



Our Community in Action

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



449 children,
30 pregnant people,
and 1,170 family
members received
early childhood
education and
support services.



3,073 individuals in
1,194 households
maintained safe
housing thanks to
emergency rent,
utility, and/or
deposit assistance.

Stability, Opportunity, and Hope

Community Action's mission is to *empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.*

Charged with addressing the *causes and conditions* of poverty in Lancaster and Saunders Counties, we provide programs and services in four impact areas: Early Childhood Education, Homelessness Prevention, Financial and Family Well-Being, and Hunger Relief and Healthy Food Access.

In 2022, Community
Action provided
105,309 services
to **18,261** individuals.



"This support is life-changing."

- Parent at Community Action Head Start

Need Remains High

Need for our services remains high. Many in our community faced dire circumstances last year, often for the first time in their lives. In 2022:

13% of Lincoln residents, or **35,909** individuals, lived below the poverty level.

We received **9,764** calls for emergency rent, utility, and/or deposit assistance.

According to the year's Point in Time Count, **418** individuals were actively experiencing homelessness in Lincoln, with many more just one life event away from the possibility.

Our waiting list for financial education programming reached **204** individuals.

34,975 free nutritious meals were served at the Gathering Place — an **increase of 15%** compared to 2021.



2,226 individuals received support relating to hunger relief and healthy food access, such as through FEAST programming or at the Gathering Place.



1,163 individuals participated in programming to improve financial knowledge and/or purchase an asset.

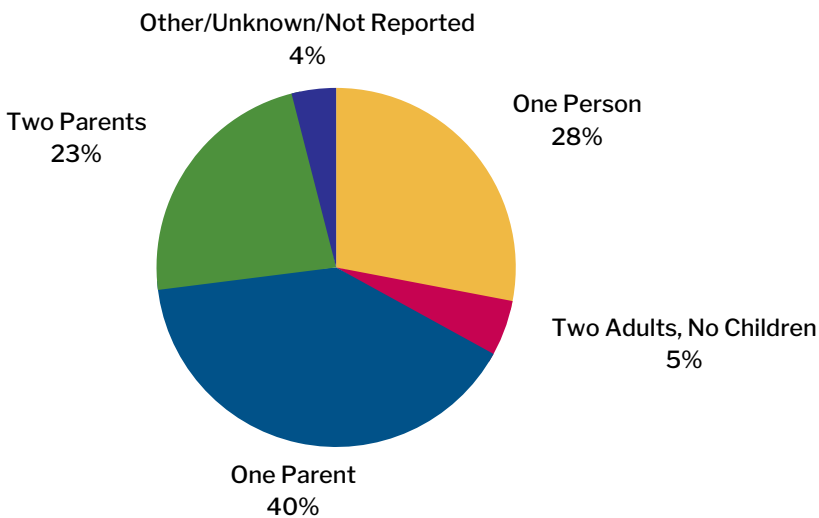


Who We Serve

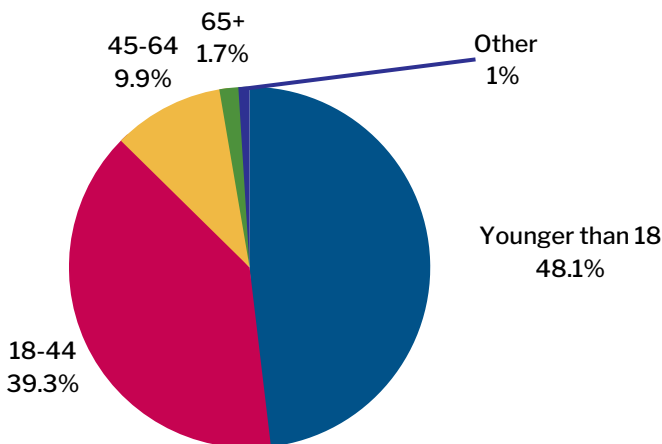
The following data demonstrates characteristics of those served by Community Action in 2022 for whom demographic information was known/collected.

Family Type

65% of households had children in the home.



Ages of Individuals Served, in Years



70% of households had income at or below 100% of poverty level.

"It helps not to have to worry about good food while I'm getting back on my feet."

