



**The Impact of Collaborative
Empowerment**

2021-2022

Annual Report



**CAROLINA
COMMUNITY
ACTIONS, INC**

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About Us

On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act as part of his "War on Poverty," which created the nationwide Community Action Network. The purpose was to expand educational opportunities, eliminate poverty, provide health and financial assistance to the elderly, and increase assistance for the poor and unemployed. The York County Economic Opportunity Commission had been previously established and by August 2, 1965, Carolina Community Actions, Inc. (CCA) was incorporated to include Chester, Lancaster, and York counties as the service area. The said purpose of the corporation " is to do all things necessary and proper under the Economic Opportunity Action of 1964, Public Law 88-452, and/or subsequent related federal legislation or under any applicable state, county or local legislation which has as intent to aid in improving the education, economic opportunities, living environment and general welfare of the people living in Chester, Lancaster and York counties in South Carolina, either directly or through other private or public organizations." On December 8, 1965, CCA was officially recognized and approved by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and received its first grant funds. Due to the geographic service area being altered through federal directions and actions, the Board of Directors voted on November 4, 1974 to amend the charter to add Union County as part of the CCA service area. Fairfield County was added to CCA service area in 1998. CCA is currently the designated community action agency for Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties of South Carolina.



Mission of CCA

To mitigate poverty issues by empowering individuals, families and communities to achieve self-reliance.



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.

Leadership

Board of Directors

Chester County

Azilee Hill
Burley McDaniel
Davida Schultz
Angela Twitty

Union County

Edith Foster
Sonya Glenn
Pamela Sloss
Harold Thompson

Fairfield County

Curtis Squirewell
Michael Fanning

York County

Kendra Cherry
Tammie Hemphill
Denise Lowry
Melvin McCullough
Regeana Phillips
John Sanders
Isaiah Venning

Lancaster County

Khaleek Chapman
Timothy Cureton
Leocadia Francis
Elaine McKinney

Executive Director

Karen Brackett Browning

2022-2023 Head Start Policy Council

Chester County Parent Representatives

Ashley Alexander
Valeria Johnson
Sharnessa McVay Roberts

Union County Parent Representatives

Kimberly Boler
Raquel McKinney

Community Representatives

Kimberly Davis
Isaiah Vennings

York County Parent Representatives

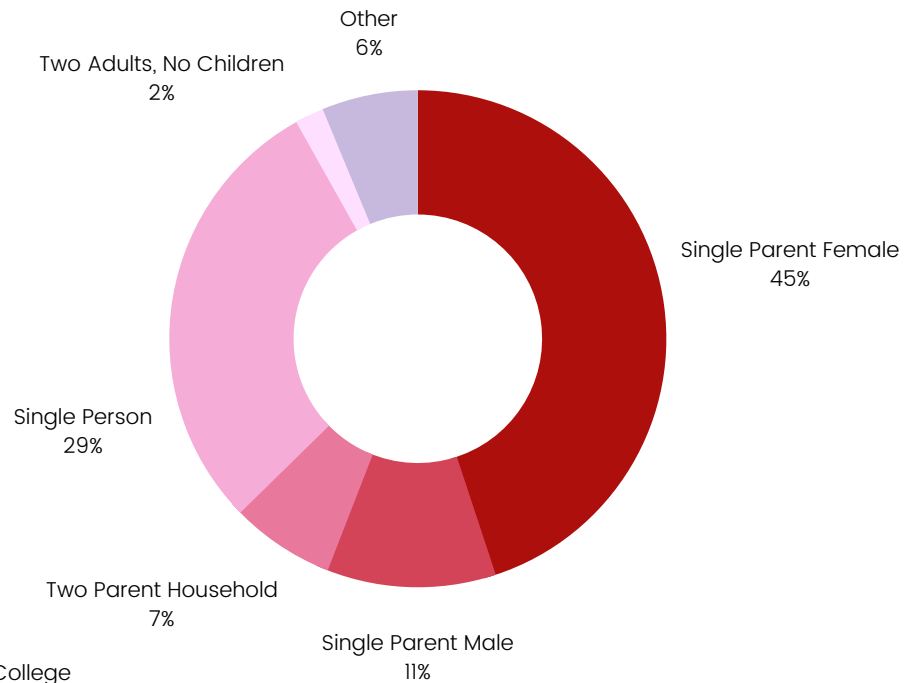
Kendra Cherry
Tamara Cureton
Tamara Lawson

Individuals Served

The following data includes demographic information for the 9,801 individuals (7,373 households) those assisted by CCA in 2021-2022.

