



Lake Community
Action Agency, Inc.
Celebrating 57 Years
of Serving Lake
County

2023

Helping People.....Changing Lives



ANNUAL REPORT

Web site: www.lakecaa.org

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Greetings from Our Board of Directors
President Louis C. Ward
LCAA Celebrating 57 Years of Service 1966-2023

When I first became a member of Lake Community Action Agency some ten years or more ago, I always remembered the main mission of the agency was to help our constituents become self-sufficient thereby assisting them to improve their own quality of life.

Through the policies and programs, the LCAA board has put in place, I've witnessed first hand the successful work that the staff has done to make self-sufficiency happen for many clients.

Now, that I am Chairman of a board of skillful and dedicated individuals who worked closely together to represent our target service area, I can say we've done a more than satisfactory job, matter fact, we've been selected or noticed as the premier agency throughout the state when it comes to compliance and meeting federal and state requirements of community action.

Yes!

LCAA has compassionately and successfully assisted many individuals with obtaining housing, increasing their education, career advancement, child early education/development services, paying utilities bills for those individuals who had a temporary setback, and just being there for our clients when life shows up.

I thank God for Molly Cunningham, our Vice President, who always has my back, and board members who diligently develop policies and programs that meet the needs of those we serve.

Undoubtedly, LCAA is also fortunate to have an effective and compassionate staff, under the skillful leadership of Mr. James Lowe, Executive Director, who makes things happen in the best interest of our clients.

Louis C. Ward
LCAA Board President

“Continuing The Legacy 57 Years of Helping People.....Changing Lives”



Another successful year has passed in spite of the challenges that we have faced as a Community Action Agency in these difficult times for all of America and its citizens.

We have paused to share these accomplishments with the Community of Lake County and express our sincere gratitude to our invaluable Community Partners, stakeholders, and financial supporters for all of the support they have provided to help make this agency sustain during the past two – three years.

As we continue to build on the legacy of Lake Community Action Agency and make the needed changes that are required to help promote self-sufficiency to that vulnerable population, we are seeking your support.

We are at a time for Community Action as well as other organizations, private businesses, and government entities begin to talk and think about new ideas, new and innovative ways of accomplishing better and greater things to serve and offer the “people” who look for the different entities to provide the vision and different services to help make this America a better place for “ALL” of the people.

If we, as an agency, are to survive as a viable agency in the future, then we must continue innovation in our community that moves toward “New Horizons.” We must continue to build upon and develop more partnerships that are committed to working together with unity, creativity, and a shared vision. These are attributes that will sustain us as a Community Action Agency and as a local community as we continue to perform the important work we do.

We must fully commit and become more fully engaged as a board, staff, and community partners to include the families we serve and all the sectors of the county of Lake.

The task is not going to be easy for we will be challenged by our state and federal funding sources to do more with less, so this will take us back to our earlier days of Community Action.....”mobilizing all available local resources in a time when they appear to be few.”

We would not be able to make these accomplishments without the support and commitment of our governing board, dedicated staff, and community partners. Also my gratitude is extended to the corporate sponsors and others who continue to financially support the Lake Community Action Agency.

Next year (2024), we will celebrate 60 years of the Economic Opportunity Act and the programs of the “Great Society” era which includes Community Action and Headstart.

We solicit your continued support and engagement as we celebrate this “Great Movement!!”

Thank you!! God Bless!!!

James H. Lowe, CCAP
Executive Director

Lake Community Action Agency's 2023 Board of Directors Roster

Board Officers:

Louis C. Ward - President
Mollie Cunningham - Vice President
June Love - Secretary
Donna Bonifacino - Assistant Secretary
Catherine Lynum - Treasurer
Robert Ragin - Member-At-Large
Lee Ann Gilson - Finance Consultant
Derek A. Schroth, Esq. - Legal Consultant

Other Board Members:

Allison Berry
Brian Broadway
Charles Brown
Tony Fields
Vershun Ford
Kimberly Garry
Willie Hawkins
Walter McGriff
Cathy Heflin-McKenzie
Martha Taylor

Lake Community Action Agency's Sponsors

Rand Management

Munn's Sales and Services

Brown & Brown

Citizen's First Bank

Southern Technical Institute, Inc.

