

The SCCAP 2023 Annual Report is a public document.

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- A physical copy is shared with community partners and funders.
- The general public may request a copy of SCCAP's Annual Report at any time.

**2023**



South Central Community Action Program

**SCCAP**

*Empowering people to reach their potential*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

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**SOUTH CENTRAL  
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM**



# In 2023, SCCAP served:



10,013 individuals



5,221 households

## Our Mission

We provide opportunities for all people to achieve personal and economic independence to strengthen our community.

## 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, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, marital status, 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

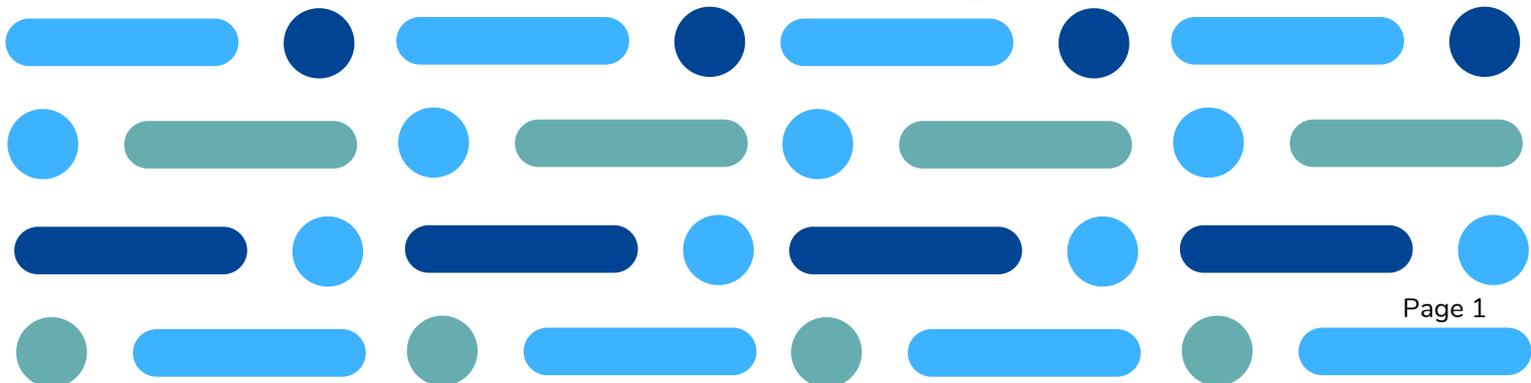
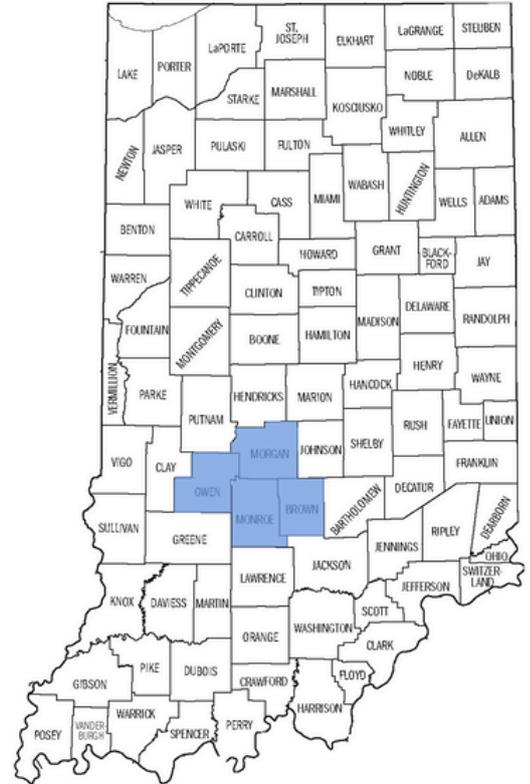
1500 W. 15th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404  
(812) 339-3447

### 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



# A message from the Executive Director



2023 was a busy year for the agency! We're excited to share our Annual Report and what we've accomplished for our communities. As an agency, we've focused on helping more people, strengthening partnerships, and coming up with new ways to provide opportunities for all people to achieve personal and economic independence.

