

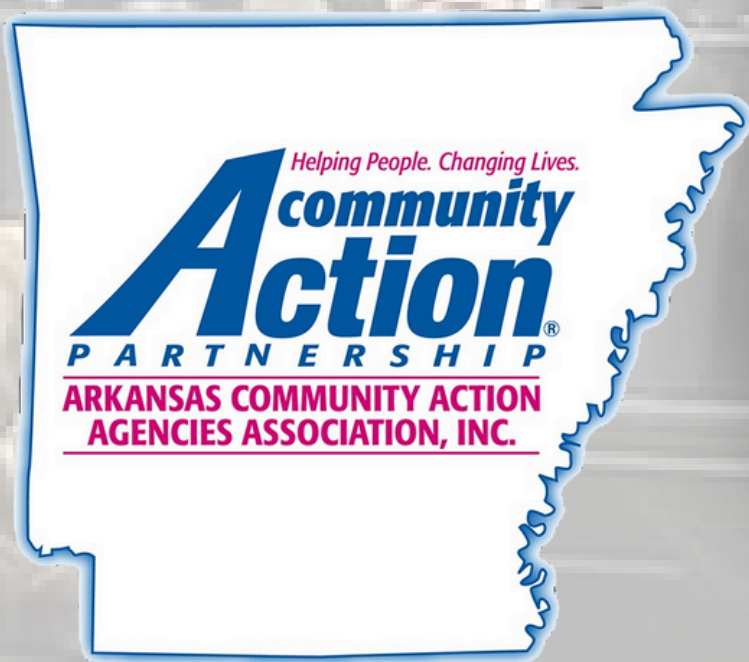
2024



OCTOBER 2023 – SEPTEMBER 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Helping People. Changing Lives.



www.acaaa.org





OUR MISSION

The Statewide Voice for Community Action Since 1974

ACAAA's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and a unified voice for Community Action Agencies to reduce poverty and promote thriving communities in Arkansas.

It is not what you get out of life that counts. It's what you give and what is given from the heart.

Sargent Shriver



Our Team



Tomekia Moore, Executive Director

ACAAA Board Officers

President: Delia Anderson, Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County

Vice President: Jeremy Wooldridge, Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc.

Secretary: Richard "Toby" Atkinson, Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Treasurer: Richard "Toby" Atkinson, Ozark Opportunities, Inc.

Immediate Past President: Jennifer Welter, Community Action Program for Central Arkansas, Inc.

ACAAA Board Directors

Rhonda Ahrent, Black River Area Development Corp.

Staci Albert, Northcentral Arkansas Development Council, Inc.

Marc Baker, Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Inc.

Leslie Paschal Barnes, Community Services Office, Inc.

Stephanie Garner, Arkansas River Valley Area Council, Inc.

Priscilla Johnson, Mississippi County Arkansas Economic Opportunity Commission, Inc.

Michael Jones, Southeast Arkansas Community Action Corp.

Randy Morris, Central Arkansas Development Council, Inc.

Bobbie Salter, Mid-Delta Community Services, Inc.

Michelle Tallent, Central Delta Community Action Agency

50 Years of Service



The Promise of Community Action

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

1974

Establishment of the State Association

A Resource Hub for Community Action in Arkansas

On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced to the people of America that he was declaring a "War on Poverty."

The opening salvo of this campaign—just one of many such ambitious undertakings envisioned by the President as building blocks for his proposed "Great Society"—would be the Economic Opportunity Act of that same year. From that act would be born the Community Action Program, and from that program, the Community Action Agencies that would eventually number over 1,000 across the country.

As the years progressed and more and more Community Action Agencies came into being across Arkansas—there are currently 15 in operation across the state—the need for a centralized association grew. A decade after the national birth of Community Action came its state-level little sibling, the organization that began in 1974 and eventually grew to become the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association that we know today.



