

Community Action Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2024
2025



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Hello, Everybody!

I am excited to share Community Action Council's Annual Report for fiscal year 2024-2025 with you. As I reflect on the year, I am overcome with gratitude for all that our agency has accomplished.

We face significant challenges in the world today, but when I see the great work Community Action accomplishes, I am filled with hope that the vision of our movement—to ensure that everyone has “the opportunity to live in decency and dignity”—can be fulfilled.

Our innovative ideas, big ambitions, and willingness to take on hard work combine with the collaboration of our donors, funders, volunteers, and supporters to create real change in our communities. We continue to be grateful for bi-partisan congressional support for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) which unites the Community Action Network across the nation and makes our work possible.

We invite you to join us on our mission to reduce poverty and offer real opportunities to everyday people.

Sincerely,

Sharon Price, MS, CCAP

Executive Director



Welcome to Community Action!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for taking a moment to learn more about Community Action Council and how this vital community resource is changing lives every day.

In these pages, you will see the strong outcomes the agency is delivering, the expansions they are making, and the diligence they show as they effectively and efficiently complete their work. What you may not notice, however, is how their work travels—deeply and widely—across the community.

Community Action is not just fixing an air leak through the Weatherization Assistance Program; we are maintaining the existing housing stock. We're not just paying a light bill through LIHEAP; we are keeping our elders safe. We're not just offering a basket of food at our food pantry; we are reducing household instability.

The work that we have been able to do in and with the community decreases despair and increases opportunities for us to build the world we want for our neighbors, our families, and ourselves.

Thank you for reading and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Baird, Esq.
Board Chair



2025 Board of Directors

Public Sector

Mayor Linda Gorton (Designated representative: Danielle Sanders)

Daniel Murphy, Esq.

Art Crosby, Esq.

Bryanna Carroll

Kimberly Baird, Esq., **Board Chair**

Representative George Brown Jr.

Judge Executive Jason Marshall

Judge Executive Michael R. Williams (Designated representative: Officer
Todd Mayle)

Judge Executive Steve Hamilton

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Michele Lee, **Board Secretary**

Joshua G. Lewis

Dr. Michael Covert

Kelly Stein

Debbie Link

Judge Denotra Gunther, **Vice Treasurer**

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Patricia White

Consumer Sector

Brian Crutchfield

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Elizabeth Villafuerte

Rosalind Hurley-Richards

Kelli Parmley

Mary C. Morton

Ashlee Vogelsang

Laura Puente



Because of Community Action Council...

The Future is Brighter

90%

of young children we
teach are kindergarten
and life ready
(Head Start)

75

pregnant women
accessed community
resources and
improved care
(Head Start)

77%

of former foster youth
we mentored showed
improvement in their
lives
(Project LIFE)

More Kentuckians Are Working

104

families accessed the
Child Care Assistance
Program and were
able to work
(kynect)

1,737

families had care and
education for their children
under age five
(Head Start)

20

people have new
careers *(CDL-B
Training)*

1,742

people gained health
insurance *(kynect)*

472

opportunities given to
learn about healthcare
options at an event
(kynect)

Access to Healthcare is Increasing



Hunger is Decreasing

304,238
meals and snacks
provided
(*Head Start*)

15,129
boxes of food claimed
(*food pantries*)

1,224
households enrolled in
the Supplemental
Nutritional Assistance
Program
(*kynect*)

415
men, women, and
children experiencing
homelessness were
cared for (*Housing
Stability*)

82%
of families experiencing
homelessness gained
permanent housing
(*Emergency Family Housing &
Continuum of Care*)

13
affordable rental units
were leased
(*Stable Steps*)

Families Have a Safe Place to Call Home



61
households
decreased their utility
bills and increased their
safety (*Weatherization
Assistance Program
and Warm
Wise*)

8,467
times a household's
heat and electricity stayed
on (*Low Income Home
Energy Assistance
Program*)

444
households kept
their water on (*H2O
Help to Others™*)

Staying Housed is Possible



We're Leading at Every Level

Case Manager Has the “Heart of a Kentuckian”

Project LIFE Case Manager, Luke Finster, received the Heart of a Kentuckian Unsung Hero Award at the 2025 Community Action Kentucky Conference.

