

Annual Report

2021

COMMUNITY ACTION
NORTHWEST ALABAMA



A HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency

From the Executive Director's Desk

As we reflect back on 2021, it can only be summed up with the word "change". We saw our longtime Director, Tammy McDaniel, be able to begin the next phase of her life with her well-deserved retirement at the end of March. Tammy dedicated over 26 years of service to Community Action Northwest and we are forever grateful.

I am appreciative and humbled to have the opportunity to lead such a wonderful organization. The organization is only as good as the employees that dedicate their time, love and energy to make sure that our clients are served. At Community Action Northwest, we are blessed with the best staff in Lauderdale, Colbert, and Franklin Counties.

As you know, 2021 brought many challenges in the way of COVID, but that did not deter our staff from making sure the residents of our service area had even more opportunities than in years past. We are here to make a difference in people's lives and to make Northwest Alabama a better place to live and work.

David Crosby, Executive Director

In 2021, CAANW served

3,477 Individuals

receiving

9,781 Services

representing

3,429 Families

1,514 Disabled

2,141 Individuals Avoiding Utility Shut-off

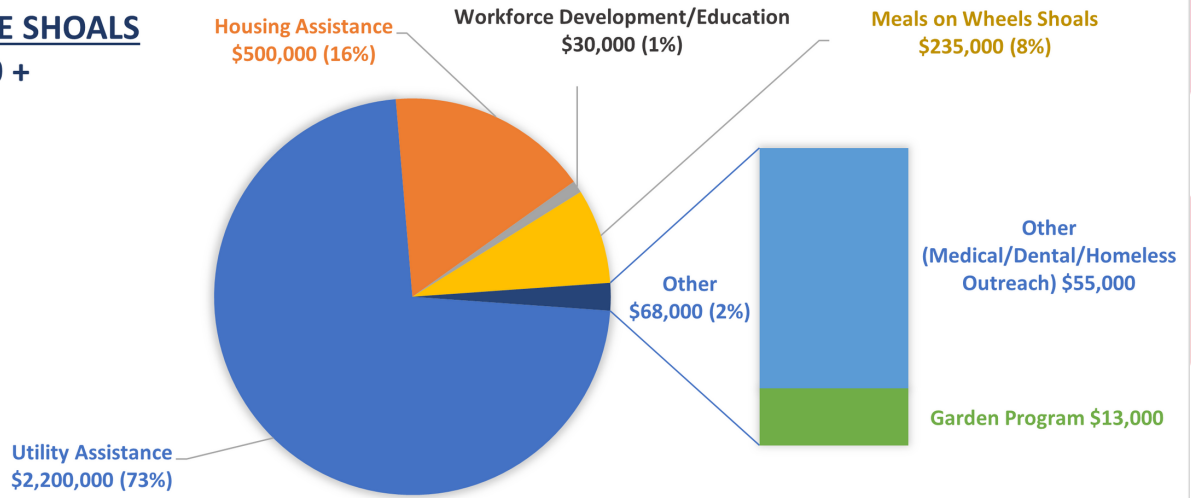
215 Homeless at In-Take

287 Individuals Avoiding Eviction



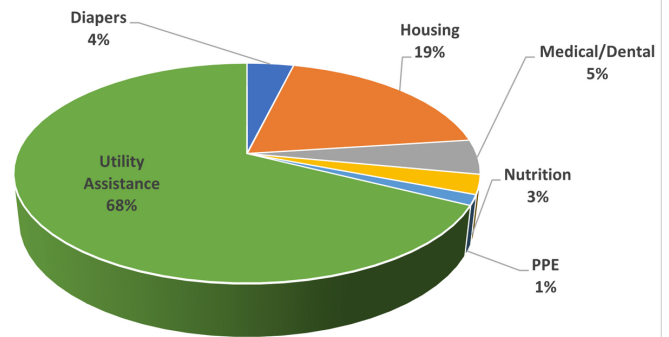
- CAANW poured over 3 Million dollars into the Shoals community economy through direct aid last year...

DIRECT AID TO THE SHOALS
\$3,000,000 +



...with \$850,000 from COVID Relief Funding

COVID-Relief Funds = \$856,999



95% of served households fell 150% or below poverty guidelines

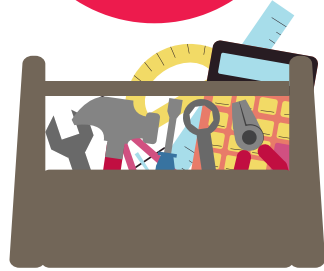


82% of served households had only high school degrees or less

Other key program results...



