



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

DREAM

ACHIEVE

THRIVE

CARPE DIEM

CREATE

BEAUTIFY

INSPIRE

# Community Action Partnership of Mercer County

## 2024 Annual Report

This is our MISSION:

“Helping People Help Themselves Through Leadership  
In Community Partnering That Provides Opportunities  
to Live with Decency and Dignity.”



# A Message from the CEO

An invitation from Wilma Torres, CEO

Dear Community Partners,

Community Action Partnership of Mercer County (CAPMC) is a multi-purpose non-profit providing a variety of services ranging from Early Childhood Education to Energy Conservation to Senior Housing. We serve individuals from 0 to 100 years of age, who can meet the federal or state eligibility requirements. We have touched over 2000 individuals over the past year and have seen the needs met through the services we provide or partner to provide.

We are here to serve, but we can't do it all. We understand that families are multi-faceted and typically have more than one need that has to be addressed; some are emergency needs, and some are needs to stabilize the family. This is why our partnership with private citizens, the non-profit sector, the business sector, the faith sector, and government is so important to us. We want to address not only one family need but as many as we can, by partnering we can affect real change and help them to change their lives.

We, who have been in this industry for over 10 years sometimes have a jaded perspective of families who come for services –everyone does not want to be in the system or is trying to scam us. In some situations, we find that some of our families are falling into situational poverty, they lost their jobs or the family breadwinner has passed away, or their car broke down and this one event affects employment, medical appointments, grocery shopping etc. Let's meet families where they are at, let's believe they are telling the truth. Let's serve them with the Spirit of Excellence!

With the cuts in funding our survival depends on our partnerships, call us, meet with us, let's work together to get a bigger bang out of our dollars and to serve those who need us most.

You are invited to call me and let's talk 724-342-6295

Wilma Torres, CEO  
Community Action Partnership of Mercer County  
215 S. Water Avenue  
Sharon, PA 16146

[wtorres@capmercer.org](mailto:wtorres@capmercer.org)



Wilma V. Torres, CEO

# Board of Directors

Community Action Agencies are governed by a **tripartite board structure**, designed to ensure that the agency's work reflects and serves the full spectrum of the local community. It is composed of one-third **low-income individuals**, one third **public sector elected officials**, and one-third of people from the **private sector**.

## Low Income Sector

**Jenna Tofani**

Head Start Policy Council Rep.

**Brenda Wright**

Riverwalk Residents Appointee

**Peter Costar**

MCAAA Rep.

**Atty. Chelsea Sinclair—Secretary**

NW Legal Services—Comm. Rep.

**Lauriethal Ward**

Head Start Policy Council Rep.

## Public Sector- Elected Officials

**Terrence Crumby**

MC Constable

**Tim McGonigle—Treasurer**

Mercer County Commissioner

**Bob Lucas—Vice President**

Representing Councilman Koerth

**Travis Martwinski**

Mercer County District Judge

**Rev. Terry Harrison**

Farrell Area School Board

## Private Sector

**Ray Benedict— Social Services**

**Dr. Hazlett—HS Policy Council Appointee**

**Rev. Charles Johnson—Faith Based Rep.**

**Lt(R)Col Larry Scheetz—Veterans Rep.**

**Karen Winner-Sed—Board President**

Winner International

*We thank our board for their dedication to our mission, the donation of their time and talents, and for the unique qualities that each member brings to our organization.*

# CAPMC Financials

## Michelle Clarke—Chief Finance Officer

**COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MERCER COUNTY, INC. AND AFFILIATES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSET:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,069,280.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	\$ 308,670.00
Accounts Receivable	
Grants and Governmental Programs	1,204,257
Other	101,332
Utility Contracts	2,311
Supplies Inventory	2,011
Prepaid Expense	<u>165,562</u>

#### TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:

2,853,423

#### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Land and Land Improvements	1,823,416
Buildings	33,086,228
Rental Properties	558,808
Vehicles	115,109
Equipment	1,021,858
Furniture and Fixtures	458,354
Lease Right-of-Use Assets	<u>75,415</u>

37,119,188

LESS: Accumulated Depreciation (13,738,571)

#### NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

23,380,617

#### OTHER ASSETS:

Intangible Asset	190,000
Investments in Marketable Securities	1,183,723
Assets Held for Sale	0
PHFA Monitor Fee, Net of Accumulated Amortization	<u>660</u>

#### TOTAL OTHER ASSETS:

1,374,383

#### RESTRICTED CASH AND DEPOSITS, DEPOSITS HELD IN TRUST, AND FUNDED RESERVES:

1,597,392

#### TOTAL ASSETS:

29,205,815

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Note Payable	33,039
Accounts Payable	531,346
Accrued Payroll	323,887
Accrued Annual Leave	9,962
Advanced Deposit	1,634,632
Prepaid Rents	18,769
Lease Liability	<u>49,476</u>

2,600,911

#### LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:

Accrued Severance Pay	8,900
Escrow and Deposits Payable	122,162
Notes and Mortgages Payable	33,256,978
Lease Liability	<u>25,939</u>

33,413,979

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES:

36,014,890

#### NET ASSETS (DEFICIT):

With Donor Restriction	599,151
Without Donor Restrictions	(6,254,093)
Noncontrolling Interest	<u>(1,154,133)</u>

(6,809,075)

#### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET (DEFICIT):

\$ 29,205,815.00

## Program Outcomes

2188 Individuals & 1012 Families Served

### Energy Department

Anthony Richards & Zack Porreca—CO-Directors  
ARichards@capmercer.org ZPorreca@capmercer.org

**138** Households experienced improved health & safety due to improvements within their home.

**173** Households improved energy efficiency or energy burden reduction in their homes.

**92** Households avoided termination of utility services.

### Housing

Vickie Bucker—Director  
VBucker@capmercer.org

**248** Seniors maintained an independent living situation.

**77** Individuals with disabilities maintained an independent living situation.

### Social Services

Shawn Walsh—Director  
SWalsh@capmercer.org

**14** Individuals reported improved financial well-being.

**3** Individuals opened an Individual Development Account.

**4** Individuals increased their savings.

**4** Individual purchased a home.

**73** Individuals maintained safe and affordable housing for 90 days.

**45** Individuals maintained safe and affordable housing for 180 days.

**12** Individuals experiencing homelessness obtained safe affordable shelter.

**56** Individuals obtained safe affordable housing.

**69** Individuals avoided an eviction

**30** Individuals who avoided termination of utility services with the CSBG RUSH program.

### Planning & Development Initiatives

Lori Johnson—Director  
LJohnson@capmercer.org

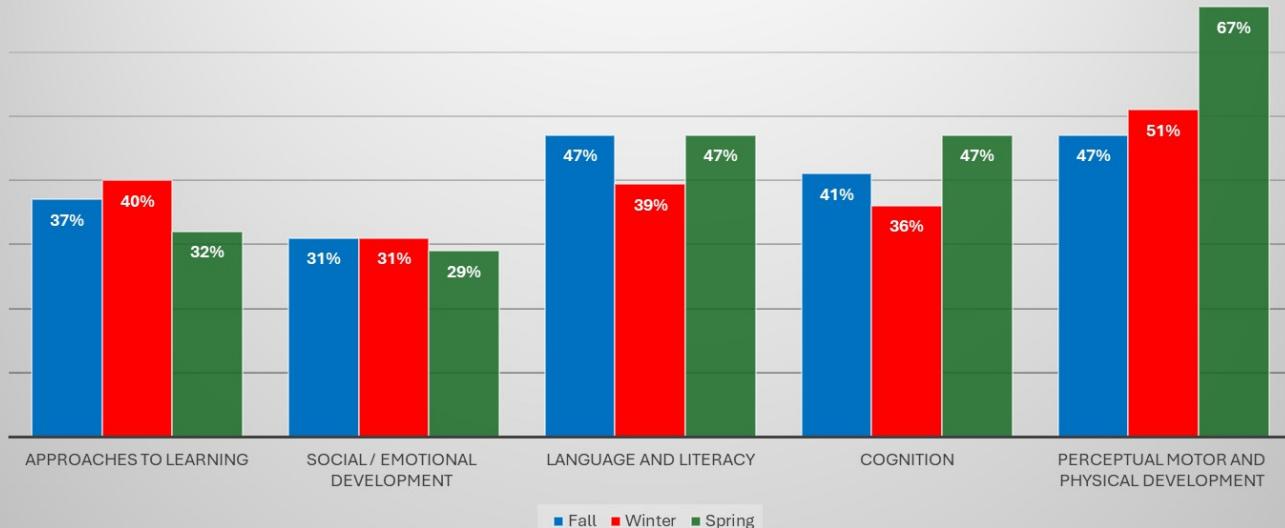
Veterans Stand Down—62 Vendors and 223 attendees