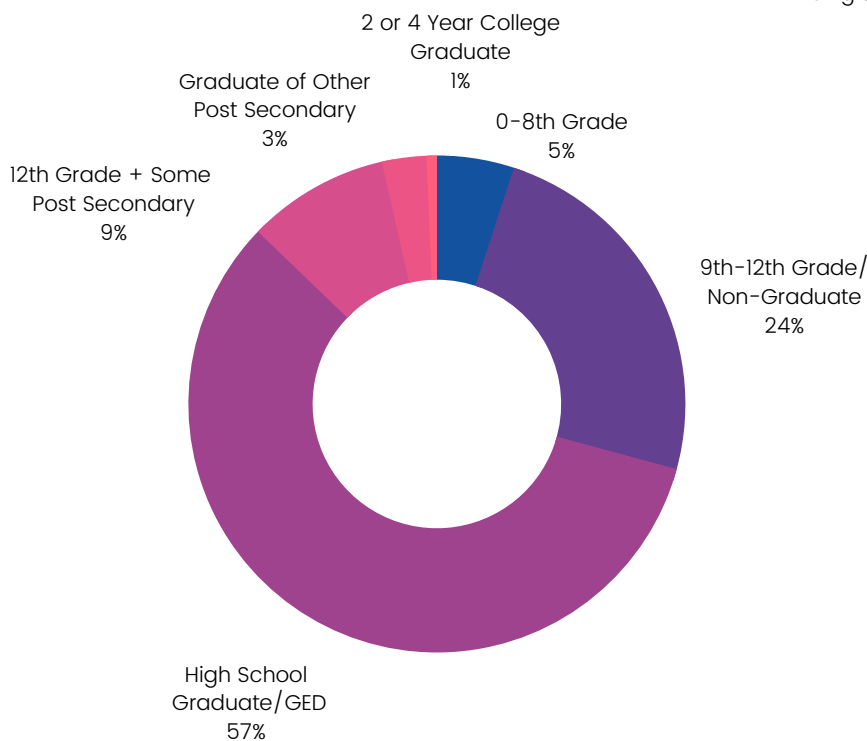
Family Type

- Single Parent Female
- Single Parent Male
- Two Parent Household
- Single Person
- Two Adults, No Children
- Other



Education Level

- 0-8th Grade
- 9th-12th Grade/Non-Graduate
- High School Graduate/GED
- 12th Grade + Some Post Secondary
- Graduate of Other Post Secondary
- 2 or 4 Year College Graduate



Individuals Served

Levels of Household Income Served by CCA

% of HHS Guidelines for 2022	Annual Income Household Size of 1	For each additional person in the household, add the amount corresponding to the % for Annual Income	Income Level % of Total Households Served by CCA
Up to 50%	\$6,795	For each additional person, add \$2,370	24%
51% to 75%	\$6,931 to \$10,193	For each additional person, add \$2,407-\$3,540	18%
76% to 100%	\$10,328 to \$13,590	For each additional person, add \$3,587-\$4,720	14%
101% to 125%	\$13,726 to \$16,988	For each additional person, add \$4,767-\$5,900	21%
126% to 150%	\$17,123 to \$20,385	For each additional person, add \$5,947-\$7,080	11%
151% to 175%	\$20,521 to \$23,783	For each additional person, add \$7,127-\$8,620	11%
176% to 200%	\$23,918 to \$27,180	For each additional person, add \$8,307-\$9,440	1%

Family Income Level

MIT's Living Wage Calculator indicates that a family of four with one working parent and three children in each of the service areas needs to earn above \$96,000/year before taxes just to meet basic living expenses. The income threshold for a family of four, living at or below 100% of the poverty level was \$27,750/year.

