

# Community Action Council

Annual Report  
2022-2023



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Bryanna Carroll  
Kimberly Baird, *Board Treasurer*  
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# Letter from the Executive Director



## Hello, Everyone!

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Community Action Council's Annual Report for 2022-2023. This report is a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of our incredible team, dedicated supporters, and the communities we serve. Looking through these stories fills me with a sense of pride, gratitude, and anticipation for the great things that lie ahead, and I invite you to share in this joy.

This past year saw us continue our relentless pursuit of our core objectives. We remained focused on building economic stability, providing quality early childhood education, advocating for the needs of our communities, and delivering comprehensive services that can change lives. I am thrilled to share that we made significant progress toward achieving these goals.

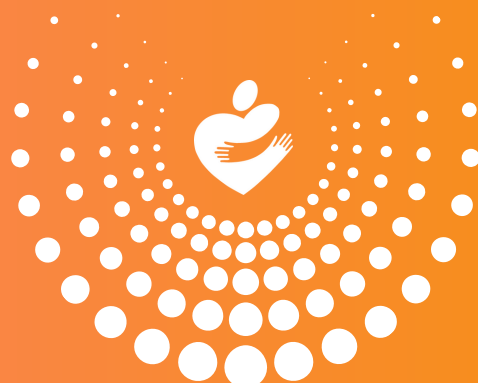
As we move into the future, our commitment to our mission remains steadfast. We are determined to build on our successes and tackle new challenges with creativity and dedication. Our vision for the future is one of continued growth, innovation, and, most importantly, lasting positive change for our communities.

As we look to the future, I invite each one of you to join us on this extraordinary journey. Whether you've been a part of our organization for years or are just learning about our work, there is a role for you in our shared mission. Together, we can continue to make Central Kentucky a healthier, safer, and more equitable place to live as we work to transform the lives of those who need it most.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support, belief in our mission, and commitment to making the world a better place. I look forward to the challenges and successes that the coming year will bring, and I am excited to embark on this journey with you.



**Sharon Price**  
Executive Director





# Letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors



**Daniel Murphy**  
Board Chair

## Hello, Fellow Community Members!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022-2023 Community Action Council Annual Report. As Chair of the Board of Directors for Community Action Council, I am proud to join Executive Director Sharon Price in sharing just a few of the achievements and outcomes our agency staff have accomplished this year.

Navigating the record-breaking inflation post-COVID has certainly not been easy. But it has been especially challenging for those we serve, the ones who have always had to work extra hard to increase the economic stability of their households. Community Action Council has been a truly vital resource to thousands of people in the region during this time. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our staff, volunteers, and partners, we have been able to provide essential support to individuals and families in need.

The stories of success we've witnessed are a testament to the profound impact of our work. Families have found stability, individuals have regained their independence, and countless lives have been improved thanks to the services and support provided by Community Action Council.

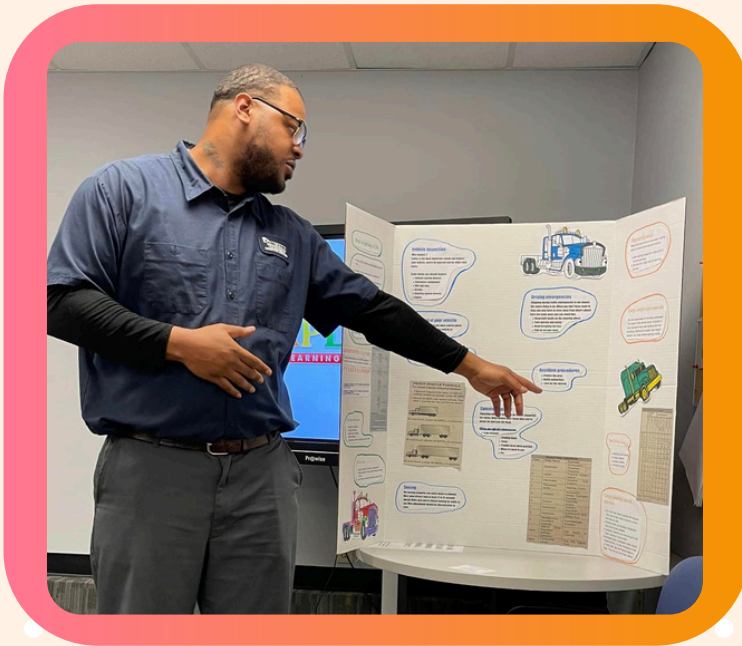
None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, dedicated

volunteers, and the countless individuals who make up our community. Your contributions, whether through donations, volunteering your time, or spreading the word about the mission, have been invaluable. The Board of Directors and I are profoundly grateful for your continued trust and support of this organization.

