



South Central Community Action Program

SCCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

Annual Report 2021

**South Central
Community
Action Program**

About SCCAP

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

We Proudly Serve

Brown County

746 Memorial Drive, Nashville, IN 47448
(812) 988-6636

Monroe County

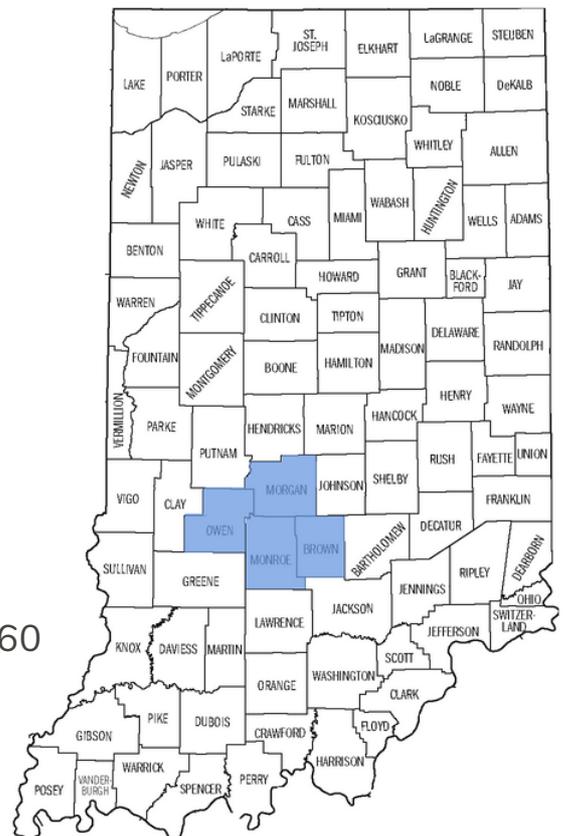
1500 W. 15th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404
(812) 339-3447

Morgan County

159 W. Morgan Street, Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-1518

Owen County

205 E. Morgan Street, Suite D, Spencer, IN 47460
(812) 829-2279



Message from the Executive Director

Since 1965, South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) has been working diligently to provide opportunities for all people to achieve personal and economic independence to strengthen our community.

I am new to the role as Executive Director, but I am not new to the agency. For over 20 years, I've had the privilege of working with our communities in various roles. From enrolling children into a preschool program, to giving apartment keys to a person suffering from homelessness, I've been able to help affect so many lives during my tenure at SCCAP. It's been an enriching part of my life, and I'm very fortunate that I have new opportunities within our organization.

Even though I won't have a more direct role with clients, I am looking forward to fostering an environment where our employees have all the tools to help people become more self-sufficient. We are doing this by being good stewards of Federal and State grants. We are also partnering with local government, businesses, non-for-profit agencies, individuals, and volunteers. We are always actively seeking new programs that can benefit our communities. Because of our efforts, we've helped over 3000 households, amounting to over 5700 individuals.

We're grateful for the work that we do, and we are looking forward to new ventures for our organization. South Central Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

Thank you,

Eddy Riou, Jr.
Executive Director



Message from the Board of Directors

In my professional life, I work with Latin and Ancient Greek texts. This seemingly useless skillset affords me one tool though – I have a quote for every occasion. As the SCCAP Board President, I have been asked to write a few words about the agency over the last year, and this quote from an ancient philosopher, Heraclitus, came to mind. “Change is the only constant in life.” SCCAP has undergone some changes over the past year, and I am proud to report that SCCAP is better positioned than ever to serve the communities in Brown, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties.

Frank Peacock stepped down as Executive Director towards the end of 2021, and we were sad to see him go. Frank had steered SCCAP out of tumultuous straits and had SCCAP well-positioned to grow in our fundamental mission and program areas. The Board heartily offered Frank its thanks for his stewardship of SCCAP and for helping in the transition for our new Executive Director – Eddy Riou.

