

# Community Action *in motion*



**Community Action for Improvement, Inc. (CAFI)**  
2019 Annual Impact Report

# Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings, CAFI friends and supporters. Thank you for taking the time to peruse our *Annual Impact Report*. It's my pleasure to present the achievements of CAFI. This year was a successful year, peppered with new opportunities, new funding, and new Board members for CAFI. We continue to explore the needs of our communities and find solutions for people living in poverty.

Community Action embodies our Nation's spirit of hope. We believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect. And, we recognize that structural, race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers. These things must be addressed in our work. We believe the Nation has the capacity and moral obligation to ensure that no one is forced to endure the hardships of poverty.

As a part of the Nation's largest poverty fighting network, I know that our job is not done. More work is needed, more ideas, more volunteers, and more resolve to find a better way of life. CAFI prides itself on igniting opportunities and helping families find a path to economic mobility. We are honored to be promoters of civic engagement and be a "laboratory" of leadership.

As we continue our mission-based work in the West Central region of Georgia, my wish is that you remember us. Remember our impact on families and remember that we are advocating for those who cannot find their own voice.

Yours in Service,

*Jennifer Corcione*  
Executive Director



CAFI's President, Brandolynn Marengo,  
and Executive Director, Jennifer Corcione

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## CAFI's mission:

To enhance the quality of life of individuals and families by providing services and resources that will facilitate the building of self-esteem and self-sufficiency through the active involvement of the total community.

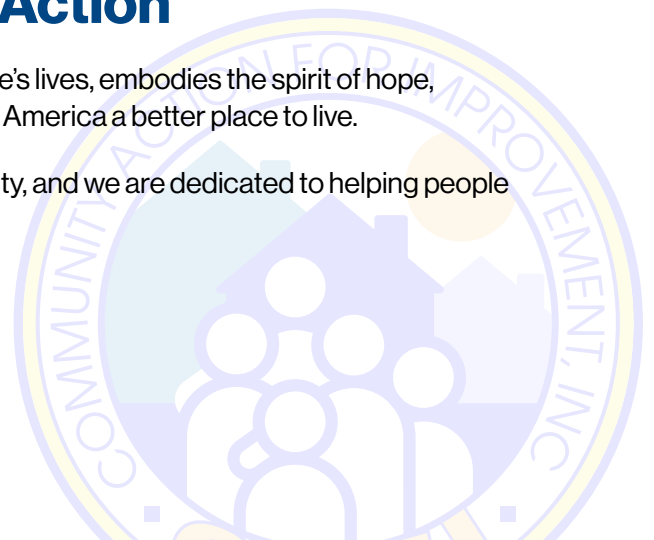
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## The Promise of Community Action



Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live.

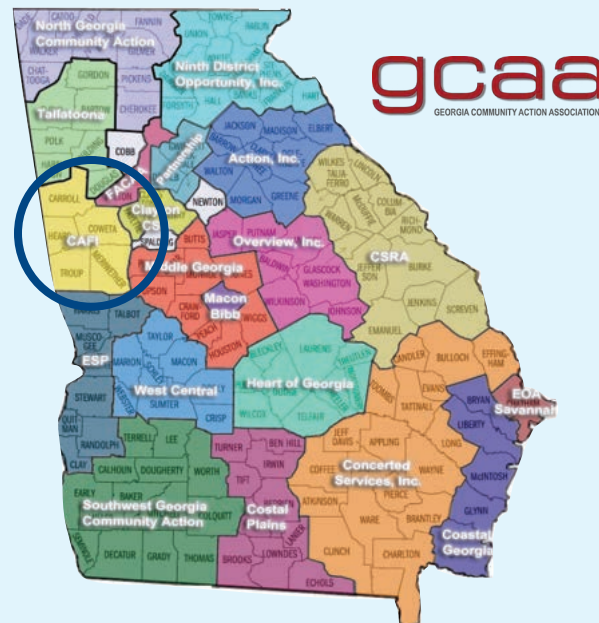
We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



**Community Action for Improvement, Inc. (CAFI)** is a private non-profit service and advocacy organization offering comprehensive assessment and assistance to low-income individuals and families, including senior citizens, children, working families, and veterans.

We serve individuals and families in **Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Meriwether and Troup Counties**. Our **home weatherization program serves additional counties of Douglas, Harris, and Muscogee**.

We provide opportunities for people to be **relieved of the burdens of poverty** and empowered to **become advocates for themselves.**



## A photograph of Senator Benjamin Jealous, an older Black man with glasses wearing a blue vest over a patterned shirt, standing next to a young Black woman with long dark hair wearing a dark blazer over a striped shirt. They are both smiling and holding a large, ornate gold-colored plaque. The plaque features a circular seal at the top and the following text: "COMMUNITY ACTION FOR IMPROVEMENT, INC.", "In Recognition of", "Benjamin Jealous", "NBA Executive, President of the", "New York Knicks and", "President of the", "New York City Council", "2018". In the background, an American flag is visible on the left and a framed picture hangs on the wall.