- Guest of the Gathering Place



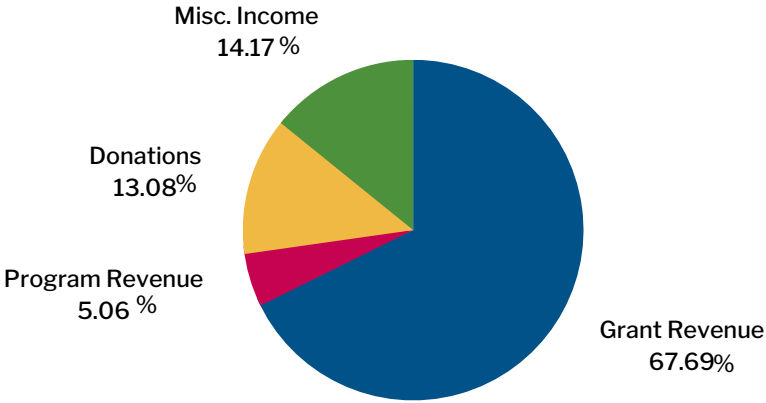
55% of adults we served were employed, either part-time or full-time, during the past year.



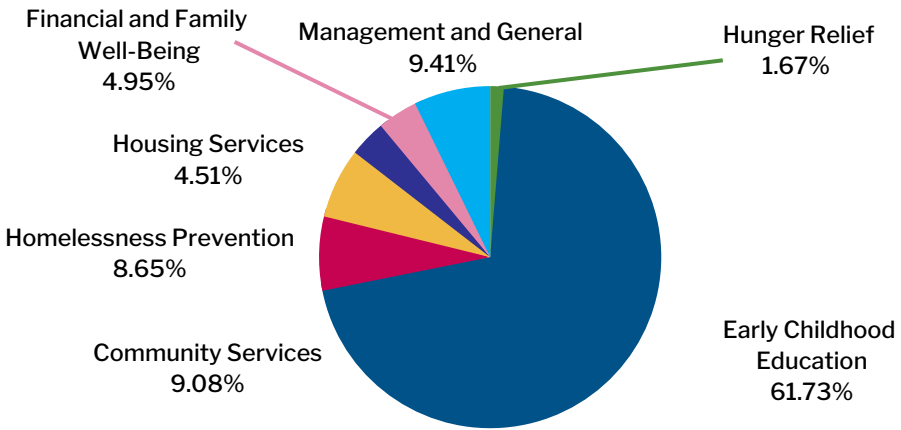
44% of households had income at or below 50% of poverty level (\$13,875/year for a family of four).

Agency Financials

2022 Revenue: \$20,793,623



2022 Expenses: \$19,643,818



**Financials are preliminary (unaudited). The strong positive bottom line for FYE 9/30/2022 is the result of the timing of the renovations of the K Street Head Start Center. Renovations were funded in part by a grant from the Office of Head Start. The capitalization of the project created a negative expense entry in one agency program. The depreciation of the improvements will balance this out over the useful life.*

Planning for the Future

In September 2022, the Community Action Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan, which includes the following goals:

- 1) Mission Fulfillment:** Create greater impact through outreach and partnerships.
- 2) Communications:** Tell our stories to influence change.

Growing With Our Community

We continually assess and adapt our programs to meet changing community needs. Here are some of the ways we grew last year:

24 early childhood professionals participated in our new **On-the-Job Training program** made possible by a grant from the City of Lincoln.

Our Weatherization program is growing. More neighbors will receive vital **cost- and energy-saving home improvements.**

We launched our **Youth Homeless Demonstration program** in partnership with The HUB, to provide **coaching and navigation** to those younger than 26.

Renovations began at our Home for Head Start! This center will be a space for **highest quality early childhood education** and community supports near 18th & K Streets.



- 3) **Fund Development:** Diversify and sustain resources to fulfill our mission.
- 4) **Staffing and Volunteers:** Use innovative opportunities to support recruitment, retention, and competitive compensation.
- 5) **Governance and Leadership:** Boldly lead by example.

These goals will inform agency programming and actions for the next five years.

Board of Directors

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Jessie Hedrick
Heather Loughman
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Early Head Start & Head Start / Foster Grandparent Program / Emergency Services: rent, utility, and deposit assistance / Supportive Housing / Tenant Support Services / Affordable Housing / Youth Homeless Demonstration Program / Free to Save Match Savings / Financial Education and Coaching / Weatherization / The Gathering Place: hot evening meals / Healthy Food Access Program / FEAST Wellness

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