



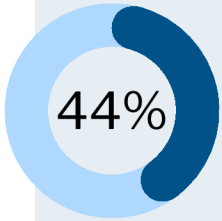
2024 Annual Report

Shining Fearlessly

Needs in Lancaster & Saunders Counties

Community Action addresses the unique **causes and conditions of poverty** within our service area. Below contains data from our Community Needs Assessment.

Lack of affordable housing



44% of Lancaster County households spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

A lack of affordable housing puts families at risk of homelessness.



Limited transportation

Lack of transportation is a consistent barrier to accessing services and healthy foods, and maintaining employment. Those living in poverty are more likely to rely on public transportation.

In both counties, over 89% of workforce-eligible residents who live in poverty are employed.



Food Insecurity

10% of Lancaster County and 8.4% of Saunders County residents experience a lack of access to healthy food.

In both counties, **the percentage of children experiencing food insecurity is greater than that of the general population**

High cost of childcare

In Lincoln, the average **annual cost of infant care is greater than one year's worth of tuition** at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Meanwhile, **77% of children under age 6 have all parents in the workforce.**



Our Mission

We partner with our community in fearless pursuit of anti-poverty solutions so we all have the opportunity to live well.

Our Vision

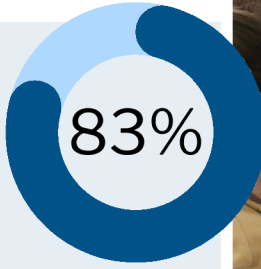
We envision a community in which we all have ample resources to provide for ourselves and those for whom we care, are safe to be who we are, and can access opportunities to achieve greater well-being.

Community Action responds

The below data represents outcomes from our 2024 fiscal year.

Workforce

83% of adults who entered Community Action's Supportive Housing homelessness prevention program without a job **obtained and maintained employment for at least 90 days.**



"You've taken so many of my worst days and helped me through. That alone is amazing."
-Supportive Housing Participant



Last year, Community Action's On the Job Training Program supported **150% more people than projected** in obtaining a degree, certification, or other credential to stabilize and improve the early childhood workforce.

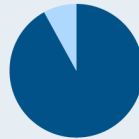


In October, our community celebrated completed renovations at the Bansal Family Home for Head Start!



Early childhood education

Community Action Head Start provided free early childhood education and family support services to **444 children** and **1,134 family members.**



92% of children demonstrated improved school readiness at the end of last program year.

13% ROI

Studies* show that comprehensive, high-quality early childhood education like Head Start has a **13% ROI.**



In 2024

19,965 people received **over 142,000 Community Action services.**

This is a **30% increase** from 2023.

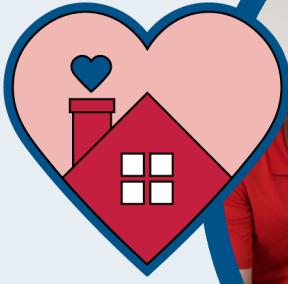
Community Action programming occurs in four impact areas:

**Early Childhood Education
Homelessness Prevention
Financial and Family Well-Being
Hunger Relief and Healthy Food Access.**

*Heckman, "Quantifying the Life-cycle Benefits of a Prototypical Early Childhood Program"

Homelessness prevention

81% of participants in homelessness prevention programming maintained safe and affordable housing for at least 180 days. **Zero participants returned to homelessness.**



Weatherization **improvements made to housing stock** also resulted in **improved health and safety** for participants.



Hunger relief

Community Action's Gathering Place soup kitchen served **55,660 free hot, nutritious meals** — a 27% increase from 2023 and the **most ever served in the program's history.**

99% of meals contained fresh content such as fruit, vegetables, and/or meat.

"It just brings so much hope." -Gathering Place guest

Financial well-being

83 community members participated in Free to Save matched savings and financial well-being programming.

Classes were held in English and Arabic.

