Believing in West Virginia


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dedicated to eliminating the causes of poverty
Community Action Agencies have been key players in the war on poverty since our inception in the 1960s. Because we work directly with low-income individuals and families in dealing with the problems of poverty on a daily basis, Community Action Agencies are uniquely qualified to examine the needs of communities and individuals as we strive to eliminate poverty.

Community Action Agencies provide a wide range of services that address a variety of poverty problems. Every day in some way, we empower individuals, strengthen families and build communities.

Why, then, does poverty continue to affect so many West Virginians? How can Community Action Agencies develop and improve strategies to be more effective in helping people move out of poverty?

Before answering these questions and deciding upon an approach, West Virginia Community Action Partnership (WVCAP), the statewide membership organization for the 16 Community Action Agencies in West Virginia, must determine what NEEDS to be done statewide. Before determining a plan of action, WVCAP must develop a deep understanding of the current conditions, likely future trends, and issues of greatest concern in our 55 counties. Our three step process is to

- assess needs
- connect people 
- take action!

WVCAP is an alliance of Community Action Agencies that supports and strengthens our members, advocates for low-income individuals and families and promotes partnerships.
### Population/Census Data 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,774,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>73,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>22,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>22,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>2,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
<td>7,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total households</td>
<td>749,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family households (families)</td>
<td>469,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 family (no children)</td>
<td>338,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>114,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married-couple family</td>
<td>380,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>126,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male householder, no partner, family</td>
<td>29,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>14,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female householder, no husband, partner, family</td>
<td>79,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With own children under 18 years</td>
<td>41,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonfamily households</td>
<td>280,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder living alone</td>
<td>214,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>88,673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Education

- Kindergarten – 21,143
- Elementary School (grades 1-8) – 172,370
- High School (grades 9-12) – 92,264
- College or Graduate School – 113,245

### Poverty Indicators - Statewide Statistics

- **Employment**
  - WV's unemployment rate decreased six-tenths of a percentage point to 7.7% in December 2011.
  - The average travel time to work for workers age 16 and older is 25.6 minutes.
  - The population of workers (727,598) age 16 years and over: 3.1% in agriculture, 300 in financial activities, and 200 in other services.

- **Housing**
  - The median home value in WV is $94,500 and the median rent paid per month is $549.
  - 7,597 used other means (excluding taxicab)
  - 5,179 used public transportation
  - 68,388 carpooled in car, truck or van

- **Nutrition**
  - WV's obesity rate is 32.5%, which is the 2nd highest in the nation.
  - 41.3% of children in WV are approved for free and reduced-price school meals (9/12)

- **Transportation**
  - The number of vehicle miles traveled increased 17.6% between 2006 and 2010.
  - The percentage of vehicles in West Virginia with below the national average of 129.4 (1 in 5) is 21.5%.

- **Emergencies**
  - In 2011, WV Law Enforcement Services, Regional Program, (LESRP) reported a total of 120,161 incidents with DWI/life loss assistance (there are over 220,000 eligible households in the state).
  - The average dollar assistance amount per household is $11,000.

### North Central WV Community Action

- **Rowlesburg Pre-K Community Collaborative Classroom Teacher**
  - Provides a boost to disadvantaged children through a preschool community-based program that supports children.
  - Head Start is a federal program that provides education, nutrition, and health services.

### Top 3 Poverty Issues by Region

#### Top 3 Poverty Issues

1. Education
2. Affordable Child Care
3. Health Care

#### Affordable Medical Care

1. Dental Care/Vision Care
2. Medical Care/Prescriptions
3. Utilities/Food/Clothing

#### Income Tax Preparation

1. Job Training
2. Public Transportation
3. Income Tax Preparation

#### Jobs-Economic Development

1. Employment
2. Jobs
3. Use of Income

#### Jobs

1. Employment
2. Employment Supports
3. Employment

#### Better Roads

1. Roads
2. Roads
3. Roads

#### Education

1. Education
2. Program Awareness
3. Education

#### Housing

1. Affordable Housing
2. Housing for victims of domestic violence
3. Housing

#### Transportation

1. Public Transportation
2. Public Transportation
3. Public Transportation

#### Housing

1. Affordable Housing
2. Services for the Homeless
3. Affordable Housing

#### Utilities/Food/Clothing

1. Dental Care/Vision Care
2. Medical Care/Prescriptions
3. Medical Care/Prescriptions

#### Food

1. Food
2. Food
3. Food

#### Employment

1. Employment
2. Employment
3. Employment

#### Senior Programs

1. Senior Programs
2. Senior Programs
3. Senior Programs

#### Health Care

1. Medical Care/Prescriptions
2. Medical Care/Prescriptions
3. Medical Care/Prescriptions
In 2010, West Virginia Community Action Agencies (CAA’s) supported low-income individuals and families in their pursuit of self-sufficiency. Below is a snapshot of who and how we helped.

### Employment

1,554 individuals were unemployed and obtained a job.

### Housing

1,454 new housing units were preserved or improved through construction, weatherization or rehabilitation.

### Health

11,266 individuals obtained health care services for themselves or a family member.

### Education

3,288 seniors received services that allowed them to maintain an independent living.

### Transportation

1,264 individuals obtained access to reliable transportation or transit's diverse.

### Emergency Situations

1,089 partnerships established by CAA's to promote family and community outcomes.

Now that you know about the needs in West Virginia, here is how you can help.

#### Targets & Action Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>ACTION STEPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Members</td>
<td>Help build or repair houses or shelters with your local public housing authority, or find the nearest chapter of Habitat for Humanity by calling 888-422-4682.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected Officials</td>
<td>Take local housing and homeless shelters to familiarize yourself with the need for safe, affordable housing in your area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>Provide housing counseling and could repair to employers which will give them more housing options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Action Staff &amp; Board</td>
<td>Keep up on up to date list of landlords who take care of their properties. Educate others as to the scarcity of decent, affordable housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Community Services Agencies</td>
<td>Be aware of the resources in your community that will assist families who are homeless, including i:shades or living in substandard housing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Community Members

- **Employment**: Encourage good nutrition, regular exercise and proper rest.
- **Education**: Provide job training or retraining for low-income individuals.
- **Housing**: Offer credit counseling and support services to prevent eviction.
- **Healthcare**: Provide case management and linkage to medical services.

#### Community Action Staff & Board

- **Employment**: Provide information about Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other health care resources that are available for low-income families.
- **Healthcare**: Endorse wellness checks, and we see no future have difficulty understanding the point of prevention.
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