Once again, we served more people in 2023 for Energy Assistance than in previous years. Our agency opened our Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List for

all our communities to help provide safe, affordable housing for clients.

We've added Health Navigation through Covering Kids and Families to assist people with insurance. And SCCAP still continues to provide weatherization services, early childhood education, and family development in an exemplary manner to those who need us.

Because of our work, we've been recognized by organizations like Girls, Inc. and the Indiana Housing Community Development Authority. As an award-winning agency, this has strengthened relationships with current partners, and created new opportunities to serve our community.

Towards the end of 2023, we were awarded \$1,000,000 by the City of Bloomington for economic equity. This allowed us to tackle things like medical debt, childcare costs, housing needs, menstrual equity, and those who need medically specific diets. We are honored that the city has entrusted us with these funds and are excited to help folks in new ways.

For the last few years, we've built on previous success to do more for those we serve. 2024 will be no different, and we look forward to working with everyone to make the world a better place.

Eddy Riou, Jr.  
Executive Director



# A message from the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I have been enjoying the Olympics recently, and watching the best in the world compete against their peers to excel in their chosen fields reminds me, naturally, of the South Central Community Action Program. While there are no medals for SCCAP's victories and the heroes do not get to stand on the podium, the people who work at SCCAP are winning at helping our community.

SCCAP has grown its offerings to fulfill its mission to end the cycle of poverty in our community. Through the Thriving Connections program, another cohort built on relationships and understanding is progressing towards securing the financial and emotional stability of participating families. Moreover, SCCAP reintroduced the Covering Kids and Families program, which helps families navigate and enroll in medical insurance.

Thank you to all our valued donors, advisors, and partners. We are grateful for all you do. I know that SCCAP and our partners together are building a brighter future for South Central Indiana. SCCAP is ready to meet our community's needs and address the structural inequities that exist, and this readiness is due to the hard work of our staff as well as the commitment of our donors, advisors, community, and government partners.

The work our Executive Director, Eddy Riou, and his leadership team have done over the past year to create new partnerships and position SCCAP to be a well-known and trusted leader in advocating for our community has been nothing short of impressive. We continue to broaden our portfolio with the IHCD and earn their trust to spearhead new housing initiatives in our little corner of Indiana.

While the Olympics are only around once every four years, SCCAP has been, and will be, in our community each day. There are no gold medals nor podiums for SCCAP to win or stand on, but SCCAP's impact on our neighbors will change lives to allow them to pursue their dreams – just like the Olympic athletes were able to.

Best,

Tom Pappas  
President, Board of Directors



# Energy Assistance Program

The 2023-2024 Energy Assistance Program year started with applications publicly available in early October 2023 and benefits beginning to be dispersed on November 1st, 2023. The program year ended in May 2024. We approved 4,158 households across our four counties. This number translates to 8,123 individuals having improved energy efficiency in their homes. We also partnered with Duke Energy in the summer of 2023 to provide box fans to 222 of our EAP clients.

Using EAP crisis funding for the Emergency Repair and Replace Program (ERR), we were able to assist 50 households during PY23 with either a repaired or a replaced heat source. EAP partners with our Weatherization department to administer ERR. EAP intake staff send referrals for households with an inoperable heat source, that are homeowners, and whose household includes an at-risk member to our Weatherization team. They then assess the situation before a contractor performs the work to repair or replace the heat source.

Through multiple streams of funding for LIHEAP we are happy to have been able to provide over \$3 million of direct benefits 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 a new season of Energy Assistance in the fall of 2024.