Through his work with former foster youth, Luke exemplifies the promise of Community Action, changing lives and embodying hope. His remarkable energy, authenticity, and leadership make him an asset, not only to our agency, but to young adults across the state who are creating their futures from scratch.



Board Member's Deep and Lasting Commitment

We had the honor of recognizing longtime friend to Community Action, Michele C. Lee, at the Association of Fundraising Professionals' 2025 Bluegrass Philanthropy Day. In addition to her longstanding volunteerism and leadership on our Head Start Policy Council and Board of Directors, Michele has donated to the Council every two weeks via payroll deduction for three decades—a level of consistent support that is almost unheard of nowadays.

Executive Director Sharon Price said, “Michele’s deep and intentional commitment to our community—through her professional life with the Lexington Housing Authority; her volunteerism and community leadership; and her decision to put herself and her pocketbook on the line for three decades—is more than worthy of our gratitude.”



Executive Director Appointed by Governor to Advisory Committee

In 2025, Governor Andy Beshear appointed our executive director, Sharon Price, to the Team Kentucky Pre-K for All Advisory Committee.

Leaders in education, child care, workforce development, government, and business gathered to research and evaluate successful state-funded pre-kindergarten programs in order to make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on best practices to effectively implement a voluntary pre-K program in Kentucky.

With over 30 years of experience and leadership in child development, family support, and community engagement — including as a former Head Start parent and teacher — Sharon adeptly took on the role and shared her expertise on behalf of Kentucky families.



We're Doing the Work in Our Communities

Helping Students Continue Their Education

Through our annual Outstanding Community Service Award scholarship program, the Council offers \$2,500 to community-minded and college-bound students. In 2025, the competition had three winners. Executive Director Sharon Price said the young men chosen for the award exemplify the values of Community Action: hard work, entrepreneurship, innovation, and giving back to the community.

Julian Diaz-Deloach of Paris was the first-place winner. He regularly volunteered with the local Kiwanis Club, community clean-up efforts, and holiday food distribution programs. He joined the workforce to help support his family financially, but still found time to read to Head Start children.

Tyren Harris of Lexington developed a bilingual agricultural program and earned second place. Clayton Laytart of Cynthiana volunteered extensively with 4-H at the state and national levels and took third.



Giving In as Many Ways as Possible

Every year in May we celebrate National Community Action Month. It's a time for our network of more than 1,000 agencies across the nation to highlight the positive changes we're creating in our communities and draw attention to the opportunities ahead for hard-working families to receive a fair shake.

In 2025, we added a blood drive as part of our Community Action Month community impact activities. The Kentucky Blood Center's mobile unit joined us at our neighborhood center on Georgetown Street in Lexington to collect donations from staff and community members.

Adding to the Affordable Housing Stock

In the last year, the Council has added two new homes to our Stable Steps program, for a total of 14 units in the program, 13 of which have been leased so far.

Stable Steps offers affordable rental units for households at or below 80% of the area median income. These privately owned and maintained units prioritize making rent affordable for working families and individuals with disabilities.



Expanding Service to More Families

Work is continuing on the Council's Prep Academy at Palmer Complex. We're expecting the facility, which has space for as many as 100 children and their families, to be completed in December 2026.

We are confident that families in Lexington's East End, an under-resourced area of the city, are going to love the garden, the fruit trees, and the new playground that will be part of the building!



We're Making Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods



Using Existing Assets to Build Community

Martin Luther King Park is a tremendous asset to the Winburn neighborhood in Lexington, which is why Community Action Council has joined with the Winburn Community Partners to adopt it!

Through Lexington Parks & Recreation's Adopt-a-Park program and with sponsorship from CHI Saint Joseph Health's Creating Safer Neighborhoods Initiative, our Winburn Neighborhood Center is helping to create opportunities for neighbors to meet, volunteer, and build community together.