United Southern Bank

Jacobson Foundation

C. D. S. Systems

Greenhouse Financial

Public Housing Assistance

Spring Harbor Apartments

Palestine Lodge

BusinessMasters.Net, Inc.

City of Eustis

Toshiba Business Solutions

Community Foundation of South Lake

About LCAA

Lake Community Action Agency, Inc. is a private non-profit corporation. The aim of LCAA is to stimulate a better focusing of all available local, State, private and federal resources upon the goal of enabling low- income families, senior citizens, and other individuals in rural and urban areas, to obtain the skills, knowledge, and motivation and secure the opportunities needed for them to become self-sufficient.

Our Mission Statement

Promoting self-sufficiency by reducing and eliminating barriers that contribute to the instances of poverty through a variety of programs to improve the standards of living.

Our Vision Statement

Lake Community Action Agency strives to become the premier agency in building partnerships that provide professional services to children and families.

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.”

BALANCE SHEET

LAKE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC

For the year ended September 30, 2023

-Unaudited-

ASSETS

Cash	246,616
Receivables	206,008
Fixed Assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	179,512

Total Assets **632,136**

LIABILITIES

Payables	163,854
Accrued Expenses	29,433

Total Liabilities **193,287**

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

438,849

TOTAL LIABILITIES

AND NET ASSETS

632,136

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES

LAKE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC

For the year ended September 30, 2023

-Unaudited-

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

STATE OF FLORIDA

Department of Economic Opportunity	3,050,955
Department of Education	242,562

3,293,517

LOCAL AND PRIVATE

179,816

**Total Support and
Revenue**

3,473,333

EXPENSES:

PROGRAM SERVICES

Community Services	565,180
Emergency Home Repair/Weatherization	102,529
Home Energy Assistance	2,157,986
Home Water Assistance	265,966
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten/School Readiness	321,627

**Total Program
Services**

3,413,288

SUPPORT SERVICES

Management and General

47,551

Total Expenses

3,460,839

INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

12,494

1966 – 2023 Fifty-Seven Years – The Legacy Continues: Community Services Block Grants Programs: CSBG

LCAA provided services that have impacted 17,177 individuals through the programs administered by the agency. LCAA assisted 2,239 families with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LCAA assisted 5,386 unduplicated individuals were served through the administration of the Community Service Block Grant CSBG), CSBG-CARES, CSBG-Integrated Services Pilot Project, Weatherization, Low Income Homes Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Low Income Homes Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), American Recovery Act Program (ARP), and LIHEAP-CARES and the Community Foundation of Southlake.

in obtaining program services.

LCAA assisted 175 families through the Agency-Wide Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

LCAA assisted 9 households with weatherization and home repair throughout Lake County.

LCAA moved 28 families to full self-sufficiency through education, training, and gainful employment.

LCAA assisted 51 total at-risk School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) low-income children ages 1 to 5 with educational services.

LCAA continued its relationship with the Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida DEO.

LCAA through its formalized Integrated Services Pilot Project Agreement with CareerSources Central Florida assisted 38 individuals with training and job placement, 34 have completed with credentials, and 28 placed on jobs.

LCAA renewed partnership with Spring Harbor Apartments to provide unsubsidized affordable housing for 48 families, generating cost savings of \$153,000.00 a year.

LCAA continues to provide a career database internet technology for assisting local employers in finding suitable candidates to fill employment needs.

LCAA has provided soft skills training for job retention and employment for 38 individuals.

LCAA continues its partnership with Lake Sumter Center for Workforce Acceleration and Innovation to assist potential employers in Lake and Sumter counties in filling their jobs demands in Health services, Agribusiness, Renewable Energy, Transportation and Education.

LCAA continued its relationship with the Central Florida Health Alliance and provided job referrals for 34 individuals in health-related fields.

LCAA through its supportive housing initiative has provided housing assistance for 90 families that were homeless or facing homelessness.

LCAA continued its formalized partnership agreement with Southern Technical Institute to combat the growing need and shortage for Healthcare professionals in the areas of Nursing, Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's), and Patientcare Technicians.

LCAA secured \$40,000 in grant funds from Jacobsen Foundation grant to provide Educational assistance to at-risk Low- Income pre-school children ages 1 to 5.

