





#### From the Editor

This report is for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2023. Unless otherwise noted, service totals, statistics, and outcomes are for the period February 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023.

#### **Electronic Copies**

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#### Information

Visit our website at www.swgacac.com or our facebook page for more information about Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Inc. including informational brochures, current events, employment opportunities, electronic correspondence, and links to valuable resources.

> Member: Georgia Community Action Association www.georgiacaa.org

Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies www.seacaa.org

National Community Action Partnership www.communityactionpartne<u>rship.com</u>

> National Community Action Foundation www.ncaf.org

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### **HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES...**

On September 27, 1965, Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Inc. (CAC) was chartered, making the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 a reality in Southwest Georgia by helping socially and economically disadvantaged persons help themselves through a variety of services.

Emerging from a group of concerned Colquitt County citizens acting as an interagency council, support was solicited from the local community while Dr. Adeline Barber investigated the possibilities of accessing President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" programs being made available to communities. Eventually Commander Robert J. Clinton, a retired naval officer, agreed to chair the group and seek funding from the newly created Office of Economic Opportunity.

Working through the then Area Planning and Development Commission (APDC) in Camilla that received the original funding, Commander Clinton was hired full-time during the summer of 1965. APDC eventually spun the program off, and CAC was chartered to serve the Southwest Georgia area with the corporate office in Moultrie and Commander Clinton serving as Executive Director.

The first program funded was an ongoing Child Care Program, with the first Child Care Center opening in January of 1966. June of that year saw the opening of the Agency's first Neighborhood Service Center.

Growing out of the dreams of a diverse group of visionary citizens with a sincere concern for the wellbeing of their community, CAC is a charitable private non-profit organization as designated by the IRS that now employs approximately 585 individuals and serves 21 counties through an annual budget in excess of \$40 million.

Core administrative funding for the Agency is the federally appropriated *Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)*. Additional funding comes from public and private grants acquired through competitive application submissions, contracts, local partnerships, fund-raisers, and donations. Services are provided through a network of 11 Neighborhood Service Centers and 21 Child Development Centers.

A Chief Executive Officer is employed by the Board of Directors and is responsible for securing and maintaining adequate funding streams, directing daily operations, and ensuring that accountability for services is maintained. Board oversight ensures that all counties in the service area have equal opportunity for their voice to be heard.

Three major service categories define the array of services provided by the Agency: Community Services, Housing and Energy, and Child Development. The Agency stands prepared to respond in a timely and effective manner to ongoing needs within the community and in crisis situations such as natural disasters. The combination of non-profit status, experience in administering a variety of service programs, long standing relations with federal and state funding sources, and ongoing community partnerships enables the Agency to quickly mobilize resources to help those most in need.

At Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Helping People Help Themselves is more than a motto — for almost 60 years it has been a way of life!

### **OUR MISSION ...**

... to Collaborate with Community Partners to Provide Low-income Individuals Comprehensive Services that Promote Life-long Economic Security and Self-sufficiency.

### **OUR VISION** ...

... for All Families in Southwest Georgia to be Self-sufficient.





11 Locations

21 Locations

Neighborhood Service Centers

**Child Development Centers** 

**persons** are provided direct services by the Agency.

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Heritage	Inside Cover
Mission	Inside Cover
Vision	Inside Cover
Service Area	
From The CEO	
From The Chair	6
Board Of Directors	7
Executive Management Team	
Organization Chart	9
Community Services	10
Housing & Energy	
Head Start/Early Head Start	
Funding Analysis	
Directory of Service Sites (Neighborhood Service Centers)	
Directory of Service Sites (Child Development Centers)	

### In Memory

Lucius Holloway, Sr. Board Member

Terrell County 13 Years of Service

### FROM THE CEO

#### Greetings:

We at Southwest Georgia Community Action Council are proud to call Southwest Georgia home and serve the wonderful people who live in this region. As a member of the local social services network, we are focused on our mission *to collaborate with community partners to provide low-income individuals comprehensive services that promote life-long economic security and self-sufficiency*. Our board and staff are dedicated to our mission and take seriously our role in helping those less fortunate to climb out of poverty.

We are living in a time of increasing focus on transparency and accountability -- especially for those who are stewards of public funding. Meanwhile, the needs of low-income people have grown exponentially more complex in recent years. As one of approximately one thousand community action agencies nationwide, we embrace accountability for the resources entrusted to our Agency as well as the outcomes obtained with those resources. Therefore, I am pleased to share this report that documents the impact of our activities in Southwest Georgia for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The current operating environment is one of the most challenging I have experienced in my nearly 30 years with the Agency. When I speak with others, no matter their field of work, I hear concerning similarities in the challenges we are facing including a struggle to fill job openings and retain employees during a time of eroding work ethics.

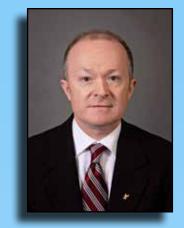
While the past year was challenging, I am thankful for and encouraged by the highly successful monitoring reviews that were completed by our funding sources. We underwent multiple reviews of our weatherization program by Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, a Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) review by Georgia Department of Human Services, a HUD Emergency Solutions Grant review conducted by Georgia Department of Community Affairs, a Pre-K funding review by Bright from the Start (Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning), a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) review by Bright from the Start, a Head Start/Early Head Start Focus Area 2 on-site review conducted by the Office of Head Start (OHS), and a CLASS Video Pilot review conducted by OHS, among other reviews. Did I mention that we are living in a time of increasing focus on transparency and accountability?

It's good to pause and reflect on our accomplishments because we gain inspiration to continue in our mission of helping others. I encourage you to review the activities that have taken place, the challenges we have met, and the results that have been achieved on behalf of those in need of our services. This represents a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication by our board, staff, and community partners -- and I thank them all for their efforts and contributions to help those living in poverty reach a better place in life.

I look forward to working further with our board, funders, and partners to expand our impact in Southwest Georgia. Please join with us as we fulfill the Community Action promise.

Sincerely,

Randy Weldon Chief Executive Officer



Randy Weldon, Chief Executive Officer

No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world. -Robin Williams

# FROM THE CHAIR



### Raimond Burley, Board Chair

Dear Friends:

*Resilient* is the word that comes to my mind when I think of the Agency and its work over the past year.

