

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 2018, CAP served 290 clients and other program participants. These include:

84 Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE)

19 People Engaged in Leadership (PERL)

31 Circles Campaign

90 THRIVE Conference

56 Community Action Poverty Simulation

10 Getting Ahead

Client Story – Kat Goldberg



Six years ago, a true journey began for Kat Goldberg. Life was turned upside down when her spouse passed away and she was left a single mom of three young children. She was not working at the time, wasn’t sure what direction life would take her, and the Circles program came into her life.

She entered the Circles program in October 2012, and was matched with two incredible women, Roberta and Kelly, who walked with her for the next 18 months as Circles Allies. They helped her create a plan out of poverty that included getting Kat back into school.

They worked together on getting loan payments started, and helped Kat look at viable careers and degrees. Soon Kat was enrolled at Front Range Community College. Kat completed the Circles program, and earned her Associate’s degree at Front Range and walked with honors.

Kat then transferred to CU Denver and began working on her bachelor’s degree. She stayed very involved with the Circles community and became the first Circle Leader to volunteer as an Ally. She also completed the PERL Program, and began to work with Sister Carmen on subcommittee work. She stayed focused on working towards her degree, and in December 2018, Kat graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Communications.

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 partners:

Sister Carmen Community Center
EFAA
OUR Center
Foothills United Way
R-12 Charities
A Woman’s Work
Denver Foundation
Rose Foundation

Small Business Development Center
Front Range Community College
City of Longmont
City of Boulder
Community Foundation Boulder County
Longmont Community Foundation
Vinelifa Church
YMCA of Boulder Valley

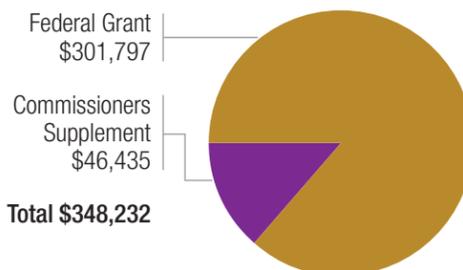
Stewarding our Resources – CAP and CADC Boards

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: Elizabeth Antus, Gina Barajas, William Benjamin, Susan Boucher, Stephanie Burke, Robin Chavez, Mariana Grosz, Bhola Katuwal, Melanie McGinn, Brittney Wilburn.

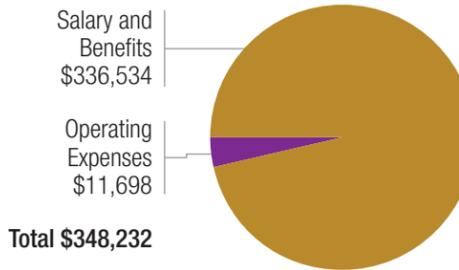
In 1984, the Community Action Development Corporation (CADC), a registered 501(C)(3), was formed to help fundraise and support CAP programs. CADC has its own governing board that oversees its finances and provides input into CAP programs. The board members are Erika Moats and Michelle Orge.



Revenues



Expenses



2018 COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS ANNUAL REPORT



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES
HEAD START
HEALTHY YOUTH ALLIANCE
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
WORKFORCE BOULDER COUNTY

Generating a Lifetime of Opportunities

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 has taught me to be a leader. It taught me to take charge of my life, career, and relationships. From Circles I have learned knowledge that I will be able to use long-term, and skill sets that I will be able to pass on to my kids. Through Circles I’m surrounded by my Allies who are there to support me along the way.”

– Christine N., 2018 Circles Leader

31 families served by Circles in 2018

Satisfaction with Program

Satisfaction with the program is extremely high among participants.

78% of Circle Leaders find weekly meetings to be efficient and productive

78% of Leaders feel their Allies were supportive

67% of Circle Leaders describe their relationships with their Allies as Satisfactory or Excellent

71% 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.

Over the 18-month Circles program, Families who were launched (graduated) in 2018 saw:

Earned Income rise **68%** from an average \$894 to \$1,499/month

Welfare benefits decrease **60%** from an average \$348 to \$139/month

Assets increase **666%** from an average \$188 to \$1,441

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 290 graduates:

125 participants have become first-time homeowners

110 participants have pursued a post-secondary education

76 individuals have started their own small business

2018 Outcomes

In 2018 PIE served 61 families and saw a number of significant outcomes:

67% of PIE Participants continue saving on a regular basis

91% of PIE homebuyers still own the home that they purchased through the PIE program

58% of PIE Participants' debt remains the same or lower since leaving PIE

72% of PIE homebuyers think that they influenced others' ability to access or maintain housing

81% of PIE Participants achieve new savings goals after leaving PIE

67% of PIE homebuyers are actively involved in their community



2018 PIE Graduates

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 four-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 board. PERL helps increase the number of individuals from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds who join non-profit boards and government commissions.

17 participants served on boards or commissions in 2018

64% of PERL clients have served on boards and/or commissions since 2008

“I honestly never believed I would be able to afford to stay, let alone end up owning a home, said Greta. I thought there was a .01% chance of me finding a permanent living situation in Boulder.”

– Greta P, 2018 PIE Graduate

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.

257 award winners since 1989

250 attendees at the 2018 MCAB to celebrate our award winners

\$161,971 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.

Poverty Simulation

The Community Action Poverty Simulation is an interactive immersion experience that was held twice in 2018. It is designed to sensitize community participants to the realities of poverty.

146 members of the community participated in THRIVE or one of the Poverty Simulations