

Community Action Programs: Educate >Empower>Succeed

There are no problems we cannot solve together and very few that we can solve by ourselves. – President Lyndon B. Johnson

As a part of LBJ’s War on Poverty, Boulder County Community Action Programs (CAP) has been working since 1965 to empower people struggling with poverty and those underrepresented in the community to become self-sufficient and have their voices heard.

CAP, working collaboratively with community partners, works with small groups of clients to foster long-lasting changes in their lives. We work an “inch wide and a mile deep” to move people closer to their goals of self-sufficiency, self-determination and success.

Populations Served

CAP manages a number of programs, including the Circles Campaign (Circles), the Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE), and the People Engaged in Leadership Program (PERL). In 2016, CAP served 334 clients and other program participants.



Client Story – Kat Goldberg



It’s been four years since I began Circles. To say the program has changed our lives is a huge understatement. I began as a Circle Leader with the goal of going back to school. My husband had died, I was alone raising three kids (one with special needs), and I was lost in life. My two wonderful Circle Allies set me to task to get back into college. I was terrified at the thought of starting over, especially with a bunch of kids closer in age to my children than to me. Once I started classes, I loved learning and loved being a student, and decided to get my Associates Degree before my oldest child graduated from high school. That gave me four years. I completed the Circles program and decided to stay as a Volunteer Ally. I’m told I’m Boulder County’s first Circle Leader to become an Ally. I wanted to help support someone else as much as my allies supported me. In May 2016, I graduated, Magna Cum Laude, with an Associate Degree. It only took three years. My Circle Leader was also in my graduating class. We may be the very first Circle Leader and Ally to graduate together! I am currently at CU Denver, enjoying my classes and hoping to graduate in May 2018. I am still an ally and working with my second Circle Leader. This whole experience seemed so out of reach four years ago. I am forever grateful for all of the support and encouragement the Circles community has given me.

Partnering to Make a Difference

CAP understands and believes that collaboration is the best way to serve the community. All CAP programs work in partnership with nonprofit organizations, county and city departments, faith communities, educational institutions and others to accomplish our goals. Below is a list of a few of our key external key partners:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sister Carmen Community Center | Small Business Development Center |
| EFAA | Front Range Community College |
| OUR Center | City of Longmont |
| Foothills United Way | City of Boulder |
| R-12 Charities | Community Foundation Boulder County |
| A Woman’s Work | Longmont Community Foundation |

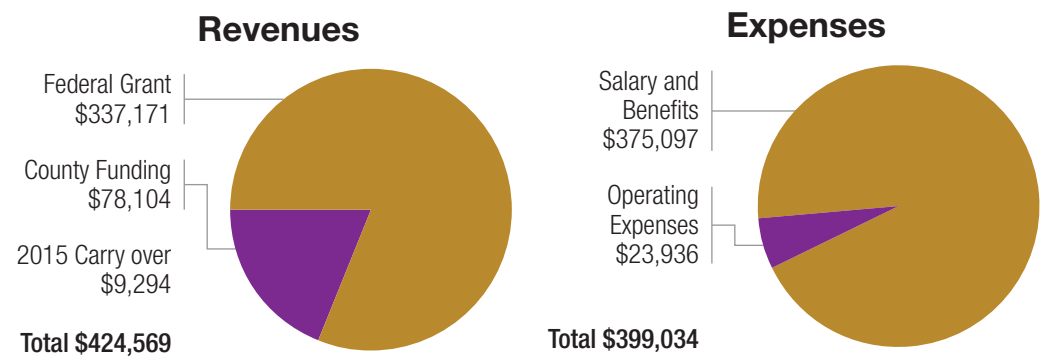
Stewarding our Resources – CAP and CADC Boards

CAP is funded primarily by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) through the Office of Community Services, which supports staff and some program costs. CSBG requires that CAP’s advisory board include members that are either low income or can represent low income communities. This board is appointed by the Boulder County Commissioners and provides input and oversight to CAP. Board members are Gina Barajas, Tahlia Bear, Susan Boucher, Dorothy Bustamante, David Chatham, Manuela M. Chavez, Robin Chavez, Nicole Dillon, Leo Durocher, Art Figel, Tracey Jones, Amy Maziarz, Nikki McCord and Stella Thomas Morris.