Eddy has been at SCCAP for 22 years, and the Board is pleased that Eddy offered to step into this role. Already, SCCAP has secured new grants and moved to provide more housing vouchers for our clients. SCCAP is finalizing the management of a new apartment complex to provide more housing options in our community to low-income residents. This exciting venture has been planned, developed, and implemented with Eddy’s guidance. Our network of connections in Bloomington and throughout Indiana continue to grow with Eddy’s passion for seizing opportunities to collaborate. Although he may not receive the direct credit, our community will feel Eddy’s impact for years to come, and the Board is proud to support Eddy as he guides SCCAP into a post-pandemic landscape.

There were many other staffing changes, which is occurring at all organizations, and while I regret that I cannot mention everyone who has come and who has gone, I express my gratitude to each and every employee, donor, client, contractor, board member, and anyone else who has interacted with SCCAP for the positive impact that you have made. There are many current events that defy understanding and create a world with less love in it; however, SCCAP and its employees provide me with hope. Hope that the cycle of poverty that crushes generations of our neighbors can be broken. Hope that compassion and understanding can prevail over hatred and ignorance. Hope that we can make our community a little better for everyone. On behalf of the Board, thank you all for what you have done over the last year to support each other and to persevere through unfathomable times. I am optimistic that 2022 will be better because of the work, about which you will soon read, from 2021.

Tom Pappas
President of SCCAP Board of Directors



Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded initiative that enables us to help keep members of low-income families safe and healthy in their homes. We provide a one-time benefit that assists them in achieving energy self-sufficiency and allows them to avoid utility disruptions. We provide assistance through EAP for households in Brown, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties.

We began accepting applications for the 2021-2022 Energy Assistance Program on September 13th, and benefits could begin being disbursed on November 1, 2021. We wrapped up the program year in May of 2022 after serving 3,541 households (and 6,775 individuals) across our four counties, which was an increase of 175 households from last season. An average benefit for households not in crisis was almost \$850.

Thanks to American Rescue Plan funding that was available in response to the pandemic, each household that was approved for EAP automatically received an additional \$300 (to be split evenly between heating and electric) in benefits. For any household that had a past due balance, or a crisis amount larger than the amount that could be covered by LIHEAP funding, we used American Rescue Plan arrears funding. Using ARP funding alone (supplemental and arrears), we awarded over \$1.3 million in benefits to EAP households. This extra funding helped our community members to live in a safe and stable home through turbulent times caused by the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing energy costs.

Using almost \$180,000 from our Emergency Repair and Replace program (ERR), and with the help of our Weatherization department, we were able to repair or replace inoperable heating systems for 44 households.

This past season as part of our Energy Assistance Program, we administered the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Through this much needed initiative, we were able to disperse over \$34,000 in assistance to our clients' water bills.

Through multiple streams of funding, we are happy to have been able to provide over \$3.7 million to the households in our community who needed it most. These benefits ensured that our neighbors could live in their homes through the winter and avoid a utility shutoff. We are excited to begin our next season of Energy Assistance in the fall of 2022.

Weatherization

The Weatherization Program reduces energy consumption in low-income households and insures 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 2021, we fully weatherized 45 households. The work done on each home varies, but you can see in the graphic below some common problem areas where air leaks into and out of the house. Our contractors will address any issues in these areas as a part of their weatherization work.

In addition to all the work done on our clients homes, we also provide energy education to our community. We do this to ensure that our neighbors are keeping their homes safe from potential household hazards as well as using the most energy efficient products when they can. We provided energy education to a total of 69 households in 2021.



Housing Choice Opportunities

Our Housing Choice Opportunities program is dedicated to addressing the housing insecurity issues that are widespread in Indiana. SCCAP provides a variety of housing initiatives in seven counties in South Central Indiana. We administer Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), Project Based Vouchers (PBV), Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), and Family Unification Project Vouchers (FUPY). In addition to administering vouchers, we have affordable rental units in Monroe, Brown, and Owen Counties, partner with other housing agencies to coordinate services, and engage in Housing Stability working groups in the community to be involved in community planning. We provide housing opportunities in Brown, Clay, Greene, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties.