Addressing the root causes of poverty takes an entire community moving forward with a common vision. The efforts by Community Action Council to be an inclusive, cooperative, and high-performing partner with and among the community allow Community Action Council to be champions of our local communities—doing all the agency is able to assist families in creating the lives they want for themselves and future generations.

Thank you for reading. We welcome you to join us in this important work.

# CDL Program Growing

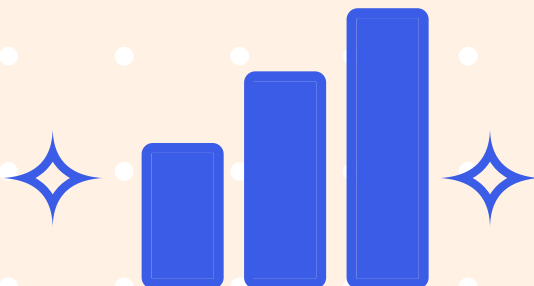


**90%**

enter the program  
unemployed



**95%**  
of graduates find  
employment in the field



# Changing Lives & Shaping the Workforce

## Kentucky American Water Helps Us Build

For the last several years, the Council has been operating a CDL training program to help people with low or no income connect with in-demand jobs. A recent grant from the Kentucky American Water Charitable Foundation has helped to make the program a little more sustainable so that the Council can continue this key workforce development project.

The transportation and logistics sector is expected to continue its trajectory of growth in the coming years, but Kentucky has a severe shortage of drivers who have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and this issue is getting worse. Now is the opportune time to help people take advantage of a growing field by assisting them with short-term training that can lead to long-term financial stability.

"We are very grateful that Kentucky American Water chose to invest in our CDL training program through the Keep Communities Flowing grant. Not only is it going to help us continue to deliver a high-quality service to participants and the community, but it's also a vote of confidence in the success we're able to deliver," said the Council's Director of Sustainability, Melissa Tibbs.

Close to 90 percent of participants are unemployed when they join the program, but after their training is complete, 95 percent of graduates go on to find full-time work in a CDL-required field. The quick, eight-week training, which offers a mix of behind-the-wheel training and classroom instruction, gives participants the skills they need to work for major employers like the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, the University of Kentucky, Fayette County Public Schools, and Raj Hauling, Inc.

Our program is unique in that the course is free to participants, and we strive to recruit from historically disadvantaged communities and those who fall below the Federal Poverty Line. Targeting these communities helps ensure the local workforce has the skills to meet the needs of today's employers while also driving economic and social change.

The Council's Training Coordinator, Joshua McCann says that participants who complete the course feel a sense of accomplishment. "Graduates tell me how the training changed their lives," McCann said. "They feel they can provide for their families."

We are thankful for the support of the Kentucky American Water Charitable Foundation. If you are interested in supporting this and the many other endeavors of the Council, visit [commaction.org/giving](http://commaction.org/giving) to contribute to building our communities and supporting local people.



# Weatherization Assistance Program



## Weatherization saves money by reducing the household's energy costs.

Services such as caulking, insulating the walls and attic, replacing broken windows, and others aid in reducing the amount of energy required to heat and cool the house and contribute to environmental sustainability.

## Weatherization improves indoor air quality.

Improved insulation and the sealing of air leaks help to eliminate drafts and create a more consistent indoor temperature. Sealing the gaps and cracks that cause air leaks can prevent the intrusion of outdoor pollutants, allergens, and dust, reducing and preventing ailments like allergies, asthma attacks, bronchitis, etc.

## Weatherization leads to enhanced building durability.

Measures such as insulating walls protect the building from the infiltration of moisture. Reducing moisture prevents the growth of mold, rot, and structural damage.

### Benefits to Households



\$538 saved due to fewer missed days of work.



\$514 saved per year in out-of-pocket medical expenses.



Low-income families spend 14% of income on energy vs. 3% for higher income households.



# Weatherization Keeps People Housed



Maintaining a home can be a challenge for anyone, but when you live alone on a fixed income, it can become nearly impossible. Bernice Johnson, a widow in Lexington, had been living by herself for quite some time when she discovered that her home required a level of care that she could no longer provide on her own.

Mrs. Johnson began searching for assistance and found the Council's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) which could give her the help she needed to keep her safe in her home. "They came to my rescue," she said.

WAP is a vital service that has been transforming homes and lives for decades. Weatherization is the process of making necessary upgrades and repairs to homes to protect them from the elements. It aims to create energy-efficient, safer, and healthier living spaces while also saving families money on their utility bills. The core of

WAP's approach is the concept of "whole house weatherization." This means that every aspect of a home is assessed through an energy audit to understand the total energy usage and make targeted improvements.

