



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Community Action Program of
Evansville and Vanderburgh
County, INC. (CAPE)





ABOUT CAPE

The Mission of The Community Action Program of Evansville & Vanderburgh County, Inc. (CAPE) is one that encompasses the community as a whole. Our Agency addresses the customer's needs in a non-judgmental and respectful manner to promote economic and social self-sufficiency. This mission is supported by employees that are committed to addressing the needs of the community we serve. Our objective is accomplished by collaboration with the community to provide tools, skills and services through programs that meet individual needs.

The Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, Inc. (CAPE) is a private non-profit corporation which was established in 1965. Originally under the auspices of the city of Evansville, CAPE became a non-profit corporation in 1970. CAPE is governed by a tri-partite Board of Directors consisting of representatives from the private and public sector as well as the communities served.

Providing services to customers in Vanderburgh, Posey, and Gibson Counties in southwestern Indiana, both CAPE services and funding have grown immensely during the past 45 years. CAPE's operating budget during the past several years has increased from \$2 million to a budget of \$12 million provided through a variety of federal, local, private, and state funding sources. CAPE is Audited on an annual basis. In 2020 ComerNowling CPA firm completed the agency's audit and CAPE is considered a low-risk agency and no findings occurred.

"The war on poverty is not a struggle simply to support people, to make them dependent on the generosity of others. It is a struggle to give people a chance. It is an effort to allow them to develop and use their capacities, as we have been allowed to develop and use ours, so that they can share, as others share, in the promise of this nation."

~President Johnson's address to Congress in March 1964

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 authorized the formation of local Community Action Agencies as part of the War on Poverty.

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

CAPE Head Start provides an early education and comprehensive support program for low-income families with children ages three to five. Services include health, nutrition, mental health, dental and visual screenings, and developmental and language assessments. Cape also provides support services for children with disabilities and inclusive help for families seeking supportive assistance. Parent participation in their child's education is strongly encouraged and nurtured. Early Head Start provides educational and support services to families with children from birth three years old. Risk factors that may be barriers to optimal child and family development are identified early so that services can be individualized to meet the family's needs. Our full day full year option provides expansive Head Start services for working families that need full time childcare. The CAPE Family Engagement Center assists Head Start families and the community with computer and tutorial services to improve reading/math skills, prepare for a High School Equivalent exam, develop a resume, and further their



education. Head Start funding allows us to provide services for 116 Early Head Start children and families and 404 Head Start children and families making it a total of 520 children and families. Additional services are provided for median income families which allows Head Start to serve an additional 47 children and families. During the fiscal year 2020-2021 our program was able to serve 435 Head Start families and 132 Early Head Start families with a total number of children and families being served for the school year being 567. For additional information on Head Start Outcomes and Federal Review information please visit [Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf \(capeevansville.org\)](https://www.capeevansville.org/Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf)

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAPE Energy Assistance Program helps with payment of gas, electric and fuel bills to Vanderburgh, Gibson, and Posey County residents. All customers must fall within 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. This program is seasonal and runs from October through March. The program also provides Emergency Replace and Repair (ERR) services to help replace or repair furnaces. Customers must qualify for the energy assistance to be eligible for the ERR Program. CAPEs Energy Assistance program served 9,706 customers in 2021.

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

The Weatherization program helps insulate homes to lower heating and cooling bills. Eligibility for the program is based on household income and the condition of a home. Customers must meet the 200% poverty income guidelines. Our agency was able to provide service for 36 households in 2021.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The Foster Grandparent Program is a Federally funded project designed for low-income **senior citizens** to render supportive services to children of our community in a supervised setting in health, education, and welfare-related agencies. The program emphasizes the relationship that develops between an older volunteer and the young child by stressing a one-to-one interaction between the two whenever possible. Foster Grandparents are very special people who have a variety of background with wisdom, love, comfort, and experience to share with children who are so much in need of it. The program hosted 40 volunteers in 2021.