50 Years of Service



A Journey in Time - Arkansas Community Action



Resilience

Dedication



Results-Driven



50 Years of Service



A Journey in Time - Arkansas Community Action



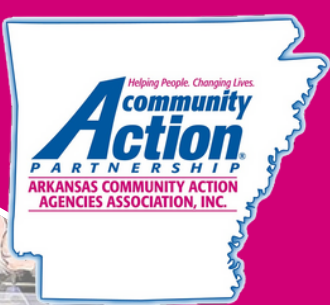
Innovation

Strategic



Compassion





TOOLS & RESOURCES

THE ACAAA LAUNCH PAD

YOUR WEEKLY
CONNECTION TO
COMMUNITY ACTION &
IMPACT

The ACAA Launch Pad

serves as a vital storytelling tool, amplifying the voices and efforts of the Network while fostering connections with stakeholders statewide. Key impact areas include:

- Strengthening communication across the Network
- Elevating impact
- Engaging stakeholders
- Promoting advocacy & awareness
- Bridging community connections

Reaching over 1300 subscribers weekly, the ACAA Launch Pad serves as a beacon for the Network. It ensures that the work of empowering Arkansas communities remains visible, celebrated, and impactful.



2024



TOOLS & RESOURCES

RISE

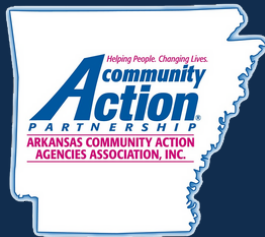
AMPLIFYING
COMMUNITY VOICES
THROUGH
STORYTELLING

RISE, ACAA's monthly social media vlog, has become a powerful platform for elevating the voices of Arkansas communities across the Network. With over 1,000 viewers tuning in each month, this storytelling tool is making a significant impact across the state.

Through engaging and authentic storytelling, **RISE** educates viewers about the challenges faced by vulnerable populations and the vital role Community Action plays in addressing these needs. This deeper understanding strengthens public support for community initiatives.

The powerful stories featured in ***RISE*** motivate viewers to get involved. This translates into tangible support for Community Action initiatives across the entire state of Arkansas.





ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVANCING THE
MISSION OF
COMMUNITY ACTION

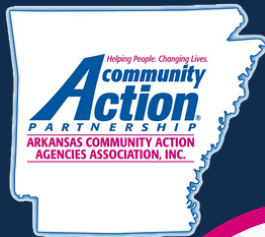
ACAAA champions the mission of Community Action through strategic efforts. Engaging directly with key policymakers—Sen. John Boozman, US Rep. Rick Crawford, US Rep. Steve Womack, and US Rep. Bruce Westerman—ACAAA highlighted critical issues affecting Arkansas communities and secured support for impactful programs and initiatives. Through meetings with these influential leaders, ACAA brought urgent community needs to the forefront. Discussions targeted:

- Expanding access to federal funding for poverty reduction programs.
- Supporting initiatives that promote economic and social mobility.
- Highlighting the role of Community Action Agencies in delivering services to underserved populations.



2024





ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

STATE SUPPORT

ADVOCACY AT WORK IN ARKANSAS



2024

ACAAA's advocacy for Head Start programs took center stage in 2024, underscoring the importance of sustained support for Head Start programs. ACAA highlighted the role these programs play in fostering child development, empowering families, and building stronger communities. ACAA also strengthened relationships with partners across the state, fostering a united front to tackle challenges. These partnerships ensure a more coordinated approach to Community Action.

ACAAA's state-level advocacy also established a foundation for collaboration with state leaders and agencies. By continuing to prioritize solutions, ACAA is driving meaningful change and ensuring that the Network has access to tools that empower and uplift.