Mrs. Johnson reached out to the Council for assistance and was met by our Weatherization Assistance Program Coordinator Mae Smalley. "Ms. Smalley was just a god-sent person," she said.

With Mae's assistance, Mrs. Johnson was able to apply for the program and learn about other resources that could help her live a safer and more comfortable life. Mae became a connection to the wider community and offered renewed hope to Mrs. Johnson when her needs felt overwhelming to her.

Through WAP, Mrs. Johnson was provided with a new, energy-efficient refrigerator, attic insulation, smoke detectors, a bathroom exhaust fan, a carbon monoxide detector, low-flow showerheads, and energy-efficient lightbulbs. Her clothes dryer vent was fixed, hot water pipes were insulated, ducts were sealed, and a fuel shutoff valve was installed. Mae was also able to connect her to the WarmWise program that helped Mrs. Johnson get a brand new – and safer – furnace.

"I was pleased with the work they did. I was delighted," she said, noting that the work was good quality and has been standing the test of time. Now, with lower utility bills, better air quality, increased home safety, and an upgrade to her home's durability, Mrs. Johnson can remain in her home for as long as she wishes.

"It's a hard race to run out here when you don't have any help," she said, but the assistance she received through WAP and the Council not only improved her living conditions but also provided her with a sense of relief and community support.

# Join Our Team and Make a Difference

## Why Choose Community Action Council?

### Purpose-Driven Work

When you work with us, every task has a purpose. Your efforts directly contribute to creating a positive impact on our community and beyond.



### Inclusive Environment

The Council is an equal opportunity employer. We value diversity and inclusion, and we welcome candidates from all backgrounds.



### Professional Growth

We invest in our team's growth and development. You'll have access to training and opportunities for career advancement.



### Passionate Team

Join a group of dedicated individuals who share your passion for helping families to leave the cycle of poverty.



Are you passionate about making a meaningful impact on the world? Are you ready to transform lives, one step at a time? If so, we invite you to consider a career with Community Action Council.

## Who We Are

At the Council, we are on a mission to prevent, reduce, and eliminate poverty for individuals, families, and communities through direct services and advocacy. Our organization has been dedicated to helping people help themselves for close to 60 years, and we're not stopping anytime soon. We believe that anyone can better their life, and our team is committed to turning this belief into action every day.

## Join Us in Making a Difference

If you're ready to embark on a rewarding career that aligns with your values, we can't wait to hear from you. Together, we can achieve incredible things. Apply today and let's make a difference together!

[www.commaction.org/careers](http://www.commaction.org/careers)

# Spotlight: SLG

## Leidy Borges-Gonzalez

When we talk with the community about our work, nearly everyone is surprised at all the programs we offer and the things we're able to accomplish. At Community Action, we are dedicated to providing comprehensive services that can be tailored to the needs of individual people and unique families. Work of this nature, anti-poverty work, requires a diverse and knowledgeable group of people working together. Leading the way for the Council is our Strategic Leadership Group, comprised of our office and program directors, including Leidy Borges-Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Community Services.

Born in Cuba, Leidy came to the United States as a political refugee with her family. Leidy's family settled in Miami, where they began to rebuild their lives from the ground up. Leidy's deep-seated commitment to serving her community was ignited during these circumstances.

"As a Cuban immigrant, I understand the needs of our families and what they go through. I grew up in poverty and was able to better myself. I'm able to show our families that it is okay to dream big and work hard for what you want," she said.

After earning a bachelor's degree in psychology from Nova Southeastern University, Leidy realized her passion was serving her community. As someone with lived experience of poverty, Leidy's perspective made her an excellent candidate for work with the Council. Her journey with Community Action Council began in 2014. Before becoming the Director of the Office of Community Services, she held positions as a Center Manager and Head Start Comprehensive Services Manager. These positions allowed her to work closely with the community, understand their needs, and actively contribute to their betterment.

"I always wanted to be able to help people and move them out of poverty, and what a better place than the Council, where we provide huge support to our families," she said.



In her current role, Leidy and her team play a pivotal role in effectively managing and delivering myriad programs, including the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Project LIFE, a program that supports youth exiting foster care. One of the most vital responsibilities of Leidy's team is the operation of seven local Community Centers in four locations within Fayette County, as well as in Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas counties. These centers are essential hubs where community members can access support, resources, and guidance.

Leidy says that seeing the direct results of the work her team can accomplish is incredibly rewarding and that she hopes to help families take advantage of every resource available to them so they can build a strong foundation for their future, step by step.

Leidy is a passionate advocate for those in need and a shining example of resilience, determination, and dedication. The work she does with and for the Council—advocating for families, developing new opportunities, and managing a large team of people across four counties—is critical to achieving the Council's mission and supporting the community.