We, along with many other businesses, experienced difficulty in maintaining full staffing. At the Head Start centers, it was all hands on deck for staff to ensure that the proper child/ teacher ratio was maintained. Teachers and Assistant Teachers worked tirelessly to make sure our children met assessment goals and were ready for their public school education to begin. Food Service Managers and Cooks provided hot, nutritious meals and snacks to ensure that no children were hungry and unable to learn. All of these efforts paid off as shown by the significant increases from fall to spring testing in assessment domains including language, literacy, math, cognitive, social/emotional, and physical.

Neighborhood Service Center staff continued providing our usual service mix and added the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). You can read more about this new service in the Community Services section of this report. Staff also wrapped up the "spend down" of various projects and programs initiated in response to the pandemic.

Housing and Energy Department staff completed a multi-year project that rehabilitated 61 homes severely damaged by Hurricane Michael. In order for these homes to once again be habitable, renovation and repair included new roofs and structural repairs. The newly passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides the means for the department to hire additional staff and replace aging equipment and vehicles in addition to providing energy saving measures to homes. This multi-year program will allow us to weatherize approximately 600 homes in Southwest Georgia above our normal production.

The administrative staff at our headquarters met the challenge to maintain program compliance across all departments so that we could continue to be the safety net that is so badly needed by those in our community living in poverty. I thank them for their dedication and attention to detail. I also want to thank our board of directors for their dedication in providing oversight for the Agency. In fact, eight (8) board members had perfect attendance at board meetings!

Please take a few moments to review the information that follows. I think you will then agree that we have indeed been resilient in meeting the ever-changing needs of those in our community seeking a way out of poverty.

Sincerely,

True peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice. -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Raimond Burley Chairman Board of Directors

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Raimond Burley** Mitchell County (Chair)

**Brenda Scott** Calhoun County (Vice Chair)

**Sherrell Byrd** Dougherty County (Secretary)

**Richard Edwards** Colquitt County (Treasurer)

**Darrell Alexander** Early County

Linda Burney-Henry Decatur County

LaFaye Copeland Grady County

**Phillip Corker** Grady County **Tyler Harris** Dougherty County

Marybell Hernandez Colquitt County

Johnny Jackson Mitchell County

**Rita James** Early County

**Fernando Johnson** Early County

**Ethel Lovett** Calhoun County

Craig Moore\* Mitchell County

Willie Oxford Terrell County

Shelba Sellers Thomas County **Evelyn Severson** Decatur County

as of January 31, 2023

Patricia Shirley Lee County

Bernetta Sweet Dougherty County

**Charlie Williams** Calhoun County

Claven Williams\*\* Worth County

Thawanna Woodson Seminole County

**David Stone** Ex-Officio (Colquitt County)

James R. Yates Ex-Officio (Colquitt County)

**Quanchellian Moses** Ex-Officio (Policy Council)

\* Executive Committee Member At-Large \*\* Policy Council Liaison

### Public, Private, Low-Income: Working Together to Make a Difference!

### The Tripartite Board

Agency bylaws dictate that a tripartite board of directors comprised of representation from the low-income, public, and private sectors of the 14-county primary service area provide oversight. Board oversight is crucial to maintaining the foundation for and focus on accountability -- both fiscal and programmatic. We are thankful for the dedicated service and diverse areas of expertise that the board provides to keep the Agency focused on meeting the most pertinent needs of the low-income population throughout the service area.

### **Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held at the Agency Headquarters in Moultrie at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.



Board members pose with CEO Randy Weldon holding their perfect attendance certificates awarded for attending all board meetings held during 2022. Those pictured include: (I-r) Darrell Alexander, Weldon, Johnny Jackson, Charlie Williams, Linda Burney-Henry, Claven Williams, Sherrell Byrd, Raimond Burley. Not pictured: Nancy Wright.

### **EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**



Randy Weldon Chief Executive Officer



**Beverly Holloway** 

Deputy Director /

Comptroller

Ann Hires Planner



Scott Smith Human Resources Director



India Williams Community Services Director



**Lynn Zito** Assistant Comptroller



**Yolanda Daniels** Head Start/Early Head Start Director

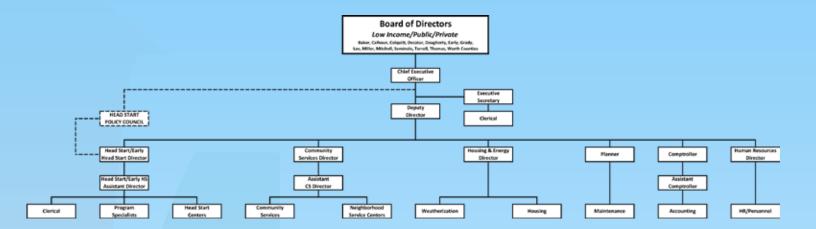


**Lykesa Bridges** Head Start/Early Head Start Assistant Director



Dusniel Alvarez Housing & Energy Director

### **ORGANIZATION CHART**



# **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Senior Nutrition Program** • This is a popular service that provides hot, nutritious lunches in Colquitt and Miller counties to those who are eligible based on need and age. Primary funding is provided by the *Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)*. Supplemental funding provided by United Way in Colquitt County and the Board of Commissioners in Miller County lends financial stability for the service in each county. Menus are prepared with USDA nutrition standards in mind to ensure that meals provide a balanced diet from the four basic food groups. Activities such as arts and crafts, recreation, and educational lectures are made an integral part of this activity. Home delivery is available for those who are homebound.

### **Senior Nutrition Highlights**

- Counties Served: Colquitt & Miller
- Service is provided Tuesday through Friday

123 Average Number of Meals Served Per Day 24,911 Total Meals Served

### Benefits of the Senior Nutrition Program

- Ensures that seniors receive at least one hot nutritious meal per day
- Provides social interaction to avoid isolation
- Helps seniors maintain their independence for peace of mind
- Provides the opportunity for trained delivery personnel to detect hazardous living conditions such as fire hazards and the need for hand rails, step repairs, etc.
- Provides the opportunity to visibly detect deteriorating health conditions requiring medical attention, ask if clients have been taking proper medication, see if a person has fallen, etc.