Veterans Christmas Party—232 Veterans and their Guests

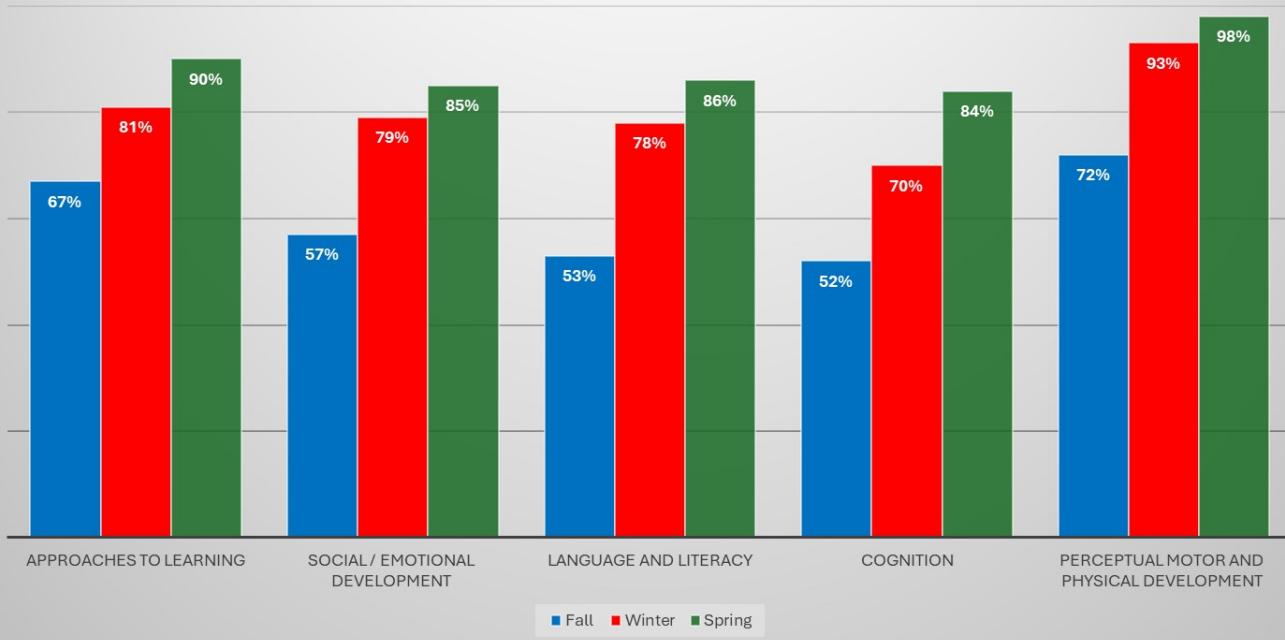
Lots to Love—130 lots transferred to adjacent homeowners & 13 adopted for pocket parks