LCAA received a \$25,000 grant from Community Foundation of Southlake to provide Housing assistance to prevent evictions.

We are enormously proud of the continuous active, resolute volunteers and community partners that have been mobilized to help us provide the many different services and the local in-kind required.

Who We Serve 2022 - 2023

Lake Community Action Agency is dedicated to serving the needs of its Community by empowering those with lower incomes to attain and maintain self-sufficiency through a variety of programs. Poverty can affect anyone at any time; the following is an illustration of the Lake Community Action Agency clients served in Lake County.



Family Type

Most Households served were headed by single-parent females.

Single Parent Female	52.4%
Single Parent Male	2.7%
Two- Parent Household	20.9%
Single Person	15.6%
Two Adults/No Children	6.9%
Other	1.5%

Ethnicity/ Race

Clients are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds representing the diverse communities within our county.

African American	53.7%
White	24.7%
Native American	0.3%
Multi-Race	3.9%
Asian	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.4%
Other	16.7%

AGE

The majority of our clients were adult high school graduates between the ages 24 to 44 and young children under the age of 12.

0-5	14.6%	18-23	7.4%	55-69	12.2%
6-11	14.9%	24-44	23.6%	70+	4.0%
12-17	14.6%	45-54	8.7%		



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2022-2023

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Lake Community Action Agency is committed to providing quality services with impact and outcomes for families in our community. Our programs enhance and enrich lives by providing citizens with tools and resources that encourage self-reliance and improved standard of living.



Helping People... Changing Lives Community Action Helps:



17,177 total, of which (5,386) unduplicated individuals and family members were impacted by services received through the administration of the **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Community Services Block Grant American Recovery Program (CSBG-ARP), Community Services Block Grant CARES (CSBG-CARES), Weatherization, School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK), Integrated Services Pilot Project (ISPP), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP), LIHEAP-ARP, Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), Jacobsen Foundation, Lake County Human Services Grant, and Community Foundation of Southlake.**

5,386 households received assistance to help maintain Self-Sufficiency.

28 families became self-sufficient through **gainful employment** from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

9 households received assistance for **Weatherization / LIHAP-Weatherization Home Repair Program.**

3,684 services were administered through Agency-Wide **Family Self - Sufficiency Programs.**



Lake Community Action Agency Program Highlight:

Integrated Services Pilot Project

The Integrated Services Pilot Project (ISPP) is a collaborative program which allows local workforce development boards (LWDBs), CareerSource Central Florida, and local Community Action Agencies (CAA)s, Lake Community Action Agency, to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive workforce services strategy that promotes community stabilization and places a deliberate focus on assisting families to gradually transition from public assistance programs to self-sufficiency through education and employment.

Common significant employment barriers for these individuals include job skill/soft skill deficiencies (such as communication, time management and problem-solving skills), limited work skills, negative or nonexistent employment history, low educational levels, transportation challenges, limited access to affordable childcare, and poor skills in navigating available social services needed to fully engage in the workforce system. The ISPP program is a strategy aimed at jointly addressing these barriers that interfere with the participant's ability to fully engage in education and workforce related activities.

Since 2018, Lake Community Action agency and CareerSource Central Florida have partnered in this endeavor to achieve this goal. 151 clients have been trained in various industries including Healthcare, Transportation, and Construction. Of the 151 trained, 147 individuals have completed earning credentials, and 115 have been successfully placed in jobs, making the dream of Self-Sufficiency a reality thus helping to move these families out poverty.

In conclusion, the initial duration of the project was expected to operate for an 18 to 24-month period. Due to the tremendous success of the program the program has continued to be renewed since its inception in December of 20218 and is still in continuation as of this day. The ISPP program has been the model used across the state for forging successful partnerships that promote community stabilization and place a deliberate focus on assisting families to gradually transition from public assistance programs to self-sufficiency through employment. LCAA was recognized in 2020 by its peers, and the Florida Association of Community Action, (FACA) and awarded the Community Action Agency of the year for this innovative pilot project.

