

The SCCAP 2024 Annual Report is a public document.

- This report is able to be viewed and downloaded from the SCCAP website.
- 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.

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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South Central Community  
Action Program



# In 2024, SCCAP served:



**9,118 individuals**

**4,610 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**

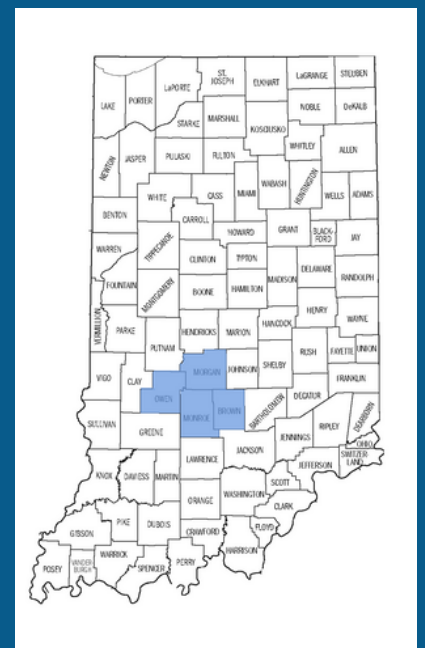
1500 W. 15th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404  
(812) 339-3447

### **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 OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear SCCAP friends, family, and community members,

As we begin a new year at South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) we take time to reflect on our outstanding progress, impact, and aspirations we strive for in our organization. SCCAP has risen to its call to action more than ever this year (special thanks to Eddy Riou and the entire SCCAP team). Our staff listened to the feedback and needs of our community and the families we serve to further provide education to our kiddo's, but also fulfill SCCAP's mission, values, and vision. Some examples of our progress this year via feedback was providing medical debt relief, menstrual equity, assisting with childcare expenses, partnering with other nonprofits, and continuing with the amazing programs already essential for our folks.

I was once one of those kids in poverty; eating government cheese back in the 80's; and I'm positive several parents can relate to this. Time's have changed quite a bit since the 80's and we are well aware of the challenges ahead. Although many Head Start programs have closed across the country this year, we have gone above and beyond to continue serving families and creating new programs described above. We are optimistic and will continue the vital work we do for our community as a whole.

I believe in my heart that 2024 showed our dedication and passion for our community members. I'm forever grateful to be a part of SCCAP.

Warmest Regards,  
Bethany Penrod  
President, Board of Directors

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Before I was the Executive Director, my experience with Community Action was direct service to families in need. It is something I am passionate about, and I miss doing the work on a regular basis.

Families would come to me, sometimes on their worst days, and I would be able to help them with a variety of resources the agency had at the time. People would come to us with problems, and we would give them solutions.

Even though I don't get to work with families directly, I help foster an environment for our employees to do more for our communities than ever before.

In 2024 we were able to add new streams of funding that allowed us to help with medical debt, childcare expenses, property taxes, and housing stability to name a few.

Resources for our communities are very important, but what is equally important is helping our staff be better equipped to tackle problems.

We've provided opportunities for staff to further their education. We've sent people to national conferences. We've added more benefits and raised our minimum wage at the agency. And for the first time in the history of SCCAP, we've added paid parental leave.

In our 2024 Annual Report, you'll see that we've continued to provide solutions for self-sufficiency. I'm excited to share with you the work towards our mission of providing opportunities for all people to achieve personal and economic independence to strengthen our community.

Thank you,  
Eddy Riou, Jr.  
Executive Director



# Energy Assistance Program

The 2024-2025 Energy Assistance Program year started with applications publicly available in early October 2024 and benefits beginning to be dispersed on November 1st, 2024. The program year ended in April 2025. Throughout our four counties we assisted 8,257 individuals in improving the energy efficiency in their homes. Because of LIHEAP funding we helped 8,257 people stay in their homes during the harsh winter months. This program allowed these families to stay warm and safe without threat of their heat being shut off, and potentially causing major health concerns or loss of housing. The over \$3 million of direct benefits went to households in our community who needed it most.



Energy Assistance depends on its partners to fill gaps that arise, come up with new, innovative ideas, and to help spread the word about EAP. We want to thank all our fellow local service providers who have helped refer folks to us. We especially want to thank a few entities for some special things we were able to do in 2024.