A fearless community

In 2024, need for our services grew once again. **You responded.** More neighbors ate dinner at the Gathering Place. More families called for rent and utility assistance. More people visited our Store for basic care supplies. Our response was only possible because of you.

We also celebrated! Renovations ended at the Bansal Family Home for Head Start and hundreds of neighbors joined us for a block party. Our Supportive Housing Program was ranked first in our service area among HUD programs. We were named a Lincoln Best Place to Work for the seventh year.

Your fearlessness **shined** this year, making every success in these pages possible. Thank you.



Who we serve

The below information is representative of those from whom demographic information was collected.



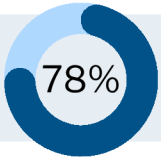
The majority of households served by Community Action had children in the home.

The most common household type was single mothers.



68% of workforce-eligible participants were employed.

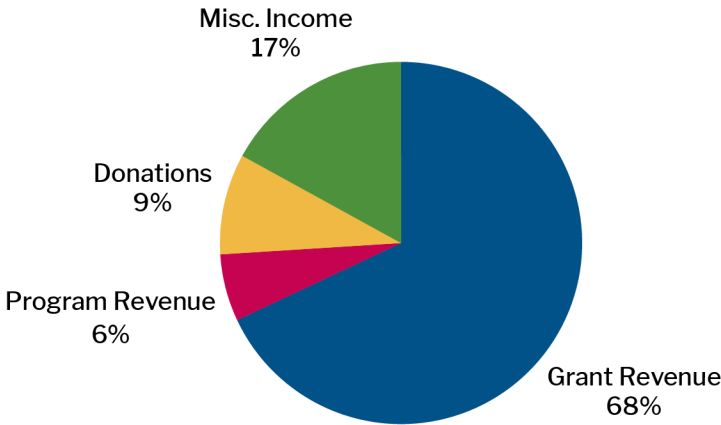
50% of program participants identified as non-white (a 10% increase from 2023), compared to 17% of the overall population in Lancaster and Saunders Counties. **Poverty disproportionately affects communities of color.**



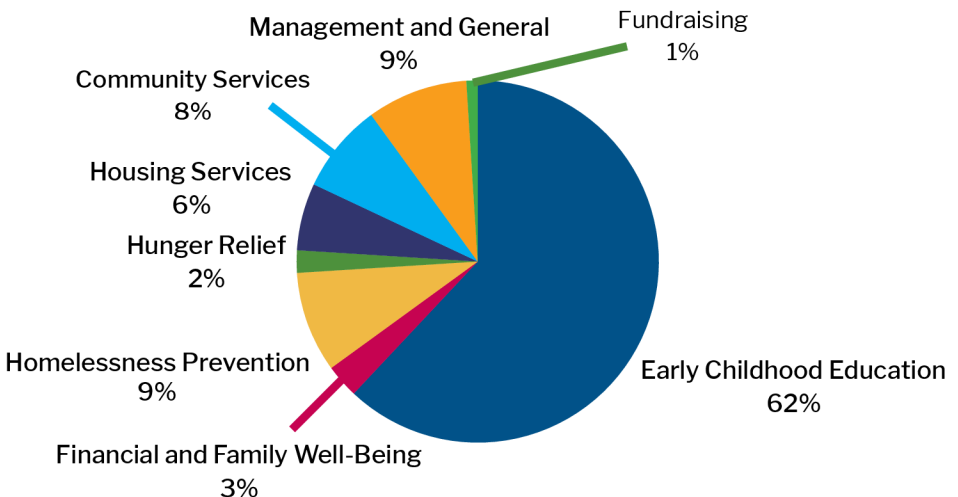
42% of those served (age 25+) had at least some post-secondary education. **78%** had graduated high school, obtained a GED, or equivalent.

Financials

2024 Revenue: \$21,972,314.00



2024 Expenses: \$20,911,316.00



**Financials are preliminary (unaudited). The strong positive bottom line for FYE 9/30/2024 is the result of the timing of the renovations of the Bansal Family Home for Head Start. 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.*



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