# ECE School Readiness

## Overall Progress Infant / Toddler School Readiness Goals



## Overall Progress Preschool School Readiness Goals



# Mercer County Head Start/Early Head Start/Pre-K Counts

Adrian Searle—Early Childhood Education (ECE) Director

## Education & Cognitive Development

**384** Children demonstrated improved emergent literacy skills

**412** Children demonstrated skills for school readiness.

**488** Children demonstrated improved positive approaches toward learning, including improved attention skills.

**2543** Home visits were made to increase parents knowledge of program and early childhood needs.



### Head Start/Early Head Start/ Pre-K Counts Mission and Values

Mercer County Head Start/Early Head Start/PA Pre-K Counts connects children, families, schools and communities by partnering quality education with caring support services today for a better tomorrow.

- We believe that parents are a child's best and first teacher.
- We believe that our entire staff should be committed to children, families, fellow staff members and our community partners by demonstrating the highest level of professionalism, dignity, and respect.
- We believe that the key to self-sufficiency is through quality education, parental responsibility and community partnerships.
- We believe that education and love of learning is critical to school readiness and a families future success.
- We believe that providing comprehensive services for physical & mental health development are crucial to a child's overall development.
- We believe in the empowerment of families to ensure self-reliance.
- We believe that a child that has healthy nutrition and a safe environment can learn effectively

# Client Demographics

**Total Number of Individuals: 2188**

**Total Number of Households: 1012**

<u>Household Type:</u>		<u>Household Size:</u>	
Single:	270	Single:	321
SP Male:	24	2 People:	59
SP Female:	335	3 People:	45
Two-Parent:	290	4 People:	21
2 Adults (NC):	24	5 People:	22
Multi-Gen:	6	6 or More:	12
Non Related Adults/ Children:	4	Non-specified:	532
Other:	4		
		Non-specified:	55

Gender:

Female: 1034

Male: 595

Other: 0

\*Non-specified: 559

Ages:

0-17: 834

18-24: 45

25-44: 158

45-54: 66

55-64: 37

65-75+: 260

\*Non-specified: 788



Race & Ethnicity:

White: 1312

Black: 302

Multi-Race: 136

Other: 27

\*Non-specified: 411

Hispanic: 73

Housing:

Own: 95

Rent: 285

Homeless: 22

Other: 13

Employment:

Individuals 18+

Full Time: 308

Part Time: 109

Unemployed: 336

Retired: 146

\*Non-specified: 11

Income Levels:

Individuals 18+

Up to 50% FPL:

51—100% FPL:

101—125% FPL:

126-150% FPL:

151-200% FPL:

201 and over:

67

83

64

65

20

\*Non-specified: 597

# Community Initiatives

Planning & Development—Lori Johnson, Director

## Lots to Love

Lots to Love addresses the blight that occurs on empty lots in the City of Sharon. There are three strategies that are used to fight the blight: Side-Lot, Adopt-a-Lot, and Sponsor-a-Lot. Side-Lot helps a neighboring homeowner acquire the lot. Sponsor-a-Lot uses donations and grants to mow and maintain lots. Adopt-a-Lot creates pocket parks. In 2024 we started working on a reading garden with funds provided by a PA PHARE grant. The pictures below show the North Street Reading Garden, the Meek Street Sculpture Garden, the 4th Avenue Community Garden, the Free Library and Rock Garden at the 4th Avenue Garden, & the Lafayette Community Garden. Lots to love is funded by; the City of Sharon, a DCED Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) grant, and a PA Housing Financing Agency PHARE grant.