I enjoy helping others when they think that there is no tomorrow. -Thersa Pearman Dougherty County NSC Manager

**Transportation** • Reliable transportation is a common need for the low-income population of our rural service area. These services are designed to provide transportation primarily for low-income persons sixty years of age and older to senior nutrition feeding sites and essential services such as medical appointments, pharmacies, and grocery stores. We provide these services in Colquitt and Miller counties in support of the Senior Nutrition Program.

**Toys for Tots** • Four Neighborhood Service Centers -- Colquitt, Dougherty, Mitchell/Baker, and Worth counties -- participated in the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots initiative. This was the first year that Colquitt and Dougherty NSCs helped bring the program to their counties. More than 7,000 new toys were distributed to 2,295 children in Mitchell and Baker counties alone in 2022!

We are proud to partner with Toys for Tots, Albany Marine Corps Logistics Base, and numerous businesses, civic organizations, and volunteers to distribute toys and bring joy to underprivileged children during the Christmas season. We look forward to expanding our involvement to include additional counties in the years ahead.

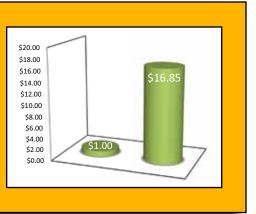


# HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

### **CSBG Adds Resources to the Community**

Per the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP), the CSBG network leveraged \$7.49 from state, local, and private sources for every dollar of CSBG funding. Leverage included \$2.49 from state sources, \$2.25 from local sources, \$2.40 from private sources, and volunteer hours valued at \$0.35. Including all federal sources, the CSBG network leveraged \$19.83 for every dollar of CSBG funding. In comparison, the CSBG network in Georgia leveraged \$18.67 for every dollar of CSBG funding.

Even with a significant influx of CSBG CARES Act and Disaster Supplemental funding that substantially diluted leveraging calculations, local CSBG funding of \$2,221,944 leveraged more than \$37.4 million! That equates to leverage of \$16.85 per dollar of CSBG funding.



### We're Ready in Times of Need

The Agency stands poised when needed to respond to natural disasters such as tornados, floods, and hurricanes. We take pride in being a part of the local disaster recovery network and work hand-in-hand with state and local relief organizers such as American Red Cross and GEMA to quickly secure resources, provide recovery assistance, disseminate information, and make appropriate referrals. In times of disaster we have provided assistance ranging from major home repairs to necessities such as utility and rent deposits, toiletries, food, and clothing vouchers.

**Community Partnerships** • We enjoy partnering with other community organizations and worthy causes to sponsor events and help people connect to the benefits and resources they need. Examples include our partnership with HEARTS for Families in their Teen Empowerment Expo and the Georgia Department of Labor in their job fairs for veterans.

**Emergency Services** • Emergency services are provided to assist with payment of rent, mortgage, utility bills, and deposits; purchase of food; and provision of shelter in situations that prevent cut-offs, minimize malnutrition, circumvent incidents of eviction, and re-house homeless families.

We utilize a variety of funding sources to provide as many service options as possible to meet the needs of those who find themselves in emergency situations due to circumstances beyond their control. Intake staff also conduct a comprehensive assessment on all clients and offer progressive case management services designed to assist clients in identifying and meeting goals to improve their level of self-sufficiency and minimize the likelihood of recurring emergency needs. The chart below provides a summary of services provided by funding source.

Funding Source	Benefits	Households Served	Clients Served
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$46,507.67	132	305
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) CARES Act	\$21,328.42	49	112
Emergency Food & Shelter (FEMA)	\$24,491.38	58	130
Emergency Food & Shelter (FEMA) American Rescue Plan Act	\$67,395.79	147	367
Emergency Relief Fund (Colquitt County)	\$70,853.24	215	426
Emergency Solutions Grant - Hotel/Motel Vouchers (HUD)	\$7,213.35	5	10
Emergency Solutions Grant - Rapid Re-Housing (HUD)	\$4,050.00	2	2
Project HOPE (City of Albany)	\$139,364.74	464	981
Total	\$381,204.59	1,072	2,333

# **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**LIHEAP** • The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists low-income families in offsetting the increased cost of energy for winter home heating. Families may receive assistance once each winter, and priority is given to households comprised entirely of those who are homebound or age 65 and above. Funding is also set aside for those with life threatening medical conditions. A portion of LIHEAP funding is designated for cooling assistance to offset the increase in utility bills due to the hot summer temperatures. The federal government also provided LIHEAP funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Making an Impact . . .

#### 8,023 Households

(approximately 20,000 individuals) were assisted through the 2022-23 LIHEAP funding cycle.

More than 60% of those receiving LIHEAP in Georgia are elderly. More than one-third are disabled. Almost three-fourths of LIHEAP recipient households have at least one vulnerable person. LIHEAP provides the following benefits within our community:

- circumvents cut-off of heating and cooling utility sources for homebound, elderly, and low-income households
- reduces incidents of health problems attributable to winter cold/summer heat
- enables elderly and those with life threatening medical conditions to maintain independence, while preserving peace of mind
- stimulates the local economy through funds put into circulation for the payment of heating and cooling bills *approximately* \$5.22 *million last year!*
- helps keep heating and cooling costs for the general public from rising by reducing billing write-offs for heating and cooling utility providers



**LIHWAP** • The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides financial assistance on behalf of low-income families to pay drinking and wastewater bills. Only clients of participating public home drinking/wastewater suppliers qualify for asistance. LIHWAP benefit amounts are based on household size and income and also cover arrearages and past due bills.