In 2021 we served nearly 500 families through our voucher programs with close to \$3,000,000 in housing assistance. We look forward to continuing to expand our housing services to meet the increasing need in our communities.

Growing Opportunities

Growing Opportunities is an urban hydroponic farm that provides fresh produce and nutrition education to everyone, which we envision leading to healthier and happier communities. Our greenhouse grows Bibb lettuce, spring mix, winter mix, and other fresh produce and herbs. We sell that produce to local eateries, supermarkets, and schools. The revenue helps make the project sustainable and increases the availability of fresh, local produce year-round in our community. We donate a portion of our produce to local food pantries. In 2021, we donated 65% or 1,580 pounds of produce to our community partners, People's Market and Pantry 279. We also create and distribute free, accessible video content, grocery lists, healthy recipes, etc. that are specific to the communities we serve, in order to help families make affordable and healthy choices when shopping, cooking, and utilizing food pantries.

We provided fresh produce weekly for one year to 367 families, in addition to the fresh produce they all received weekly boxes from Pantry 279, MCUM, or People's Market. We are only able to make the impact that we do because of our wonderful community partners. In 2021, we worked with Hoosier Hills Food Bank, People's Market, Light House Community Church, Helping Hands by Civic Champs, Pantry 279, Monroe County Growers Association, and many more. We are so thankful to other community agencies that work with us to serve our food insecure neighbors.



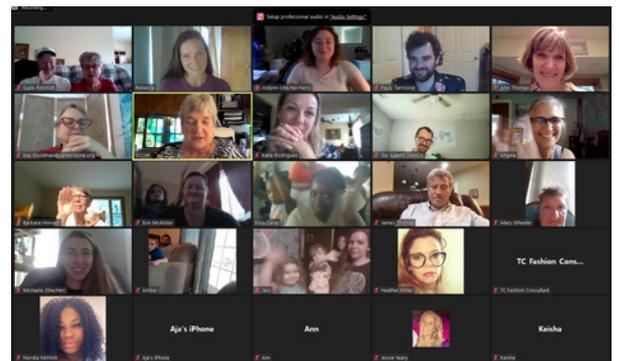
Thriving Connections

Thriving Connections (TC) is an intentional community whose goal is to eliminate poverty by bringing together diverse perspectives to address stereotypes and break down individual, community, and systemic barriers. TC participants study poverty, its causes, its impacts, and seek out resources and connections to create a place where everyone thrives. Our whole community attends weekly meetings, where families and volunteers learn about local resources, build relationships and understanding, and have fun.

In 2021, we had 15 TC families regularly involved in our programming, which includes 45 TC Youth. These families improved their mental, physical, and emotional health in various ways, each specific to the needs of the individual family. We graduated seven new Captains from the Captain 101 Training Class in 2021, and you can see our graduates in the photo grid below.

Our initiative is only able to have the wide impact that it does because of our amazing community partners and dedicated volunteers. In 2021 TC had 3,386 volunteer hours donated through various groups. While we work with so many community organizations throughout the year, some that we would like to give a special thank you to for partnering with us to deliver services in 2021 are United Way, Work One, My Sister's Closet, The Plant Truck Project, City of Bloomington's Digital Equity grant, Lilly Endowment grant, Indiana University, and the Strengthening Family Coping Resources program.

We were so happy to partner with the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to provide resources and tools for our families and other families in our community for meaningful and sustainable employment. Through this new funding we also explored and addressed common barriers to achieving and maintaining employment. We were able to add a new staff member in 2021 to head up this initiative and deliver sustainable employment trainings to not only our TC community members, but also some of our partner organizations.



