

## COMMUNITY ACTION IN VIRGINIA

Virginia's **thirty-one community action agencies** are a robust state and local force, reaching children and families throughout the Commonwealth with life-changing services that create pathways to opportunity and prosperity.

**Annually, we reach:**



**This includes:**



**19,500** people received quality free income **Tax Preparation** services, providing over **\$24 million** in federal and state refunds (including **\$9.5 million** in Earned Income and Child Tax Credits)

The **\$9.25 million** annual community action state investment leverages over **\$11 million** in federal community service block grant (CSBG) funding. This investment enables community action to serve as a fundamental and innovative component of the Commonwealth's human services, housing and workforce delivery system to reach low-income individuals, families and children.

The Governor and General Assembly's investment in community action is central to Virginia's ability to leverage every **\$1** of state investment to **\$14** from other federal, state, local and private sources. Community action agencies are locally run, responsive to the specific needs of their region and are excellent stewards of a range of public and private resources that enable them to create pathways out of poverty for Virginians.

# COMMUNITY ACTION IN VIRGINIA IS INNOVATIVE

Virginia's community action agencies embody a spirit of hope, change people's lives, and improve communities. We promote workable solutions that connect more families to opportunity - and make Virginia a better place to live for everyone.

## Community action agencies:

- Connect individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed - including high-quality education programs for children, job training for adults, stable and affordable housing for families, assistance for seniors, free income tax preparation and much more.
- Promote community-wide solutions to challenging problems in our urban, suburban and rural areas - whether it is the lack of affordable housing or the need to promote economic development that benefits all families.
- Share expertise with state and local leaders providing evidence on what works to promote greater economic opportunity for children and families.

## OUR FOCUS

### Whole Family Approach

#### VACAP Legislative Priority

- **Expand the Whole Family approach model** across the Virginia Community Action network with **\$5.8 million** annual investment
- Six pilot agencies across Virginia have successfully implemented whole family model of service delivery
- Results show this model breaks the cycle of poverty and increases workforce participation
- Parents achieve a family supporting wage, education level increases, and have a support network
- Children and youth are ready for school and achieve increased post-secondary education or training

### Virginia CASH Campaign

#### VACAP Legislative Priority

- Increase the **Virginia CASH Campaign/ Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** funding from \$185,725 annually to **\$935,725 annually**
- This investment is necessary to ensure more low-income Virginians gain access to the significant tax policy relief enacted by the Governor and General Assembly in 2022, including the first partially refundable state earned income tax credit
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites are struggling to find the financial resources necessary to adequately manage and staff local sites