Thank you to Pantry 279 and Duke Energy for hosting Duke Cares Day for our community members. This event had such a huge turnout, that we had a line out the door and around the building. Thank you to the Owen County Community Foundation and Duke Energy for partnering with us in the summer of 2024 to provide box fans to 130 of our EAP clients in Owen County. We partnered with Duke Energy again, as well as IHCD to host an Energy Education Event in November of 2024. Due to generous funding from our partners, we hosted a free entry day at Bloomington's WonderLab Museum. This event was a great way to invite our clients to a space where we can share energy efficiency information, answer questions about the program, and give their children a fun day of learning. We look forward to continuing this event annually.

## 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 68 households in 2024. This resulted in 151 individuals experiencing improved health and safety in their homes. Weatherization can include improving energy efficiency such as replacing insulation, air sealing, furnace repair, as well as improvements that affect a resident's health such as elimination of lead, radon, carbon monoxide. 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 is SCCAP's family enrichment program. It is responsible for filling some of the gaps between existing SCCAP services, such as providing casework, emergency funds, and debt relief.

In 2024, Growing Opportunities flourished into new and exciting territory. At the end of 2023, SCCAP secured \$1,000,000 from the City of Bloomington to support efforts toward creating Economic Equity. In early 2024, SCCAP's administrative team and Growing Opportunities department mapped out what it would look like to disperse those funds to those who needed them. We were able to put that money into the hands of community members experiencing medical debt, childcare arrears, past due property taxes, rental deposits, late fees, menstrual inequity, and medically specific diets. We relieved medical debt for 306 clients and helped 160 families with housing based funding requests like a housing deposit.

In late June 2024, our region experienced bouts of extreme weather, which resulted in many community members losing their power for extended periods of time. In response to this, SCCAP partnered with Duke Energy to replace personal and/or pet medication and medically necessary food that was lost due to the outages.

In 2024 we served 197 families with the Kids Summer Food Program, where we give kids and their families reliable, healthy foods to eat when school is out.

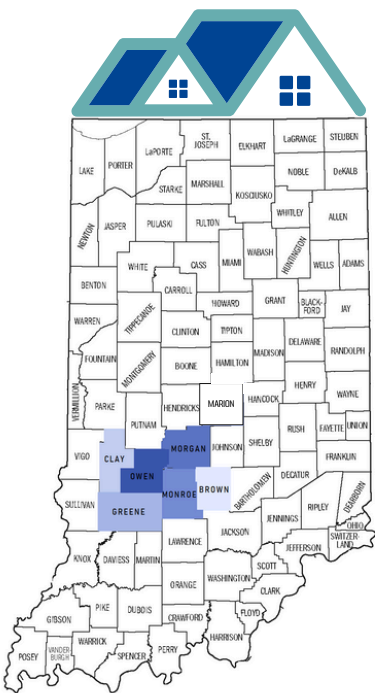
# Housing Choice Opportunities

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.

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waitlist for Brown, Clay, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties as well as the City of Jasonville have remained open since July of 2023. The waitlists will remain open indefinitely moving forward.

In 2024, we helped 446 people pay their rent, so that they could stay in safe and affordable housing. Those 446 people maintained their housing for at least 180 days and avoided eviction during that time.

SCCAP is committed to a Housing First approach in working with our clients to move out of poverty. We believe that every person deserves a home. In an effort to address housing insecurity on a larger scale, we work with Heading Home of South Central Indiana to coordinate existing resources as well as strategize moving forward together.





# 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.

We had 13 TC adults actively involved in our programming that contributed to our Captains reaching their goals. Those 13 individuals received financial literacy coaching, sustainable employment coaching, increased professional development, improved digital equity and access, attended gardening and cooking classes, and received life skills coaching.



Thriving Connections has a whole family approach, which means we provide programming for all the youth connected to TC. In 2024, 33 youth participated in STEAM activities, gained skills toward employment, received free school supplies, mentoring, summer recreational activities, and more.

One important tenant of our Thriving Connections program is the idea of reciprocity. Our TC participants consistently give back to their community in a myriad of ways. In 2024, we had 13 adults facilitate racial justice coaching and advocacy, 7 TC adults table at a Pride event, and 13 TC adults engage in voter education and access.

## Covering Kids & Families

SCCAP is proud to house a branch of Covering Kids and Families (CKF) of Indiana that serves Brown, Monroe, and Owen counties. Our talented CKF team of two work to ensure our clients have access to health insurance that works for their needs. 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 CKF navigators assisted 95 individuals in accessing health insurance benefits in 2024. This includes completing applications for coverage, retaining benefits, individualized counseling on insurance options, and more.

