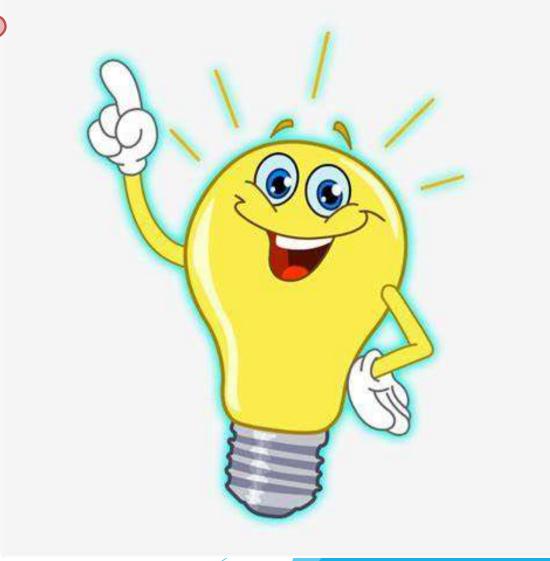


Levy County Board of County Commissioners
July 19, 2022

Formerly Referred to as

Helping People, Changing Lives!

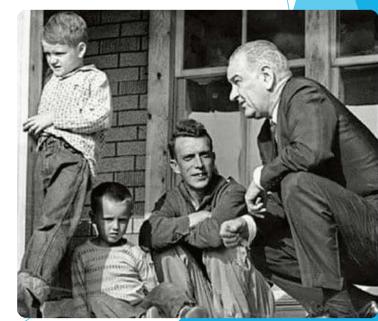


#### THE HISTORY OF CFCAA

- In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared an "unconditional war on poverty" and created the **Economic Opportunity Act**. Working with the poverty task force created by Kennedy, President Johnson created the *Office of Economic Opportunity* to administer a wide variety of poverty prevention programs.
- Community Action Agencies were founded on the idea that local citizens were the most knowledgeable and best equipped to address problems of poverty in their communities.
- > Today, there are approximately 1,000 Community Action Agencies in the United States.
- CFCAA incorporated in 1981, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that is the sole provider of

CSBG, LIHEAP and WAP funds in Alachua, Marion and Levy counties.







<u>Mission</u>: Our mission is to promote economic mobility by helping people living in poverty achieve self-sufficiency.

<u>Vision</u>: We envision a future where the citizens we serve achieve and maintain a standard of living above the established federal poverty guidelines.

#### **Core Values**:

- RESPECT Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- CUSTOMER-FOCUSED Implement a customerfocused approach by removing barriers to self-sufficiency and economic mobility
- EXCELLENCE Maintain a high level of excellence in service delivery and operations
- ADVOCACY Exhibit strong leadership in advocacy efforts to improve the lives of individuals and communities
- INNOVATION —Promote innovation by creating an inclusive culture that embraces change and creates unconventional ideas

### **AGENCY PROFILE**

- > CFCAA is Governed by a 15 Member Board of Directors
- 22 Dedicated Employees
- > 3 Office Locations
  - Gainesville (Alachua County)
  - Ocala (Marion County)
  - Chiefland (Levy County)
- The Agency Provides Assistance (Yearly) to Approximately:
  - **11,000** Individuals
  - **4,200** Households
  - Annual Funding Level of Over \$8,000,000

# 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.





#### **AGENCY PROGRAMS**

#### **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

LIHEAP helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs. CFCAA provides federally-funded assistance in managing costs associated with the following:

- Payment of heating or cooling bills (only the energy costs portion of the bill will be paid)
- Utilities that will be disconnected due to non-payment
- Deposits for beginning utility service

#### Raising & Improving Self-Sufficiency Expectations (R.I.S.E.) Program

The R.I.S.E. program provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to services by empowering individuals to actively pursue economic independence and obtain employment that pays a living wage. The program is designed for goal-oriented individuals who are motivated and persistent in their pursuit of self-sufficiency.

Participants work with a case manager to assess their needs, set goals, and create a specified case plan that is designed to address barriers to self-sufficiency such as employment and education. Individuals must be able to attend college or trade school and work between 20 – 40 hours per week. The R.I.S.E. Program is made available with Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding.

#### Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

WAP enables low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Based upon home pre-inspection and available funding, components of the program may include:

- testing air filtration
- improving heating and air conditioning methods
- replacing or repairing insulation and/or other energy saving measures

To qualify for WAP, the total household income may not be more than 200% of the federal poverty level. Preference is given to owner-occupied homes, elderly (60+) or disabled residents, families with children under 12, and households with a high-energy burden (repeated high utility bills).

#### **❖** Aging in Place (AIP) Home Rehabilitation Program

AIP program assists low-income, elderly homeowners aged 60+ with home rehabilitation modifications that provide elderly residents with increased opportunities to stay in their homes, while preserving their independence and dignity.

#### Aging in Place modifications may include the following:

- 1) Installation of grab bars at back and sides of shower, tub, and toilets
- 2) Raised toilet seats
- 3) Limited mobility ramps
- 4) Task lighting under counter
- 5) Lever door handles
- 6) Removing tub and installing showers with seats
- 7) Any additional modifications that aid in protecting the health and safety of the client

#### How is CFCAA Funded?

- > Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) 99.07%
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Utility & Rental Assistance
  - LIHEAP American Rescue Program (Pandemic)
  - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) RISE
  - CSBG Cares Act (Pandemic)
  - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- > County and Municipal 0.91%
  - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Marion County
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Aging in Place
  - Enhancement programs leveraged with Weatherization Home Repair & Rehabilitation
- ➤ Duke Energy Neighborhood Fund 0.2%



The Strategic Planning Committee developed the following (4) goals:

- 1. CFCAA will help people living in poverty achieve economic mobility and self-sufficiency.
- 2. CFCAA will enhance its capacity to achieve results.
- 3. CFCAA will improve its overall financial health.
- 4. CFCAA will help people living in poverty improve the communities in which they live.

# Top 4 Community Needs Identified:

- #1. Employment
- #2. Housing
- #3. Transportation
- #4. Education

# **10 KEY FINDINGS:**

- 1. The population of CFCAA's service area in 2017 was 650,285 as compared to 630,850 in previous Community Needs Assessment.
- 2. One in six people (15%) in CFCAA's service area lives in poverty.
- 3. Nearly three out of every ten children (28.7%) lives in poverty.
- 4. 37% of survey respondents identified lack of good paying jobs in the area.
- 5. 19% of survey respondents said they lack the skill set to obtain well-pay<mark>ing jobs.</mark>
- 6. Over 60% of jobs in Levy County, and over 80% of jobs in Alachua and Marion Counties are in service related fields which require fewer skills, but where wages are lower and benefits often not available.

## 10 KEY FINDINGS (continued):

- 7. Transportation remains a major challenge in rural areas and smaller cities. Households with a restricted income cannot afford the cost of running and maintaining their own vehicle.
- 8. 85% of employed survey respondents earned less than \$25,000 last year and 53% of those earned less than \$12,000.
- 9. Acquiring a job does not necessarily raise a person out of poverty. Access to better paying jobs requires more education and better skills.
- 10. The median gross rent in 2017 was \$871 in Alachua County, \$671 in Levy County, and \$803 in Marion County. Rent may take half or more of a household's net income. Renting makes up 76% in CFCAA service area, while 19% are homeowners.





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