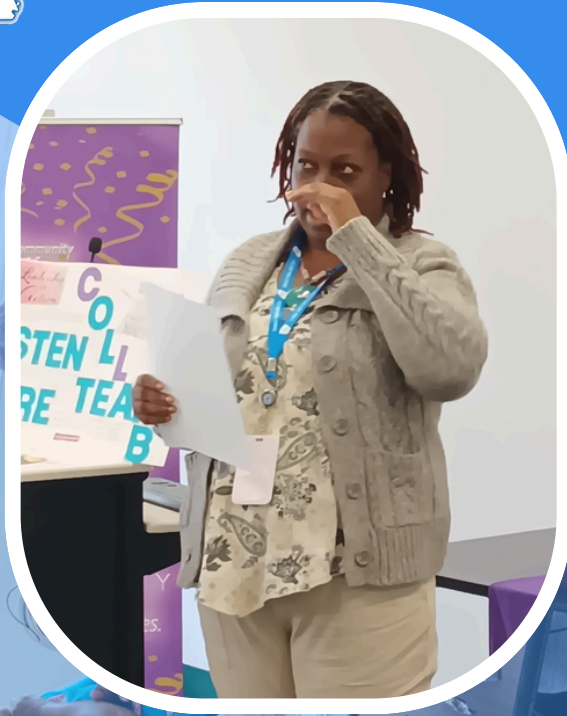


EDUCATION & TRAINING

QUALITY TRAINING

THE ACAAA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The ACAA Leadership Academy, a transformative initiative, equips emerging leaders across Arkansas with the skills and knowledge to drive meaningful change. Now in its third cohort, the ***Leadership Academy*** continues to create lasting benefits for participants and the communities they serve. Participants engage in comprehensive training on leadership development, strategic planning, advocacy, and community engagement. These skills empower them to lead more effectively within their organizations. Participants also develop lasting professional relationships, creating a network of support that extends beyond the program. These connections are instrumental in fostering statewide partnerships and aligning efforts to address systemic challenges.



2024





EDUCATION & TRAINING

QUALITY TRAINING

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
CERTIFICATION (FDC)

The ACAA Family Development Program, accredited by the University of Connecticut, is a cornerstone initiative designed to empower families, build resilience, and break the cycle of poverty across Arkansas. Through evidence-based practices and a holistic approach, the program has transformed the lives of countless families and strengthened communities statewide. Accreditation by the University of Connecticut underscores the program's commitment to quality and effectiveness. This recognition ensures that the program's curriculum and methodologies meet the highest national standards, providing participants with top-tier support and guidance. By equipping staff with advanced training, the program enhances the ability of CAAs to address the complex needs of the communities they serve.



2024





EDUCATION & TRAINING

QUALITY TRAINING

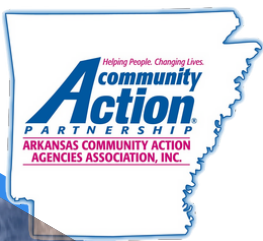
INTRO TO ROMA SESSIONS



Intro to ROMA sessions provide participants with foundational knowledge on utilizing data to assess community needs, plan strategically, and track program outcomes. This emphasis on results-driven approaches ensures that CAAs are maximizing their impact. ROMA sessions align the work of CAAs with the National Performance Standards. By fostering a shared framework for accountability and continuous improvement, these sessions enhance the credibility of the Network. Through ROMA training, CAAs are equipped to design programs that directly address the root causes of poverty and meet the unique needs of their communities. As the Network continues to navigate the ROMA framework, its impact will only deepen.