In 2024, SCCAP's CKF team planned and hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Resource Fair, that serves our unhoused community or those at risk for homelessness. The event brings together local service providers, managed care entities, and this year the City of Bloomington Mayor Kerry Thomson was in attendance. This event was successful in part due to the generous sponsorship by First Financial Bank. Their support allowed us to provide free, warm meals to attendees as well as some giveaway items that are essential in the cold, winter months.



# Head Start & Early Head Start

Total number of children served:

- Head Start: 296
- Early Head Start: 93

Total number of families served:

- Head Start: 241
- Early Head Start: 80

Average monthly enrollment

- Head Start: 159
- Early Head Start: 44

Percentage of eligible children served

- Head Start: 84% (Classified as below 100% of poverty level, foster, or homeless)
- Early Head Start: 97% (Classified as below 100% of poverty level, foster, or homeless)

Percentage of enrolled children that received medical exams

- Head Start: 53%
- Early Head Start: 96%

Percentage of enrolled children that received dental exams

- Head Start: 60%
- Early Head Start: 42%



Throughout 2024, SCCAP Head Start worked to promote positive, enduring outcomes for our children and families by establishing collaborative relationships. Through meaningful partnerships among parents, families, staff, and community organizations, Head Start supports family well-being, strong parent-child relationships, and ongoing learning and development for both children and adults. Our Advocates provide wrap around services and connect families with community resources, as needed.

This year we implemented a Parent Advocacy program aimed at enhancing advocacy skills, fostering leadership, and building supportive community connections among Head Start parents. This program equips and empowers parents to self-advocate for their families on a personal, local, state, and/or national level. In addition, we maintained our quarterly parent meetings, hosted fatherhood engagement programs, and continued our literacy events.

Community partnerships play a vital role in extending support services beyond the classroom, ensuring families have access to educational, health, and social resources. Families identified a need for more support with stress and mental health, as well as assistance navigating their kids' challenging behaviors. Through a partnership with IU, we've been able to offer additional programming to bridge the gap in mental health services. Together, these efforts build a comprehensive network that fosters school readiness, family empowerment, and community growth.

# 2024 Head Start Policy Council

- Jennifer Bowman - President
- Marylis Fantoni - Vice President
- Eric Hayes- SCCAP Board Representative
- Nichelle Wash - Community Member
- Shelby Strain
- Kamyra Jackson
- Tawny Ramsey
- Diana Robertson
- Charlotte Barton
- Erykah Johnson
- Rickeyda Cantrell
- Destini-Noel Sanders

## 2024 Board of Directors

- Tom Pappas- Board President
  - Monroe County Low Income Sector Representative
- Bob Goodrum- Board Vice President
  - Morgan County Private 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
- 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
- Marylis Fantoni
  - Monroe County Low Income Sector Rep from the Head Start Policy Council
- Leon Gordon
  - Monroe County Low Income Sector Representative
- Karah Bobek
  - Owen County Public Sector Representative
- Isadore Torry
  - Monroe County Low Income Sector Representative
- Elizabeth Lopez
  - Monroe County Public Sector Representative
- Eric Hayes
  - Monroe County Low Income Sector Rep from the Head Start Policy Council

# 2024 Financials

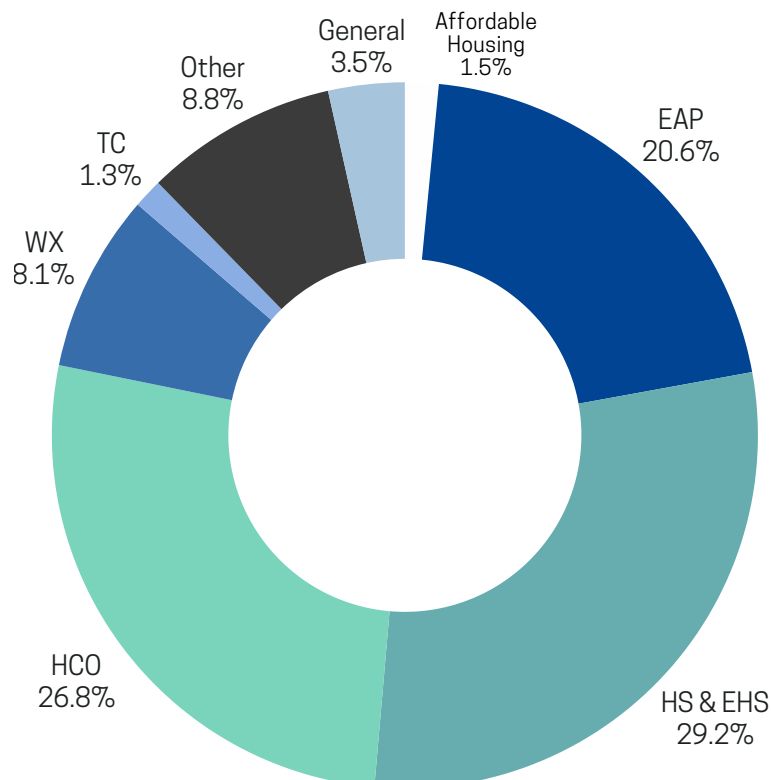
The following numbers are from our 2024 fiscal audit, which reported no financial statement findings or federal award findings for the year ended December 31, 2024.