Head Start & Early Head Start

Total number of children served

- Head Start: 393
- Early Head Start: 95

Total number of families served: 368

Average monthly enrollment

- Head Start: 195
- Early Head Start: 54

Percentage of eligible children served

- Head Start: 82% (Classified as below 100% of poverty level, foster, or homeless)
- Early Head Start: 89% (Classified as below 100% of poverty level, foster, or homeless)

Percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams

- Head Start: 84%
- Early Head Start: 91%

Percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams

- Head Start: 58%
- Early Head Start: 42%



Head Start hosted several virtual and in-person parent and family events in the 2021. In the second half of the 20-21 school year, we continued to host virtual parent nights each month using our Conscious Discipline curriculum. We also continued with virtual policy council meetings each month and individual sites had a combination of virtual and in-person parent meetings. Beginning in August of 2021 we transitioned to having some in-person events. We hosted multiple policy council meetings in-person and held our annual Back to School Bash in-person. All sites had in-person parent meetings and open houses between August-December of 2021. We have also been able to restart our in-person Mighty Men (father engagement) and Wonder Women (mother engagement) events. For these events we did activities such as pumpkin decorating, Fall crafts, STEM activities, and decorating gingerbread houses. We continue to keep families engaged in the program in a variety of formats, including in-person events, virtual events, and classroom Facebook pages.

In the effort to ready our children and their families for the transition to kindergarten, we hosted Kindergarten Transition nights with local schools/school systems. We also prepared the children by talking to them about expectations of kindergarten throughout the year, reading books about kindergarten, and telling social stories about going to kindergarten. We worked on social emotional skills, self help, and kindergarten readiness skills that will all be necessary for the transition. Teachers supported families and shared ideas that they can work on at home to help prepare their children for kindergarten.

2021 HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Parents:

- First United – Christina Bond
- First United – Du Huynh
- First United alternate – Morningstar Brisbon
- First United Methodist Church – Staci Dow
- First United Methodist Church – Nicole Samaras
- First United Methodist Church alternate – Brittany McClain
- Home Based – Mohamed Sayed
- Home Based alternate – Simon Munyaneza
- Lindbergh – Yusuf Canbolat
- Lindbergh – Katie Kiger
- Lindbergh Alternate – Amy Popp
- RBB – Sherri Norris
- RBB alternate – Nicole Drake
- Villages EHS – Makayla Carpenter
- Villages EHS alternate – Morgan West
- Villages Preschool – Meranda Shipley-Bush
- Villages Preschool alternate – Laura Crone
- Walnut Woods – Janet Stacy

Community Representatives:

- Jennifer Myers
- Sara Egli
- Lesley Arnold

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tom Pappas- Board President
 - Monroe County Low Income Sector Representative
- Bethany Penrod- Board Vice President
 - Monroe County Low Income Sector Representative
- Kelly Walter- Board Treasurer
 - Monroe County Private Sector Representative from Area 10 Agency on Aging
- Kathryn Byrd- Board Secretary
 - Morgan County Low Income Sector Representative
- Kim Johnson
 - Monroe County Low Income Sector Representative from the Head Start Policy Council
- Wally DeFord
 - Owen County Private Sector Representative
- Dave Newgent
 - Owen County Public Sector Representative, Appointed by Owen County Council
- Sandy Higgins
 - Brown County Private Sector Representative
- Jessica Crouch
 - Brown County Low Income Sector Representative
- Susan Rinne
 - Morgan County Public Sector Representative, Appointed by Morgan County Commissioner
- Bob Goodrum
 - Morgan County Private Sector Representative