Family Size – 1 Adult 3 Children
2022 Poverty Level at 100% – \$27,750
2022 Poverty Level at 200% – \$55,500

County	Living Wage Rate	Poverty Wage Rate	Gap
Chester	\$96,678/yr. \$46.48/hr.	\$27,747/yr. \$13.34/hr.	\$68,931/yr. \$33.14/hr.
Fairfield	\$101,754/yr. \$48.92/hr.	\$27,747/yr. 13.34/hr.	\$74,007/yr \$35.58/hr.
Lancaster	\$99,008/yr. \$47.60/hr.	\$27,747/yr. \$13.34/hr.	\$71,261/yr. \$34.26/hr.
Union	\$96,990/yr. \$46.63/hr.	\$27,747/yr. \$13.34/hr.	\$69,243/yr. \$33.29/hr.
York	\$109,512/yr. \$52.65/hr.	\$27,747/yr. \$13.34/hr.	\$81,765/yr. \$39.31/hr.

Our Work

Herein, we present Carolina Community Actions, Inc. (CCA) Annual Report for the 2022-2023 fiscal and program year. During this period, the agency continued to experience evolving change and growth as opportunities were created to update and expand CCA's capacity to "meet needs and change lives." While still adjusting to the "new norm" as a result of the Coronavirus health pandemic, the agency served individuals and families who were recovering from economic hardship with a variety of new programs and activities. Through coordinated and collaborative efforts with local, state, and national funders, the communities... provided by CCA. The communities in Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties in South Carolina were positively impacted by the assistance and services provided. The agency continues to adhere to its purpose by providing valuable services that include: early childhood education and school readiness; adult basic education and career readiness; financial assistance to prevent utility disconnections and homelessness; and installation of home energy conservation measures to reduce energy burdens.



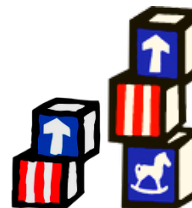
**Community
Services Block
Grant (CSBG)**



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



**Weatherization
Assistance
Program (WAP)**

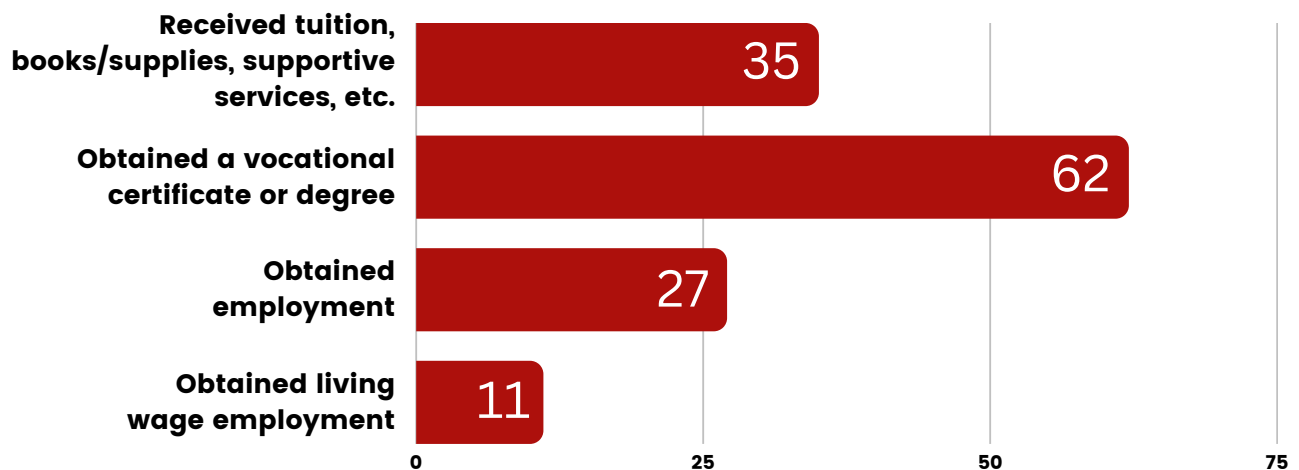


**Head Start/
Early Head Start
(HS/EHS)**

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

CSBG provides flexible funds for programs that work to meet individual and community needs. CCA uses funds to provide its service users with 4 programs including the following: Self-Sufficiency, Nutrition Assistance, General Emergency Assistance, and Youth Leadership.

