



2025

# Annual Report



Find resources at  
[kentcountymi.gov/KCCA](http://kentcountymi.gov/KCCA)

# Message From The Director

As we look back on 2025, I am filled with gratitude and renewed optimism for the work ahead. This year brought its own set of challenges with economic uncertainty, rising community needs, and the ongoing pressure on essential services. Yet through it all, our organization continued to rise to the moment with determination, compassion, and innovation.



## **In 2025, we reached several important milestones:**

- Supported thousands of families across Kent County with critical services and resources
- Expanded senior programs, increasing access to transportation, home safety, and social connection
- Strengthened partnerships to deliver more coordinated services
- Invested in programs that stabilize households and prevent displacement
- Advanced efforts to preserve safe, healthy, and affordable housing
- Continued prioritizing underserved communities in all aspects of our work

These achievements reflect lives stabilized, opportunities restored, and communities strengthened - made possible by our dedicated staff, partners, donors, volunteers, and the leadership of our board. We also faced obstacles that tested our resilience. But time and again, our team demonstrated creativity, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to the people we serve. As we move into 2026, we remain focused on closing service gaps, expanding access, and investing in long-term solutions that help Kent County residents succeed.

Thank you to everyone who supports this work. Together, we will continue building a stronger, more connected future.

With appreciation -

Gustavo Perez

Director, Kent County Community Action



38th Annual  
Walk For Warmth

# By The Numbers...



## Community Impact

56,654 individuals

## Participants Served

14,863 families

3,125 seniors

1,343 children

## Partner Organizations

221

## Volunteer Hours

64,364

## Customer Satisfaction

97%

One program participant said: "I would have lost everything if it wasn't for Emily (KCCA social worker, who works with seniors). She walks on water!"

# 224

**home rehabilitation, lead reduction, and weatherization projects completed** to help families with low and moderate-income conserve energy, save money, and live in healthier, safer homes. **An investment of \$1,277,000 made in Kent County.**

# 4

**public infrastructure improvement projects awarded** including parks, roads, and sidewalks, with an anticipated impact of over **16,000 residents** living in low to moderate income areas. **Investments Awarded: \$900,000.**

# 1,272

**utility payments made** to prevent shutoffs of gas, electricity, or water. Investment: \$609,669 for and average of \$479 per utility bill.

# 4,062

**hours of case management provided** to older adults to support them aging in place. An increase of 100 hours over the last year.

# 125,434

**boxes of nutritious food distributed** to low-income and senior households. **Value: \$2,141,451.**

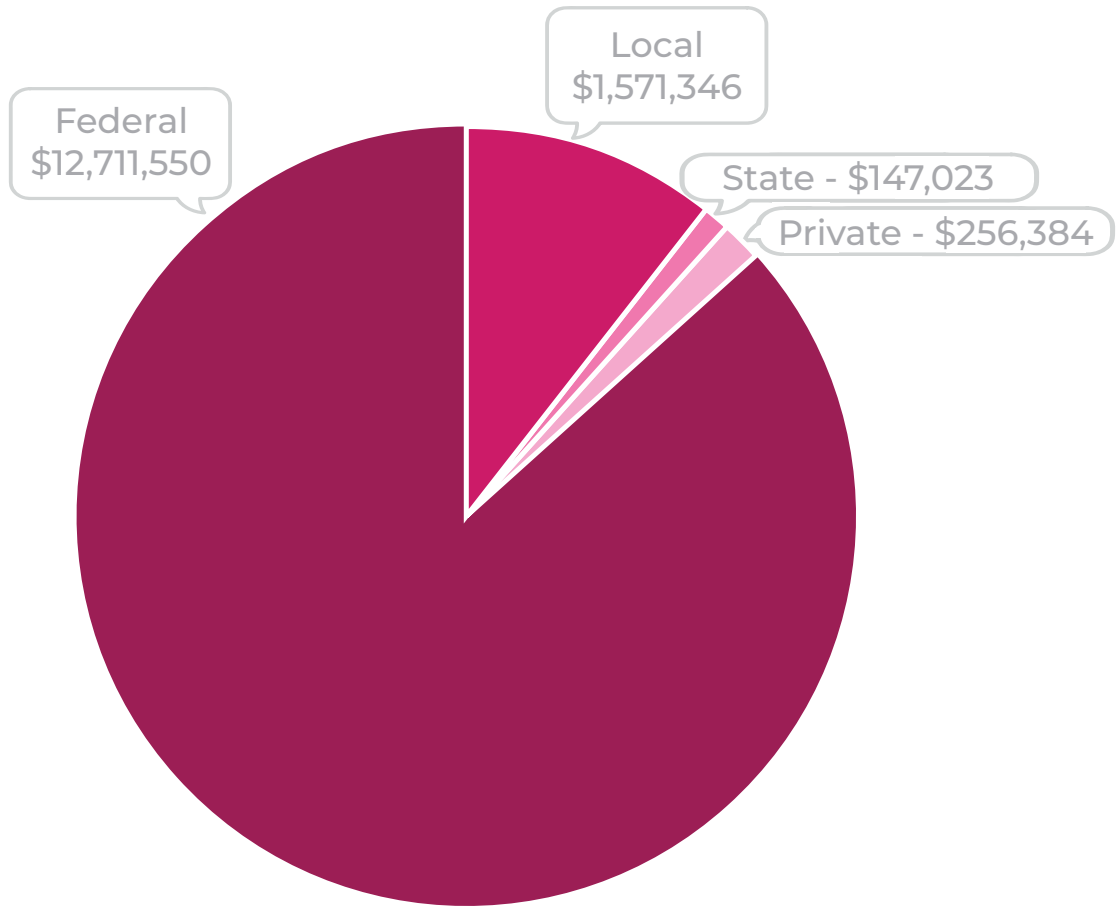
# 15,766

**meals served or delivered** to seniors, ensuring that seniors receive a nutritious meal in their home or in a group setting.