2024





AMPLIFYING THE VOICE

ONE VOICE IN ACTION

FORMING A VOICE,
BUILDING A BRIDGE

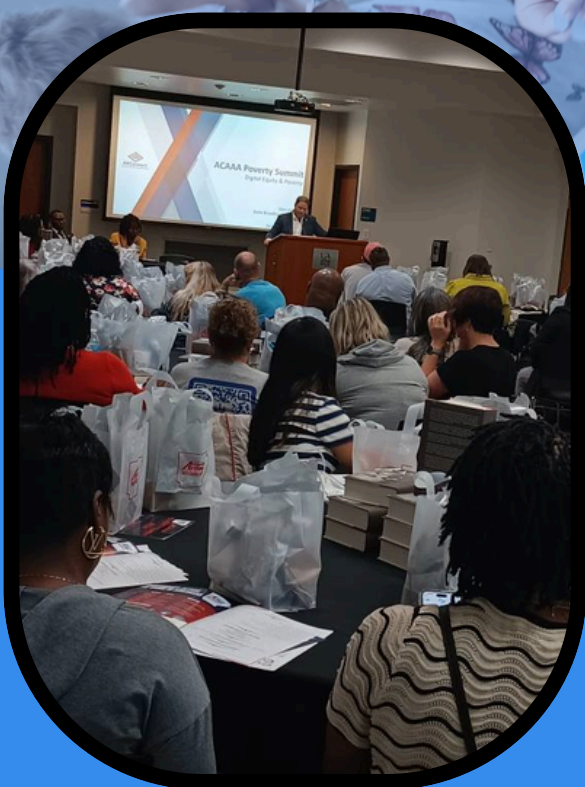


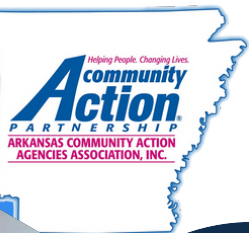
The ACAA Poverty Summit as a pivotal event that fostered shared purpose in the fight against poverty. By bringing together nearly 100 policymakers and community leaders, the summit amplified collective efforts and inspired actionable solutions to address systemic challenges. The platform enabled:

- Partnerships between CAAs, non-profits, businesses, and government entities.
- The exchange of innovative strategies to tackle poverty at its roots.
- Enhanced alignment of efforts, reducing duplication and maximizing resources.

The connections sparked at the summit have led to greater statewide momentum for addressing the root causes of poverty.

2024





AMPLIFYING THE VOICE

ONE VOICE IN ACTION

FORMING A VOICE,
BUILDING A BRIDGE

The 50th Annual ACAA Spring Conference

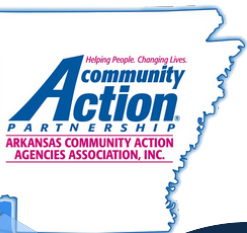
brought together over 200 Community Action Professionals and direct service providers from across Arkansas, creating a dynamic platform for collaboration, learning, and innovation. This milestone event highlighted ACAA's ongoing commitment to empowering those on the frontlines of poverty alleviation.

Marking its 50th year, the event served as a reflection of ACAA's enduring impact and commitment to the war on poverty. It honored the achievements of the past while setting a vision for continued progress. The conference provided a unique space for stakeholders to come together, sparking new partnerships and initiatives that will drive meaningful change for Arkansas communities.



2024





AMPLIFYING THE VOICE

ONE VOICE IN ACTION

FORMING A VOICE,
BUILDING A BRIDGE

The Annual ACAA Board Retreat plays a vital role in strengthening the cohesion and effectiveness of the Network. By bringing together board members and key stakeholders, the retreat fosters unity and strategic alignment.

The retreat creates a space for open dialogue and collaboration among board members, allowing them to:

- Deepen their understanding of each other's roles and perspectives.
- Strengthen interpersonal connections and trust.
- Establish a unified approach to achieving organizational goals.

By fostering solidarity and shared ownership of the mission, the retreat reinforces the importance of collaboration across the Network.



2024





Low-Income People Served

147,761

78,198

Families Served

Dollars Used to Improve
the Lives of Arkansans



\$134,071,968



Community Action in Arkansas

Join Us



Thank you Volunteers!

250,874

Volunteer Hours



Helping People.
Changing Lives.



FY22

Unified for Change



Community Action in Arkansas has transformed lives and communities, serving as a critical force in addressing poverty and creating opportunities. The impact of this work is seen across the state in tangible and meaningful ways:

Empowering Families and Individuals

Through a variety of programs and services, CAAs help families achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Key outcomes include:

- Increased access to affordable housing, healthcare, and nutritious food.
- Job training and education programs that open pathways to employment.
- Support services that reduce the effects of poverty and improve quality of life.

Strengthening Communities

CAAs foster resilience and sustainability by:

- Addressing systemic barriers to economic opportunity.
- Building partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies.
- Investing in community development projects that enhance infrastructure and resources.

Delivering Measurable Impact

With data-driven strategies, Community Action ensures that resources are used effectively to:

- Reduce poverty rates and improve economic outcomes.
- Enhance access to essential services for vulnerable populations.
- Foster long-term solutions that break the cycle of poverty.



Welch, Couch & Company, PA
Certified Public Accountants



THANK YOU PARTNERS



WRIGHT
LINDSEY
JENNINGS



Empowering Arkansas Immigrants
Through Advocacy and Service