## Weatherization

The Weatherization Program (WX) increases energy efficiency in our clients' homes, while more importantly, ensuring that their health and safety conditions are improved. WX includes a wide variety of energy efficiency measures and serves low-income families free of charge whether they are homeowners or tenants. Our WX clients receive a furnace inspection and an energy audit on their home to determine if they are eligible for weatherization and what work needs to be completed. SCCAP then uses private contractors to complete the home improvements.



We weatherized 59 households in 2023, this resulted in 120 individuals experiencing improved health and safety in their homes. Sometimes there are issues with a home that need to be addressed before we can weatherize it. In 2023, we received funding from The City of Bloomington and Duke Energy to be able to address those issues and move forward with our work. All households that our WX team met with, whether they qualified for a full weatherization of their home or not, received energy education.

# Growing Opportunities

Growing Opportunities spent 2023 evolving into a multifaceted department to better meet the emerging needs of SCCAP clients. While some elements of Growing Opportunities stayed the same, like food pantry deliveries every week for some Head Start families and vulnerable community members. We also delivered 50 Thanksgiving boxes to families in Lawrence, Greene, Owen, Monroe counties. In 2023 we served 25% of the Spencer Owen Community School System with the Kids summer program, where we give kids and their families reliable, healthy foods to eat when school is out. We continued the education portion of our community programming, in which we had 259 individuals participate in gardening and/or nutrition classes.

We are excited about what 2024 and beyond will bring to Growing Opportunities. At the end of 2023, SCCAP secured \$1,000,000 from the City of Bloomington to support efforts toward creating Economic Equity. We will disperse those funds towards community members experiencing medical debt, childcare arrears, past due property taxes, rental deposits, late fees, menstrual equity, and medically specific diets.

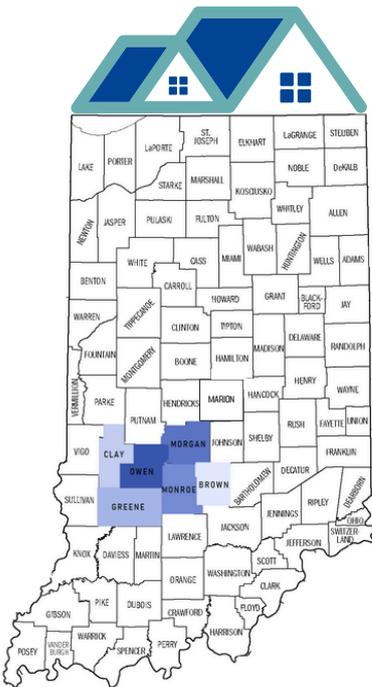
## Housing Choice Opportunities

SCCAP's Housing Choice Opportunities program is made up of 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. We believe that every person deserves a home, and while our vouchers and affordable rental units help to move people into safe housing, we realize that there is much to do on a larger scale towards solving the housing crisis. In an effort to work towards a solution, we are involved in local, county, and statewide coalitions that are focused on addressing the housing crisis.

In July of 2023 we opened up our Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waitlist for Brown, Clay, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties as well as the City of Jasonville. The waitlist will remain open indefinitely.

In 2023, we helped 366 people pay their rent, so that they could stay in safe and affordable housing. Those 366 people maintained their housing for at least 180 days and avoided eviction during that time.

SCCAP's housing team is also administering the State's Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) program. We had over 245 IERA applications in 2023, while also managing re-applications and housing counseling sessions for our participants.



# Thriving Connections



Thriving Connections (TC) is a community of support for families living without enough resources. Participants—called Captains—and their children are matched with volunteer Allies and benefit from one-on-one coaching as they work toward goals in education, employment, and personal growth. Everyone works together to understand and break the cycle of poverty and trauma that families face, and to share their experiences with the wider community.

In 2023, we said goodbye and good luck to our longtime Thriving Connections leader, Linda Patton. After 15 years of being a TC champion, Linda has retired and our TC staff member, Katie Hopkins has stepped into her role as coordinator.

