

2020 Annual Report

**South Central
Community Action Program**



ABOUT SCCAP



MISSION

We provide opportunities for low-income individuals and families to achieve personal and economic independence.

VISION

We envision all individuals having the support and resources needed to attain a quality lifestyle and self-sufficiency.

NONDISCRIMINATION

All SCCAP services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry or status as a veteran.

A word from our Executive Director



If you are viewing this publication you may have some awareness about the South Central Community Action Program. I hope that this report further expands your understanding of this agency's purpose and effectiveness in its effort to reduce the impact of poverty. Through the dedicated work of the men and women of our agency, volunteers, and generosity of our partners and patrons, we consistently provide opportunities for those who are experiencing scarcity. 2020 was especially hard on countless lives as communities were dramatically changed through being shut down for long periods of time due to the State of Indiana's and local responses to Covid-19. Our agency adapted and forged ahead with innovative approaches to continue to serve nearly seven thousand individuals and over four thousand families this past year.

Our programs equipped thousands of individuals with the ability to maintain their homes while oftentimes enduring a host of circumstances that limit their capacity to afford them. Many found relief from expensive childcare costs and lack of food. Others gained opportunities to explore and achieve their personal goals, such as becoming better educated, improving their health, volunteering, and discovering ways to become more self-sufficient.

As we look back on 2020 and consider what has been accomplished, we are encouraged to remain focused on the future as we engage with and advocate for those whose need is waiting to be met. Thank-you to all who contribute to the work of South Central Community Action Program!

Frank Peacock
Executive Director

A word from our Board President

On the front of my refrigerator are a plethora of notes, cards, and artwork masterpieces from my children, but one magnet catches my eye every morning whenever I open the door. It came from a family trip to Walt Disney World on January 17, 2020. It is the yearly magnet that Disney makes, and as we went down there for our biennial pilgrimage, we bought one to remind us of this rare privilege and joy for our family. The 2020 magnet shows Mickey and Minnie looking at Cinderella's castle with fireworks in the background, and at the bottom, written in the iconic Disney font and in big letters, is the phrase, "Feel the magic." Feel. The. Magic. That phrase mocked me each morning through panic, stress, work, school, and a multitude of anxieties that encapsulated 2020. I sneered at the magnet, hid it, and even considered throwing it away. However, I now look at that magnet with appreciation.

As we roll through 2021, that phrase has taken on new meaning for me, and SCCAP embodies that change in my perception. In 2020, SCCAP closed for a little bit as we all grappled with what this scourge is and how we could overcome it. As a Head Start parent, I noticed that SCCAP reopened quickly, provided a safe environment for my child, and made magic happen. When our community struggled with massive lay-offs and unemployment, SCCAP provided needed aid in housing vouchers, energy assistance, and weatherization to keep our community housed and warm through the tumult. SCCAP transitioned to new platforms and developed innovative ways to support its clients and made me feel some magic.

As Board President, I could not be prouder of the work that the employees, parents, volunteers, and community partners to SCCAP accomplished during a terrifying pandemic. When I look at the magnet now, I think about all of the people who have made countless sacrifices and made me believe that, soon, we can all feel the magic of a post-pandemic world.

Tom Pappas
SCCAP Board President



2020 Board of Directors

Stacy Jane Rhoads - Public Sector: Monroe County Commissioner's Appointment

Shelli Yoder - Public Sector: Monroe County Mayor's Appointment

Peter Seybold - Private Sector: Monroe County White River Labor Council

Kelly Walter - Private Sector: Monroe County Area 10 Agency on Aging

Tom Pappas - Low Income Sector: Monroe County Council of Involved Families

Kim Johnson - Low Income Sector: Monroe County Head Start Policy Council Rep.

Bethany Penrod - Low Income Sector: Monroe County

Wally DeFord - Private Sector: Owen County

Lori Watkins - Low-Income Sector: Owen County

Tammy Rogers - Low Income Sector: Owen County

Dave Newgent - Public Sector: Owen County Council's Appointment

Tricia Bock - Public Sector: Brown County Commissioner's Appointment

Sandy Higgins - Private Sector: Brown County

Jessica Crouch - Low Income Sector: Brown County

Kathryn Byrd - Low Income Sector: Morgan County

Susan Rinne - Public Sector: Morgan Commissioner's Appointment

Bob Goodrum - Private Sector: Morgan County

THRIVING CONNECTIONS

Thriving Connections is the multi-generational community building model that gathers diverse people who cultivate intentional relationships across economic class by creating a safe harbor to focus on achieving financial, emotional, mental, physical, social, and spiritual growth. Thriving Connections provides a holistic approach to helping individuals and families captain their ship of life as they achieve their goals, better understand the challenges of poverty, and effect change. This results in everyone feeling empowered with purpose and direction to move forward together.