# We're in Action...

## Leading at All Levels

Head Start Director Jessica Coffie was elected as the Vice President of Programming for the Kentucky Head Start Association (KHSA) and helped to advocate for SNAP-eligible families to be included among those who are categorically eligible for Head Start services.

KHSA champions Head Start programs through a common vision, a united voice, and shared expertise to serve Kentucky's most vulnerable children and their families. Through this work, Jessica is advocating for Head Start families at the state and national levels.



## Rallying at the Capitol

We joined our fellow Community Action Agencies from across the state at a rally at the state capitol in May. The event was held inside the capitol rotunda and featured speeches about the importance of Community Action and testimony from program participants about how Community Action helped to transform their lives.

The event served as a reminder to state legislators of the needs present among those we serve and the importance of delivering high-quality programming to them.

## Giving to Our Neighbors

In November and December, staff from across the agency donated new or gently used books for children and teens. These books were donated to The Reading Room in the Black & Williams Neighborhood Center. With a goal to "foster a lifelong love of reading and literature," the room serves as a safe space for kids and their families living within surrounding neighborhoods to access a variety of books and other resources.

We managed to collect over 300 books for the community! Lexington's 2nd District Councilmember, Shayla D. Lynch, joined us to deliver the books to the center and help spread awareness of the need.





# For the Community



## Supporting Gun Violence Reduction

The Council joined in partnership with ONE Lexington, an initiative to reduce violent crime in the city, to deliver a community grants program in support of gun violence reduction. Council staff developed a grant application and scoring system, offered training and technical assistance, collected and scored the applications, and distributed nearly \$100,000 on behalf of ONE Lexington.

Grant recipients were all community-based, grassroots organizations working to prevent and reduce gun violence in Lexington. We are proud to assist ONE Lexington in putting money in the hands of the people doing the hard work to better our city.

## Educating the Community

#TransyTakesAction was all over our social media this past May as students from Transylvania University's Writing, Rhetoric, and Communications course created content about our programs to be shared during Community Action Month.

The Council's Director of Sustainability, Melissa Tibbs, helped to teach the class about the conditions of poverty, the nonprofit sector, and all the ways Community Action assists individuals and families in gaining safety and stability while achieving their dreams. In turn, the students created blog posts, videos, and other digital content to help us educate the community about the services we're able to provide. When #TransyTakesAction, it's a win-win-win!



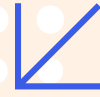
## Marching for Equality

This year marked the 50th anniversary of Lexington's Freedom March, held to honor the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Council staff joined city officials and community members to march in remembrance of the civil rights work of the past and all the work that remains.

The Council holds justice—racial, economic, environmental, and human—as a core component of all we do, and the Freedom March is just one way we show it.



# Mental Health Forum Sparks Community Discussion on Breaking Down Barriers



Poverty is not solely defined by financial deprivation; it extends into every facet of an individual's life. For those living in poverty, the mental toll can be devastating. The struggle to make ends meet, access healthcare, find stable housing, and secure regular employment is a daily battle that grinds down the spirit.

In April 2023, the Council hosted a Community Mental Health Forum at the historic Lyric Theater in downtown Lexington to help attendees better understand the complex intersection of mental health and poverty. The event brought together community members, Community Action Council staff members, and local mental health experts to discuss how we can work together to find solutions to some of our most complex mental health challenges.

The forum was facilitated by Kelly Gunning, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for NAMI Lexington. Five experts joined her on stage and shared their understanding of the local mental health landscape

with attendees. Dr. Candice Hargons is an award-winning associate professor of counseling and psychology at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Fareesh Hobbs-Kanga is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Kentucky and a child and adolescent psychiatrist. Dr. Shambra Mulder is a psychologist with expertise in public schools and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow. Dr. Shericka Smith is a Doctor of Social Work and a licensed clinical social worker. Darcy Miller is the director of crisis services for mental health and substance use service provider New Vista.

Executive Project Analyst for the Council, James Coles, spearheaded the effort to bring this event to the community. "It is important to have these conversations in the community, where the people are. Poverty and mental health issues so often go hand in hand that we need to make sure that part of our work to build up communities includes building up their mental health and removing the stigmas."

Much of the discussion centered around mental health concerns related to cost and access in historically marginalized communities, the lack of adequate cultural representation among providers and practitioners, and the stigmas associated with seeking help. The panel encouraged the community to consider that individuals living in poverty are less likely to receive proper diagnosis and treatment for mental health conditions. In many cases, individuals may not even recognize or acknowledge their mental health struggles due to a lack of awareness and access to resources.

The cycle of poverty and mental health issues can perpetuate itself across generations, but through developing community awareness of available resources, encouraging diverse people to enter mental health fields, and building a culture of acceptance, we can work to build resilience for ourselves and our neighbors.