We had a ceremony in early 2023 to match our sixth cohort of Captains and Allies. They spent the rest of the year, and continue to work together to learn and grow. Including this new cohort, we had 14 TC adults actively involved in our programming that contributed to our Captains reaching their goals. While the adults of our families were engaged in programming, we also had specific programming for 30 TC children. Some topics from our youth programming include mentoring, leadership training, mental health awareness, nutrition/food preparation, and summer recreational activities.

In the spring of 2023, we introduced our new Community Captains. These roles were created so that our TC graduates can come back and be part of the community as leaders and advocates for why TC is transformational in a family's life.

An important piece in the success of Thriving Connections is the support we have from our community members, partner organizations, and generous funders. In 2023 we had 3,141 volunteer hours donated, which includes our youth workers, meal volunteers, guiding coalition members, and many more. We'd also like to recognize some of our funders from 2023, which include Monroe County Council and the Sophia Travis grant, the City of Bloomington and the Digital Equity grant, and First Financial Bank for their generous funding of the Martin Transportation Fund and our Sustainable Employment initiative.



## Covering Kids & Families

In 2023, SCCAP welcomed Covering Kids and Families (CKF) to our agency so that we can ensure our clients have access to health insurance that works for their needs. CKF is a statewide program that specializes in helping community members apply for and understand their health insurance coverage. Some of the programs our CKF navigators can help with include Marketplace or Medicaid programs such as the Healthy Indiana Plan and Hoosier Healthwise. Our goal is to simplify the process for getting covered and staying covered, helping you every step of the way.

After hiring two CKF team members, they completed all their necessary training and invested their time in doing street outreach, hosting a resource fair with other health service providers, and connecting with community partners. Because of this rigorous work, they ended 2023 with having assisted 54 individuals in accessing health insurance benefits and completing 45 external assists.

# Head Start & Early Head Start

Total number of children served

- Head Start: 326
- Early Head Start: 77

Total number of families served: 298

Average monthly enrollment

- Head Start: 185
- Early Head Start: 40

Percentage of eligible children served

- Head Start: 84% (Classified as below 100% of poverty level, foster, or homeless)
- Early Head Start: 93% (Classified as below 100% of poverty level, foster, or homeless)

Percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams

- Head Start: 69%
- Early Head Start: 92%

Percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams

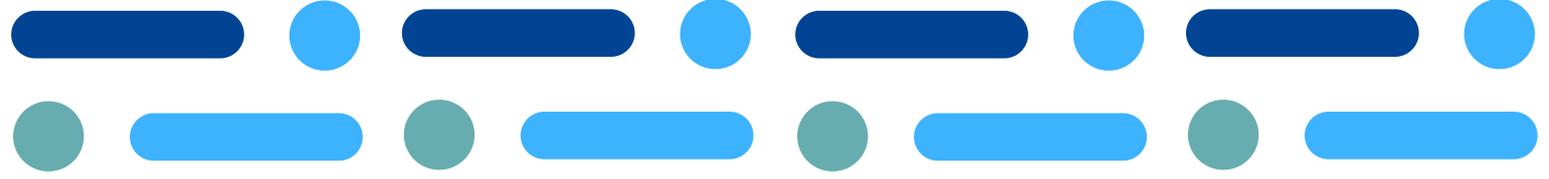
- Head Start: 43%
- Early Head Start: 39%



In 2023, SCCAP Head Start hosted numerous events to engage our parents and families. Programming was designed to strengthen bonds within the family unit, establish and maintain connection with peers, and connect families with needed community resources. Our big family events included our Fall Family Fun Night to explore literacy, a Winter Carnival with DJ Shawn D, a Spring Family Fun Night for health resources, as well as graduations for our kids making the transition to kindergarten. The program also hosted Conscious Discipline parent nights to share skills we practice in the classrooms for social emotional regulation and help parents navigate challenging behaviors at home. Fatherhood engagement programs featured a STEM night, Donuts with Dad, and a game night.