County	Heating Benefits Expended	Heating Households Served	ARPA Benefits Expended	ARPA Households Served	Cooling Benefits Expended	Cooling Households Served	LIHWAP Benefits Expended	LIHWAP Households Served
Baker	\$22,400	45	\$17,450	35	\$11,000	22	\$4,085	11
Calhoun	\$40,150	82	\$24,480	50	\$20,950	42	\$22,100	76
Colquitt	\$414,700	865	\$204,110	433	\$204,450	411	\$115,463	400
Decatur	\$217,450	450	\$102,919	217	\$109,500	220	\$81,081	267
Dougherty	\$657,000	1,390	\$374,198	767	\$366,950	742	\$451,074	1,593
Early	\$110,700	227	\$58,334	122	\$56,500	113	\$63,366	220
Grady	\$190,500	402	\$90,895	192	\$106,500	213	\$69,100	251
Lee	\$100,950	218	\$55,620	115	\$36,200	73	\$24,103	70
Miller	\$41,300	86	\$22,259	47	\$20,000	40	\$24,257	81
Mitchell	\$167,650	339	\$80,936	164	\$82 <i>,</i> 850	166	\$114,122	399
Seminole	\$61,900	133	\$30,842	63	\$31,950	64	\$18,822	68
Terrell	\$94,150	193	\$43,747	92	\$53,000	106	\$68,256	229
Thomas	\$304,050	633	\$148,681	313	\$151,350	303	\$121,174	434
Worth	\$150,950	308	\$75,287	155	\$67,850	137	\$88,629	313
Total	\$2,573,850	5,371	\$1,329,758	2,765	\$1,319,050	2,652	\$1,265,632	4,412

# HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

**Robert J. Clinton Summer Youth Enrichment Summit (YES!)** • Named after the Agency's original CEO, the Robert J. Clinton Summer Youth Enrichment Summit (YES!) is a series of regional week-long summer enrichment camps targeted at youth ages 12-14. Youth who attend benefit from experiences made possible by public donations, local fundraisers, business community sponsorship, and competitive grant awards. Participants complete a pre- and post-survey to measure gains and demonstrate outcomes.

The purpose of YES! is to provide youth a summer day camp with the opportunity for experiences to enrich, empower, and inspire them to reach their full potential as students and citizens. YES! provides a well-rounded slate of hands-on activities, community services projects, and educational field trips based on the STEAM model that focuses on science, technology, engineering, art & agriculture, and math & money management. After a one year hiatus in 2020 and a unique virtual format in 2021 due to the pandemic, YES! returned to an in-person format in 2022 with four sites in Bainbridge, Blakely, Camilla, and Moultrie. We are extremely proud to offer this innovative summer experience and are equally proud of the 85 youth participants for 2022!





### You Can Help!

Tax-deductible contributions to benefit the Robert J. Clinton Youth Enrichment Summit are accepted year-round. The *Going for the Green* Golf Tournament is also held each May during National Community Action Month. You can donate online at www.swgacac.com or contact the Agency at 229/985-3610 or 800/642-3384 today to become a part of the team!



# **HOUSING & ENERGY**

Let conservation. Reduced energy loss, which yields lower home fuel/utility costs, is achieved by preventing infiltration of the elements through measures such as insulation, sealing with two-part foam, caulking, and minor home repairs. Other programs are designed to assist with repair of deteriorating housing conditions, including major renovation of homes. All services are dependent on funding source guidelines such as various homeownership requirements and income eligibility.

**Weatherization** • Weatherization activities include housing renovation measures that reduce energy use for homeowners or renters. Our objective is to reduce home air leakage, thereby reducing energy loss and ultimately energy cost. Funding amounts are determined by *Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)* and are based on population and income standards for the service area.

#### **Green is Our Favorite Color!**

Weatherization returns \$4.50 to households and society for every dollar invested including \$2.78 in non-energy benefits.
The average annual home utility bill Savings is \$283 or more depending on the housing type, location, and fuel source.
The average household's out of pocket medical expenses decrease by \$514 per year after weatherization.
Total health & household related benefits for each weatherized unit is \$14,148.
Weatherization benefits communities by providing safer and more energy efficient housing stock and increased economic activity.

A Weatherization Auditor assesses each housing unit to determine the energy measures that will result in the greatest savings for each client. This technical assessment is a complete energy audit which serves as a guide for the weatherization field staff. Weatherization field staff are responsible for conducting diagnostic tests on each housing unit, utilizing what is referred to as "blower door" equipment to pinpoint air leakage and determine the total amount of air leakage that must be sealed to help reduce costs resulting from energy loss.

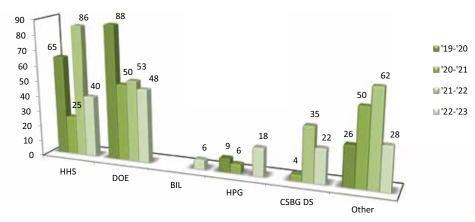
Indoor air quality that promotes a "healthy" home is also a weatherization focus. Air quality measures such as vented stove hoods, bathroom exhaust fans, and whole house energy recovery ventilators (ERVs) are now required. Health and safety measures are a top priority and include installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) requires that all tasks performed on homes meet the specifications, objectives, and desired outcomes outlined in the Standard Work Specifications (SWS). We must meet technical requirements for field work including audits/testing, installation of energy conservation measures, health and safety, incidental repairs and final inspection. In order for a home to be reported as a completed unit it must receive a final inspection by a certified Quality Control Inspector (QCI) who ensures that all work meets the minimum specifications outlined by the SWS.

# **HOUSING & ENERGY**

Housing Jobs Completed by Program Funding Source\*



\* Weatherization funding sources include U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). BIL is Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funded through DOE. HPG is USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grant. CSBG DS is Community Services Block Grant Disaster Supplemental (Hurricane Michael). *Other* includes weatherization, preservation, and repair funding provided through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in '21-'22 and '22-'23; CSBG CARES Act in '20-'21 and '21-'22; Truist Foundation in '20-'21; The Richard C. Munroe Foundation in '19-'20 and '20-'21; CSBG in '19-'20; and anonymous donations. HPG funding awarded for '21-'22 was delayed due to reorganization within USDA and the pandemic.



A Weatherization Technician utilizes "Blower Door" equipment (top left) to pinpoint energy loss and identify where to focus weatherization efforts. Technicians seal attic areas using two-part foam to prevent energy loss (top middle). A technician installs baffles for soffit vents (top right). Attic sealing and duct sealing and repair have already taken place, while attic insulation is ready to be blown in (bottom left). Completed work is ready for final inspection (bottom right).