2021 FINANCIALS

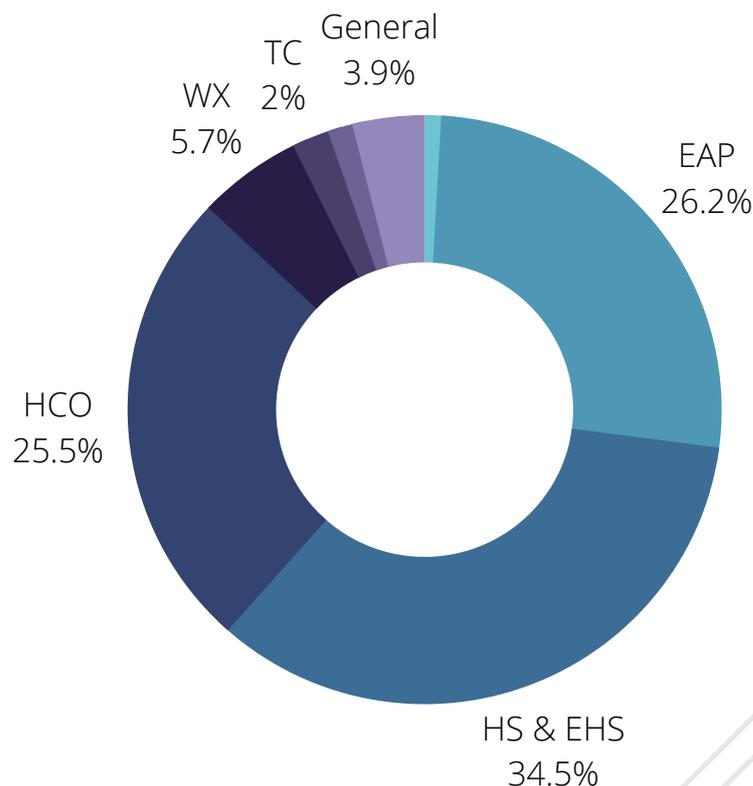
The following numbers are from our 2021 fiscal audit, which reported no financial statement findings or federal award findings for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Operating Expenses

Affordable Housing.....	\$104,511
Energy Assistance Program (EAP)	\$3,067,372
Head Start & Early Head Start.....	\$4,038,999
Housing Choice Opportunities.....	\$2,989,907
Weatherization (LIHEAP & DOE).....	\$664,973
Thriving Connections.....	\$236,257
Other Program.....	\$159,748
Management & General.....	\$459,828

Total

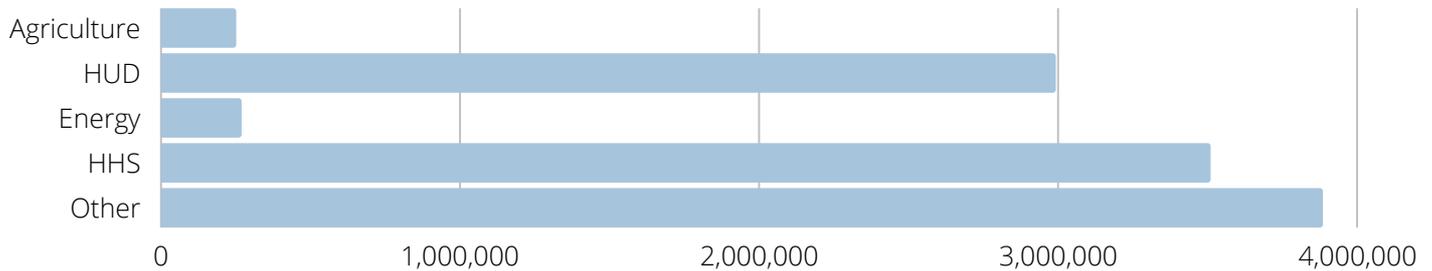
\$11,721,595



2021 FINANCIALS

Public Funds Received

US Department of Agriculture.....	\$248,286
US Department of Housing & Urban Development.....	\$2,989,907
US Department of Energy.....	\$266,157
US Department of Health & Human Services.....	\$3,507,735
Other Federal, State & Local Funds.....	\$3,883,387



Private Funds Received

Contributions/Donations.....	\$23,424
In-Kind Contributions.....	\$252,799
Rental Income.....	\$60,217
Interest Income.....	\$21
Other Income.....	\$92,677



2021

**Lookout for next year's Annual Report
in the Spring of 2023!**

