

2023 Impact Report



“Building stronger, healthier communities and empowering families that experience economic and social challenges through strategic partnerships, education, services, and compassion.”

Thoughts from the Board:

Hidden gems are objects and places that are of exceptional quality but are not widely known. Schoharie County Community Action Program is such a hidden gem in our community. Many people are aware of one or two programs SCCAP offers, but few seem to know the extent of what SCCAP does in making our community a better place for all (as highlighted in this Impact Report.) In my work as board chair, I have had the privilege of viewing multiple facets of this hidden gem, the incredible dedication of the administration and staff, and the exceptional quality of service they offer to our community. SCCAP is a gem worth discovering and supporting!

Pastor Ray Richards II, Board Chair



Cover photo: Merganser duck and ducklings. Interesting facts about Merganser ducks is that some ducks nest in tree cavities high above the ground. When the ducklings hatch, they jump from the tree and tumble to the ground! Thankfully, they are quite resilient (and a little bouncy.) The Merganser is also a social species, preferring to be in teams.

A comparison can be made to SCCAP's amazing staff—it takes team work, being able to venturing out of the comfort zone, LOTS of resiliency, and having the ability to 'bounce' through the challenging moments!

[Merganser - Description, Habitat, Image, Diet, and Interesting Facts \(animals.net\)](#)

[Common Merganser - Profile | Traits | Facts | Diet | Breeding - BirdBaron](#)

Did you know...

Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc. (SCCAP)

has been providing services to the residents of Schoharie County for 59 years!

On August 20th, 1964 President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, which created a variety of programs, including Community Action Agencies, as part of his War on Poverty. He knew then, as we know now, that the war against poverty must be won in the field, in every private home, in every public office, from the courthouse to the White House.

SCCAP was established in 1965 to wage the war on poverty in Schoharie County, New York by promoting self-sufficiency for those of limited income, ensuring that all residents are able to live in dignity; by implementing innovative and cost-effective programs to improve the lives and living conditions of the impoverished; by providing support and instruction for everyone in need of assistance; and by being a major voice of reason in establishing welfare system reforms.

SCCAP, as a recipient of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) federal funds, is also charged with utilizing a performance measurement system to ensure the needs of Schoharie County's economically challenged families are being met to the best of our ability through the delivery of SCCAP's programs and services. To meet this expectation, SCCAP uses the performance-based management tool known in short as ROMA. Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) is the standard used by Community Action Agencies (CAA) throughout the United States to guide and evaluate CAA effectiveness. **There are currently over 1,000 CAAs in the United States!**

Why ROMA? Because it

- Assesses poverty needs and conditions within a community
- Defines a clear anti-poverty mission
- Looks at strategies and services to address needs—both immediate and long term, and
- Guides the implementation of programs, services, and strategies within the agency and among partnering organizations to provide meaningful impacts to the families served.

The 2023 Impact Report provides an overview of just some of the services and their benefits to our community.



Stabilizing Families & Maximizing Resources

The first step in the pathway to self-sufficiency is **stabilization**; meeting immediate needs to **alleviate stressors** and **keep families safe**. Access to supplemental programs help families **maximize their financial resources**.



22 rent/utility payments to keep families housed

373 pantry packages | 253 HEAP applications

Increased disposable income through the Earned Income Tax Credit

Did you know? The Earned Income Tax Credit works to reduce the poverty rate and increase quality of life by helping individuals offset their tax expenses retain more of their earned income—for saving or local spending!

Stabilization Impact:

The Community Service Department received a call from a client in need of housing assistance. The client was an older woman who had been homeless for almost 2 years. She had been staying in a local motel since August of 2022. DSS was paying for her stay but was about to move her to a woman's shelter. She was in a dire situation. With the help of OFA, Catholic Charities, and SCCAP she was able to secure an apartment and no longer need DSS assistance. After 2 very long years she finally had a place to call home!

Supporting Relationships & Esteem-Building

Empowering families is at the center of our mission, and we do this through strengthening family bonds and making community connections.



124 families participated in skill building

30 child care connections | 554 family visits occurred

42 families connected with esteem-building activities for youth

Supporting youth activities, family bonds, skill building, and child care connections strengthens families at home AND increases positive interactions in the community. Esteem-building activities prepare youth for success. Child care connections and family visits outside of traditional working hours help to support working parents.

Supportive Service:

“The ladies at CCR&R helped me tremendously during the application period and throughout the challenges I had within the Grant period. Dawn made it a point to come to my daycare and help me in-person. She has been a source of support, and I cannot thank her enough.”