- 2,728 individuals improved energy efficiency and/or energy burden reduction in their homes
- 250 individuals obtained safe and affordable housing
- 504 individuals received Housing Counseling
- 728 individuals received on-going case management
- 429 individuals received Financial Management Counseling
- 25 individual homeowners received Home Weatherization services



The FORWARD Program

This year saw change in one of our leading programs. The FORWARD program grew from the need to offer stronger workforce development training and responsible parenting skills together. The two programs of Responsible Parenting and Workforce Development served a combined total of 169 participants with 37 gaining new employment, 1 CDL graduate, 4 Workforce Readiness Certificates and 4 newly enrolled college career students.

Williams Garden Program

The Gerald Williams Cooperative Gardening Program served over 560 families with vouchers to purchase plants, seeds and fertilizer from participating Co-ops so families could grow their own food to reduce monthly food costs.



Meals on Wheels Shoals

With the help of volunteers and continued donations from individuals and community partners, the Meals on Wheels Shoals program delivered hot nutritious meals and a well-safety check to our most vulnerable neighbors in the fight against food insecurities, in the counties of Lauderdale, Colbert and Franklin. Also, through cooperation with Salvation Army of The Shoals and Sunrise Center in Sheffield, nutritional meals were provided for emergency shelters as they continued to be overwhelmed with the lingering effects of COVID-19.



HMIS Lead

As the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency for our 6-County Continuum of Care, Coordinated Entry was added in 2021 to aid in the process of helping navigate homeless clients through the CoC system of resources toward self-sufficiency.



54,288 Meals

delivered to seniors



4,368 hours

worked by volunteers

123

organizations

partnered with CAANW



174

Seniors maintained independent living



Cory's Story

Cory enrolled in the new FORWARD Program in 2021 as a husband and father of three. He was unemployed, had no skills training and until that point, had always worked odd jobs here and there. By enrolling and completing the FORWARD Program, he was able to earn his GED and Alabama Certified Worker Certification, while also attending Parenting Classes to enhance his parenting skills and better his relationship with his wife and children.

From there he enrolled at NWSCC to continue his education and obtained a career certification in Welding.

These workforce development and educational accomplishments are leading Cory to self-sufficiency and a brighter future for his family.

Cory has stated his goals are to complete advanced welding this fall at NWSCC and work toward a specialized career in underwater welding.

"None of this would have happened had it not been for the FORWARD Program and Mrs. Jackie believing in me. I am glad she did."

- Cory Morgan



CAANW's *mission* is to reduce the causes and adverse consequences of poverty and to empower low-income individuals, families, and communities to achieve self-sufficiency through advocacy, resource utilization, and service delivery.

Utility and Housing Assistance

Provides emergency rent and utility assistance, ongoing case management and financial education, and connections to available community services.



WEATHERIZATION

Homeowners living on low income may be eligible to receive a one-time home weatherization assessment to determine measures that can reduce energy consumption and lower energy bills.

MOTHERS Program

This 14-week class helps mothers to increase their parenting skills as they make positive parenting changes which impact the lives of their children.



CARES Relief

In 2021, CAANW continued to partner with faith-based organizations and key officials to provide essential daily needs to our communities such as socks, diapers, wipes, PPE kits, and shelf-stable food.



CAANW's Board of Directors is composed of one-third private sector representatives, one-third elected officials or their designees representing our service area, and one-third representatives of the low-income community.

Board Members

John Harris

Dwight James

Amanda Berry

Herman Jagers

Gary Jarnigan

Chip Hibbett

Tracie Thompson

Eddie Goodloe

Larry Collum

Margaret Jackson

Todd Cochran

Ruth Barnett

Judy Hennessee

Anita Hovater

Scott Smart

Agency Staff

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AMANDA DOWDY
JENNIFER BRINLEY
CARLEY ASHE
JACKIE BAKER
SHERMEN JACKSON
SUZANNE MOORE
HOLLY MORRISON
EVA GRAHAM
JOYCELYN HALE
ASHLEY TOMBYLL
SUSIE HOLDEN

COLBERT COUNTY LOCATION

JAY HENDRICKS
ROSE RHODES
TERI BUTLER
SHEILA WEAVER
KIMBERLY WHITE

FRANKLIN COUNTY LOCATION

MEGAN HESTER
BETH POUNDERS
MELISSA GATTIS
SUSAN COLE

"Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves our 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."



Like and follow us on Facebook at @CommunityActionNorthwestAlabama

CAANW is a private non-profit corporation. Incorporated under the law of the State of Alabama March 19, 1965 and organized for the purpose of planning, developing and administering programs and services designed to help eliminate poverty and encourage self-sufficiency. We are conveniently located in Franklin, Colbert and Lauderdale Counties to serve the residents of each county.