# Beating the Odds and Building a Future

Turning 18 can be a precarious time in a person's life. Even though legally an adult, most people continue to need the support of their families to start their independent lives. Many older youths in foster care find themselves without the help they need when they age out of the system. Without continued support, many former foster children experience homelessness right after their 18th birthday. They may never graduate from high school and struggle to find employment that can cover the cost of rent. The trauma carried from having to enter the system can even cause some to encounter the harsh realities of addiction and law enforcement.

The Council's Project LIFE (Learning Independence and Fostering Empowerment) program steps in at just the right moment to help guide former foster youth to security and stability as they begin to navigate the adult world.

When Dystany Turner from Carter County turned 18, she, like many others aging out of the foster care system, attempted to return to her biological family. "I moved in with my mom, but it wasn't a good situation. I wasn't getting the help that I needed," Dystany said. Pregnant and in need of assistance, her former foster family allowed her to move back in with them, but she still needed support to get on her feet, and that's when Dystany met Project LIFE case manager Luke Finster.

With understanding and non-judgmental guidance, Project LIFE case managers help participants develop goals based on their individual needs, enter the workforce, continue their education, care for their health, build their financial literacy, and find suitable housing.

Luke was able to connect Dystany to all of the resources available to her and help her enroll in the services she needed to move her life forward. "The program really helped me get on my feet," she said.

Project LIFE was able to provide Dystany rental assistance for a year. The program completely took care of the first three months of rent so that Dystany could focus on setting goals, finding employment, and taking care of herself. After three months, Dystany began paying a portion of her monthly rent, gaining more independence along the way. "They gave me and my baby a place to stay while I figured out what to do next," she said.



Luke helped Dystany enroll in the Earn to Learn program that provides former foster youth \$150 per week to continue their education. He also helped her take advantage of the tuition waiver available to former foster youth. During her year in Project LIFE, Dystany earned her GED and went on to acquire her CNA (certified nursing assistant) certificate. Along the way, Project LIFE helped with the cost of school supplies and testing for her certification, in addition to providing her with gas money to make sure that she was able to attend all of her classes and training.

Dystany also took a budgeting class offered by the program to help her make the most of her budget as she navigated a year of moving, schooling, and having a newborn. Because she remained in school and paid a portion of her rent each month, she earned a \$2,250 incentive from the program to help her stay on track when her time with the program ended.

Dystany now has a safe place to live, a healthy baby, and a new job at a local hospital that will help her continue her education and become a registered nurse with the ability to support herself and her child.

When talking about Project LIFE, Dystany said, "I really enjoyed it, and it was very helpful." Her Project LIFE case manager, Luke, said, "Dystany worked really hard to accomplish so much. We're just very proud of her."

# Celebrating Our Foster Grandparents



Foster Grandparents are incredible people. Through AmeriCorps, a national service organization, they volunteer a year of their time to serve the nation and their communities. Volunteers in the AmeriCorps Foster Grandparent Program are seniors aged 55 and older who serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers for children and youth with special and exceptional needs.

Our Foster Grandparents provide extra support to our Head Start program by ensuring that children are surrounded by loving adults and caring role models who can help them meet their academic, social, and emotional development needs. Children living in poverty endure higher levels of stress and deprivation than their more affluent peers, which can hinder their health and growth for years to come. The work our Foster Grandparents do is critical. They help to build the protective factors Head Start children and families need to combat the effects of poverty.

In March, we celebrated our Foster Grandparents with a Golden Prom, a night of music, dancing, inspiration, food, and fellowship. The Council's Volunteer Services Coordinator, Marishia Hamilton, said, "The Golden Prom is a way for us to acknowledge the work they do and the support they provide. We wanted to show them our deep appreciation for all the ways they serve and thank them."

Marishia and the Volunteer Services Advisory Committee worked with local businesses and organizations to make the evening special. "We had so many people who stepped up to offer gifts, food, everything we needed. It was wonderful to see so many in the community join with us to show appreciation," Marishia said.

Applebee's, Buff City Soap, FoodChain, High on Art and Coffee, Kremer Wholesale, Letitia's Southern Catering Service, Magikal Memories, Manna's Sweets and Cakes, Michael Coston (DJ/MC), Nika's Joyful Creations, North Lime Coffee & Donuts, Pretty 'N Pink, Sedona Taphouse, Smithtown Seafood, Third Street Stuff, and Youlanda's Creation Factory all offered their products and time to show our Foster Grandparents how much the community appreciates their service. Writer and life coach Joy Harris-Edward of Authentic JOY even delivered a motivational speech that evening.