Our Thriving Connections initiative is a tight-knit group of Captains and Allies who work together each week on different topics, so transitioning those close meetings to an online format was quite a hurdle, but as many of our Captains do on a daily basis, we adapted and overcame. In 2020, we were able to continue our weekly meetings on Zoom and hosted topics such as sustainable employment, financial literacy, and nutritional recipes with The Plant Truck Project. We also delivered busy bags to our families full of puzzles, games, books, and other resources to make the quarantine period a little easier. In 2020, we hosted an online training for new Captains as well.

During the pandemic we were also able to successfully seek new funding sources to benefit our families. We started the Martin Fund, which connects TC Captains with reliable transportation that is so integral to pursuing their professional and personal goals. We also started the TC Youth Extracurricular fund with the intention to eliminate the barrier of fees from prohibiting the children of Captains from participating in extra-curricular activities.



GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

Growing Opportunities started 2020 like every other year with a focus on providing job training opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment. This was done via our hydroponic greenhouse where they offer job training while growing produce that is sold to local supermarkets and at farmers markets. During the year they were able to continue growing produce and selling it to our partners. We regularly attended the People's Market and the Wednesday Farmers Market sponsored by the Monroe County Growers Association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the needs of our community and our ability to work closely with our StoneBelt partners caused a shift in program focus. When Stonebelt closed down they were no longer able to perform the job training elements of the program. Once StoneBelt reopened their job training requirements couldn't be fulfilled due to social distancing safety precautions. As the agency evaluated community needs assessments, we saw a 168% increase in food pantry patrons in 2020, a lack of quality local produce, and a lack transportation to and from the pantries. In 2020 Growing Opportunities donated 1,050 pounds of produce to local food pantries, increasing our communities' access to free, nutritionally rich food. Growing Opportunities responded to the shift in community needs and transformed into a program with a new mission; to address food insecurity in Monroe and surrounding counties. We are excited to continue developing Growing Opportunities even more in 2021 and years beyond.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Our Energy Assistance Program(EAP) Year 2020/2021 was lead by Julie Wilson, a longtime SCCAP employee, who transitioned into the Energy Assistance Manager role in 2020. Julie had been with SCCAP for over 6 years as the Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager and was familiar with EAP's policy and procedure. Our EAP team processed 3,607 applications in our four counties. This program year, we were able to serve 6,032 persons. These clients received a one-time benefit applied to their energy bill.

Along with many other programs, nonprofits, and businesses in 2020, we faced some adversity in being able to deliver our services as we have in the past, but our team adjusted and came up with multiple ways to change how we do things to make applying for EAP as easy as possible. A walk-up service window was installed at the main office as a response to COVID-19 so that we could continue to serve clients safely and effectively. Secure drop boxes were installed at each of the county offices in response to the pandemic so that clients could drop off EAP applications in a contact-less way and at their convenience. We hired additional caseworkers for EAP so that each of the county offices now has two caseworkers. We also invested more energy in advertising the program online and through referrals from other agencies. We mailed out applications to all past EAP clients as soon as they were available.

SCCAP's Energy Assistance Program was awarded \$731,854 in CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) to be applied in amounts of \$350 to the utilities of approved EAP households that had lost employment, either completely or partially, directly related to the pandemic. This extra benefit during a pandemic was very much needed for our clients, and we were happy to be able to help get those benefits to them.

WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization(WX) program reduces energy consumption in low-income households and ensures that each client has a safe, operating heat source. Clients receive a furnace inspection and an energy audit. SCCAP uses private contractors to repair or replace heat sources, install insulation and seal the homes.

In 2020, we were able to provide non-emergency WX services to 31 households, which translates to 97 individuals. This assistance will continue to be effective in their homes for many years to come, not only making it more energy efficient, but a safer place to live.



HOUSING

Due to the global health crisis, 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. Despite these challenges, SCCAP not only maintained housing opportunities in Brown, Clay, Marion, Monroe, Morgan and Owen counties, we expanded into Greene County this past year. We served 373 families through the Housing Choice Program (HCVP), and provided permanent supportive housing to 89 families through the Project Based Voucher Program (PBVP). Our organization is excited by our successes in 2020, and we hope to build upon our accomplishments to house more Hoosiers in the future.



HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

Total number of children served: Head Start: 75 Early Head Start: 346
Total number of families served: 352
Average monthly enrollment: Head Start: 196 Early Head Start: 51
Percentage of eligible children served: Head Start: 84% Early Head Start: 89%
Percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams:
Head Start: 72%
Early Head Start: 76%
Percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams:
Head Start: 57%
Early Head Start: 30%

Head Start hosted several virtual parent and family events in the 2020-2021 school year. The school year began with the virtual Back to School Bash, which 3 families attended. Each site hosted a virtual Open House in September, which a total of 43 families participated in. From September to April we hosted monthly virtual Parent Education nights, using our Conscious Discipline curriculum that is also used in the classroom. Individual sites and classrooms hosted virtual Parent Meetings every other month. These meetings are planned by the classroom teachers, family advocate, policy council parent representative, and the site coordinator. These meetings were well-attended this year and included mini lessons from our Conscious Discipline curriculum that parents can implement at home. We hosted a virtual story time for our Fall Family Fun Night in November, which 6 families attended. A virtual Kindergarten transition event was held with The Project School in February. Policy Council also met virtually each month. While in-person meetings were not possible this year, staff kept parents and families engaged in the program through many virtual formats this year, including Zoom calls, classroom Facebook groups, and phone calls.



2020 Head Start Policy Council

Parents:

First United – Du Huynh

First United Methodist Church – Kimberly Johnson

First United Methodist Church – Alyssa Dault

Home Based – Simon Munyaneza

Lindbergh – Tom Pappas

Lindbergh Alternate – Berta Hogan

Villages EHS – Meranda Shipley-Bush

Villages EHS Alternate – Makayla Carpenter

Walnut Woods – Jessica Baxter

Community Reps:

Jennifer Myers

Sara Egli

Lesley Arnold

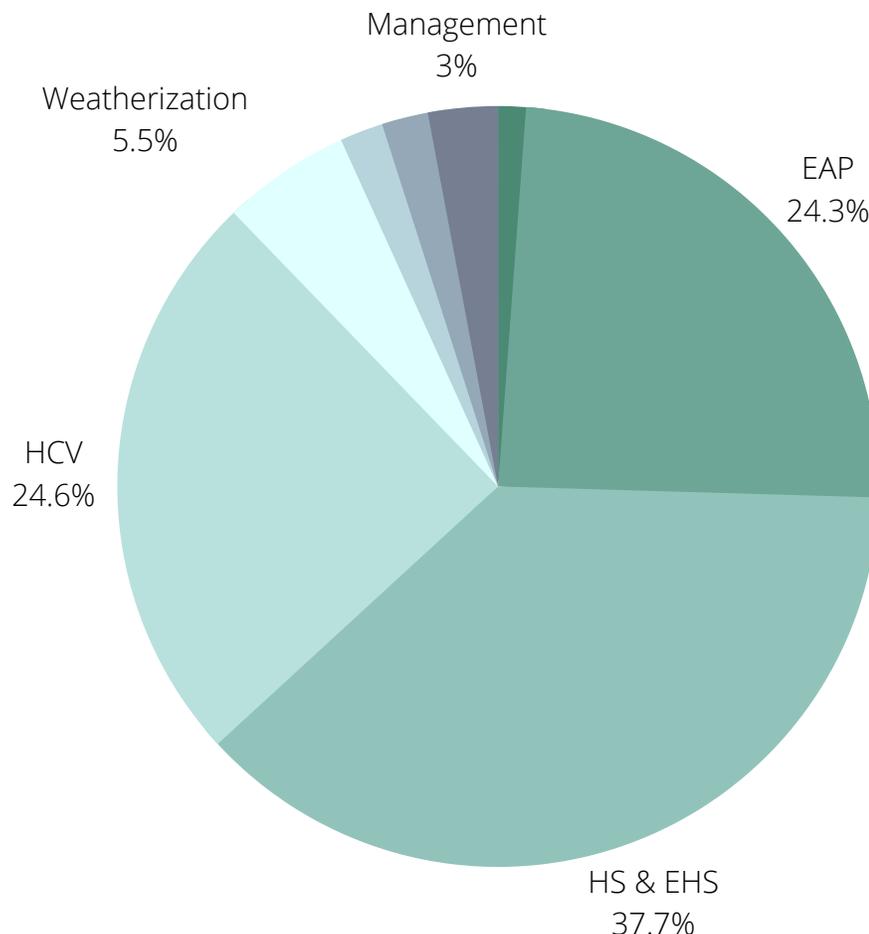
2020 Financials



The following numbers are from our 2020 fiscal audit, which reported no financial statement findings or federal award findings for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Operating Expenses