Individual sites also host parent meetings. These meetings are a time for families to be informed on what is happening at their site, as well as to socialize and interact with other parents. Sites will often plan a fun activity to go along with the parent meeting. Some of the parent night activities in 2023 included visiting the Fowler Pumpkin Patch, having the fire department bring a fire truck and talk about fire safety, and a child nutrition discussion with the public health department.

In April of 2023, the Administration for Children and Families conducted a Focus Area Two monitoring review of SCCAP Head Start and Early Head Start. During the review, our programs were determined to meet the requirements of all HSPPS, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.



# 2023 Head Start Policy Council

## Parents:

- Jennifer Bowman
- Janet Stacy
- Jessica Werbe
- Lindsay Marsh
- Makayla Carpenter
- Meranda Shipley-Bush
- Rachel Walden
- Emily Medsker

## Community Representatives:

- Jennifer Myers
- Sara Egli
- Lesley Arnold

# 2023 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
- Wally DeFord
  - Owen County Private Sector Representative
- Sandy Higgins
  - Brown County Private Sector Representative
- Susan Rinne
  - Morgan County Public Sector Representative, Appointed by Morgan County Commissioner
- Bob Goodrum
  - Morgan County Private Sector Representative
- Jim Whitlatch
  - Monroe County Private Sector Representative
- Bradley Brown
  - Owen County Private Sector Representative
- Maddison Miller
  - Brown County Private Representative
- Meranda Shipley-Bush
  - Monroe County Low Income Sector Rep from the Head Start Policy Council

# 2023 Financials

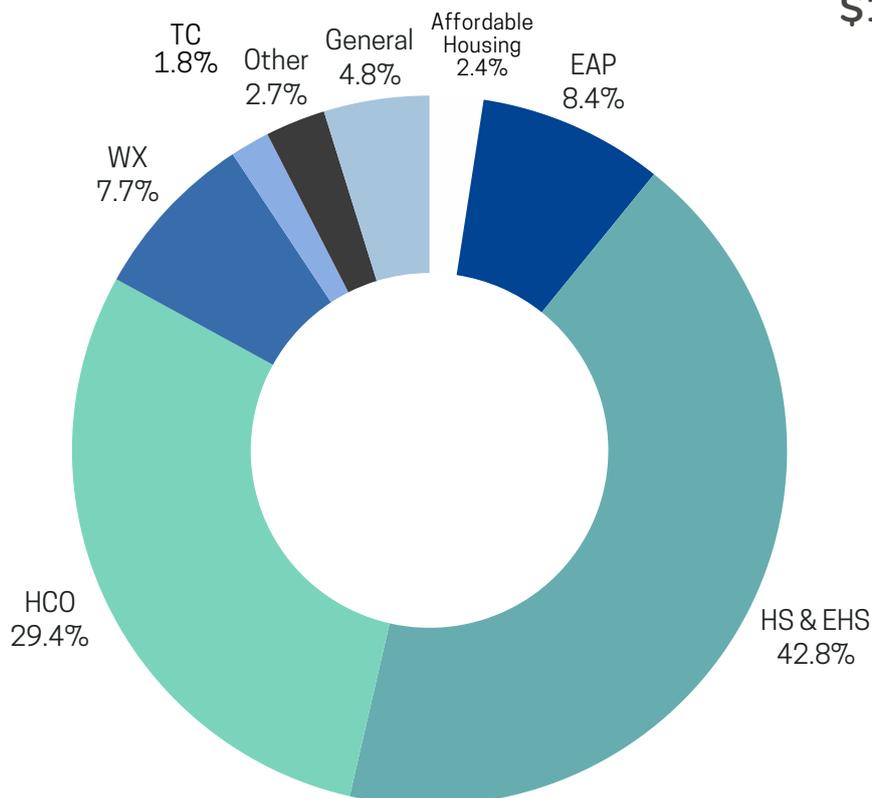
The following numbers are from our 2023 fiscal audit, which reported no financial statement findings or federal award findings for the year ended December 31, 2023.