# HOUSING & ENERGY

**Preservation & Repair Services** • The Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program, funded by *Rural Housing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture*, provides the Agency a perfect complement to weatherization services. The purpose of this program is to preserve existing housing by removing or repairing substandard conditions. Combining resources from HPG and weatherization programs strengthen our ability to provide needed assistance on the "whole" house, as HPG can provide services that go beyond weatherization measures to include upgrades to the structural integrity of homes.

In response to lingering damage to many homes in Southwest Georgia caused by 2018's Hurricane Michael, the Agency received approximately \$2.3 million in *Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)* disaster funding to provide extensive repairs to homes of underinsured homeowners. The grant for this program was awarded in 2020 and was funded through September 2022. Rehabilitation was completed to enable 61 families to return to their homes.

**Collaborative Housing Ventures** • We partner with many social service organizations, government entities, and community-based groups to exchange referrals and leverage funding to expand our capacity to meet housing needs and increase housing options for the clients we serve. Examples include partnerships with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, USDA Rural Development 504 Loan Program, Truist Foundation, Georgia Watch, and various local community foundations.



#### **Housing Preservation Grant**

HPG provides funds to remove or repair substandard conditions in low-income owner occupied homes of primarily the elderly and handicapped.



Even the end Start / Early Head Start is a comprehensive child development program designed for children prenatal to age five. Head Start is funded by the *Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)* through the *Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Head Start (OHS)*. The Agency first became a Head Start grantee in 1965. Now one of the largest grantees in Georgia, CAC is authorized to provide Head Start services for 18 counties to 1,796 preschool children and families. Early Head Start services are provided to 327 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women for a combined Head Start *and* Early Head Start authorization of 2,123 enrollment slots.



Head Start/Early Head Start

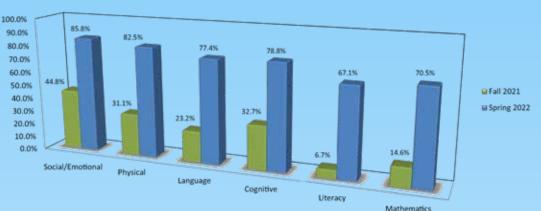
information provided is for

the 2021-2022 school year.

Head Start/Early Head Start services are provided through a network of 21 Child Development Centers (CDCs). (*See page 27 for contact information.*)



#### Percentage of Four-Year-Olds Meeting Readiness Benchmark



Growth reports for children served by the Agency's Head Start/Early Head Start Program indicate that children made significant progress among the six domains of measurement. Children are usually assessed in the fall, winter, and spring of the school year. The graph above shows the gains from the fall assessment to the spring assessment by indicating the percentage of four-year-olds who met the readiness benchmark for each domain. These gains provide proof that Head Start is a worthwhile investment in Southwest Georgia!

**Program Operation** • CAC operates a full year, full day, center based option in which Head Start children attend the program 6.5 hours per day for a minimum of 1,020 hours annually while Early Head Start children attend 7 hours per day for a minimum of 1,380 hours annually as required by Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. CDC calendars are based on local public school system calendars as much as possible.

**Performance Standards and Accountability** • Extensive accountability measures continuously track our success in meeting Program Performance Standards. Financial and narrative progress reports are submitted to ACF throughout the year, while a Performance Information Report (PIR) is submitted annually and covers multiple measures of performance required by the Performance Standards. We also conduct an annual Self Assessment to review outcomes for the year. Furthermore, our program undergoes regularly scheduled intensive on-site federal reviews where a team of specialists validates compliance with the Performance Standards.

**Day Care Licensing** • Day care licensing is not required for traditional Head Start services. However, we maintain licensing for all CDCs. Licensing affords us the option of one day providing after-school and extended day services among other benefits. Additionally, each center participates in State rating through Quality Rated Child Care. Licensing and Quality Rating validate the quality of services provided at each site. As of January 31, 2023, thirteen (13) centers are rated with two (2) or three (3) star ratings. The remaining nine (9) centers are at various points in the ratings process.

### **Average Monthly Enrollment** (As a Percentage of Funded Enrollment) 100.0% 97.4% 80.0% Head Start Early HS 60.0% 40.0% 20.0% 0.0%

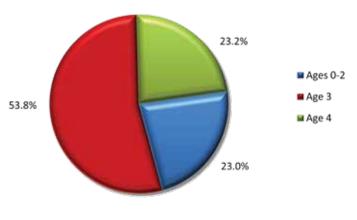


**Total Number of Children and Families Served:** 2,258 This total includes 14 pregnant women and includes children and families that entered and exited the program prior to the end of the school year.

Percentage of Eligible Children Served: The Agency's community assessment indicates that there are approximately 3,686 children ages three and four and 5,529 children under age three who reside in the Head Start service area and are **income eligible** for Head Start/Early Head Start. Head Start served 1,777 eligible children (48.2%) and Early Head Start served 424 eligible children (7.7%) for a combined percentage of 23.9%.

Another 57 children whose family incomes fell between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line were served in accordance with Head Start guidelines.

### Percentage of Cumulative Enrollment by Age\*



\* does not include the enrollment of 14 pregnant women

Head Start is ... a federally funded comprehensive child development program that has served low-income children and their families since 1965. Head Start programs serve children in families earning income at or below the federal poverty level.

Head Start actually consists of two programs: Head Start (serving families with children ages three and four) and Early Head Start (serving infants and toddlers under the age of three, pregnant women, and their families).

Funding goes directly from the federal government to local grantees. The federal government provides 80 percent of the annual cost to operate the program, and the remaining 20 percent must be generated locally. This non-federal share may be in the form of monetary contributions, donations of goods or services, or volunteer hours.

Go to www.nhsa.org to find out more about the impressive benefits of Head Start and Early Head Start services.

The Role of the Policy Council ... In accordance with Head Start requirements, we maintain a formal structure of shared governance through which parents of children enrolled in the program participate in policy-making and decisions about our program. The Policy Council works in partnership with key management staff of the Agency and is comprised of 51% parents and 49% community representatives.