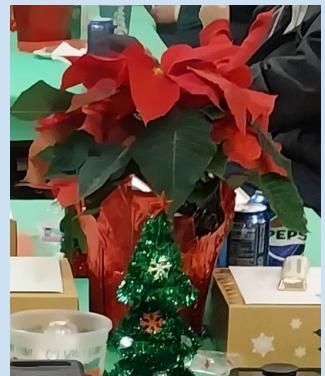


## Veterans Stand Down

The 2024 Veterans Stand Down and Resource Fair was held at the Hickory VFW on October 24th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We had 62 vendors, and 232 attendees. Flying High with Horses did a performance, the Youngstown Blue Coats brought their bus, and the Erie Vet center had their mobile therapy unit at the event. The agency handed out first aid kits and toiletry items on behalf of the Bill & Stella Perine foundation & the Kachulis Family Foundations. Cindy Cox from Quilts of Valor presented three quilts to veterans. Donations from various Mercer County VFW and American Legion Posts/Auxiliaries and the Shenango Valley Sons of Italy made everything else possible. Humana provided cookies that were passed out at the door. The Butler VA also collected surplus to be given away. Volunteers from Flying High with Horses, FNB, Sharpsville High School (SHS), and community members met the truck and sorted the surplus the night before the event. On the day of the event, volunteers from SHS also helped with set up and veterans needs. The gentleman in this picture is a WWII veteran named Pete, the students were excited to meet Pete and hear his stories from the war.



# Veterans Christmas Party



The veterans Christmas party was held on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at the West Middlesex VFW. The VFW's generosity and kindness was incredible. The guests included 223 Veterans and their families. The venue was beautifully decorated with Christmas decor. The tables included poinsettias, candy dishes, and each place setting had a box of Christmas cookies, a candy bar, and a Christmas card. We had a short program at the beginning, followed by a buffet lunch complete with a dessert bar. The DJ played Christmas music throughout the afternoon. We ended the day with door prizes. I talked to a few veterans that had recently lost their spouses. They were so grateful for a chance to get out and celebrate Christmas with others. This event was made possible by the generosity from the Winner Foundation, MC Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Breakfast, Sam's Club, the Slovenian Home, and the many VFWs/Auxiliaries and American Legions that donated. We would like to thank the many volunteers that came to put cookie box favors together, set up, the students from Sharon High School that made Christmas Cards, and those that brought gifts to give away.



## Welcome Home Kits

One of CAPMC's initiatives is to provide household items for newly housed homeless individuals/families. We realized that as we placed individuals into homes that most of these families had nothing, just what would fit in a backpack or a car. The Sharon Elks Lodge No 103 provided a grant of \$6,000 to provide kits specific for homeless veterans. These kits include kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, toiletry, & cleaning items. Seven local veterans were provided with a Welcome Home Kit. This is the second year for this grant.