Brandolynn Marengo and past President,  
Solomon Ferguson



# CAFI Programs:

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LI-HEAP) Program

- Financial assistance to eligible households to help offset their utility (heating and cooling) burden; heating funds offered once a year beginning in November and cooling funds, when available, are offered in the Spring.

## Housing Stability and Homeless Prevention Program

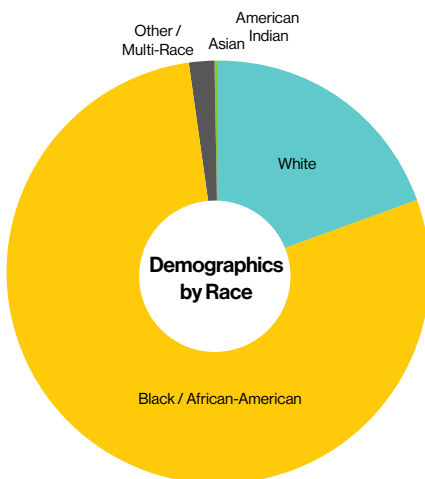
- Helping people find safe and stable housing or aiding to prevent disruption of housing (eviction)
- Case management to assess family needs and develop an Individualized Service Plan
- Barrier removal to eliminate reasons for homelessness
- Offering temporary shelter when necessary
- Providing opportunities to learn skills to help build economic mobility (job skills, financial literacy, personal development and more)



## Home Weatherization Assistance Program

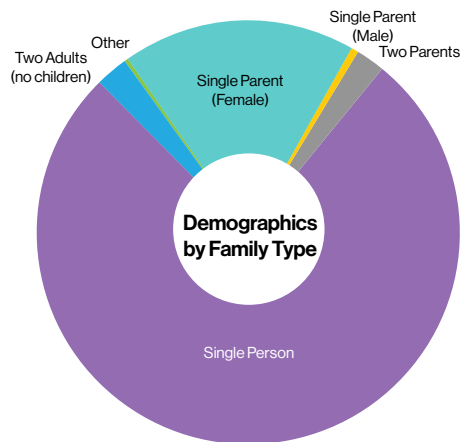
- Delivering conservation measures that result in energy and cost savings for single-family homes, multifamily buildings, and mobile homes
- Energy-efficiency measures performed through the program may include air and duct sealing, wall, floor, and attic insulation and heating, ventilation, and HVAC system improvements
- When funds are available, we offer minor home repairs to prepare the home for weatherization

## Demographics of Clients Served by CAFI Programs



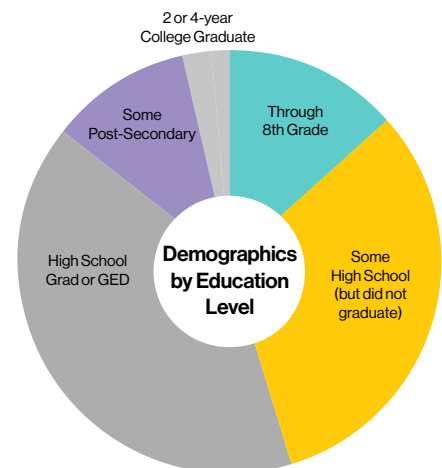
### Race

White	1,244
Black/African American	5,012
American Indian	2
Asian	3
Other/Multi-race	116



### Family Type

Single Parent (female)	790
Single Parent (Male)	24
Two Parent	104
Single Person	3,406
Two Adults (no children)	109
Other	2.26



### Education Level

Through 8th Grade	248
Some High School (but did not graduate)	587
High School Grad or GED	746
Some Post-Secondary	199
2- or 4-Year College Graduate	42

# The Year In Review: This is How CAFI Impacted Lives

## Reducing Energy/Utility Burdens for Families

For homeowners across the country, the electricity bill has risen every year since 2002. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the cost of electricity will continue to rise. This can be difficult for low income households, or those living on a fixed income. Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable.

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LI-HEAP) Program** rescues thousands of families each year. We provide a financial stipend to reduce the energy burden in the Winter, and when State funds are available, we offer similar stipends in the Spring to offset cooling costs. The largest segment of CAFI's resources go to administer this program.

# 7,113

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS  
ASSISTED IN OUR **LIHEAP**  
PROGRAM



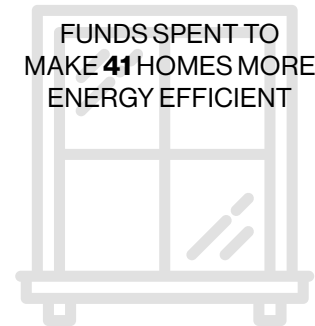
## Helping to Create Healthier Homes

The **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** increases the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons. WAP uses *Whole House Weatherization*, which treats the house as a single energy-consuming system, rather than a loose collection of unrelated pieces of equipment. It requires advanced diagnostic skills and cost-effective measure selection and installation.

These conservation measures result in energy and cost savings. Single-family homes, multifamily buildings, and mobile homes are eligible. The benefits of WAP are many including providing a safe, improved home environment, increased financial independence and enhanced quality of life. Weatherization creates an average energy savings of \$350 or more per year and reduces a home's annual gas heating consumption by 32 percent. WAP stresses the importance of a client's health and safety by installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

# \$239,954

FUNDS SPENT TO  
MAKE **41** HOMES MORE  
ENERGY EFFICIENT



## Creating Permanent Solutions for Safe, Affordable Housing and Barrier Removal

CAFI works continuously to house low income families, help them avoid the eviction process, and/or find safe environments for the homeless. Addressing housing in rural areas is always more difficult due to limited resources. Families need support and they need resources.

We take a two-generational approach to housing, so we are addressing the "whole family" which is often extended relatives and grandchildren. This approach boosts the power of our education and employment systems, which ultimately empower people to "plug into" their community and new opportunities.

# 67

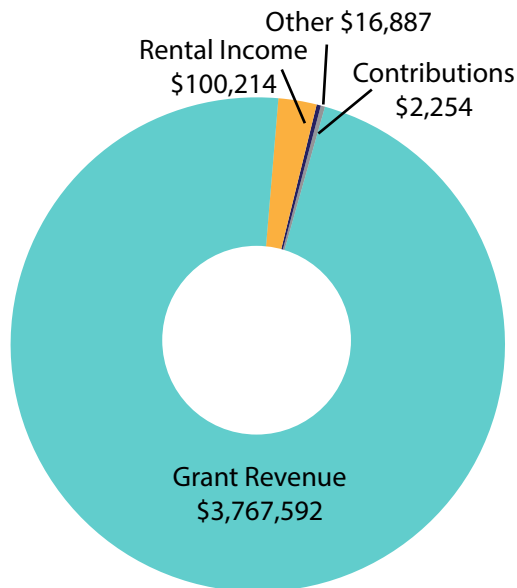
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS  
WHO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE  
FOR HOUSING OR BARRIER  
REMOVAL



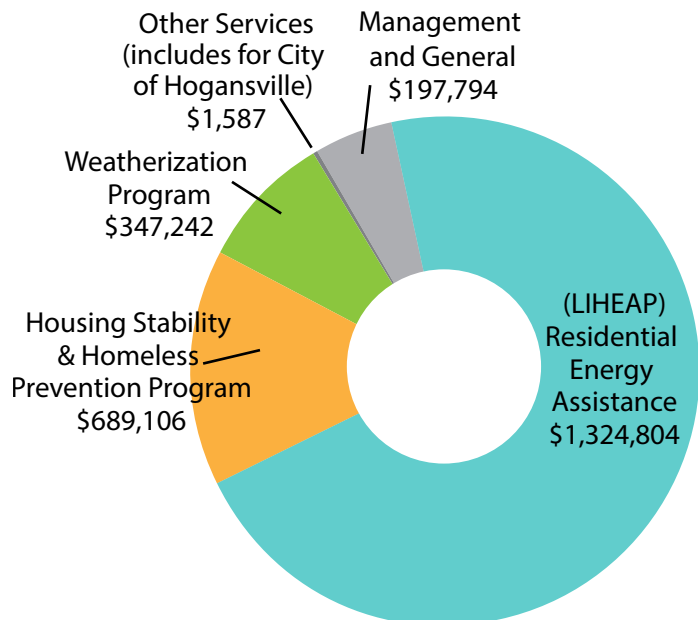
# Financials

## Source of Funds 2018-2019

Note: Grant cycles vary and may span two calendar years.



## Use of Funds 2018-2019



## Financial Facts:

CAFI spends \$0.97 of every dollar on direct client programs

CAFI Financials are audited annually by independent firm, Wipfli, LLP

CAFI has a GOLD seal of transparency from GuideStar.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 reaches those with greatest need.

**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.

# Partnerships

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

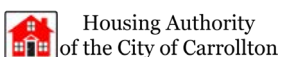
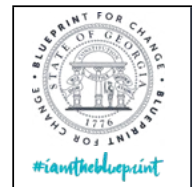
CAFI works within communities, often with existing service agencies, to address the needs of low-income families. We partner with faith-based organizations, public and private entities. Some of the greatest impact on families comes when agencies partner together. When this happens, we leverage dollars to bring more resources to the community. It allows us to avoid duplication of services, while finding permanent solutions for people living in poverty.



Pictured in Photo (L to R): Candance Ford, CAFI staff; Erica Smith, Community Volunteer; Patricia Woodyard, CAFI staff

Shown in this photo, CAFI staff and community volunteers work together to distribute turkeys to needy families. More than 25 families were blessed with a turkey to enjoy during the Thanksgiving season. Partnerships are critical to making this happen.

These partners and supporters helped to make an impact in 2019:



Interested in Partnering, Contributing or Volunteering?  
Just call us at 706-884-2651, or email us at [cafiinfo@cafi-ga.org](mailto:cafiinfo@cafi-ga.org).



**Community Action For Improvement, Inc.**

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Serving Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Meriwether  
and Troup Counties