The graph (shown below) shows the number of individuals who benefited from CSBG's Self-Sufficiency Program from January 2022 - December 2022



Additional achievements in 2022:

- **Self Sufficiency Program** - provides case management services such as education/training (GED, Vocational Skills Training), employment placement assistance, and support services (i.e. uniforms, transportation, etc)
 - 129 individuals participated in the program in 2022
- **Nutrition Assistance Program** - provides education on proper food choices and identification of nutrition resources
 - 151 individuals received nutrition education and access to food
- **Youth Leadership Program** - provides character/personal development and paid work experience for career exploration for youth ages 15-19
 - 23 youth completed the program objectives
- **General Emergency Assistance Program** - provides emergency financial assistance
 - 530 households obtained/maintained safe housing
 - 143 households maintained utilities
 - 28 unhoused individuals/families were provided funds for shelter, i.e. hotel, etc.
- **Other Activities and State/Local Funded Programs yielded the following results:**
 - 482 individuals received assistance with the completion and submission of South Carolina Stay Plus housing applications to avoid evictions
 - 164 individuals/families was assisted with housing and case management services through United Way ERA Funds

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

WAP is the largest residential energy efficiency and retrofit program in the United States. It has been in existence since 1976 and its mission is to reduce energy costs for low-income persons using a whole-house approach to improve the energy efficiency of the home. Weatherization specialists use state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment to reduce energy costs and improve the comfort and indoor quality of the home while ensuring the health and safety of the household.

Weatherization measures on a home could include any or all of the following:

- Insulation in the attic space, under the home, and/or the sidewalls
- Seal and insulate duct work
- Weatherstrip and/or caulk around windows and doors
- Install smoke alarms and CO detectors
- Vent and/or wrap hot water heater and pipes
- Vent dryer
- Install energy-saving light bulbs
- Check readings on appliances

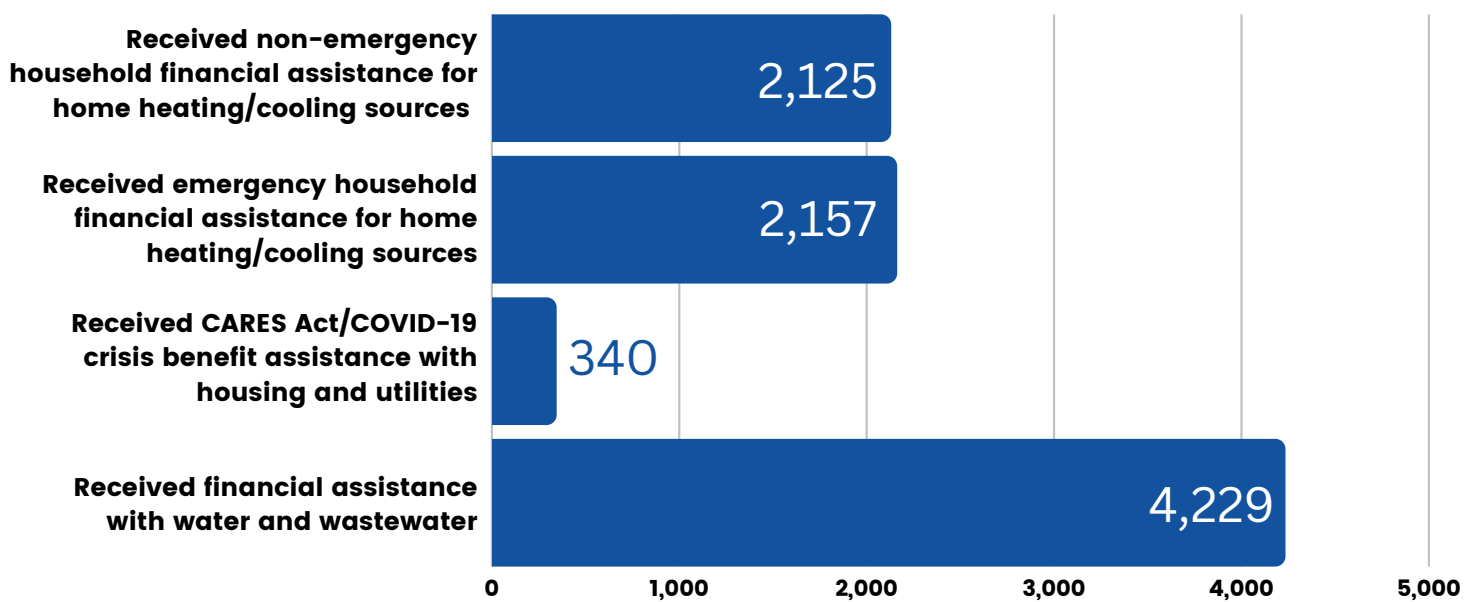
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**The number of LWAP & DOE WAP Dwellings from
4/1/22 to 3/31/23**