# Strategic Plan—2023 to 2028

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

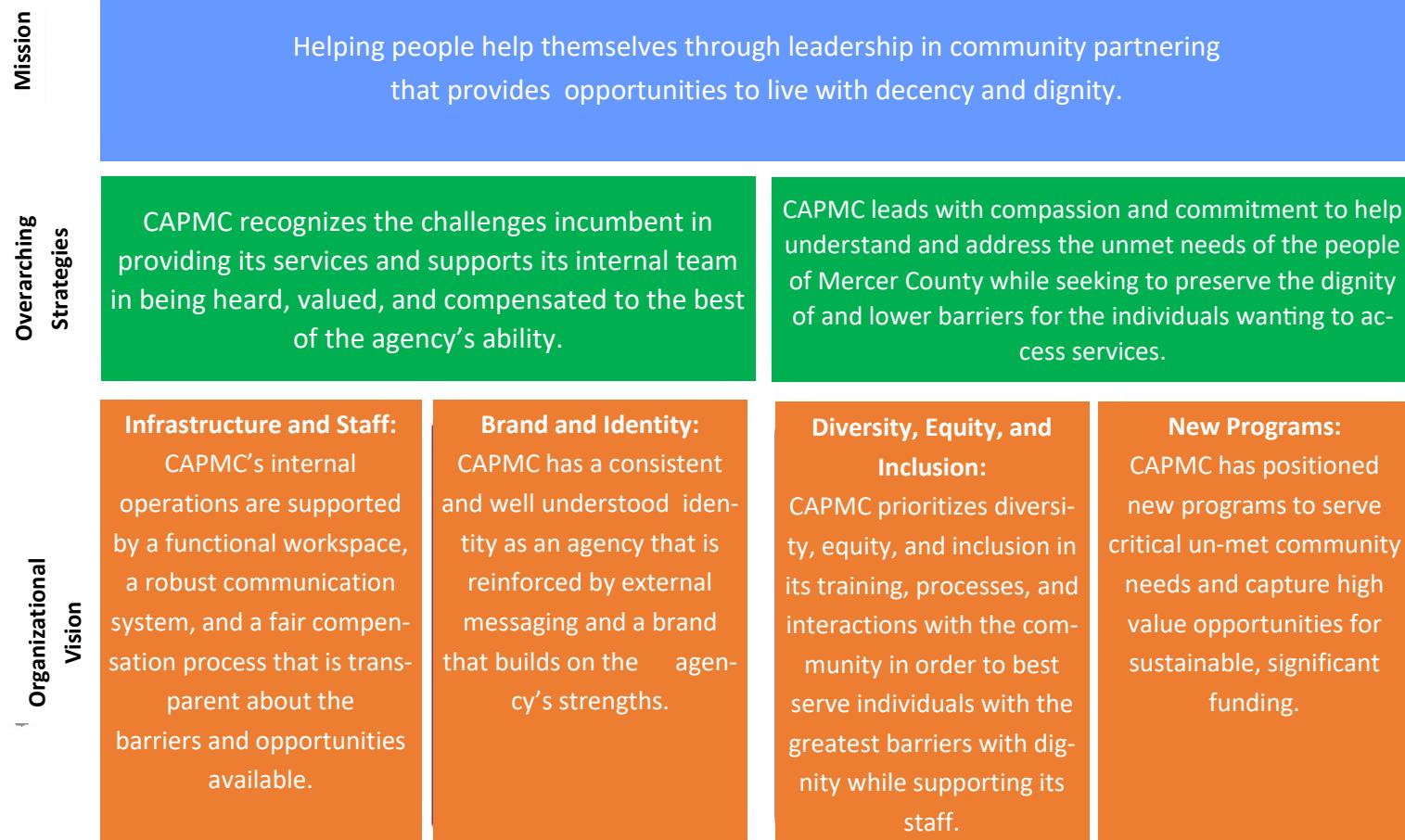
The Community Action Partnership of Mercer County (CAPMC) entered into a stakeholder informed planning process that sought to create a five year strategy for the agency in alignment with CAA standards. Of particular importance in this process was the identification of strategic initiatives that would be used by the agency that could grow and adapt as opportunities emerge and organizational and environmental shifts occur.

Additionally, it was important that the internal team of CAPMC has ownership of the strategy and the direction of the agency. Therefore a number of the strategic initiatives named in the plan are internal facing. The remaining initiatives address persistent and growing needs facing the community and families of Mercer County.



## Planning Framework

The graphic below presents the mission, overarching strategies, and five-year vision for CAPMC. The mission statement remains unchanged, but the overarching strategies and vision concepts emerged from this planning effort. The graphic below describes what CAPMC does (mission), the way in which it does it (strategies), and the state it is working to achieve (vision).





### These are our VALUES:

“We believe that poverty is unacceptable to the community and that all people are valued regardless of race or socio-economic status.”



CAPMC Check Presentation to LTI—Workforce Development Grant  
Sponsored by the PA WHRP Program



### This is our PROMISE:

“Community Action changes peoples lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.”

“We care about the community and we remain dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”

### CAPMC NEW ADDRESS

215 S. Water Avenue/Sharon/PA 16146  
Phone: 724-342-6222/Fax 724-342-6301

[www.capmercer.org](http://www.capmercer.org)

**CEO - Wilma Torres**