Among the events happening in and around the park, Saint Joseph Hospital hosted a community health fair in the park that offered preventative healthcare screenings, information on building a healthy lifestyle, and connections to healthcare providers. The Winburn Community Partners hosted a "Glow Up" self-esteem workshop for pre-teen and teen girls in the neighborhood to help them stand up to peer pressure and bullying and build friendships with other girls. Through Adopt-a-Park, neighbors have come out to volunteer at park clean-up days, learn about native birds, make art together, play games, share meals, and much more!

Our Winburn Center Manager, Rosha Williams, has been leading the project with the Winburn Community Partners and with the support of the Winburn Neighborhood Association, the Northside Branch of the Lexington Public Library, Fayette County Public Schools, the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, and others. Everyone is working together to create a healthier and safer neighborhood.





Being a Safe Place to Build Trust

Our Winburn Neighborhood Center and Head Start Prep Academy has also had the opportunity to provide space for Winburn Public Safety Day! The event, brought to the community by local law enforcement and public safety organizations, gave families and neighborhood residents the opportunity to mix and mingle with the people doing the hard work to make the area safer.

Through games, food, music, safety demonstrations, equipment displays, and climbing inside real police cars and fire trucks, the community built rapport and trust with police officers, firefighters, and other safety workers.

We are proud that we can be counted on as a safe place to gather and build stronger community relationships.



We're Partnering with Others to Improve Results

Amplifying Our Work Through Partnership

At Community Action Council, we believe in the power of local people joining together to make their communities better places to live, work, and care for a family. Our neighborhood center at Wesley's Place in Bourbon County is an amazing example of how building strong, local partnerships helps everyone improve!

This year, the center partnered with Wal-Mart in Paris to have a community food drive, with Wal-Mart and Bi-Water Farm & Greenhouse to provide a safe Halloween festival, with Stock Yards Bank & Trust and the Kiwanis Club to offer Thanksgiving meal baskets, with Kentucky Farm Bureau to provide winter coats, with the Paris Police Department and the Paris Fire Department to host a Chilli Cook-Off to raise funds for Wesley's Place, and with law enforcement, firefighters, EMS workers, and Wal-Mart to allow children to "Shop with a Hero" during the holiday season.

Special thanks to our board member, Officer Todd Mayle with the Paris Police Department. Officer Mayle is always willing to share his time and resources to make sure that children and families in Bourbon County stay safe at home and in the community.



OPTing-In for Families

In 2024, Kentucky was selected as one of four sites in the nation for the Doris Duke Foundation's "OPT-In for Families" demonstration. The aim of Opportunities for Prevention & Transformation Initiative (OPT-In) for Families is to prevent child abuse and neglect by ensuring families can find and access the support they need before social and financial strain turns into something more dire.

In 2025, the Council was selected as a community partner by the state's Division of Prevention and Community Wellbeing to deliver OPT-In for Families to those within our reach. As one of Kentucky's OPT-In partners, we will launch a \$1 million, multi-year initiative in fiscal year 2026-2027 to keep children safe and keep families together by providing emergency resources and better community connections.



Supporting Hard Work and Innovation

For the second year in a row, the Council had the honor of supporting ONE Lexington's Gun Violence Reduction Grants process. ONE Lexington's grant funds go to local, grassroots organizations working to prevent youth violence.

As a Community Action Agency, we believe in community-based solutions. This grant opportunity allows us to support the innovative work being done by local people to better their neighborhoods. Community Action Council is excited to play a role in the work that the City of Lexington and ONE Lexington are doing to improve community safety. Because of this work, youth gun violence continues its steady decline across the city.



COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL IS HIRING

A rewarding career is waiting for you! From housing to Head Start and from London to Lexington, we have employment opportunities waiting for you.