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is designed to help low-income households meet their home heating and cooling needs and increase energy self-sufficiency, thereby reducing the vulnerability resulting from energy needs.

The graph (shown below) shows the number of households that utilized LIHEAP's services from January 2022 - December 2022



Additional achievements in 2022:

- 1,932 seniors (adults 60 years or older) and 2,759 people with 1 or more disabilities received emergency fuel/utility assistance
- 1,092 seniors (adults 60 years or older) and 1,266 people with 1 or more disabilities received non-emergency household financial assistance for home heating/cooling sources
- 1,810 received additional benefits for energy assistance through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) which allowed them to pay their utility bills, avoiding disconnection in 2022
- 488 individuals/families received an additional LIHEAP supplemental benefit to assist with fuel/utility assistance.

Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS)

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program that has served low-income families since 1965. This child-focused program serves children, ages three to five years, and their families with the goal of increasing school readiness in children. The services are provided for 9 to 10 months during the year. Early Head Start's services target infants, toddlers, and pregnant women, to enhance the development of very young children, and to promote healthy family functioning.

The program did not serve its funded enrollment and sites did not provide the funded hours of planned instruction for its full-day classrooms due to COVID-19 restrictions and safeguards. The program implemented a hybrid model to provide a combination of face-to-face and remote learning. Remote instruction was implemented to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during times when the risk of transmission was elevated based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases in a center or classroom.

Although the structure of the program was different, CCA Head Start and Early Head Start continued to make progress towards achieving program goals.

Head Start SY 2022- 2023

314 preschoolers received high-quality Pre-K education at no cost to the family, 95% were at or below poverty guidelines

31 children received disability services

289 participants received preventive and primary oral health services

15 fathers/significant males were involved in the child's development experiences

9% decrease in families receiving TANF services because of participation

289 participants received at least one family service

Early Head Start SY 2022- 2023

50 infant and toddlers received high-quality EHS services at no cost to the families

100% of participants were living at or below 100% of poverty guidelines

48 participants received preventive and primary oral health services

35 participants received at least one family service

4 fathers/significant males were involved in the child's development experiences

The social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy developmental domains saw gains of 39%-64% in the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations. The percentage of children assessed at enrollment below each domain decreased by an average of 43%. Mathematics, science, and technology, social studies, and arts development saw gains of 29%-51% in the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectations.

Financial Information

2022 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs \$14,938,611

Head Start (HS)	\$4,754,871	32%
Early Head Start (EHS)	\$731,450	5%
*LIHEAP	\$5,176,168	35%
**CSBG	\$1,242,487	8%
Weatherization (WAP)	\$735,908	5%
USDA	\$333,653	2%
*In-kind Contributions	\$1,925,696	13%
***Non-Federal Share	\$38,378	.003%

2021 Revenue and Expenses by Agency Programs \$14,512,892

	\$4,796,189	33%
	\$851,832	6%
	\$5,378,785	37%
	\$1,574,258	11%
	\$370,241	3%
	\$113,746	1%
	\$1,392,160	9%
	\$35,681	.002%

*Includes LIHEAP(\$3,291,849), LIHWAP (\$459,465) and LIHEAP ARPA (\$1,424,854)

** Includes CSBG (\$876,830) and CSBG CARES ACT (\$365,657)

*** Includes United Way Funds (\$34,925), Duke Energy (\$2,929) and Dominion-SCE&G (\$524)

In 2021, CCA's overall administrative cost was 5%. Ninety-five percent (95%) of CCA's funding directly benefited our service users. In 2022, CCA's overall administrative cost was 5%. Ninety-five percent of CCA's funding directly benefited our service users.