## Operating Expenses

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Affordable Housing.....               | \$225,624   |
| Energy Assistance Program (EAP) ..... | \$3,022,640 |
| Head Start & Early Head Start.....    | \$4,292,745 |
| Housing Choice Opportunities.....     | \$3,935,275 |
| Weatherization (LIHEAP & DOE).....    | \$1,196,055 |
| Thriving Connections.....             | \$197,120   |
| Other Program.....                    | \$1,294,855 |
| Management & General.....             | \$513,104   |

**Total**

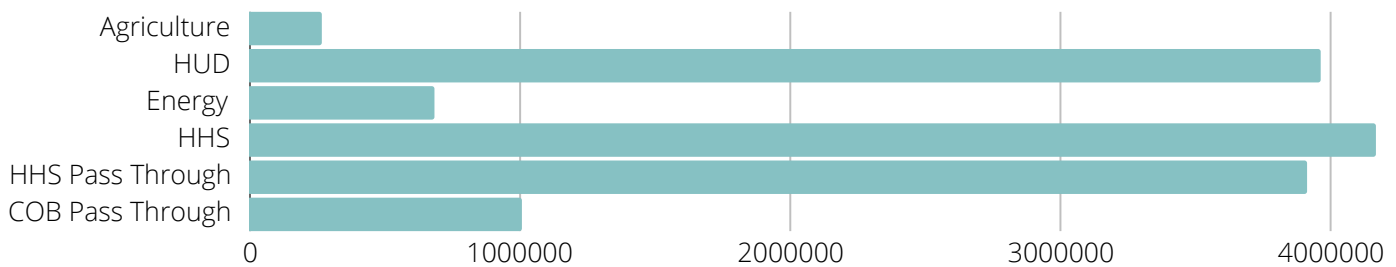
**\$14,677,418**



# 2024 Financials

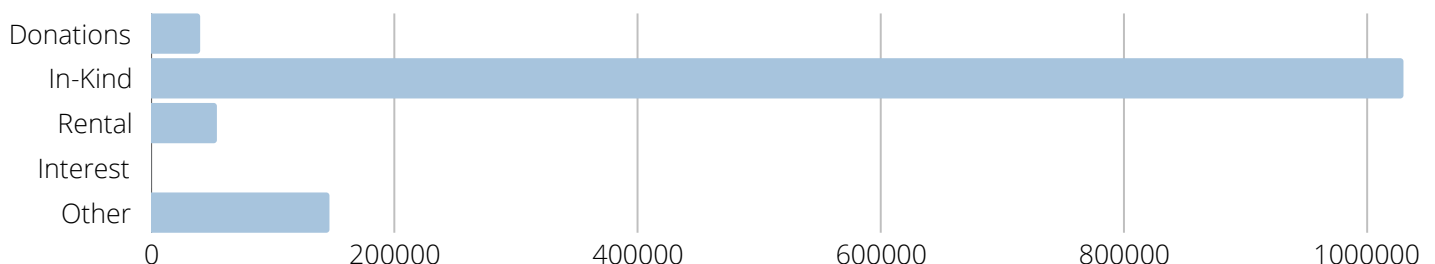
## Public Funds Received

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| US Department of Agriculture.....                          | \$265,963   |
| US Department of Housing & Urban Development.....          | \$3,963,314 |
| US Department of Energy.....                               | \$682,919   |
| US Department of Health & Human Services Direct.....       | \$4,167,751 |
| US Department of Health & Human Services Pass Through..... | \$3,912,939 |
| City of Bloomington Pass Through.....                      | \$1,006,438 |



## Private Funds Received

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Contributions/Donations..... | \$40,330    |
| In-Kind Contributions.....   | \$1,029,859 |
| Rental Income.....           | \$54,095    |
| Interest Income.....         | \$38        |
| Other Income.....            | \$146,662   |





# 2024



South Central Community Action Program

# SCCAP

*Empowering people to reach their potential*

**Lookout for next year's Annual Report  
in the Spring of 2026!**