Enjoy Our Generous Benefits Package

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8% Employer Contribution To 401(k) Upon Eligibility

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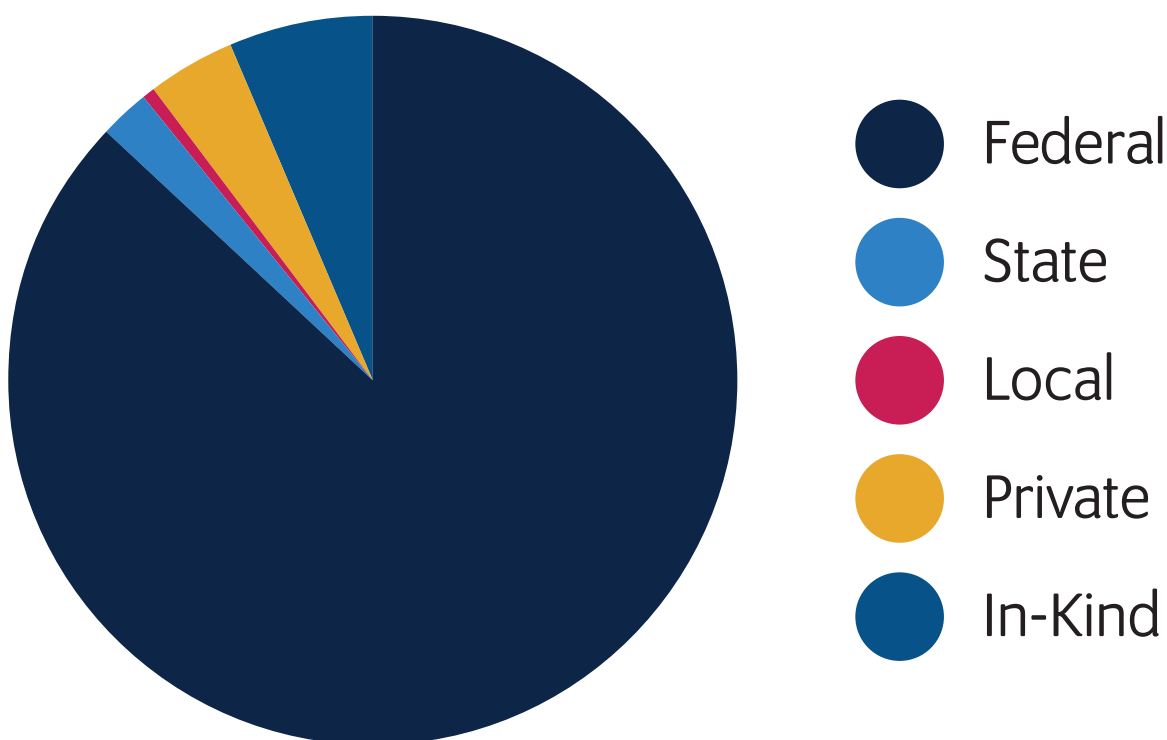
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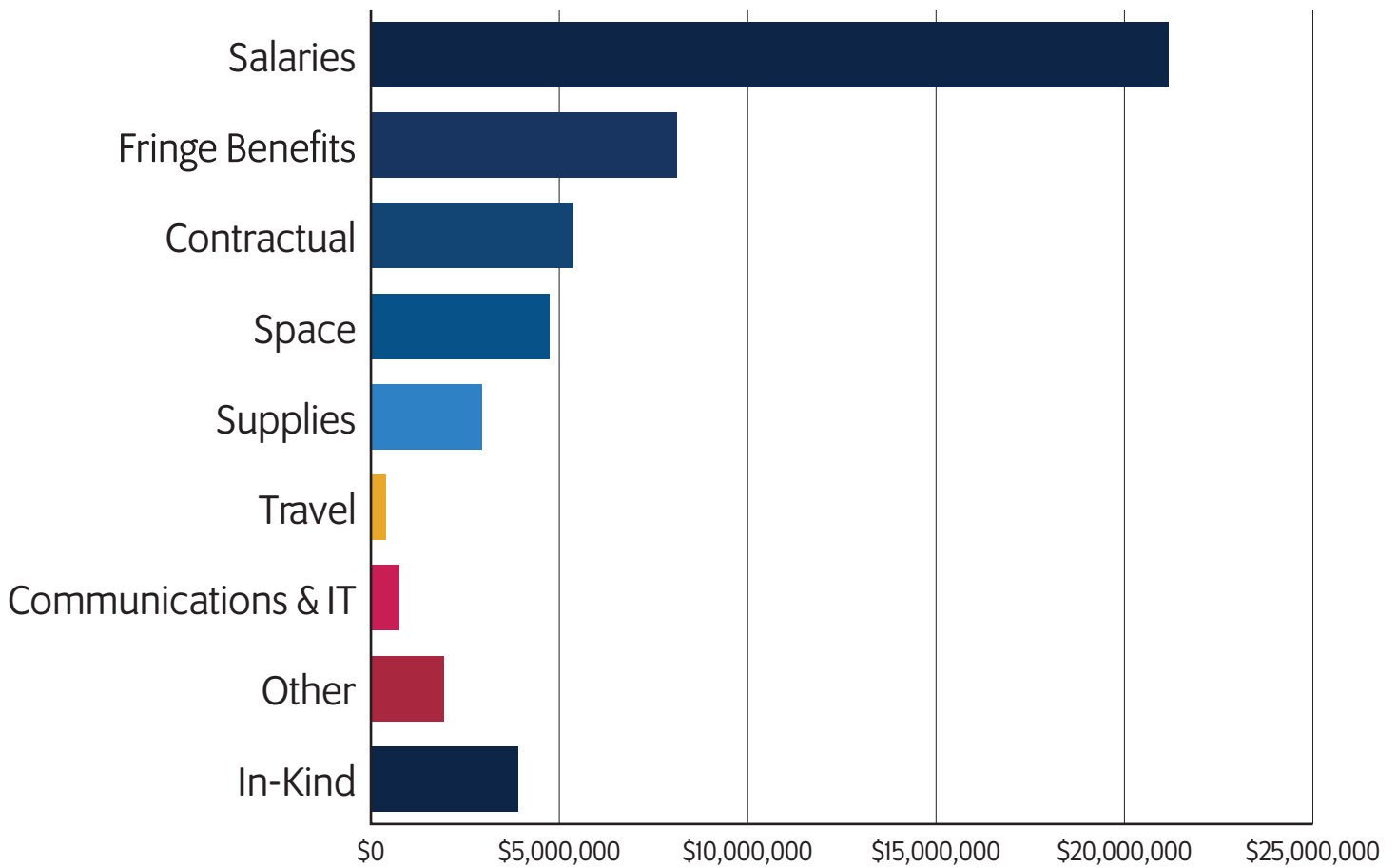
Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audited Financials

