



A Report to the Vermont Legislature

“The staff and volunteers at Vermont’s Community Action Agencies work to make sure no family is left behind – that the **experience of poverty need not be a given.**”

Sarah Phillips, Director of the State of Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

Community Action Agencies

Provided services to

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 39,612 | 21,381 | 4,516 | 1,059 | 9,476 | 7,620 | 2,770 | 1,480 |
| Vermonters With low income | Vermont Households | Vermonters of Color | Vermont Veterans | Older Vermonters | Vermonters with disabilities | Employed Full time | Experiencing Homelessness |

Asset Building

- + **249** Vermonters received coaching to build assets and increase financial skills
- + **729** enrolled in Financial capability classes
- + Vermont micro businesses received federal funding through EMBRACE grants administered by BROCC Community Action on behalf of the VCAP network
- + **\$2,355,000** was distributed through **EMBRACE** to over **471** micro-businesses in the midst of a pandemic when business was faltering and Vermont entrepreneurs with low income were struggling
- + **4,043** Vermonters received tax assistance
- + **\$ 9,410,982** in tax refunds were returned to the Vermont economy through the VITA Program with an additional **\$3,280,351** in tax credits
- + **157** Vermonters Increased their Savings
- + **114** New Americans at CVOEO participated in Financial Coaching, House Parties and classes

Children and Families

- + **821** Vermont children were served through Head Start and Early Head Start
- + **1,248** home visits were made
- + **388** Vermont children received dental assessments and **571** children received physicals
- + **981** Vermont parents improved family functioning skills
- + **1,124** Vermont families attended parenting classes addressing barriers to stability
- + **789** Vermont children became ready for kindergarten

Community Building

- + **1,800** Vermonters attended Fair Housing workshops to learn about housing discrimination
- + **928** Vermonters found low/no cost clothing, furniture and household items with NEKCA, SEVCA and BROCC
- + **91** Vermonters received training in the NEKCA and BROCC Community Justice Program
- + **751** Vermonters avoided evictions
- + **678** Vermonters improved their leadership skills through engagement in Community Action Programs
- + **518** Vermonters improved self-employment skills to provide for themselves and their families
- + **513** Vermonters found safety in domestic and sexual assault intervention programs at CVOEO
- + **1,974** hotline calls, web-chats and email assistance were provided support to those experiencing domestic and sexual assault

Health and Well Being

- ✚ **3.45 million meals** were prepared and distributed through **VT Everyone Eats (VEE)** under the leadership of SEVCA. **260** participating restaurants are on track to purchase **\$3.7 million** worth of food from more than 300 Vermont farms and food producers, with more than **35%** of the ingredients for VEE meals being sourced from local Vermont businesses.
- ✚ Community Kitchen Academy employed past graduates to feed the hungry during the pandemic
- ✚ **5,154** Vermonters were assisted in applying for SNAP benefits
- ✚ **54,352** hot meals were made and distributed to those who are food insecure
- ✚ **18,955** boxes/bags of groceries were distributed

Housing Assistance, Homeless Housing

- ✚ VCAP Agencies provided services to the homeless in hotel settings. CVOEO has a Street Outreach Team and is operating a Community Resource Center
- ✚ **121** Vermonters experiencing homelessness were provided emergency housing
- ✚ **714** individuals experiencing homelessness were helped to find permanent housing
- ✚ **479** Vermonters received security deposits
- ✚ **1,207** Vermonters received rental assistance

Weatherization, Climate Action, