

Community Action of Southern Indiana

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Planting Seeds for Growth

A new year brings new opportunities for growth and as Community Action of Southern Indiana looks forward to its 2023 – 2024 fiscal year, opportunities for growth abound.

As we work to fulfill CASI's mission of supporting and empowering families and communities striving to reach self-sufficiency, we will be implementing new programs, strengthening bonds with our community partners, serving more people, and building the Beloved Community.

CASI currently operates 15 programs which assist thousands of low income individuals each year. The Minority Health Initiative's Back to School Health Fair serves about 2,000 people in one day! Dozens of low income individuals get their tax returns done for free through Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Each year, over 50 families experience reduced utility bills thanks to their homes being weatherized through our Weatherization Program. Students are being mentored, Black-owned businesses are receiving assistance, and people are learning to manage household budgets. Young children are receiving the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Young parents are learning how to be better parents.

There is more that can be done, however, so this year CASI will be launching some new initiatives. One of these is an infant and toddler program through our Head Start Program. Head Start is already serving young children and their families from pre-natal to age 5, but the addition on an on-site infant and toddler program will help young parents with quality day care and will help these very young children in a safe, loving, and stimulating environment. CASI will be partnering with the Gilt Edge Community Development Corporation to offer no-cost expungement services. CASI will be addressing the growing need for affordable housing by building duplexes on land it recently purchased on Plank Road in Jeffersonville. And CASI will be establishing a diaper bank to help low-income young parents mitigate the high cost of keeping their babies clean and dry.

Beyond fiscal year 2023 - 2024, CASI is planning to build an accessible community Splash Park on its campus.

Community Action of Southern Indiana will need the help of the entire community to continue growing, add needed services, and make sure low-income individuals and families are not left behind. We encourage you to partner with us by donating to this mission. Every single dollar counts. Every donation matters.

We encourage you, also, to attend our events. For instance, CASI's Makers of Change Gala is a great way to have a great time while showing your support.

Volunteer, if you are able. There are number of events throughout the year that are fueled by volunteers.

Help us tell our story. Tell your family, friends, co-workers, and contacts about the good work CASI is doing and is planning to do. Follow us on social media and share our posts. Forward our emails to everyone you know and cheer us on whenever you can. Your love and support make a difference.

What Do You Think?

This is the question Community Action of Southern Indiana is continually asking members of the community, its partners, and its customers. The answers provide a foundation upon which CASI is able to build future programs and improve existing ones. CASI uses community input to create a plan for growth.

One new program which CASI is in the process of implementing, based on direct community input, is an employment transportation program for low-income individuals and persons in recovery.

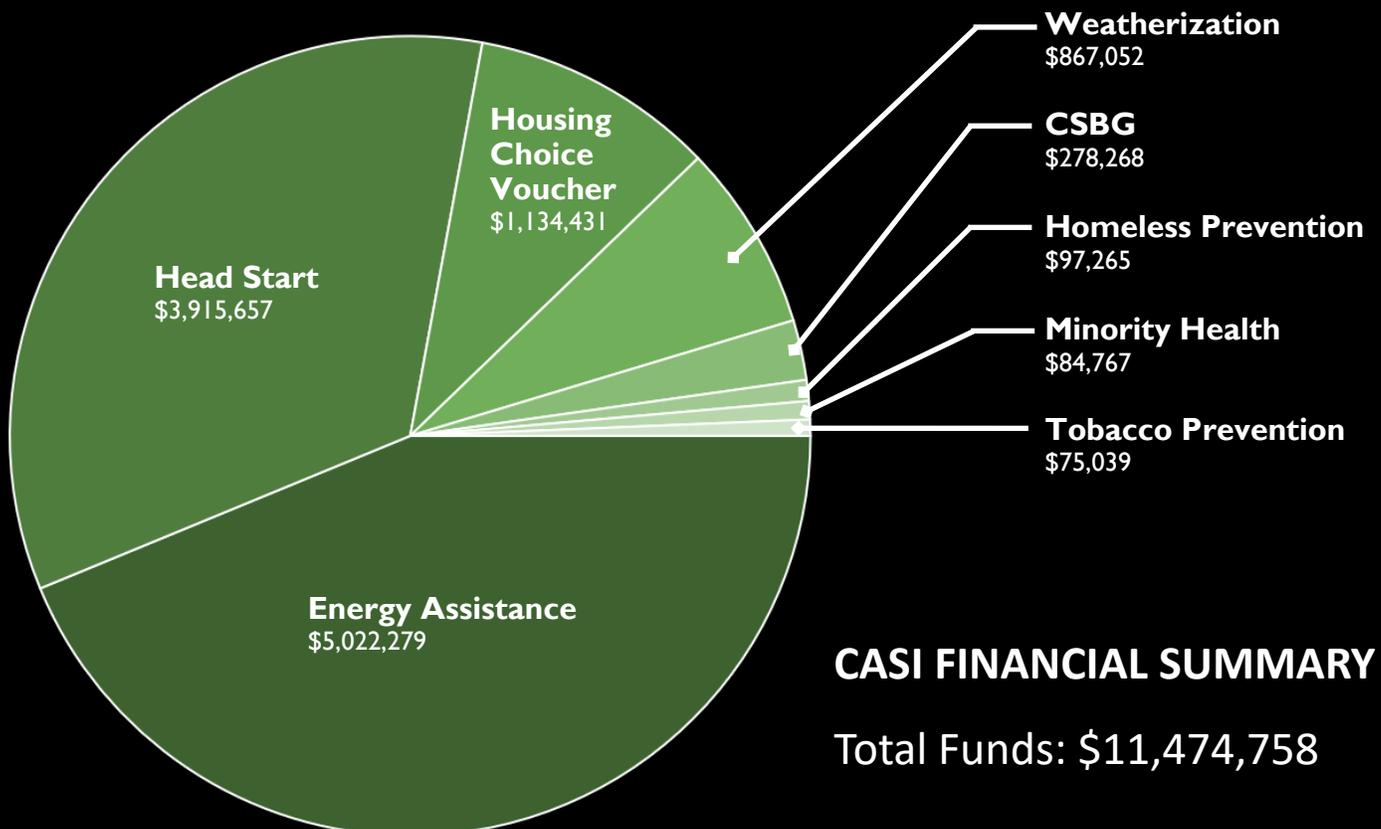
For low-income people, having reliable transportation is a key component to finding and keeping a good job. When transportation options fail and a person cannot get to work on time, or at all, employment may be put at risk. So, CASI is creating a transportation network to connect low-income workers with the area's employment hubs.

Also, meaningful work is becoming increasingly recognized as a critical component of recovery. Work provides the individual in recovery the ability to enhance self-esteem and to build confidence and self-worth by providing the person with the opportunity to invest in something in which she, he, or they can be successful. Employment is a vehicle for reintegrating the recovering person into the community as a productive and contributing member of society. Employment makes her, him, or them feel worthwhile and self-confident. Employment becomes a means for social readjustment and is, therefore, both an element of treatment and a desired outcome.

Sometimes, many people who are early recovery have lost their driving privileges which make finding and keeping a good job difficult. Many of our community's better paying jobs are not within walking distance of recovery residences.

CASI is committed to helping individuals in recovery find health and wellness and experience success. Since transportation is a barrier to employment for low-income individuals and for people in recovery, CASI is working to remove that barrier.

CASI's transportation service will allow persons in recovery to expand their employment opportunities. Individuals will be able to seek and find employment in Southern Indiana's areas of growth, which may mean higher wages with jobs leading to more responsibility. Such jobs enhance self-esteem and reinforce recovery.



Community Action of Southern Indiana PROGRAMS

CASI's **Head Start and Early Head Start** programs serve over 300 children, ages birth to 5. Families and children receive education, case management, and health and nutrition services from Head Start's Education and Family Services Departments.

CASI's **Housing Choice Voucher Program** is committed to the idea that every family has the right to safe, decent, and affordable housing. Low-income families select housing based on individual needs and are provided housing vouchers that allow them to utilize housing from approved landlords.

Weatherization permanently lowers utility bills by providing energy saving home improvements such as air-sealing, insulation, and furnace tune-ups.

Individual Development Accounts help low-income individuals and families save toward a down payment for a new home, education expenses, or another asset, such as a car. Deposits are matched 3-to-1!

The **Black L.O.V.E** (Live. Own. Vote. Excel.) Philanthropic Partnership assists local Black-owned businesses innovate and expand through mini-grants.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) offers free basic tax return preparation to low-income and older individuals.

Community Gardens build a sense of community through the shared work of sustainable gardening. Community Gardens creates healthy food options for neighborhoods where healthy food is hard to get.

Affordable Housing is a growing need in our community. Community Action of Southern Indiana has purchased about an acre of land on Plank Road in Jeffersonville. On this land, CASI will build energy-efficient duplexes which low-income families will be able to rent affordably.

The **Minority Health Initiative** works to eliminate health disparities through research, training, education, advocacy, and by improving access to health care services for at-risk populations. Community Action of Southern Indiana's Minority health Initiative focuses on obesity, diabetes, and cancer for residents of Clark, Floyd, and Harrison Counties.

The **Southern Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition** brings community partners together to reduce tobacco use within at-risk communities in Clark County.

Empower Southern Indiana helps to provide financial empowerment to low-income individuals, to at-risk communities, and to minority entrepreneurs and business owners. By providing financial opportunities to those who have been denied opportunity or to those who have a hard time accessing financial services and benefits, Empower Southern Indiana helps people realize their potential, helps ideas find expression, and provides support in an environment of equity and fairness.

CASI's **Teen Boutique** program improves self-esteem and independence by allowing low-income students to purchase \$100 of new clothes for school.

The **Life Literacy Academy** is a youth mentoring program designed to follow a select group of students from 8th grade through 12th grade. The youth cohort is engaged in character education and focuses on career or college readiness.

VOICE Action Speaks facilitates opportunities for community groups to collaborate directly with teens who are interested in engaging in grassroots organizing activities that lead to tobacco free lifestyles. VOICE engineered campaigns are designed to directly equip teens with the tools to take action against the powerful, strategic, well-funded tobacco industry.

Youth Success works to lessen educational disparities among young people.

Agency Mission

CASI supports and empowers individuals, families, and communities striving to reach self-sufficiency and works to provide life enhancing opportunities for every individual and family desiring to experience extraordinary change in their lives.

In order to reduce poverty and improve well-being in our community, a Community Action of Southern Indiana works to better focus available local, state, federal, and private resources to assist low-income individuals and families acquire useful skills and knowledge, to gain access to needed services, to discover new opportunities, and to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Community Action of Southern Indiana's broad base of services makes a difference every day for individuals and families.

Community Action of Southern Indiana thanks its PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Nu Look Barber Shop	Life Spring	Excel Center	Interfaith Paths to Peace
Mark's Barber Shop	Family Health Centers	Communities in Schools	On Earth Peace
Anthem Insurance	Community Kitchen	Silver Creek Schools	Wesley United Methodist Church
CareSource	CenterStone	Greater Clark Schools	First Trinity Baptist Church
Census Bureau	Claysburg Days Committee	New Albany Floyd County Schools	Gilt Edge Baptist Church
Kohl's	Catalyst Emergency Shelter	Parkview Middle School	Samtec Cares
Tony McGee's Barber Shop	Jeffersonville Township Public Library	Charlestown Middle School	Indiana Avenue Baptist Church
Giavanne Rondo, MD	United Way	Ivy Tech	Nothside Church of Christ
Master's Touch Barber Shop	Clarksville Rotary	Indiana University Southeast	Southeast Christina Church
Evelyn's Beauty Shop	Jeffersonville Rotary	King Holiday Committee	Graceland Baptist Church
Clark Memorial Health	WorkOne	Clarksville Community Schools	St. Stephen Church
Jersey Mike's	Leadership Southern Indiana	Clarksville High School	Relevant Church
Fourteen Foods	Systems of Care	Clarksville Middle School	Bethel AME Church
4Republic Bank	New Albany Housing Authority	Charlestown High School	St. James United Methodist Church
PNC Bank	Jeffersonville Housing Authority	Clark County 4H	St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Old National Bank	NAACP	Purdue Extension Service	St. Luke United Church of Christ
German American Bank	Charlestown Housing Authority	Jeffersonville High School	River Ridge Early Learning Center
Coker Eye Care	Goodwill	Scribner Middle School	Ceasar's Foundation
PC Builders	Volunteers of America	Hazelwood Middle School	Dare to Care Food Bank
Earth First	American Heart Association	New Albany High School	Children Shouldn't Hunger
Maxwell's House of Music	American Lung Association	Rock Creek Academy	BreakAway
Budget Print Centers	American Cancer Society	Scott County Schools 1	Center For Nonprofit Excellence
WesBanco	Hispanci Connection	Scott County Schools 2	Child and Adult Care Food Program
Dan Cristiani Excavating	Clark County Stonewall Group	Scottsburg Middle School	LifeSpan
New Washington State Bank	David M. Jolley Veterans Group	Austin Middle School	Joanie Pruneski, LCSW
Macaroni Kid	YMCA	Austin High School	Alice Collis, RDN
Big O Tires	Jeffersonville Main Street	Scott County Partnership	Dr. Joseph Fleck, DDS
Voigners Auto	Farmer's Market	University of Louisville	Wendy Waggoner, MSW
The Jefferson	Art in Speed Park	4 Horsemen	Brothers of Honor
Brighter Day Anderson Temple Church of God in Christ	Clark County Head Start and Early Head Start	New Beginnings Nondenominational Church	Community Foundation of Southern Indiana
Community Coordinated Child Care of Southern Indiana	Southern Indiana Supervision and Consulting, LLC	Jeffersonville Urban Enterprise Associ- ation	Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana
Borden-Henryville Community Schools	Claysburg Neighborhood Association	First Steps of Southern Indiana	Maple Leaf Academy
Clark County Cares			