

Community Action for Improvement, Inc. (CAFI)
2017-2018 Annual Impact Report

Building Better Quality of Life



Letter from the Executive Director

Community stakeholders, friends, and champions of CAFI...it is my honor to present our achievements and activities to you. 2017 -18 was a year of rebirth for us. We developed a new and updated Strategic Plan, reallocated projects, and took time to refocus the Agency. Throughout this Report, you will see that much has been done to further our mission. The staff and community partners of CAFI rebounded in a strong and passionate way as we tackled the many barriers that families face.

Community Action provides life-changing services that build pathways to opportunity. There are Community Action agencies working in every corner of the nation, serving small towns and cities just like the ones in Troup, Coweta, Carroll, Heard, and Meriwether counties. We reject the idea of a "one size fits all" solution to poverty. We rely on diverse perspectives, best practices, and outcome-based solutions to guide the work we do.

As you peruse the pages of this Impact Report, it is my hope that you will gain a different perspective on poverty and the tailored approach we take. I hope you will look at the pictures, the images, and read the stories of real people. I hope you will analyze the scope of work...understand the value that our Agency brings to the Region. My ultimate hope is that you leave with a newfound respect for Community Action and the impact we have locally, Regionally, and even at a National level.

Join me in this "marathon" as we build more resilient lives!

Jennifer Corcione
Executive Director



Jennifer Corcione (standing) with Patricia Woodyard, CAFI Employee of 8 years (seated).

Get to Know CAFI:

Everyone deserves a chance at building a better life.

Community Action For Improvement, Inc. (CAFI) is a private non-profit service organization offering comprehensive assessment and assistance to low-income individuals, including seniors, children, and working families.

CAFI is part of a national hub linking 1,000+ Action Agencies. By being a part of this powerful network, we leverage programs and dollars to serve more people. 99% of all the counties in America are served by an Action Agency. Our reach is far and wide.

As a registered 501c3 organization, we focus on those living in poverty. Serving the West Georgia region, we have neighborhood service centers in Carroll, Coweta, Meriwether, and Troup Counties.

Over the past 50 years, we've helped, and advocated for, over a million people in need. Most of our funding comes from State and Federal grants, supplemented by financial and in-kind contributions from individuals, companies and organizations.

We assist people with critical needs and we build connections within the community. Our long-term goal is to help people become stable and economically self-sufficient, empowered with resources and self-esteem they need to create a better quality of life for themselves, their families, and ultimately, our communities.

No matter the circumstance, we feel that every human deserves respect. CAFI staff and volunteers consider the people we serve our 'clients.' We serve them with compassion and respect.

2017-2018 Programs Offered:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LI HEAP) Program

- Financial assistance to eligible households to help offset their utility (heating) burden

Housing Stability and Homeless Prevention Program

- Helping people find safe and stable housing or aiding to prevent disruption of housing (eviction)
- Case management to assess family needs and develop an Individualized Service Plan
- Barrier removal to eliminate reasons for homelessness

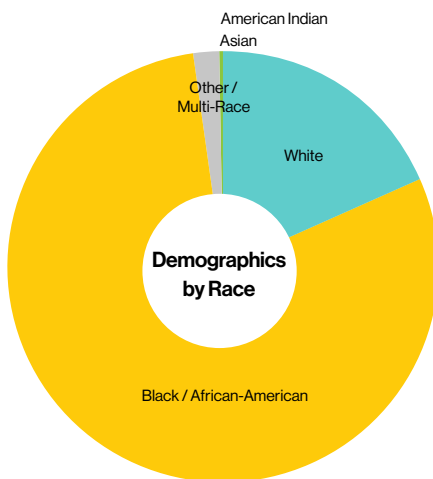
Home Weatherization Assistance Program

- Conservation measures that result in energy and cost savings for single-family homes, multifamily buildings, and mobile homes
- Energy-efficiency measures performed through the program may include air and duct sealing, wall, floor, and attic insulation and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system improvements

General Barrier Removal (not program specific)

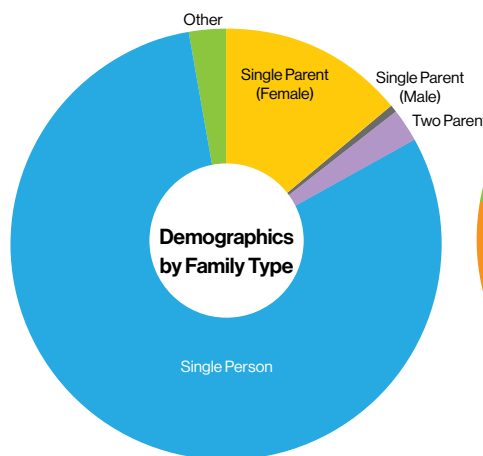
- Household supports such as diapers, personal hygiene items, and gently used clothing
- Emergency Food Pantry
- Linkage and referrals to other local agencies and resources
- GED and Education Supports