Affordable Housing.....	\$121,200
Energy Assistance Program (EAP).....	\$2,510,164
Head Start & Early Head Start.....	\$3,897,272
Housing Choice Opportunities	\$2,543,677
Weatherization (LIHEAP & DOE).....	\$563,468
Thriving Connections.....	\$190,141
Other Programs.....	\$203,556
Management & General	\$305,689

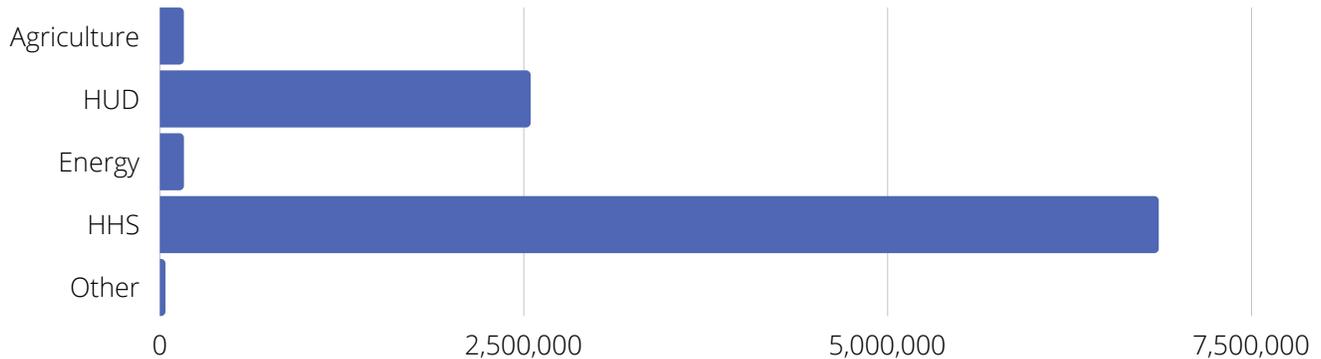


2020 Financials



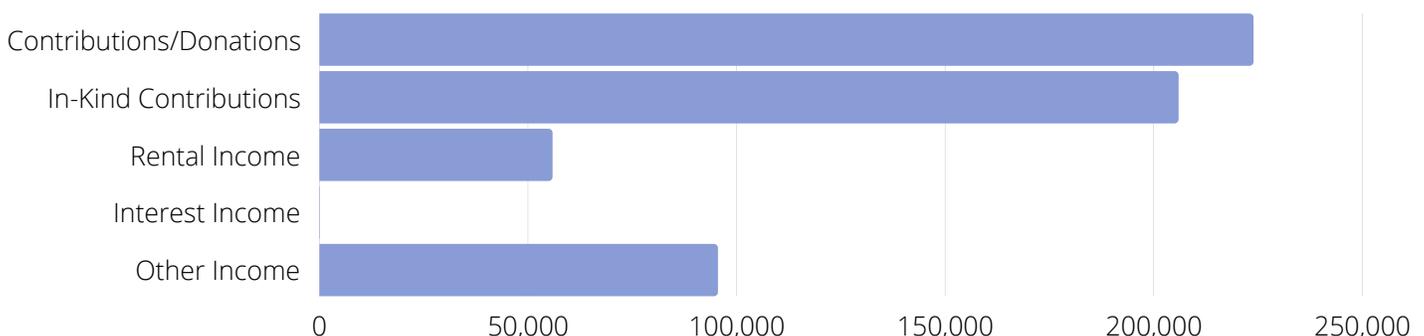
Public Funds Received

US Department of Agriculture.....	\$161,250
US Department of Housing & Urban Development.....	\$2,543,677
US Department of Energy.....	\$161,810
US Department of Health & Human Services.....	\$6,859,190
Other State & Local Funds.....	\$34,986



Private Funds Received

Contributions/Donations.....	\$223,888
In-Kind Contributions.....	\$205,921
Rental Income.....	\$55,840
Interest Income.....	\$18
Other Income.....	\$95,496



2020

Lookout for next year's Annual Report in the Spring of 2022!