K.Tully (Group Family Daycare)



Promoting Wellness

\$5,525 Farmer's Market Vouchers* distributed

2,790 oz of breastmilk donated to the Milk Depot Bank

68 eWIC cards issued | \$84,314 CACFP** reimbursements



Did you know? SCCAP's Healthy Families/WIC offers parents guided grocery shopping tours—showing participants the healthy choices they can make with their WIC benefits. Participants also learn how to utilize their eWIC card at checkout, facilitating a positive shopping experience and building confidence!

Positive Partnering:

The NYS Capital District Regional Office conducted an on-site Local Agency Compliance and Self-Assessment (LACASA) visit. It was their 2nd visit this year. It was another successful visit with recommendations how to further enhance our program.

*Farmer's Market Vouchers are distributed to WIC participants and can be redeemed for nutritious foods at participating farm stands.

**Child and Adult Food Care Program provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks given to adults and children enrolled in care.

Improving Infrastructure

SCCAP is committed to reducing energy costs for low-income families by improving the energy efficiency of their homes and ensuring their health and safety.



40 homes weatherized | 8,348 gallons of fuel saved
\$38,148 energy cost savings | 40 weatherization audits completed

Weatherization services **improve Schoharie County housing stock and supports economic growth** in our neighborhoods by **reducing the impact** of energy usage and **increasing real estate market value** on local homes.

Homeowner personal wealth is also improved with increased home value.

“The men who worked on my home were very professional. The work was explained and tasks completed in a neat and tidy manner. My home is very warm now and my energy costs have gone down.”

Satisfied Homeowner

Enhancing our Workforce

Employment is a main driver of socioeconomic status – SCCAP supports both employers and those seeking employment in their **job search, employment retention, and professional development.**



16 total DHP* services provided during 2024
3 individuals enrolled | 1 entered employment
0 retained employment for 90+ days

Helping individuals **overcome barriers to employment** and supporting local businesses in **workforce development** is a multi-faceted approach to **reducing unemployment and contributing to economic growth.** Customized business trainings are offered to our local business community to help **support business operations and build human assets.**

DHP Participant Success Story: An unemployed program participant by working with employment services staff was successful in securing a new job as a stocker at an area Walmart store and was pro-moted to a Customer Service Position within her first 30 days of employment !

*Displaced Homemaker Program.

Community Action Agencies across the nation have been charged with **addressing the causes and conditions of poverty** within their community with a focus on **educating the public** about economic barriers the low-income community faces, the **services available** to address these barriers, and the **far-reaching community benefits** of these supportive services.

Departments of SCCAP during 2023

Administration

Oversite of Agency operations

Child Care Resource and Referral

Assistance creating a child care plan

Professional training opportunities for child care providers

Safe Sitter babysitting and CPR classes

Community Engagement

Front desk and general operation activities

Community Services

Emergency assistance for: utilities, housing, and other basic needs

Emergency food pantry & food assistance

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Creative Connections for Youth

Mentoring—individual and group activities

Promote camp sponsorships

Self-esteem building

Employment Training Center

Hands on computer skills workshops

Resume and cover letter preparation

Job development services

Energy Services

Determine necessary repairs or replacements

Services to help income-eligible households save on fuel and energy consumption

Carbon monoxide detection

Family Support and Resource Center

Peer support and advocacy for families

Facilitate family team conferences

Liaison with community service providers

Healthy Families/WIC

Farmers Market vouchers

Formula for infants

Breastfeed Peer Counselor Program



The above is a non-inclusive list of services provided.

Board of Directors

(during 2023)

Amanda Fernandez

Brenda Morissette

Earlin Rosa

Helen Owens

Leo McAllister

Ray Richards II

Rhonda Ferris

Robin Ressler

Shane Nickle

Support our cause!

1. Drop off or mail your donation to:



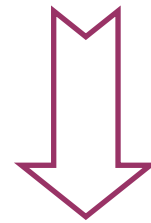
Schoharie County Community
Action Program
795 East Main St., Suite 5
Cobleskill, NY 12043

2. Donate through PayPal on our website:



Visit <https://sccapinc.org> and
click on our donations tab for
easy access to PayPal Donate now.

Visit our website!



Get on board!

We're looking for Board Members!

If you are interested in contributing to your community as a SCCAP Board Member,
please contact our office at 518-234-2568 or email us at admin@sccapinc.org
with your name and contact information.