HOUSING

CAPEs Housing Department has developed various affordable housing units, both for rental and purchase in recent years. The program also assists customers with home repair, housing counseling, financial literacy, rental assistance, foreclosure prevention and mortgage assistance. The Housing Department was able to serve 183 individuals in 2021.

Housing Development Services (CHDO)

CAPE serves as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) providing affordable housing for low to moderate income families in Vanderburgh, Gibson and Posey Counties.

Owner Occupied Rehabilitation

Qualified homeowners may be eligible for home rehabilitation assistance.

Individual Development Account (IDA)



Provides income eligible individuals with a three to one match for saving for home purchase, start a business, or attend post-secondary school training.

Foreclosure Mitigation

Assists homeowners in jeopardy of foreclosure, individual counseling, and works with lenders/mortgage companies on a positive outcome for all.

Indiana Home Ownership Assistance Fund

Helps income qualified customers with mortgage delinquencies.

Windows Replacement

Qualified homeowners may be eligible for home rehabilitation assistance.

MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

CAPE's Minority Health Initiative focuses on "eliminating health disparities" and enhancing the quality of life through education, advocacy, and quality health care services. The program was founded in 1987 through the local Minority Health Coalition and with the assistance of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus. The program provides health education, screenings, and advocacy in all health disparity topics. The funding from the Minority Health Coalition allowed our agency to serve 1,884 customers in 2021.

TOBACCO PREVENTION & CONTROL

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program partners with local hospitals, clinics, agencies, religious organizations, schools, employers, and community organizations to combat the serious health conditions of those who are affected by tobacco and tobacco related products. Using resources provide by the state and Quit Now Indiana the goal of the program is to reduce smoking in Vanderburgh County residents which in turn reduces the adverse health risk of tobacco use. The program provides education and resources for Vanderburgh County to quit smoking.

WATER BILL ASSISTANCE

CAPE has partnered with the Evansville Water Sewer and Utility Company to provide Water Bill assistance to residents in Vanderburgh County. One time assistance every twelve months may be provided to income qualified customers that have EWSU service. A customer's water bill must be in disconnection status or already disconnected for no longer than twelve months. Qualified customer can receive up to \$250.00 towards any past due amount. This partnership assisted 317 Vanderburgh County residents with their water bill.

EMERGENCY NEEDS PANTRY

The Emergency Need Pantry provides perishable, non-perishable, and staple food items for families in need. The pantry also provides diapers, wipes, baby formula, and baby food. Customers in need can visit the Emergency Needs Pantry once every thirty days. Our agency was able to assist 272 customers in 2021.



FUNDING SOURCES & PARTNERSHIP

Current funding sources include the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Department of Energy, the Indiana Department of Community and Rural Affairs, the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, the city of Evansville, Evansville Water Sewer and Utility, Department of Metropolitan Development, Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Indiana Department of Health, and other local, state, and federal programs.

CARES ACT FUNDING

CAPE was provided funding by the Department of Metropolitan Development and the Indiana Housing Community Development Authority to provide assistance to those whose income had been impacted by the COVID pandemic. This funding allowed our agency to assist customers with rental assistance, water bill assistance, energy assistance, food, diapers, wipes, formula, and baby food. Our agency was also able to purchase Personal Protective Equipment for staff and customers to help stop the spread of COVID. This funding allowed our agency to assist 295 customers in 2021.

SUMMARY

Since 1965, the Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, Inc (CAPE) has provided services that address the needs of families and individuals living in poverty. Partnerships and volunteerism have always been in the forefront of how we are able to continue our work in the eradication of poverty. We currently have state, local, nonprofit, government, schools, faith based, and healthcare partnerships. In 2021, 629 individuals volunteered at CAPE. Due to the national COVID pandemic our agency has seen an increase in the number of individuals needing assistance. In 2021 CAPE was able to serve 15,475 individuals with the various programs. All services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or status as a veteran. For more information on the services provided please visit our website www.capeevansville.org.