified and approved for funding through CSBG.

Cribs for Kids

47 cribs distributed

A pilot program in partnership with the Ashtabula County Board of DD. The program provides eligible households with a crib kit and safety training so that every baby can sleep safer.

Welcome Home

13 welcome kits distributed

When individuals and families become unhoused they often lose their belongings. The Welcome Kits provide some of the basics to create a “home” again.

Snow Removal

16 households served

During our harsh winter months, snow removal can be a vital service. Seniors unable to afford this service are left in unsafe situations and potential isolation.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Every three years Ashtabula County Community Action Agency completes a Strategic Planning Process, the most recent Strategic Plan was completed Spring 2026. Through various surveys to staff, community partners, and through discussion groups, major goals and areas of improvement were developed. These goals, work in combination with our Community Needs Assessment, to guide our commitment to the community and our dedication to service.

Financial Summary

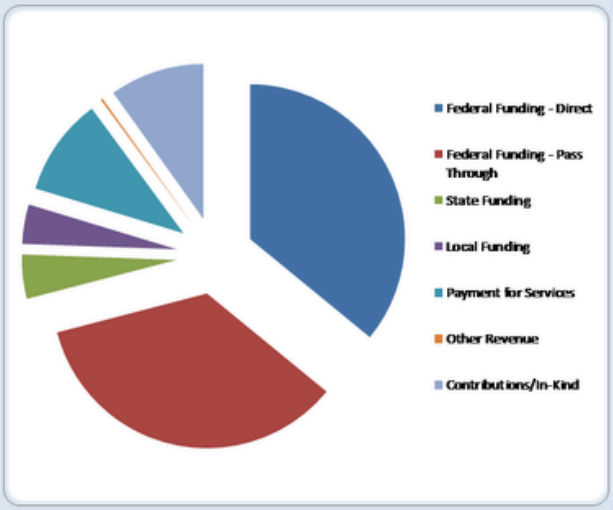
ACCAA

Annual Report - FY2026

Fiscal Year is April, 2025 through March, 2026

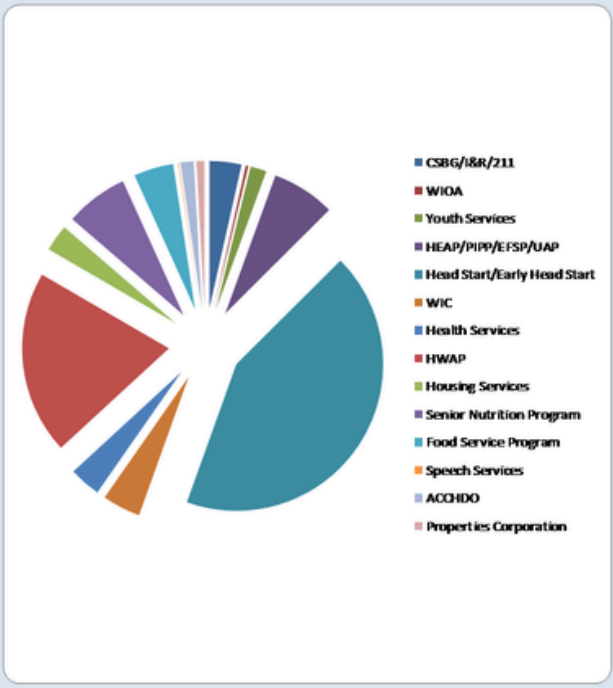
SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Funding - Direct	$	4,770,893
Federal Funding - Pass Through	$	4,649,826
State Funding	$	613,100
Local Funding	$	546,384
Payment for Services	$	1,358,076
Other Revenue	$	28,108
Contributions/In-Kind	$	1,312,396
Total	**$**	**13,278,783**



EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PROGRAM

CSBG/I&R/211	$	469,715
WIOA	$	37,551
Youth Services	$	237,971
HEAP/PIPP/EFSP/UAP	$	934,385
Head Start/Early Head Start	$	5,749,654
WIC	$	564,714
Health Services	$	462,910
HWAP	$	2,708,009
Housing Services	$	393,803
Senior Nutrition Program	$	926,149
Food Service Program	$	586,430
Speech Services	$	9,818
ACCHDO	$	192,757
Properties Corporation	$	117,173
Total	**$**	**13,391,039**



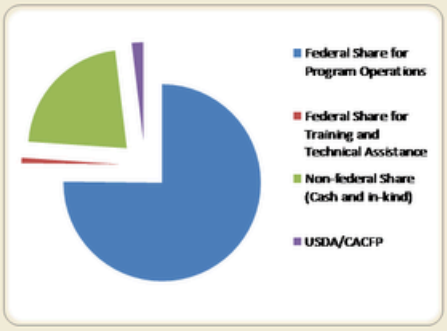
Financial Summary

ACCAA

Head Start/Early Head Start Annual Report FY2026 — Fiscal Year is April, 2025 through March, 2026

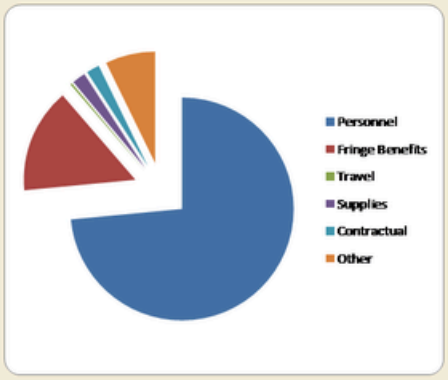
SOURCES OF FUNDS

Federal Share for Program Operations	$	4,379,964
Federal Share for Training and Technical Assistance	$	51,738
Non-federal Share (Cash and in-kind)	$	1,284,323
USDA/CACFP	$	110,198
Total	**$**	**5,826,223**



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Personnel	$	4,163,104
Fringe Benefits	$	860,298
Travel	$	15,100
Supplies	$	109,655
Contractual	$	106,833
Other	$	409,297
Total	**$**	**5,664,287**



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.