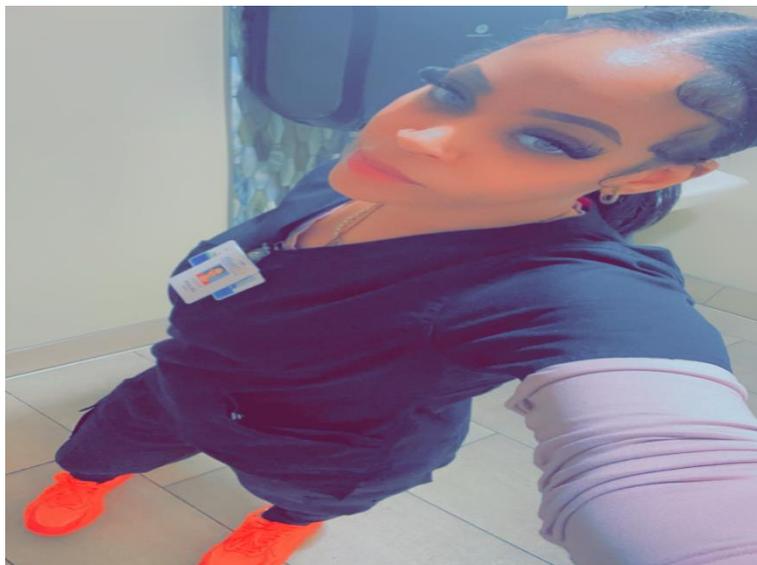
This program truly aligns with the goals of the Community Action Partnership's Mission:

Mission Statement: We Promote self-sufficiency by reducing and eliminating barriers that contribute to the instances of poverty through a variety of programs to improve the standards of living.

Vision Statement: Lake Community Action Agency is the premier agency that builds strong partnerships and provides professional services to children and families at large.

We can continue to make it work by continuing to work together! We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Integrated Services Pilot Program Success Story: Eileen Robinson



Ms. Eileen Robinson, a young single mother of 4, a truly inspiring story of resilience and determination! Ms. Robinson's journey showcases how support from Lake community agencies like Lake Community Action Agency can profoundly impact individuals by providing supportive services in aiding opportunities for education, career advancement, and essential assistance. Her success in completing the phlebotomy program with Southern Technical Institute in Tavares, Florida and securing a Full time job with Benefits at \$17.00 an hour at Quest Diagnostics, highlights the transformative power of programs aimed at empowering individuals to improve their lives and create a better future for themselves and their families. Way to go!!

Ms. Robinson was desperate to find a way to better herself for her children. She who was unemployed at the time entered Lake Community action agency inquiring about LiHEAP assistance for her electric bill. In the process career consulting also informed Ms. Robinson about Lake Community Action agency's training program in which provides scholarships for individuals to better their employment opportunities, as well as furthering their education Ms. Robinson mentioned she had an interest in the healthcare field and the Career consultant went over many options when being a phlebotomist. Ms. Robinson was very intrigued. The Career consultant provided information and an application to get Ms. Robinson started. Mrs. Robinson was able to start the phlebotomy program with southern technical Institute in Tavares, Florida. Ms. Robinson received various supportive services from Lake Community action agency. Assistance with her electric bill and gas cards to get her through traveling from home to school as well as job opportunities. Ms. Robinson was able to successfully complete the phlebotomy program and has received numerous job offers as a phlebotomist. Ms. Robinson is now a phlebotomist with Quest Diagnostics, and it's full-time with full benefits earning \$17 an hour.

Submitted By:

Sylvester Pringle, Career Consultant – Lake Community Action Agency, Inc.

SR/VPK Summary Report FY 22 - 23 June 2023

The following is a summary of the educational services provided and progress that was demonstrated by the high-risk underserved low-income pre-school children ages 1 to 5 as a result of the Childcare services provided by the Lake Community Action. This program provided educational assistance to develop the following five areas of Learning and Child Development: Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Oral Language / Vocabulary, and Mathematics.

The results of the initial assessment that was performed in October 2022 show that in the area of Print Knowledge, 73% of the students tested were below expectations, 10% were meeting expectations, and 17% were exceeding expectations. In the area of Phonological Awareness, 57% of the students were below expectations, 33% were meeting expectations and 10% of the students were exceeding expectations. In the areas of Oral Language and Vocabulary, 100% of the students tested were below expectations, 0% of the students were meeting expectations and 0% of the students were exceeding expectations. Finally, in the area of Mathematics, 73% of the students were below expectations, 10% of the students were meeting expectations, and 17% of the students were exceeding expectations.