Executive Director Sharon Price said, "Connecting seniors with Head Start kids is good for everybody involved, and we are grateful to everyone who has stepped up to take on the role of a Foster Grandparent so that our kids have yet another caring grownup on their side."



# Lex Talk, More Action Podcast



## Listen & Be in the Know

At Community Action Council, we fight poverty on all fronts – prevention, reduction, elimination – which is easier said than done. When a person starts to dig into anti-poverty work, it quickly becomes clear how multifaceted and complex the issue actually is. Poverty dips its tentacles into all aspects of life, from work to health, education to housing, racist policies to financial ethics, and so much more. Understanding the problem and figuring out how to be part of the solution can be a challenge, but the Council's Lex Talk, More Action podcast breaks these tough issues down for listeners and helps them learn how to better advocate for themselves and their communities.

Hosts of the podcast, Executive Director Sharon Price and Media Producer Cameron Minter, are joined twice a month by community leaders with expertise in the topic of discussion. Together, they dispel myths, answer tough questions, share information about our work, and let listeners know how they can show up for their fellow citizens. "Anyone interested in our mission or just being a part of the community should be listening to this podcast," Sharon said. "We are connecting listeners to some of the most important and influential people in the state and talking about issues that matter to everybody."

This year, we were fortunate to sit down with Kentucky icon, Hannah Drake. Drake is an activist, poet, public speaker, blogger, and author of 11 books, with accolades stacked to the roof. She is a Kentucky Colonel, a Muhammad Ali Center "Daughter of Greatness," and has been hailed as a leading voice in the Breonna Taylor protests in Louisville. She is credited with playing a key role in the ban of No-Knock warrants in the state. Drake's current work, the (Un)Known Project, shines a light on the experiences of enslaved black people in Kentucky.

On Drake's episode of the podcasts, she and the hosts talk about the importance of activism, truth telling, and the real change that can be made when we speak truth

to power. Drake says, "My sole purpose in writing and speaking is not that I entertain you. I am trying to shake a nation." Through her work, Drake is uncovering hidden truths about the past, family histories, public policy failures, and the systems in which we are entrenched in order to shake people awake and help them find the words and paths to bring greater freedom for everyone. At the end of the episode Drake advises listeners, "Start today. Change the world today in your own little corner. Do something today. What isn't an option is to do nothing."

You can follow Drake through her podcast, blog, and social media available on her website [hannahdrake.com](http://hannahdrake.com). You can listen to the Lex Talk, More Action podcast on the podcatcher of your choice or the Council's website at [commaction.org/podcasts](http://commaction.org/podcasts).



# Unapologetic Women Recognized by Community



Community Action Council celebrates women who challenge the status quo, women who inspire, and women who lead. The Council's Unapologetically Woman initiative recognizes the immeasurable contributions women have made to the betterment of all. The program has honored female artists, councilwomen, engineers, journalists, and lawyers, among others.

Unapologetic Women don't just play for themselves; they play for the next generation of girls who dream big. They play as part of a team. When Unapologetic Women are involved, barriers are removed, glass ceilings are shattered, new opportunities are created, and things that didn't exist before become part of the fabric of our communities. This year's cohort of Unapologetic Women were recognized for their contributions to the community during half-time at a University of Kentucky Women's Basketball game held at Rupp Arena.

# 2023 Unapologetic Woman of the Year

## Charlette Cox-Thompson

In the tapestry of life, some individuals stand out as beacons of hope and inspiration. Our 2023 Unapologetic Woman of the Year, Charlette Cox-Thompson, is undeniably one of those exceptional souls. A wife, a devoted mother, a talented singer, a compassionate nurse practitioner, and a dedicated pastor at Open Door House Ministries, her life's journey is a testament to the richness of human experience and the power of compassion.

The Council's Unapologetically Woman web series profiles the lives of phenomenal women from around the Commonwealth who have made it their mission to serve their communities and deserve recognition for their incredible work. Since its inception, the Unapologetically Woman series has highlighted and lifted the voices of 50 women each year, and one of those women is named the Woman of the Year.

As a church pastor, Charlette keenly observed the struggles within her congregation. This experience highlighted the pressing need for proper mental health care and support. She understood that addressing mental health issues required a two-fold approach: providing care and combating the stigma and misinformation surrounding mental illness. Originally trained as a family nurse practitioner, Charlette made a significant transition in her career when she shifted her focus to psychiatric mental health in her nurse practitioner work.

"I want to help put a big dent in that stigma as far as mental illness and drug addiction because they're both illnesses," Charlette said.

Her dedication extends beyond the realm of healthcare. In 2006, Charlette witnessed a group of people outside the public library enduring sweltering conditions and hunger, and she was stirred to action. She turned to her church community, rallying a group to launch a feeding program. Without fail, they have been providing meals every Tuesday since, feeding up to 200 people each week.

