



Community Action Partnership of Orange County



Celebrating over 40 Years of Caring “Helping People, Changing Lives”

WHO: Founded over 40 years and designated as the official anti-poverty agency for Orange County, Community Action Partnership of Orange County is continuing its mission: *“to enhance the quality of life within Orange County by eliminating and preventing the causes and effects of poverty by mobilizing and directing resources to programs that assist, educate, and promote self sufficiency.”*



WHAT: Community Action Partnership of Orange County grew out of the Movement in the 1960’s to help impoverished communities across the nation end poverty from within. On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared “...today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America.” President Johnson set America on the glorious path of economic freedom for all Americans when he said: ***“Because it is right, because it is wise, because for the first time in our nation we have the opportunity to conquer poverty.”*** Those words committed every generation of Americans then and now to the high ideal of a poverty less America.

In 1965, the Orange County Board of Supervisors, working with local community and faith-based leaders, created the Community Action Partnership of Orange County to receive federal funds called Community Services Block Grant that is used to operate anti-poverty programs, bringing resources to help local leaders alleviate poverty and find local solutions to

poverty. “This flung wide the doors of opportunity and gave All Americans a chance to move out poverty,” said Clarence W. “Buddy” Ray, Executive Director for the Community Action Partnership of Orange County.

In Orange County, Community Action Partnership worked with the poor, community leaders and local government agencies to develop solutions to end poverty. As advocates for the poor, the Partnership develops strategies and provides services which enable low-income people to get and maintain jobs and obtain the supports most often needed to stay off public aid.

But 42 years later, Americans face new challenges. While severe hunger and poverty has been eradicated, hunger and poverty today has a new face. Close to a third of Orange County’s children living at or below the poverty level and while low-income families work, they do not earn enough to meet basic needs. “It is a sobering and nagging fact that in today’s economy, we all are one lost job, one long-term illness, one accident or injury, or one wicked twist of fate on life’s highway that could put any one of us quickly into poverty,” said Mr. Ray. Many low-income families are trapped in low-wage jobs that do not provide sufficient means to meet basic needs. Energy, housing and food costs continue to outpace wages for low-income families. Thus, the war is not over but it is one where the nation’s resources are used in a way that pays dividend in nurturing and helping its citizens to grow and prosper. A recent study by the Urban Institute revealed that nearly half of the low-income working families in America need to go to local food pantries for food to prevent hunger.

“To conquer poverty,” Mr. Ray continues, “We need all Americans to begin talking about poverty again and to recognize it as a national threat to our well-being that must be eliminated and to unite in a common effort to finding solutions to problems not to argue about it, or to blame, but we need to create a national vision and an agenda for action.” “We have the resources but have not demonstrated the will and it is irresponsible to live this national shame as a legacy to future generations.”

“Our role in ending poverty is to educate the community on the needs of the poor and mobilize both private and public resources to alleviate hunger and poverty,” said Alan Woo, Director of Planning and Program Development. “Community Action Partnership is unique in that it provides an opportunity for the poor to be involved in the process of creating a community action plan to end poverty,” Mr. Woo continues. “It provides an opportunity for the poor to have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives.”

The Community Action Partnership of Orange County has developed 6 key strategies to improve and impact the lives of low income families, at-risk children and seniors, and distressed communities to achieve self-sufficiency.

Alleviating Hunger and Poverty



- Our Orange County Food Bank work with over 326 food pantries and local charities to distribute over 18,000,000 pounds of food to feed close 900,000 persons annually.
- Our Food Stamp Outreach Project reaches out to at-risk and vulnerable populations who are eligible for Food Stamps and help them to enroll in the program to prevent hunger and malnutrition.
- Our Farm to Table program works with farmers to donate fresh produce to feed the hungry.