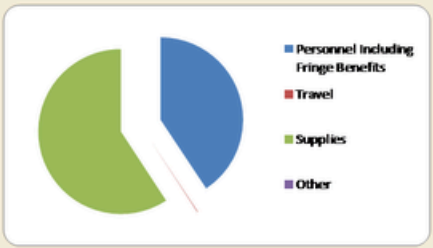
Travel - includes transportation and Hotel/Per Diem charges for out of service area travel.

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	$	73,323
Travel	$	183
Supplies	$	106,744
Other	$	-
Total	**$**	**180,250**



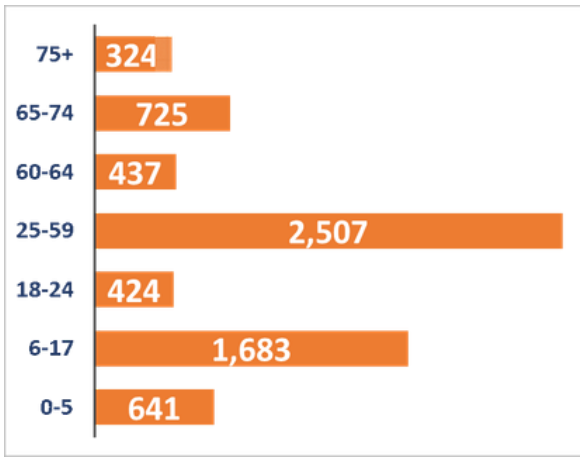
The USDA Nutrition Assistance Programs provide children and low-income individuals access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition education. Through the provisions in the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-134), any child enrolled in Head Start is now automatically 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.

WE SERVED...

Summary of those we served.

6,864
total served





number of individuals by age

17%
reported a disabling condition

9 in 10
had health insurance

78% Medicaid; 18% Medicare; 3% Employer Based

45%
received SNAP benefits

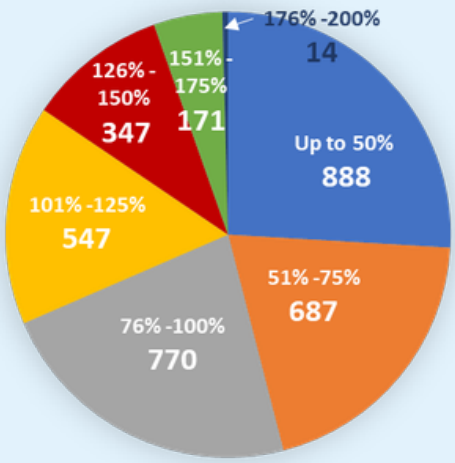
representing...

3,595
households

47%
single family households

1 in 5
female single parent households

2% male single parent households



level of household income

25% or a quarter of households have income at or below 50%

Board of Directors

PRIVATE SECTOR

Ms. Jill Valentic-- ACCHDO*
Ms. Valerie Bollengier
Rev. Joseph Woods Jr.
Ms. Lori Lee, Treasurer
Ms. Sonia Newman

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
Ms. Michele Kaydo

Dennis DeCamillo, Esq.-- Advisor**

Our Board is comprised of 15 voluntary members... including *a seat for an appointee from the Ashtabula County Community Housing Development Organization (ACCHDO), an ACCAA corporation; as well as **an advisory position for legal expertise per the Head Start regulations.

Contact Us...

440.997.5957
or just dial 2-1-1

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

Email:
communityaction@accaa.org

Major Supporters...

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

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Development
Ohio Department of Children & Youth
Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

DIRECTION HOME OF EASTERN OHIO
RESOURCES ON AGING & DISABILITIES

Job & Family Services

YES for Seniors
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy

United Way
United Way of Ashtabula County

Head Start

Annual Report Supplement
2025-2026
(Compiled June 2026)

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 (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), is experiencing homelessness, or if a child is in foster care.

Program Summary

Over the past ten months, Head Start has served 377 children and 4 pregnant women from 336 families. Of those served, 267 were preschool age and 114 were infants, toddlers and pregnant women.

The percentage of enrolled preschool children that acquired medical exams is 93% and 52% received dental exams. 88% of infant and toddlers had medical and dental screenings, based on the Ohio EPSDT Schedule, in addition to 30 toddlers receiving dental exams.

The average monthly enrollment from August 2025 - May 2026 was 98.5%.

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. 45th 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 FY2025 – 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, 2025 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
4 with an Associate degree
3 in the process of earning a degree in ECE (2 with a CDA)

6 Toddler Teachers
5 with a CDA
1 in the process of earning a CDA

11 Assistant Teachers
1 with an Associate degree
9 with a CDA
1 open position

6 Home Visitors
5 with a CDA
1 in the process of earning a CDA

3 Family Advocates
1 with an Associate degree
2 with a Family Development Credential

6 Site Supervisors
1 with a Master degree
2 with a Bachelor degree
1 with an Associate degree
2 with a CDA

1 Health Manager
An RN with a Master 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

Families play a huge role in the Program, and 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 our Program is run.

Informal and planned communication happens every day! Staff and families discuss children's progress, classroom happenings, assisting families with setting and reaching goals, as well as providing various resources. 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, Movie Night, Evening at the Races, 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.