## Operating Expenses

Affordable Housing.....	\$285,172
Energy Assistance Program (EAP) .....	\$986,419
Head Start & Early Head Start.....	\$5,033,262
Housing Choice Opportunities.....	\$3,462,599
Weatherization (LIHEAP & DOE).....	\$907,093
Thriving Connections.....	\$210,076
Other Program.....	\$320,092
Management & General.....	\$561,523

**Total**

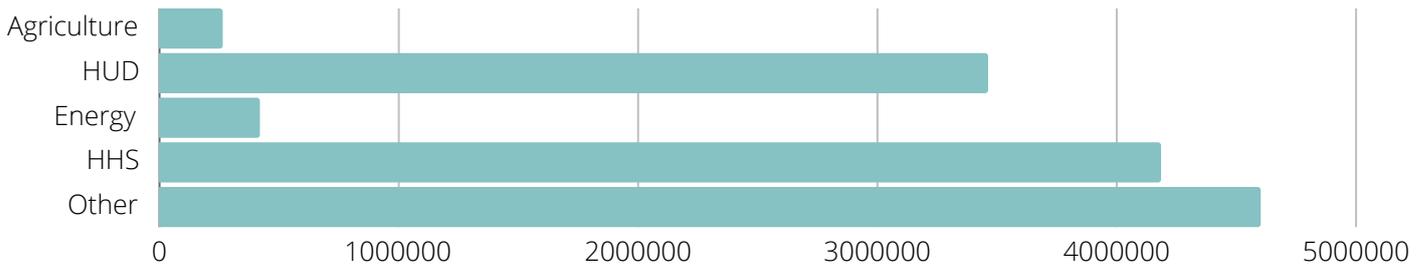
**\$11,766,236**



# 2023 Financials

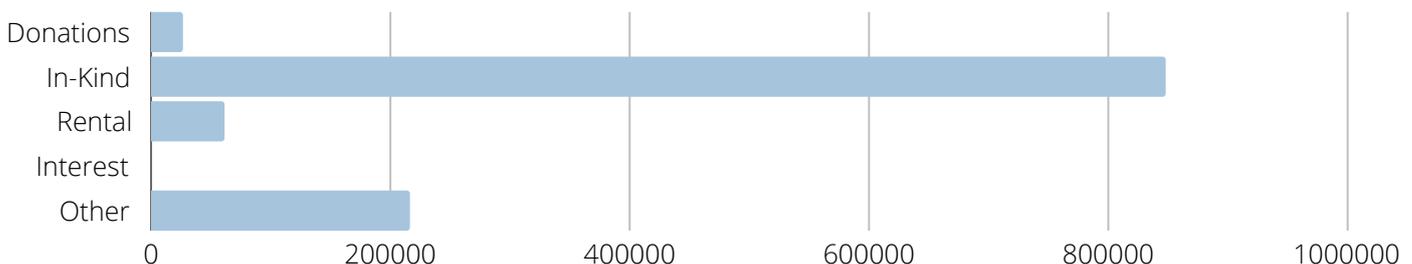
## Public Funds Received

US Department of Agriculture.....	\$264,347
US Department of Housing & Urban Development.....	\$3,462,599
US Department of Energy.....	\$419,555
US Department of Health & Human Services Direct.....	\$4,185,286
US Department of Health & Human Services Pass Through.....	\$4,601,782



## Private Funds Received

Contributions/Donations.....	\$26,658
In-Kind Contributions.....	\$847,976
Rental Income.....	\$61,397
Interest Income.....	\$14
Other Income.....	\$216,348





**2023**



South Central Community Action Program

**SCCAP**

*Empowering people to reach their potential*

**Lookout for next year's Annual Report  
in the Spring of 2025!**