In 1984, the Community Action Development Corporation (CADC), a registered 501(C)(3), was formed to help fundraise and support CAP programs. CADC has its own governing board that oversees its finances and provides input into CAP programs. The board members are Janet Heimer, Jann Oldham, Michelle Orge and Cameron Tyler.



2016 COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS ANNUAL REPORT



Circles – Building Community to End Poverty

The Circles Campaign, an evidenced-based program model, is part of an innovative national campaign to end poverty in our community, one family at a time. Individuals and families take charge of their lives and are assisted by community volunteers called Allies. Allies help participants realize their potential through networking, listening, and guidance

“Circles opened up a door to a whole new community, and with that support I have made serious strides in rebuilding my credit, learned how to build real, effective goals – and keep them, maintained my motivation to keep moving forward, become a more aware mom, grown my own personal circle and my community network.”
– 2016 Circle Leader

38 families served by Circles in 2016

Satisfaction with Program

Satisfaction with the program is extremely high among participants.

88% of Participants are invested in accomplishing the mission of Circles

60% of Participants believe the primary strength of Circles is the sense of community they build

88% of Circle Leaders describe their relationships with their Allies as Satisfactory or Excellent

60% of Allies describe their relationship with their Circle Leaders as Satisfactory or Excellent

Program Outcomes

The program was instrumental in boosting income, reducing the use of public assistance dollars and increasing the social capital of participants.

Circles 48-month data collected 2.5 years after the completion of Circles and at least five years into a journey out of poverty. Families who participated in Circles averaged:

Earned Income rose **253%**
avg. \$1,111 → \$3,925mo

Welfare benefits decreased **100%**
avg. \$231 → \$0

Assets increased **1,709%**
avg. \$586 → \$10,602

Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE) – Building Assets to Change Lives

PIE is a financial empowerment program that provides education and access to opportunities that help participants reach a variety of personal goals, including first-time home ownership, education advancement or the development of a new business enterprise. PIE provides a maximum match of \$4,000 toward one of these goals, and requires participants to save their own money as a part of the program. Participation in the program results in families and individuals becoming more active members of the community through greater economic and personal growth.

Program Participants

Since the Personal Investment Enterprise program began in 2001, PIE has celebrated a total of 262 graduates:

102 participants have become first-time homeowners

100 participants have pursued a post-secondary education

60 individuals have started their own small business

2016 Outcomes

In 2016 PIE served 61 families and saw a number of significant outcomes:

64% Of PIE Participants continue saving on a regular basis

100% of PIE homebuyers still own the home that they purchased through the PIE program

61% Of PIE Participants' debt remains the same or decreased since leaving PIE

85% of PIE homebuyers think that they influenced others' ability to access or maintain housing

75% Of PIE Participants achieve new savings goals after leaving PIE

65% of PIE homebuyers are actively involved in their community

83% of PIE entrepreneurs are still operating their business

83% of PIE students have completed or are still pursuing their degree

50% of PIE entrepreneurs have hired employees since leaving the program



Programs that Change the Community, One Person at a Time

In addition to Circles and PIE, the CAP program manages other initiatives designed to support and acknowledge the contributions of people of color and those living in poverty.

People Engaged in Leadership (PERL)

PERL is a 10-week training designed for people of color and people with low-income across Boulder County to learn about, and become a member of, a governing boards. PERL increases the number of individuals from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds to join non-profit boards and government commissions.

“Helpful and a great springboard, I would not have entertained this idea without this catalyst.”
– 2016 PERL Graduate

22 families served in 2016

68% of PERL clients have served on boards and/or commissions since 2008

Multicultural Awards Banquet (MCAB)

MCAB, held since 1989, honors people of color and provides educational scholarships to those who have made significant contributions to the community.

239 award winners since 1989

220 attendees at the 2016 MCAB to celebrate our award winners

\$153,270 raised for community scholarships since 1994

The THRIVE Conference was designed to help Boulder County residents with low income to build and acquire assets including homes, businesses, post-secondary education, health insurance, and senior income. It started as a partnership of nine agencies from across the county, and more than half of the workshops are presented in Spanish. Participants learned about resources available to them, and left the conference with clear, next steps.

“The classes were wonderful for the community and society in general - great job.”
– THRIVE Participant Feedback

“Muchas gracias por tomarnos en cuenta ojala y podamos tener muchos más muchas felicidades hicieron un excelente trabajo.”
– Participante de THRIVE

144 members of the community served through the THRIVE conference