Revenue



Federal	\$54,526,003
State	\$1,529,453
Local	\$317,904
Private	\$2,437,046
In-Kind	\$3,901,775
Total	\$62,712,161

Expenses



Salaries	\$21,175,751
Fringe Benefits	\$8,121,358
Contractual	\$5,372,672
Space	\$4,783,802
Supplies	\$2,933,195
Travel	\$386,096
Communications & IT	\$746,866
Other	\$1,927,797
In-Kind	\$3,901,755
Subtotal	\$49,349,292
Total	\$60,005,309
Change in Net Assets	\$2,706,852

In Memoriam

In 2026, we lost two deeply beloved staff members. Both of them were members of our Transportation and Property Development team who supported our South Central Head Start program.



Ricky Roberts

In February, we lost Ricky Roberts. Ricky was appreciated by his co-workers for his ability to always find the simplest solutions to the most complex problems and for making a joke especially when the stress level was high.

Every child at the Prep Academy at Powell County knew “Mr. Ricky,” and he was known for taking the extra time to talk with them in their classrooms when he came to make a repair. Ricky was proud of the work on the new facility in Powell County and what it would mean for the community. His dedication and the impact he made won’t be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Ricky.

G. Renee Barnes



In May, we lost Renee Barnes. Renee, who served the Madison County community as a bus driver for more than 25 years, is remembered by her co-workers as an incredibly hard worker who could be counted on to pitch in whenever and wherever, and as a kind and caring human being.

“Ms. Renee,” as our students knew her, turned her bus into a classroom on wheels. She posted letters and numbers on the ceiling and sang songs with the children on their way to school. She incorporated safety, learning, and joy at every turn, always saying she had the best job in the world.

Get home safe, Ms. Renee.

Our Donors

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Heather Belcher
Sarah Bender
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