The results of the second assessment performed in March of 2023 were as follows: In the area Print Knowledge, 50 % of the students tested were below expectation, down from the initial assessment of 73%, a decrease of 23%. Of those tested in the second assessment, 20% were meeting expectations, and 30% exceeded expectations, an increase of 10% and 13% respectively. In the area of Phonological Awareness, 47% of the students were still below expectations, a decrease of 10% in this area. Of the students tested, 20% were now meeting expectations and 33% of the students were exceeding expectations. This indicates that the 10% of students tested that were below expectation are now exceeding expectation. In the areas of Oral Language and Vocabulary, 60% of the students were below expectations, a decrease of 40%. Now 20% of the students were meeting expectations, and 20% of the students are exceeding expectations, an increase of 20%.

Finally, in the area of Mathematics, 17% of the students were below expectations, a decrease of 56% from the previous testing, 66% of the students were now meeting expectations, an increase of 56%, and 17% of the students were still exceeding expectations.

The results of the third assessment performed in May of 2023 were as follows.: In the area Print Knowledge, 33 % of the students tested were below expectations, down from 50% in the second testing period, a decrease of 17%. Of those tested 27% of students were meeting expectations, and 40% of the students were exceeding expectations. In the area of Phonological Awareness, 33% of the students were below expectations, a decrease of 14% in this area. Of the students tested, 34% are now meeting expectations, an increase of 14% from the second period, and 33% of the students were exceeding expectations. In the areas of Oral Language and Vocabulary, there were no students below expectations. Now, 63% of students tested were meeting expectations, and 37% of the students are exceeding expectations, an increase of 17% from the second testing period. Finally, in the area of Mathematics, 10% of the students were below expectations, a decrease of 7% from the previous testing period, 77% of the students were meeting expectations, up from 66%, and 13% of the students were exceeding expectations.

The impact of the program this year is that, the Lake Community Action Agency was able to offer Childcare services to 52 high-risk underserved low-income pre-school age children, ages 1 to 5 and provide the families of those children with wrap around services coupled with intense case-management to help them obtain a greater level of self-sufficiency. The objective of the program is to assist at-risk households with services that empower them to become economically self-sufficiency by removing barriers that prevent self-sufficiency in achieving family stability (i.e. Early Childhood educational services, employment, housing).

Mt. Clair Child Development Center
2000 Park Circle – Leesburg, FL 34748
“Breast Cancer Awareness Month”



During the month of October, the children were introduced to “Breast Cancer Awareness.” There was an array of activities that took place during the month. The children made ribbons and lollipop pictures for their mothers. During the week of October 16th – 20th, a variety of activities took place: 16th – Wear Your Favorite PJ’s; 17th – Mismatched Clothes; 18th – Crazy Hair Day; 19th – Wear Your Favorite Team Jersey or Colors; and 20th – Wear Your Pink. The children and staff all wore pink, and the children took home gift bags [which included pictures] for their mothers.” Oct 25th – the children were introduced to Fire Safety by the Leesburg Fire Department. Captain Amanda Stevenson and her team, Lt. Jeff Moore and Firefighter Maya taught the children about fire safety and demonstrated different kinds of equipment used by the fire fighters. The children received fireman hats, stickers, and certificates.

A Visit From The Early Learning Coalition



Lake Community Action Agency, Inc.

Office locations and area's served

The Leesburg
Neighborhood Service
Center – 1010 North Blvd.
East – Leesburg, FL - 3474
(352)787-1156 and the

Montclair VPK/School
Readiness Center – 2000
Park Circle-Leesburg, FL –
34748

(352)326-8277 located in
Leesburg, FL

*Leesburg Target Area



LCAA Administrative
Office and the
Neighborhood Service
Center - 501 North
Bay Street-Eustis, FL
32726

(352)357-3497

South Lake County
Target Area

Okahumpka/Yalaha
Target Area

Mid Florida Homeless Coalition

Serving:

Lake, Sumter, Citrus & Hernando Counties

Sumter County:

The Coleman Enrichment Center
4606 Lime Street – Coleman, FL

Lake Community Action Agency, Inc.
Visit us at: www.lakecaa.org