Helping Children and Youth Succeed



- Our Community Technology Partnership help low-income children to improve their educational outcomes by providing over 1,700 computers to children and families to help bridge the digital divide
- With childhood obesity on the rise, our 5-A-Day program provides workshops and educational outreach on child health care, nutrition education and physical activities to ensure healthy children that has reached and educated over 30,000 school age children through local schools and close to 20,000 children working with local community organizations on the benefits of good nutrition and physical activities.

- Helping Kids Succeed provides a safe and nurturing environment for school age children to participate in after school programs that provide nutrition education and meals, engage them in physical activities that build strong bodies and minds, and provide trained tutors to help students succeed in school. For High School age students we provide pathways to college that get students planning for college and informing them of financial aid and other programs.



Strengthening and Supporting Families



- Our Family Resource Centers provides prevention and support services on child abuse and neglect.
- Our Family Resource Centers also provides a public forum for neighborhood organizing and community leadership of empowerment
- Our Family Resource Centers help to connect families to community support systems and services

Promoting Self-Sufficiency



- Our Family Independence Program promotes Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) that helps low-income families apply for tax credits and other benefits that have returned over \$1,102,616 to low-income tax payers that enabled them to use it to pay bills, continue their education, buy a home, start a micro business or to credit savings accounts.
- Our Community Partners Program connects clients transitioning off welfare or rebuilding their lives after domestic violence to community services that helps them to become more stable and self-sufficient.
- The agency's Workforce Program assisted close to 1,692 low-income persons to become employed.
- Our new O.C. Works program help low-income households who are in crisis and provide support services, financial education and help them obtain jobs to move out of poverty. In just three months, the program has helped 569 low-income persons, provide job counseling to 83 low-income persons and placed 15 unemployed persons into unsubsidized jobs.

Building Vital and Safe Neighborhoods



- Our Energy and Environmental Services programs offer utility assistance and home repair services to low income families and weatherization services to lower energy burdens to help low-income families reduce their utilities bills that helps over to 3,000 families each year



- Our Family Resource Centers provide family and community services such as after school tutoring and senior recreation programs



- We developing leadership training programs to help community leaders build strong vital neighborhood organizations to mobilize resources, participate in the decisions that impact their lives and to work together to solve community problems and build stronger and healthier communities. Currently, we have organizing projects in Placentia, Fullerton and Anaheim. They leaders organize block watches to reduce crime, graffiti removal, and neighborhood clean-ups.



Supporting Vulnerable and Aging Populations



- Our Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) distributes over 23,000 nutritious food boxes monthly at over 44 food distribution sites each month to enable women, children and seniors to prevent hunger and malnutrition.
- Our Asian and Pacific Islander Healthy Elders Coalition works with local seniors to plan for community needs and to advocate for need services.
- At our Family Resource Centers, we provide a wide range of socio-recreational activities and nutrition programs to help our elders stay healthy and lead active lives.

WHERE: Community Action Partnership of Orange County's services cover all low-income communities in Orange County from La Habra, Stanton, Fullerton and Anaheim to Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Westminster, Costa Mesa and other cities. Each year the agency serves over 950,000 low-income persons that live at or below the poverty level.

WHY: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves community, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Today, Community Action Partnership of Orange County is renewing America's promise to end poverty by bringing hope and resources to help the poor end poverty. We care about the future of our Community.



CONTACT: Alan Woo, Director of Planning – (714) 897-6670 ext.3400
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Community Action Partnership Office Locations in Orange County

Main Office and Orange County Food Bank: 12640 Knott Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841 (714)897-6670 FAX (714) 894-5404

CSFP Office: 7180 Lampson Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92841 (714) 667-0717

Energy & Environmental Services: 7180 Lampson Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92841 (800) 660-4232

Community Partnerships & Services: 7180 Lampson Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92841 (714) 899-3684

Community Technology Partnership: 7180 Lampson Ave. Garden Grove, CA 92841 (714) 899-0034

El Modena Family Resource Center: 18672 E. Center Street, Orange, CA 92869 (714) 532-3595

Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center: 10841 Garza Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 (714) 826-9070

**All Location Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Holidays and Special Occasions**