CCA received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Impact Stories

Fairfield County

Ms. J came to CCA's Fairfield County Office on November 10, 2022 to request assistance with having water services from the Town of Winnsboro connected to her home. She has a well, but stated that the water quality was so poor that she was dependent on bottled water for cooking and drinking. Ms. J said that the situation with the water was worsening and she really needed the water service offered by the Town of Winnsboro. She stated that she was doubtful that she could be assisted because of the high cost for connection. She stated that for years she had tried to save to afford the Town of Winnsboro Water Service after it was offered in her community.

Upon Ms. J's submission of the required documents for eligibility determination during the intake process, she was approved for assistance with water services assistance in her home. She received two thousand nine hundred twenty-five dollars (\$2,925.00) in financial assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Ms. J was very relieved and appreciative that she would be able to obtain the service and not worry any further about the quality of the water in her home.

Water service was connected to Ms. J's home and she is doing well. She feels that it would have not have been possible without the assistance offered through CCA's LIHWAP. Ms. J stated that the convenience of being able to use tap water is more of a blessing than some people realize.

Impact Stories

York County

Ms. B came to the CCA York County Office for assistance with her utility bill on February 15, 2022. Ms. B, a single mother with two young children, was unemployed at the time of her visit to the agency. She stated that she wanted better for her children. She and the staff member discussed the development of short-term goals. Because Ms. B indicated that she would love to work with children, she was advised to apply at child care centers. She said she had applied at several and had received an offer for work, but was unsure if she could accept the position due to a lack of affordable child care for her youngest child. The other child was enrolled in public school.

CCA's staff member enrolled Ms. B in the Self-Sufficiency Program so that she may, if approved, receive further employment assistance and support services including up to \$1200.00 in financial assistance for child care. Her self-sufficiency application was submitted and approved. Ms. B accepted the position as a teacher with Big Blue Marble Academy of Rock Hill, where her starting salary was \$14.00 per hour. Due to Ms. B commencing her position on February 24, 2022, the next task was to find a school that would accept her child as soon as possible. After much searching since many centers were not accepting child enrollment applications, Ms. B's child was enrolled at Big Blue Marble Academy of Rock Hill. She was able to pay Big Blue Marble Academy after her 5.5 week financial assistance provided by CCA ended.

Impact Stories

Weatherization Assistance Program

Weatherization client, Mrs. Williams, is an elderly woman raising her disabled minor grandchild on a limited income. Mrs. Williams' HVAC system stopped working two years prior to her seeking weatherization services from Carolina Community Actions, Inc. Mrs. Williams attempted to have it repaired several times, but due to the age of the HVAC system, finding parts to repair the system was difficult. Since she did not have the money to replace her HVAC system, she and her grandchild closed themselves off in one room of the home with an electric space heater to remain warm during the winter months. During the summer months, they followed the same procedure with a window air conditioner. Mrs. Williams received assistance through CCA's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) several times during those two years to help pay her electric bill because using the space heaters and window air conditioners greatly increased her energy consumption which resulted in high electric bills. CCA's Weatherization staff received Mrs. Williams as a referral from LIHEAP because she was a high-energy user and a high-energy burden client. The Weatherization energy auditor conducted an energy audit on the home and found several major measures that could be installed to make her home more energy efficient. The measures that were approved and installed included a new HVAC system, repaired/sealed duct work, a programmable thermostat, and attic and floor insulation. As a result of these weatherization services, Mrs. Williams is no longer a high-energy user or high-energy burden client. She stated she is able to afford to pay her electric bills and is overjoyed to be able to live in her entire home comfortably again.

Impact Stories

Head Start

Shaniqua Smith initially came to Carolina Community Actions Head Start Program as a student, and years later, a parent at York Head Start. She was employed on September 14, 2019 as a substitute teacher. As a result of her interest in becoming a teacher aide, CCA paid for her to complete her Preschool CDA on January 24, 2022. Upon completion she was promoted to full-time Teacher Aide. Ms. Smith is a dedicated staff member who assists in any capacity requested. Therefore, as of August 7, 2023, Ms. Smith was promoted Teacher Assistant. She stated that she works with the same teachers who taught her as a Head Start child. Shaniqua Smith is a one of CCA's many success stories and Shining Stars!