**Education** • We provide children with activities that help them develop cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically. The preschool (Head Start) and infant/toddler (Early Head Start) programs use *Learn Every Day, The Preschool Curriculum* which is enhanced with *Imagine It!, Second Step* social/emotional curriculum materials, and *Rhyme-A-Week* phonological awareness program. Services provided to expecting families include prenatal and postnatal education home visits and group socialization activities. All families have the opportunity to participate in monthly workshops and a *Nurturing Parenting* program curriculum.

Preschool children are screened upon entry into the program in the areas of motor skills, language and concepts. The *Brigance Head Start Screen III* instrument is used for this purpose. Infants and toddlers are screened annually using the *Brigance Early Head Start Screen*. Ongoing assessment of each child continues throughout the year using checklists and the *Teaching Strategies GOLD* assessment instrument.

Our goal from birth to age five is to introduce the children to age appropriate skill sets and experiences that will prepare them to succeed in public school. We provide transition activities for children and parents that include field trips to kindergarten, workshops on requirements for kindergarten registration and kindergarten expectations, and a transition packet of activities for each child and parent.

#### **School Readiness Goals**

We have developed a set of school readiness goals that are aligned with Teaching Strategies GOLD, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (HSELOF) Birth to Five, and the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). These include objectives for language development and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, and approaches toward learning.

#### Language Development & Literacy

- Children will comprehend and use increasingly complex and varied vocabulary for conversation and communication.
- Children will develop age appropriate literacy knowledge and skills through experiences with phonological awareness, letter knowledge, book and print knowledge, and early writing concepts.
- Children will maintain proficiency in their primary language while making progess in understanding and using English.

#### **Cognition & General Knowledge**

- Children will develop age appropriate math awareness through experiences with number and quantity, geometry and spatial thinking, measurement and comparison, and algebraic thinking concepts.
- Children will develop problem solving skills through observation, discovery, and the exploration of their natural world.

#### **Well-Being & Motor Development**

- Children will practice safe habits and healthy behaviors.
- Children will develop control, strength, and physical coordination through age appropriate fine motor and gross motor activities.

#### **Social & Emotional Development**

- Children will develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
- Children will develop positive self-awareness and self-confidence.
- Children will develop the ability to manage behavior and emotions with increasing independence within the context of daily routines and group experiences.
- Children will develop an understanding of self related to family and community.

#### **Approaches Toward Learning**

- Children will develop creativity and imagination through music, movement, drama, and art.
- Children will engage in a variety of experiences in order to promote curiousity, initiative, and a love of learning.
- Children will develop the ability to show self-direction, persistence and flexibility in actions and behavior, and be able to sustain focus and attention in completing tasks.

**Emergent & Family Literacy** • Emergent and family literacy is a priority for Head Start. Programs and special events such as *Let's Read!*, *Okie Dokie Book Day, Read Across America, Literacy for Georgia (L4G), Get Georgia Reading Campaign*, library card sign-up, literacy workshops, and others reinforce the need to read aloud to children and to increase children's vocabulary.

**Family & Community Partnerships** • Head Start encourages strong communication and cooperation within communities to improve the delivery of services to children and their families. A team of Family Service Workers, Parent Involvement Assistants, and Family/Community Partnership Specialists works to build collaborative relationships with families and other resource agencies to address a variety of needs in Head Start families. These services are provided to strengthen and stabilize family units and sustain an environment that fosters school success.



**Parent, Family, & Community Engagement** • Parent Engagement has long been a cornerstone of Head Start / Early Head Start and is an ongoing process that focuses on the changing interests of today's parents and families. We establish a partnership and collaboration with all Head Start parents because we believe that parents play a crucial role in the success of our program and are their child's most important educators.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in all aspects of the program. They assist our program with self-assessment, program planning, curriculum planning, center activities, parent trainings, budget development, and other functions that enhance program outcomes. Opportunities for parental engagement provided during the past year include:

- Parent Orientations (July & January)
- Monthly Workshops
- Monthly Parent Meetings
- Parent/Community Service Projects
- Volunteer Orientation (October)
- Center Volunteers
- Monday Morning Mom Support Groups

Our program focuses on achieving positive family outcomes that support positive child outcomes such as enhancing school readiness skills, sustained learning, and developmental gains into elementary

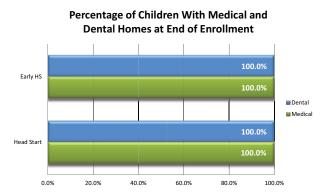
**Head Start Parent & Family Engagement Outcomes** 

school. We incorporate the Head Start Parent and Family Engagement Outcomes into our daily family engagement activities, planning activities, and program policies and procedures. The seven outcomes that we focus on are:

- 1. family well-being
- 2. positive parent-child relationships
- 3. families as lifelong educators
- 4. families as learners
- 5. family engagement in transitions
- 6. family connections to peers and community
- 7. families as advocates and leaders
- Strong Fathers, Strong Families Male Involvement/Fatherhood Initiative
- Bi-monthly Policy Council Meetings and Trainings
- Parent Educational Activities of the Parents' Interest (October & March)
- Home Visits for Dialogue About Ways Parents Can Contribute to Their Child's Development at Home
- School Readiness Advisory Meetings
- Health Services Advisory Committee Meetings (October & April)
- Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, & Attendance (ERSEA) Committee
- Parent Health and Community Resource Fair

#### Page 20 / SWGACAC Year In Review

**Health Services** • Head Start takes a holistic approach in addressing the needs of families and distinguishes itself from other childcare and preschool alternatives by ensuring that each child has accessible health care. These services include professional health screenings and examinations and follow-up medical treatment, dental exams and resulting dental work, mental health assessments and referral, nutrition assessments and treatment, immunization, and safety education just to name a few.



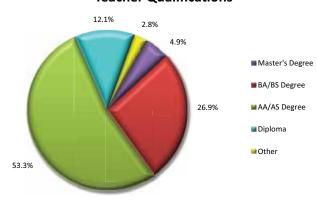
Head Start is a program inclusive of all children and families. It is well known for its non-discriminatory practices, especially in its commitment to serving children with disabilities. CAC promotes inclusion by actively recruiting children with disabilities in collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEA) and State Education Agencies (SEA) to maintain compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Also, a collaborative agreement is maintained with Babies Can't Wait for the provision of disability services for infants and toddlers. Furthermore, children needing bahavior modification services are served through contractual agreements with local mental health service providers.

