



**COMMUNITY ACTION
PARTNERSHIP**
ORANGE COUNTY



2021
**IMPACT
REPORT**

An Empowered Year

DEAR FRIENDS,

Stabilize. Sustain. Empower. Each of those words encapsulates Community Action Partnership of Orange County's goals every year, but if asked to choose just one to best characterize our focus throughout 2021, I'd land on empower.

Though the COVID-19 crisis was slowly waning and many were venturing out again, those impacted by poverty weren't feeling this collective sigh of relief. Food shortages, housing disruption, and the overall emotional toll created by the pandemic hit those "just trying to survive" the hardest. The programs launched last year were created to empower those struggling to find their footing, and to help them "recover" alongside the rest of their communities.

We kicked off 2021 by introducing the CARES Homeless Prevention Program, rental assistance paired with a Financial Empowerment workshop. Then we introduced our EES On-The-Job Apprentice program and empowered our own organization with a new Living Wage minimum of \$23/per hour. And we closed 2021 with another banner year for food distribution: over 46M pounds of food—the 2nd largest amount in our history.

This past year required us to be nimble and resilient, to shift priorities as needed and meet our poverty-stricken community at every new hardship with open hands and hearts. We're excited to share the extraordinary results in this report. Every generous number and every success story shared here is testament to the transformative energy of community.

Thank you for being part of our mission to end poverty, one empowered person at a time.



G. Scott
GREGORY C. SCOTT
PRESIDENT & CEO



Alberta D. Christy
ALBERTA CHRISTY
BOARD CHAIR



“After getting sick in 2020, along with everything else going on, I didn’t know how my daughter and I were going to make it. Thankfully, Community Action Partnership of Orange County’s Rental Assistance Program helped us move out of a women’s shelter and into a home. And they continue to help us. With financial workshops for long-term planning, the OC Food Bank for everyday essentials, and even during the holidays with their Adopt-a-Family program, which made this past Christmas a true miracle for my daughter and me.”

—LISA



MAXIMIZING THE MOMENTUM

New education resources, more comprehensive assistance programs, and a continued dedication to providing basic essentials—in 2021, we harnessed strengths fostered during the pandemic to empower our most vulnerable communities and help them find their footing again.



HELP AT HOME

In addition to ongoing utility assistance, the CARES Homeless Prevention Program was launched to offer a more comprehensive rental assistance tool.

RENTAL RELIEF

178

households received rental assistance

209

people attended our five-week Financial Empowerment workshop

\$588K+

rental assistance funds were received

UTILITY RELIEF

8000

families received utility assistance through the Southern California Edison Energy Savings Assistance program



THE LITTLE, BIG THINGS

84

semi-trailers were loaded with free diapers

23M

diapers were distributed

3

more years of funding was secured for the OC Diaper Bank



FOOD FOR ALL

\$182M

in funds were secured for California Food Banks, with \$4.6M going directly to the OC Food Bank

43M lbs

equivalent to 36M meals were distributed—the 2nd largest amount in our history

60K

meals served to more than 300 people through the Southwest Community Center





“It’s been so encouraging watching my kids become more confident through the Youth Programs at the center. My shy son started karate and just blossomed into a leader, while the others were finally socializing in summer camps after too much virtual learning. Then each of them got a new backpack from the Backpacks for Success Program to kickstart the school year, and I’m telling you, their smiles said it all. I’m as happy as they are to be involved and part of something again.”

—ELLA

FULFILLING EVERY SIZED NEED

The pandemic proved detrimental emotionally and socially for all kids. But for those already dealing with the countless obstacles associated with homelessness and poverty, the difficulties were compounded. Thankfully, we were able to offer relief.

188

Youth participated in Elevate Youth, a new statewide program providing leadership development to youth through mentor and peer support with the goal of preventing drug abuse.

92

Young adults enrolled in our Workforce Development Program. Piloted with young adults ages 16-24, thirteen were employed by the end of 2021.

65

Youth engaged in STEM activities during the summer youth program and 91% reported knowledge and appreciation of STEM fields and careers.

FROM LIVING TO THRIVING

With inflation and the cost of living skyrocketing across the board, making ends meet is no easy feat. Last year, we introduced the Living Wage Commitment, raising more than half of our own employees' wages to Orange County's living wage. Anyone making under \$23/hour received a pay-raise. It's a well-deserved boost to financial futures we're excited to help grow.



“To have that feeling of happiness due to now being able to purchase things for my son that he wants, that I wasn’t able to do before. I no longer have to say no to him all the time, and seeing his sad little face, Now I feel as if I can stay on track of my personal goals, to better my life for us. It has been a huge weight lifted off my shoulders.”