Program Demographics 10/2017 - 9/2018



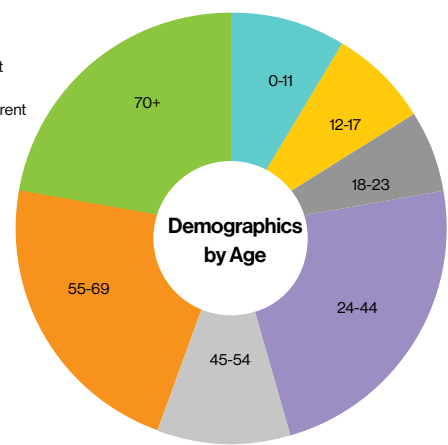
Race

White	1655
Black/African American	7104
American Indian	3
Asian	3
Other/Multi-race	183



Family Type

Single Parent (female)	13.69
Single Parent (Male)	0.25
Two Parent	2.35
Single Person	79.7
Other	2.26



Age

0 - 11	8.58
12 - 17	7.37
18 - 23	6.22
24 - 44	22.62
45 - 54	10.05
55 - 69	21.66
70+	21.85

The Year In Review: Having Impact On People's Lives

Stories of CAFI resources provided to low-income individuals and families during the 12 months of the 2017-2018 fiscal year

Helping People Cover Their Utility Bills

The ongoing costs of electricity, gas and propane, especially during the winter, can be a burden on any household. But for some, the money simply isn't there. That's where the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** comes to the rescue.

Through LIHEAP, financial assistance is provided to help make utility bills manageable for eligible families. The largest segment of CAFI's resources go toward administering LIHEAP, and it is the program we are most often recognized for.

5,100

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
ABLE TO COVER THEIR
UTILITY BILLS THANKS TO
LIHEAP PROGRAM



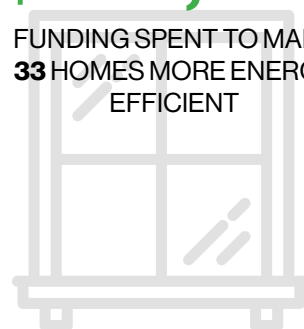
Helping to Create Healthier Homes

Tiny gaps throughout a house, especially around windows and doors, reduce the effectiveness and efficiency of heating and air conditioning systems. Families often use their heat, pay for fuel, and *still* feel cold.

CAFI's Home Weatherization Program engages professionals to seal those gaps and make other efficiency upgrades that reduce energy bills for low-income households. In addition to these energy conservation services, we make important health and safety upgrades.

\$279,677

FUNDING SPENT TO MAKE
33 HOMES MORE ENERGY
EFFICIENT



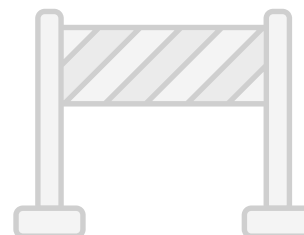
Helping Families Remove Barriers

Getting ahead can be a challenge, especially when individuals aren't sure **how** to navigate. Families need support systems. They often need aid and resources.

Barrier Assistance provided by CAFI helps people retrieve vital documents they need; come up with first- month security deposit or past-due rent; and find training, wardrobe and transportation required to secure and maintain a steady job.

193

NUMBER OF PEOPLE
WHO RECEIVED HELP FOR
OVERCOMING BARRIERS



Helping to Find Safe and Stable Housing

Most of us can't imagine what it's like to not have a home. Being homeless is a devastating problem that naturally contributes to an array of other difficulties in a person's life.

CAFI is there to help prevent homelessness. **Housing Assistance** case managers assess each situation, and can help provide emergency temporary housing, assistance with missed rent payments, and security deposits for permanent housing.

\$22,242

FUNDING SPENT TO PREVENT
PEOPLE FROM BECOMING
HOMELESS



Helping People Stay Healthy

Those who are least able to afford prescription drugs, sadly, are also often least likely to have adequate (or any) medical insurance.

CAFI Prescription Assistance not only helps pay for medication, but also helps cover other health supplies.

\$1,404

BENEFITS PAID TO THOSE
WHO COULDN'T AFFORD
THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS



"....CAFI saved my family and me from being homeless. I was in a terrible situation in which I was unable to pay my rent, due to health situations beyond my control. I had written many emails, to several people, from government and city officials, to Oprah and even President Trump. I was desperate, and about to be evicted with a small child. I wrote to CAFI, telling them about my situation, telling them about how I am disabled, and I have nowhere else to turn.

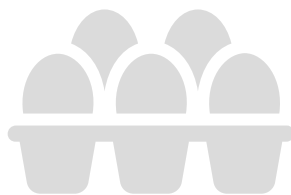
The next business day, I received a phone call from a very kind and professional, woman who was my case worker. She spoke to me with kindness. She gave me the gift of hope, which was something I haven't had in such a very long time. Of all the people I had written to, which was a very long list, only CAFI responded."

- Client, "H.W."