# 8

**public service projects awarded** including services for housing assistance, case management, legal aid services, fair housing, and transportation. **Investments Awarded: \$424,000.**

# Funding Allocations



**CSBG**  
Community Services  
Block Grant

**WAP**  
Weatherization  
Assistance  
Program

**CDBG**  
Community  
Development Block  
Grant (entitlement)

**HOME**  
Investment  
Partnership Program  
(entitlement)

**Senior Millage**

**LIHEAP**  
Low Income Home  
Energy Assistance  
Program

Funding was achieved through the above sources & special events, like Walk For Warmth (page 3)

**Visit to the National Community  
Action Foundation (NCAF)  
Conference in Washington D.C.**



# 2025 Highlights

## Legislative Day in Lansing



In May, KCCA staff joined Community Action agencies from across Michigan for the annual Michigan Community Action Legislative Day in Lansing.

We celebrated our incredible volunteers, shared powerful success stories from the people we serve, and spoke directly with legislators about the importance of our work in

building strong, resilient communities. A special thank you to Kent County Commissioner Nancy Morales for joining us and showing her support for the work we do here in Kent County - your partnership and advocacy mean so much!

## Michigan Community Action in Grand Rapids

Several members of our team had the opportunity to attend the Michigan Community Action Summer Conference. As part of the event, our Director, Gustavo Perez, was featured on a live episode of the Collective Us podcast, where he did a fantastic job representing our work and mission.

Gustavo joined a panel discussion to talk about the work we do, the challenges we face, and the mission that unites us, to uplift residents and strengthen communities.



## CSBG Modernization Act



It was an honor to join Carol Glanville and Gretchen Whitmer as four bills were signed into law, including measures to strengthen Community Action services, expand computer science education, and support statewide collaboration.

One of the highlights was the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Modernization Act, which updates Michigan's Community Services Block Grant program. This law will

help Community Action agencies better coordinate services, modernize program delivery, and provide more flexible resources to address local needs. By strengthening support for low-income residents, the act empowers agencies to offer comprehensive assistance - from housing and employment to education and basic needs - ensuring families have the tools they need to achieve stability and success.

## Happy Homes, Happy Hearts Luncheon

We had a wonderful time in October at our free, Happy Homes, Happy Hearts Luncheon, celebrating Community Action's impact across Kent County. Featuring the life-changing support of our weatherization and utility assistance programs, the event was full of



connection, gratitude, and community.

A heartfelt thank you to Nancy Morales for leading the charge, and to everyone who attended and helped us raise funds - your participation truly made a difference. Guests also had the opportunity to hear meaningful stories from our senior services initiatives and join us in honoring our Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding contributions.

## Eviction Prevention Pilot

Through strong support from partners, the United Way and Housing Kent, our team is proud to help reimagine eviction prevention in Kent County. After pandemic-era protections ended, evictions surged, prompting the creation of the Kent County Eviction Prevention Task Force - a coalition of local organizations, government agencies, and community partners working together to address the root causes of housing instability. This effort is helping align resources and expand solutions focused on keeping residents housed, and is making a real difference!



This task force's first initiative is the Family Stability Program, which combines long-term case management with flexible financial assistance. By connecting families to resources for basic needs, employment, and financial planning, the program helps prevent evictions before they happen - though demand still exceeds available resources.

## NCAP Convention in Detroit

In August, the 2025 NCAP Annual Convention in Detroit brought together Community Action Agencies and human service providers from across the country for several days of learning, collaboration, and innovation. The event served as a hub for sharing best practices, strengthening impact, and providing training, resources, and peer-led insights to help families achieve economic stability and upward mobility. Attendees also took part in unique experiences like the "Move for the Movement" 5K as well as mobile tours, highlighting programs in participatory grantmaking, supportive housing, and workforce development - all designed to empower communities and expand opportunity.





Above image (left to right): KCCA's Noelia Garcia, with Lazaro Victores, Volunteer of the Year, and Kent County Commissioner Nancy Morales

## Expanding Care and Connection for Seniors

We are deeply grateful to the Kent County Senior Millage for funding a dedicated Senior Center Specialist at El Centro, our congregate meals site. This role has enhanced enrichment activities, strengthened our ability to monitor participant well-being, and increased engagement and connection among participants. This investment has elevated the quality of our program and deepened our impact on older adults in our community.



# Kent County Community Action Works To Develop Community, Expand Opportunity, and Improve Lives.

## Our Mission

We build thriving communities, and support Kent County residents to meet basic needs and achieve long-term stability.

## Our Vision

Kent County Community Action bridges gaps, fosters collaboration, and efficiently uses resources to reduce poverty and grow communities where everyone can thrive.



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