



# Palmetto Community Action Partnership's Impact on the Tri-county Area in 2014

## What is Palmetto Community Action Partnership?

Palmetto Community Action Partnership (Palmetto CAP) is the private non-profit Community Action Agency that serves the economically-disadvantaged residents of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties by increasing self-sufficiency and developing strategies to promote economic independence through partnerships. In 2014, Palmetto CAP served 14,263 individuals in 6,152 families. Palmetto CAP effectively uses federal, state, local and private resources to address the root causes that lead to poverty (both situational and generational) on a local level.

## In 2014, Palmetto Community Action Partnership...

- Spent \$4.2 million with private businesses and utility companies in the local community
- Leveraged \$6.67 for every CSBG dollar allotted
- Prevented the eviction or foreclosure of 146 families
- Prevented 4,240 energy terminations
- Placed 153 people in jobs
- Made 79 homes more safe and energy-efficient via Weatherization
- Provided 6,240 pounds of food
- Provided 6,738 program participants with energy conservation counseling
- Replaced or repaired 77 Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units
- Partnered with more than 113 organizations and companies to provide services to program participants including Dorchester IV School District, Charleston Promise Neighborhood, Trident United Way, Department of Social Services, East Cooper Community Outreach, SCE&G, SC Works Career System, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Trident Technical College, Charleston County School District, Charleston Trident Urban League, and others.
- Programs and services provided include job training, income management, rent/mortgage assistance, job placement, GED/HS diploma assistance, credit counseling, college degree/certification tuition assistance, work support, Affordable Care Act sign-ups, energy counseling, medical/dental/prescription bill assistance, emergency food vouchers, home weatherization repairs, affordable housing for first-time homebuyers, tax preparation, permanent housing for the disabled and chronically homeless, character education, summer camp, energy/water bill assistance, transportation assistance, school uniforms, mentoring, childcare assistance and emergency services.

## Palmetto CAP's Impact In 2014....

Provided services to 14,263 low-income individuals living in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

### Those helped include:

- 6,152 families
- 2,074 homeowners
- 7,241 children under age 18
- 2,802 seniors over age 55
- 1,863 families whose Head of Household was disabled





## Palmetto Community Action Partnership: a Community Action Agency

### More about Community Action...

There are 1,048 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the country that helped 18.7 million low-income Americans achieve economic security in 2012. CAAs are nonprofit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. The Community Action model provided federal funding to local communities to fight poverty at a neighborhood level. It outlined programs for children, juveniles and senior citizens, but it also fostered self-sufficiency initiatives for adults. These agencies cover 99 percent of the nation's counties and serve low-wage workers, retirees and their families in every state as well as Puerto Rico and the Trust Territories. Out of the more than 46 million Americans living in poverty in 2012, the Community Action network was able to serve 20%.

Agencies are connected by a national network that includes the Community Action Partnership national association, regional associations, state associations, a national lobbying organization, and a national association of Community Service Block Grant administrators. CAAs are a primary source of direct support for the more than 46 million people who live in poverty in the United States. The majority of CAA program participants are extremely poor, with gross annual incomes below 75 percent of the federal poverty threshold, or \$14,318 for a family of three (the average family size for the client population).

CAA boards of directors have a unique composition of at least one-third members from the low-income community, exactly one-third public officials, up to one-third members from the private sector.

### The Promise of Community Action:

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 we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Whether it's a Head Start program, Weatherization, job training, housing, food bank, energy assistance, financial education, or any of the other 40+ distinct programs, CAAs work to make America a better place to live.

### More about Palmetto Community Action Partnership...

Since 1968, this agency has served Charleston County first as Charleston County Economic Opportunity Council and then as Charleston County Human Services Commission in 1984 until its recent name change to Palmetto Community Action Partnership in 2015. The main office moved from County Hall on King Street to the former Immaculate Conception School on Coming Street and then to 1069 King Street where it is presently located. Palmetto CAP has been under the leadership of Executive Director Arnold Collins since 1989.

The agency now serves Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. Palmetto CAP receives its funding primarily from Community Services Block Grant, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Economic Opportunity Act Program, the Department of Energy and by private sources. The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is the main funding source for Community Action Agencies around the United States. It is the only federal program exclusively focused on reducing poverty. In 2012, CSBG helped 16 million Americans around the nation achieve economic security. CSBG is administered at the state level through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

Palmetto Community Action Partnership has nine members on its local tri-partite board of directors. The board plans the programs' policies, and approves the programs' budgets. The agency currently has a staff of about 50 employees.