\$520

SHORT-TERM CHILD CARE
ALLOTMENT FOR THOSE
WHO WORK OR ATTEND
SCHOOL



700

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO
RECEIVED MONTHLY
FOOD BOXES IN TROUP
AND MERIWETHER
COUNTIES

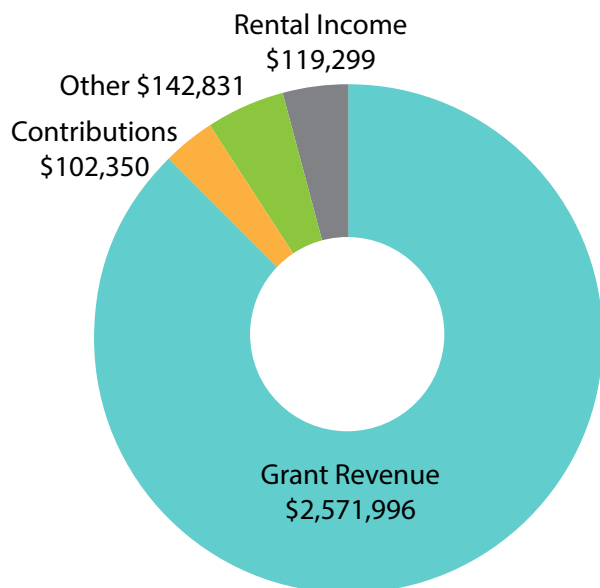


358

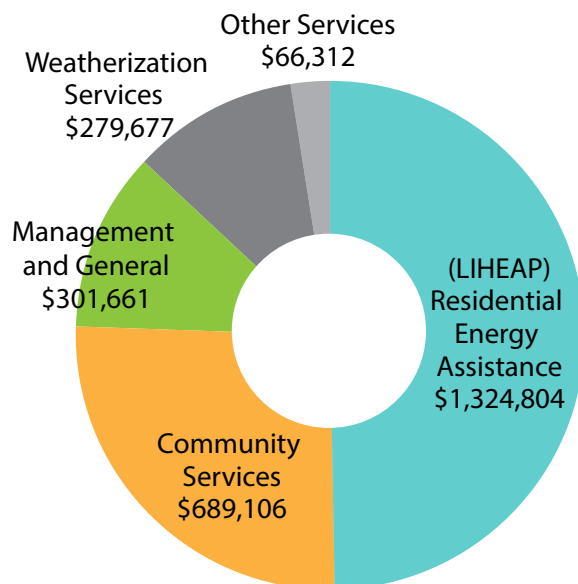
NUMBER OF CASE
MANAGEMENT SESSIONS
TO HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE
STABILITY AND ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY

Financials

Source of Funds 2017-2018



Use of Funds 2017-2018



Board of Trustees, by County

Carroll County

Brandolynn Marengo *
Housing Manager
City of Carrollton
Housing Authority

James Stocks *
President
Local NAACP Chapter

Dr. Winston Tripp
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of West GA

Coweta County

Dee Berry *
City Council Member
Grantville

Heard County

Julie Pope *
Retired

Meriwether County

Solomon Ferguson *
(Board Chairman)
Retired
Meriwether Co. School System

Mary Bray
Meriwether County Commissioner

Virginia Hill
Owner, Hills Funeral Home, Inc.
Greenville City Council

Robert "Bobby" Moreland *
City of Greenville

Troup County

Bryant Anderson
CSX Railroad

Carolyn Haamid *
Retired

Chris Joseph
Gay & Joseph, CPA

* = Officer

Partnerships & Donations

How Does CAFI Address Such a Wide Spectrum of Needs? **With Partnerships.**

No entity alone can solve all the problems families face. That's why CAFI engages civic and private partners to serve people in our region. We work with partners regionally to leverage dollars and programmatic resources.

These relationships provide a positive synergy that benefits low-income households with multiple needs. And as families become more stable and economically productive, the communities they live in become stronger.

If your organization would like to partner with CAFI to seek referrals, make referrals, or provide in-kind services, we'd love to hear from you, at cafiinfo@cafi-ga.org.

How Will CAFI Continue to Help People In Need? **With Your Contributions.**

The need outweighs the available resources. But your donations and involvement can make a huge difference in closing that gap.

We greatly appreciate financial donations of any size from individuals, corporations and other organizations. With careful screening to determine who is truly in need, you can be sure that your donation makes a difference.

CAFI also has an ongoing need for those willing to donate their time, with variety of different volunteer opportunities available. Civic and student groups, as well as those aiming for a career in social services, will have the chance to gain valuable hands-on experience and even leadership skills.



Nevada Reid, CAFI employee of 2 years, shares warm blankets with CAFI clients

Interested in Partnering, Contributing or Volunteering?
Just call us at 706-884-2651, or email us at cafiinfo@cafi-ga.org.



Community Action For Improvement, Inc.

cafi-ga.org
cafiinfo@cafi-ga.org

1380 LaFayette Parkway
LaGrange, GA 30241
706-884-2651

Serving Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Meriwether
and Troup Counties