However, life dealt Charlette a challenging hand when she faced brain tumors that caused a loss of sight. Undeterred, at 43, she learned braille and how to navigate with a cane, exemplifying her unwavering determination and resilience. In Charlette's own words, "Find what you love doing. Find your passion. When you find your passion, that's what God has called you to do. And you step out. You go for it. You knock on doors until you get what you need."

Charlette's remarkable journey through life, overcoming obstacles and continuously striving to make a positive impact is a testament to the human spirit's boundless potential. She reminds us that, with unwavering determination, a compassionate heart, and faith, we can overcome any challenge and make the world a better place for all.

The next Fall Sneaker Ball will be held in September of 2024. Join us and rub elbows with the influential and powerful women shaping Kentucky while we dance and celebrate the hard work that goes on every day to build a better world.

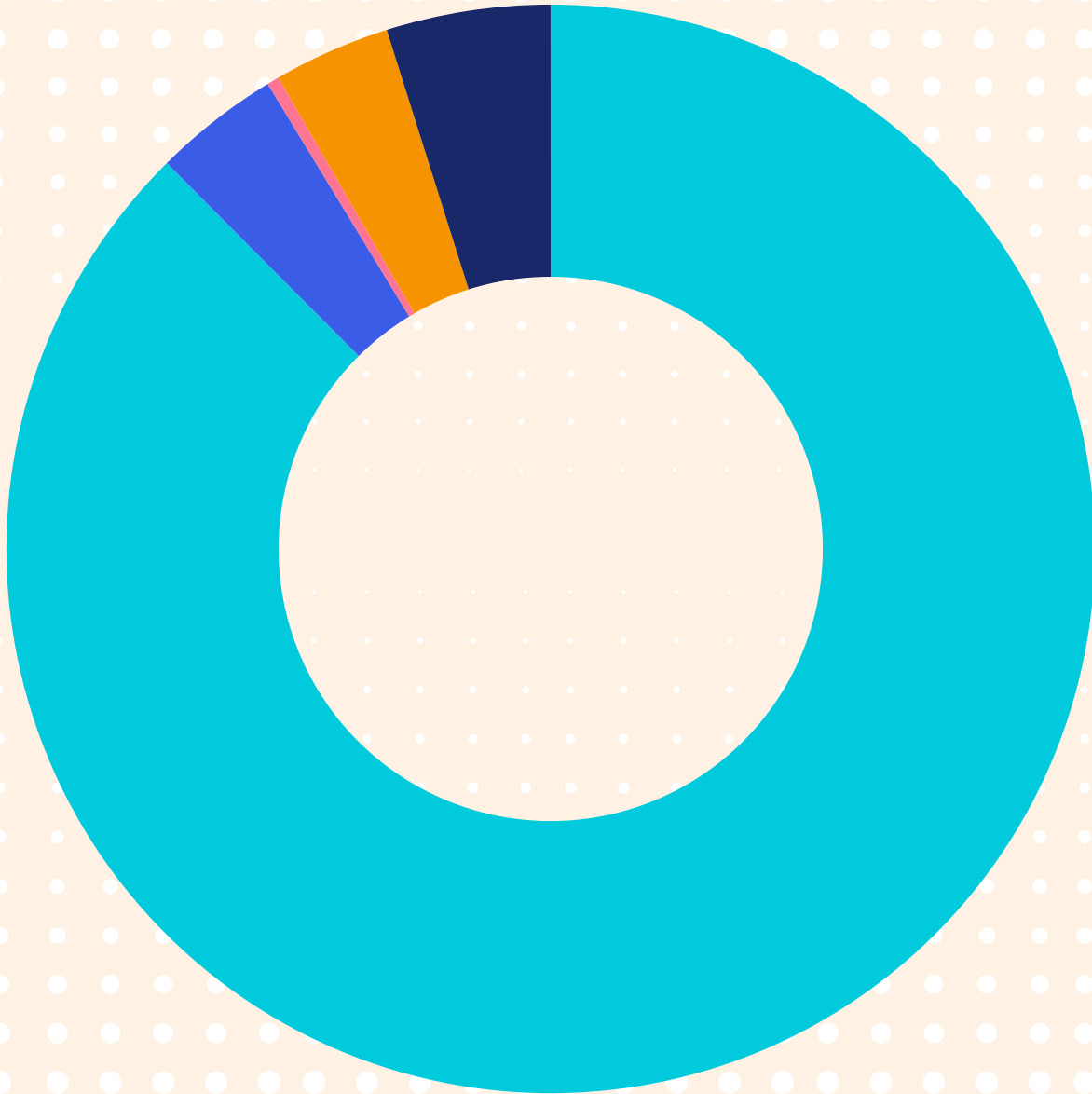
To see all the illuminating interviews with the 2022-2023 Unapologetic Women, visit the Council's YouTube page at [youtube.com/@Lexcommaction](https://youtube.com/@Lexcommaction).










