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COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES: WHAT THEY ARE & HOW TO ACCESS THEM

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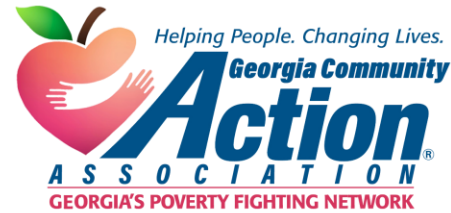
*A Guide for Tenants and the public on what Community Action Agencies do,
who they partner with, and how to connect with the one in your region.*

BACKGROUND

My perspective on Community Action work and praxis is shaped by lived experiences, research, and practice across the following organizations:



GRA with Center for Neighborhoods (CNC) and Communities & the Georgia Community Action Association (GCAA)



Data Analyst Intern with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Department of Aging and Independence Services, Strategic Planning for Lifelong Communities



National Low Income Housing Coalition

Data and Research Analyst Intern; Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-racism, and Systems-Thinking (IDEAS)

Research Intern for the Race, Prosperity, and Inclusion Initiative (RPPII)



What We'll Cover



What is a Community Action Agency (CAA)?



How to find and access your local CAA



Who CAAs typically partner with?



Why This Matters for Tenants



Services CAAs Provide



How Can You Get Involved From Where You Are?

What is a Community Action Agency?

Community Action Agencies (CAA) are private nonprofit or public organizations that were created by the federal government in 1964 to fight against poverty. CAAs provide local solutions across the various communities that they are within. **For instance, the GA Community Action Association encompasses almost 24 local agencies across the 159 counties in GA.**

The Mission of Community Action

Tripartite Boards

- One-Third Elected Public Officials
- One-Third Representatives of the Low-Income Community
- One-Third Leaders from the Private Sector

Local Focus

- Utilizing federal funds from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to fund the local CAAs
- Tailor needs to the various communities

Holistic Family Approach

- Services provided by CAAs address root causes of poverty and aim to help families thrive and stop only surviving

Who CAAs Partner With

Low-and Moderate-Income individuals and families

Renters facing housing instability or eviction risk

Students and youth in under-resourced households

Job Seekers and Workers in Transition

Older adults and people with disabilities

Veterans and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Social Institutions Including:

Industry-based Nonprofits

Faith-based Spaces

Healthcare Providers

Local Business

Local Governing Officials



Services CAAs Provide



Housing & Rental Assistance

Emergency rent help, eviction prevention, housing counseling



Utility Assistance (LIHEAP)

Help with heating, cooling, and energy costs



Food & Basic Needs

Food pantries, nutrition programs, emergency supplies



Workforce Development & Job Training

Career readiness, job placement, skills training



Education & Head Start

Early childhood education, GED and adult learning support



Health & Family Support

Referrals for healthcare, mental health, and family services



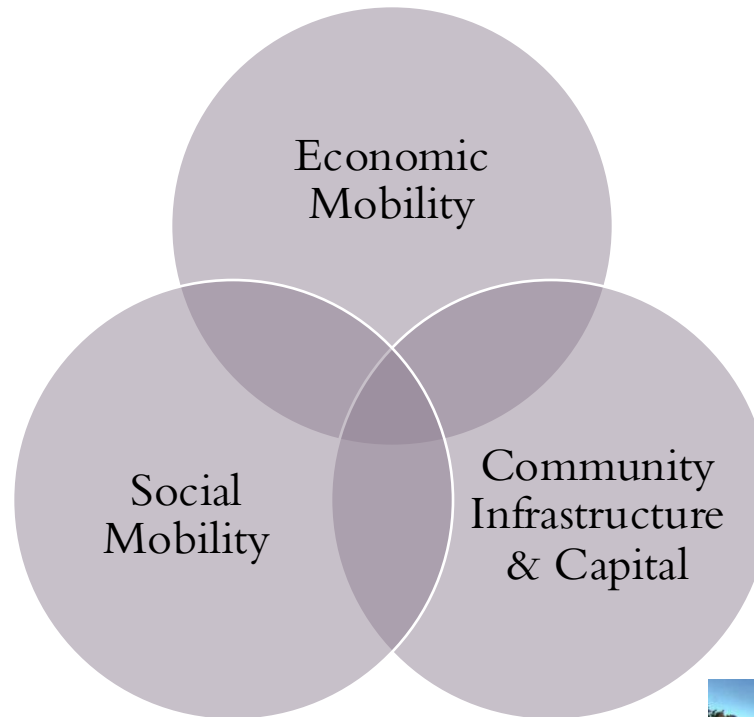
How to Find & Access Your Local CAA

Search by Region	Research your state CAA association website to find the agency covering your county.
Reach out Directly	Call or visit the agency's office to ask what services are available and what the intake process looks like
Prepare Documents	Have ID, Proof of Income, Proof of Residency to verify Income Eligibility
Attend Your Appointments	Complete an intake meeting: staff will connect you to the specific programs that fit your household needs

Why Does this Information Matter?



Building skills, networks, and stability that expand opportunity across generations



Connecting households to income, employment, and asset-building supports that open a path out of poverty and into thriving.

Investment in one household ripples outward, strengthening the skills of the family unit, local institutions, and the neighborhood's capacity to make change as a whole



How You Can Get Involved



Apply for services

If you or someone you know needs support, reach out to your local CAA, there's no wrong door to ask.



Advocate locally

Show up to public meetings and share how CAA programs affect real households in your area.



Join a board or council

CAA boards reserve seats specifically for community members, so the people using these programs also help decide how they're run.



Spread the word

Many eligible households don't know CAAs exist. Share this information with neighbors and tenants.

The Significance of Community Action



HOUSEHOLD

Whole-Family Stability

Each year, Community Action supports 15 million Americans with food, rent, energy help, and coaching so they move past daily survival and build long-term stability.



COMMUNITY

Shared Ownership & Voice

Low-income residents hold genuine governing authority on tripartite boards alongside public and private sector leaders. This balanced leadership model gives community members a direct voice in the programs designed to support them, creating lasting accountability.



NEIGHBORHOOD

Reinvestment in Place

Community Action Agencies look past short-term individual assistance to build long-term local stability. Through housing rehab, weatherization, and small business support, they have strengthened communities and improved over 2 million households nationwide. [1, 2, 3]

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS
WELCOME

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