**—MAYA
(PSEUDONYM),
CAP OC EMPLOYEE**

EMPOWERED PROGRAMS. EMPOWERED PEOPLE.



LIFE ILLUMINATED

Our Energy & Environmental Assistance Program completed certification with SunPower. Now seven more homes in Orange County have solar power, lower electric bills, and an eco-friendly energy solution.



WELCOME HOME

Our Housing Navigator Program provides the chronically ill and homeless with shelter. Last year, the program secured homes for three people, one who had been homeless for fourteen years and another who had spent the past seven years in a nursing home.



SAVVY SENIORS

Using our new Success Coaches model, we helped 167 seniors create SMART goals including learning technology, saving money, and more.

THE PATH TO STABILITY IS PAVED IN EMPOWERMENT

Our Five-Year Plan

Because the face of poverty is constantly changing, every year we must evolve in order to fulfill our community's most urgent needs. Over the next five years, we will be enhancing support and resources in four strategic areas, always focused on empowering the powerless with real, tangible tools to begin forging a path forward. Future-Focused Four Ways:

1

ECONOMIC MOBILITY & INNOVATION

Increase entrepreneurial-focused education by 100%, place 50 families in affordable housing, improve financial security, drive living wage needs for at least half of families receiving our empowerment services, and more.

2

FAMILY & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Enroll 100 young clients in civic engagement activities and leadership programs, increase living wage employment skill levels, increase foundational civic, academic, social, and financial knowledge of youth served by 50% or more, ensure racial equity and social justice, and more.

3

HEALTH & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Invest \$1 million in strengthening the infrastructure of our supported agencies to increase food safety and quality, increase reach of our Healthy Homes Program, increase enrollment in food security program, and more.

4

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & BRAND AWARENESS

Increase our funding by 50% to help grow our leadership team, fairly compensate our staff, expand our advocacy reach and fundraising, find a centralized campus to better integrate and grow our services, and be recognized as Orange County's leading anti-poverty agency.

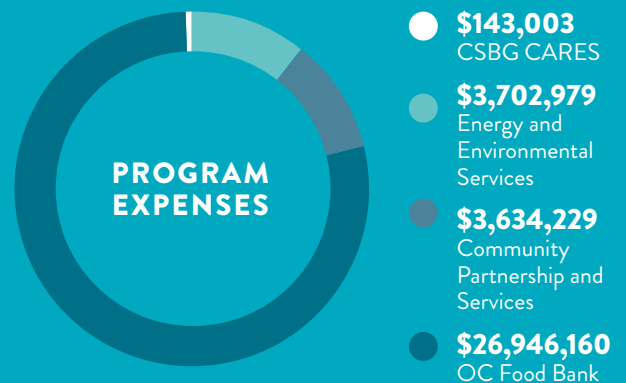
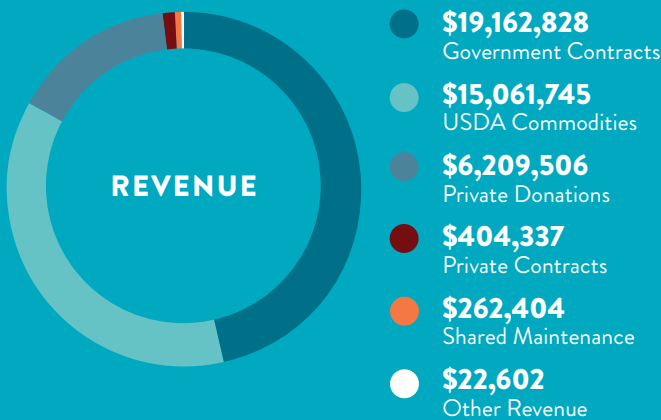
A COMMUNITY BUILT ON SUPPORT

“The pandemic has greatly impacted our Orange County community, and we know individuals and families are struggling every day to ensure that they have enough food on their tables. We want those in our community to have a greater ability to achieve food security. Through our 5-year pledge to Community Action Partnership’s OC Food Bank, part of our \$2 million commitment to food security over the next five years, the Pacific Life Foundation is committing to making a long-term investment in a community partner who has the infrastructure, service programs, and track record to positively impact these families in need.”

—TENNYSON OYLER, PRESIDENT OF THE PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION



2020 FINANCIALS



For every \$1 donated 92% goes towards our programs and services to the community. Visit [CAPOC.ORG/FINANCIALS](https://www.caoc.org/financials) to learn more.

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