# Financials

## Revenue



	Federal	\$68,050,928
	State	\$2,922,174
	Local	\$278,762
	Private	\$2,698,928
	In-Kind	\$3,786,431

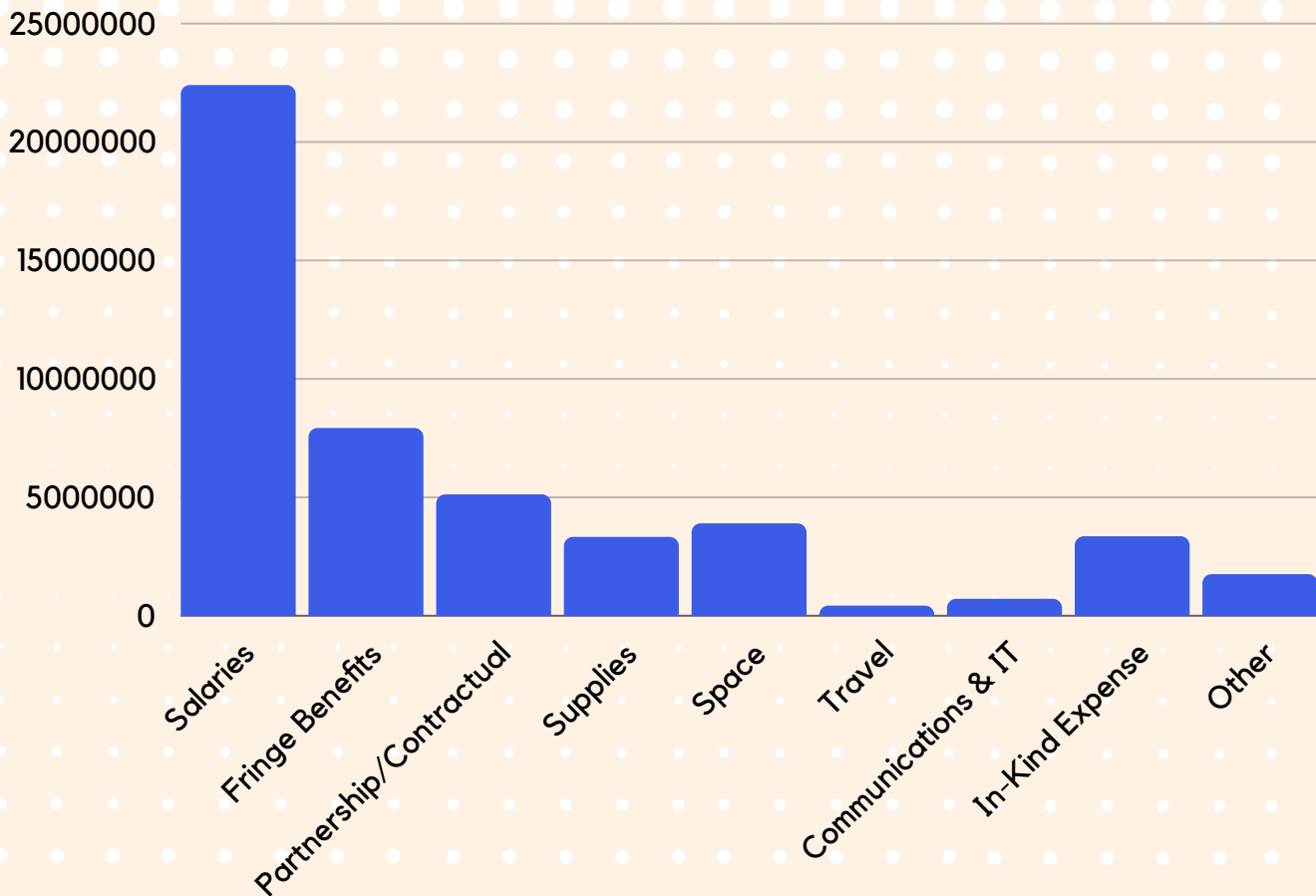
Total

\$77,737,223



# Financials

## Expenses



Salaries	\$22,040,627
Fringe Benefits	\$7,926,100
Partnership/Contractual	\$5,122,766
Supplies	\$3,328,226
Space	\$3,900,777
Travel	\$427,485
Communications & IT	\$714,753
In-Kind	\$3,355,264
Other	\$1,756,228

### Subtotal

\$45,648,129

### Change in Net Assets

\$3,133,735

### TOTAL

\$74,603,488

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