**Transportation** • Reliable and safe transportation is always a priority in meeting the needs of the families in our rural service area. A fleet in excess of 40 buses provides limited transportation service for children to and from the CDCs and for medical appointments when necessary.

**Professional Development** • Ongoing training and professional development opportunities are provided for all staff members. Our administrative staff is highly qualified to provide many types of staff training. We have two Heartsaver First Aid/CPR AED trainers certified through American Heart Association, seven Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) reliable observers, one National Child Passenger Safety (CPS) certified technician, one certified AAA Driver Improvement Program instructor, and many others who are very knowledgeable in their fields and hold various specialized certifications.

Each staff member has an individualized professional development plan that is tailored to his/her needs. Throughout the school year, trainings are provided at the local level on staff development days. All staff in the centers must obtain 10 hours of DECAL training, while teachers must have 15 hours of early childhood training annually. Everyone receives training annually on Child Abuse and Neglect and Bloodborne Pathogens, and all staff are certified in First Aid and CPR. Moreover, during the month of July a three day Pre-Service Conference is provided for our entire Head Start staff. Twenty to thirty workshops are presented during this time.

All Head Start lead teachers hold at least an associate college degree, with more than one-third holding a bachelor's degree or higher. The majority of our Early Head Start caregivers hold an associate degree or higher as well, although not required by the Head Start Act or Program Performance Standards. All assistant teachers also meet or exceed education requirements. All of our nutrition service managers have the ServSafe Food Managers certification. All CDC supervisors, nutrition service workers, teachers and assistant teachers have the ServSafe Food Handlers certification.



#### **Teacher Qualifications**



#### The Head Start/Early Head Start Advantage

Decades of research have documented that children who participate in Head Start receive countless benefits. Impacts appear immediately, last a lifetime, and even benefit the subsequent generation. Here are just a few examples.

- Head Start children significantly reduce their vocabulary gap during the program year.
- Head Start children are more likely to graduate high school.
- Head Start children are more likely to attend college and earn some form of post-secondary degree.
- Head Start children are less likely to be incarcerated.
- Head Start children are less likely to use drugs or have hypertension through their mid-30s.
- Head Start children are less likely to smoke as adults.
- Parents of 3-year-old Head Start children advance their own education more by the time the child is 6.

#### **CLASS**

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), an observation instrument developed to assess classroom quality, is used in our preschool classrooms to provide professional development, program planning, and accountability. The three major domains of the CLASS include Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. CLASS observations provide important feedback that confirms strengths and pinpoints areas where improvement can be made.

What we instill in our children will be the foundation upon which they build their future.

-Steve Maraboli



**Child Development Program Mission** • To provide a strong foundation through resources and services for children, families, and staff so they can become self-sufficient, healthy, and well-rounded individuals.

**Vision** • To provide quality services to all eligible children and families in our communities.

#### Head Start/Early Head Start Budget and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2023

	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	
U.S. DHHS, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAM	AILIES		
Salaries	\$12,350,059	\$10,844,493	
Fringe Benefits	4,063,357	3,484,200	
Travel	222,748	57,982	
Supplies	535,259	763,051	
Contractual	158,250	121,137	
Other (utilities, building/vehicle maintenance, fuel	l, training, etc.) 1,970,433	2,613,168	
COVID (American Rescue Plan Act)	1,812,635	1,812,635	
Indirect (federally approved rate)	<u>1,997,404</u>	2,193,143	
SUB-TOTAL	23,110,145		21,889,809
<b>BRIGHT FROM THE START</b> Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Pre-K SUB-TOTAL <b>TOTAL</b>	No Budget, Reimbursable No Budget, Reimbursable	1,917,557 <u>233,580</u>	<u>2,151,137</u> \$24,040,946
			φ2 1/0 10// 10
OTHER In-kind Donations ( <i>required minimum 20% local m</i> GRAND TOTAL	<u>4,197,791</u> <b>\$28,238,737</b>		

**Monitoring & Review** • The annual Head Start/Early Head Start program self-assessment was completed in May of 2022. The review found the program to be in compliance with Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards and confirmed that strong management systems are in place with a solid organizational structure.

OHS utilizes five year grant periods for all Head Start/Early Head Start grantees. This report covers the second year of our current five year grant cycle. On-site monitoring reviews are conducted annually. The most recent review of our Head Start/Early Head Start program was a *Focus Area Two* review that offered an opportunity to discuss our program design, management, and governance structure. We also explained our staffing structure and described in detail our approaches to program design, education, health services, family services, fiscal infrastructure, and program governance. We also were selected for a *CLASS Video Pilot* review where 46 of our Head Start classrooms were recorded while in session. The videos were then scored by Teachstone using the CLASS observation system. Scores far exceeded the competitive threshold in each of the three scoring domains.

The most recent Agency audit was conducted by Clausell and Associates, CPAs, P.C. The auditors issued an unmodified (clean) opinion with all funds received and expended being fully accounted for. A copy of the audit report is available for review at the Agency Headquarters in Moultrie.

# **FUNDING ANALYSIS**

Unaudited as of January 31, 2023	
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)	
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$ 934,014
CSBG Disaster Supplemental (Hurricane Michael)	1,139,737
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	5,679,513
LIHEAP - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	3,400,093 _ <u>1,803,415</u>
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) SUB-TOTAL	<u>_1,005,415</u> \$12,956,772
	<i><i><i></i></i></i>
U.S. DHHS, ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES Head Start Federal/Federal Training & Technical Assistance	16 710 649
Head Start Non-Federal/Non-Federal T&TA	16,710,648 4,177,662
Early Head Start Federal / Federal T&TA	4,586,862
Early Head Start Non-Federal/Non-Federal T&TA	1,146,716
COVID (ARPA)	3,179,127
SUB-TOTAL	29,801,015
BRIGHT FROM THE START	
Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	1,724,455
GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (GEFA)	
HHS Weatherization	219,294
HHS (ARPA)	177,869
DOE Weatherization DOE Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	228,179 764,969
SUB-TOTAL	
	_,= , = , = , =
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RURAL HOUSING SERVICE Housing Preservation Grant	119,841
riousing rieservation Grant	119,041
PRIVATE HOUSING GRANT	20.000
Anonymous Donation	20,000
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program	226,788
ESG CARES Act SUB-TOTAL	<u>    100,000</u> 326,788
	020,700
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)	27 701
Emergency Food & Shelter Grant Emergency Food & Shelter Grant CARES Act	27,701 86,821
SUB-TOTAL	114,522
PROJECT H.O.P.E.	
City of Albany	90,964
<b>UNITED WAY</b> (some funding is shown elsewhere) Colquitt County: Senior Nutrition	27 500
Colquitt County: YES!	27,500 3,000
Decatur County: YES!	3,450
SUB-TOTAL	33,950
COLQUITT COUNTY EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND	
Colquitt County United Way	45,000
Colquitt County Board of Commissioners	10,000
City of Moultrie Utility Check Off	1,905
Donations by Religious Organizations SUB-TOTAL	<u>    10,400</u> 67,305
ROBERT J. CLINTON SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT SUMMIT (YES!	
GRAND TOTAL	\$46,667,823

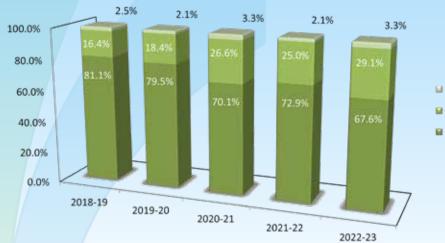
### **FUNDING ANALYSIS**

### **Source of Funding**



#### ■A ■B ■C ■D ■E

Georgia Department of Human Services	<b>27.8</b> %
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services,	
Administration for Children & Families	<b>63.9</b> %
Bright From the Start (State of Georgia)	3.7%
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority	3.0%
USDA Rural Development, Rural Housing Service;	<b>1.6</b> %
Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA);	
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);	
United Way (various counties); and	
Other State, Local, and Private Funding	
	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families Bright From the Start (State of Georgia) Georgia Environmental Finance Authority USDA Rural Development, Rural Housing Service; Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); United Way (various counties); and



### **Use of Funding**

Housing & Energy
 Community Services
 Head Start

### **NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTERS**

A network of 11 Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs) is maintained by the Agency. These offices are located throughout the 14 counties within the Agency's primary service area and serve as the local sites where clients can apply for all services other than Head Start/Early Head Start. (*Refer to the map on page three.*)

Baker County residents are served through the Mitchell County NSC, Lee County residents are served through the Dougherty County NSC, and Seminole County residents are served through the Miller County NSC.

Baker County 165 West Circle Drive Camilla 31730 (229) 336-5797

Calhoun County 104 Maxwell Street Arlington 39813 (229) 725-1325

Colquitt County 912 First Avenue SE Moultrie 31768 (229) 985-3610

Decatur County 1732 Bethel Road Bainbridge 39817 (229) 246-3119

Dougherty County 317 West First Avenue Albany 31701 (229) 883-1365

Early County 1241 South Main Street Blakely 39823 (229) 723-3190

Grady County 260 Second Avenue SE Cairo 39828 (229) 377-3213 Lee County 317 West First Avenue Albany 31701 (229) 883-1365

Miller County 360 South Fourth Street Colquitt 39837 (229) 758-2848

Mitchell County 165 West Circle Drive Camilla 31730 (229) 336-5797

Seminole County 360 South Fourth Street Colquitt 39837 (229) 758-2848

Terrell County 771 Rountree Drive SW Dawson 39842 (229) 995-4121

Thomas County 127A/B Smith Avenue Thomasville 31792 (229) 228-1162

Worth County 504 East Price Street Sylvester 31791 (229) 776-4851

### **CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS**

A network of 21 Child Development Centers (CDCs) provides Head Start/Early Head Start services throughout the 18-county Head Start service area. (*Refer to the map on page three.*)

Dougherty County Administrative Office 317 West First Avenue Albany 31701 (229) 436-9022

Mt. Zion Model Classroom Training Center 209 Slater King Drive Albany 31701 (229) 436-6234

Baker County 139 Roosevelt Street Newton 39870 (229) 734-5564

Calhoun County 18904 Morgan Road Arlington 39813 (229) 725-3442

Colquitt County 570 Jonah Tillman Road Moultrie 31788 (229) 985-7400

CRK 2103 East Broad Avenue Albany 31705 (229) 432-5440

Decatur/Grady 215 School Road Climax 39834 (229) 246-6458

Early County 5050 Freeman Road Blakely 39823 (229) 723-6814

Harvey Road 2423 Harvey Road Albany 31701 (229) 446-4959 Lee County 145 Groover Street Leesburg 31763 (229) 759-2559

Leslie 264 Leslie Highway Leesburg 31763 (229) 759-1800

Lippitt 819 Lippitt Drive Albany 31701 (229) 420-7331

Miller County 739 North 4th Street Colquitt 39837 (229) 758-3860

Mitchell County 111 South Perry Street Camilla 31730 (229) 522-9995

Moultrie Road 111 Moultrie Road Albany 31705 (229) 435-6580

Seminole County 710 East MLK Drive Donalsonville 39845 (229) 524-6060 Sumter County 915 North Lee Street Americus 31719 (229) 924-7666

Terrell County 2526 Albany Highway Dawson 39842 (229) 995-3473

Thomas County 915 Lester Street Thomasville 31792 (229) 226-2595

Tift 622 West Tift Avenue Albany 31701 (229) 434-7338

Tri-County 116 Rogers Street Buena Vista 31803 (229) 649-3389

Whitney 1129 West Whitney Avenue Albany 31701 (229) 436-2055

Worth County 504 East Price Street Sylvester 31791 (229) 776-5081

# **THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE**

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

### HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.



WWW.SWGACAC.COM 912 FIRST AVENUE, S.E. & P.O. BOX 3728 & MOULTRIE, GEORGIA 31776-3728 229-985-3610 & 800-642-3384 & FAX: 229-890-1056 MEMBER & GEORGIA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION WWW.GEORGIACAA.ORG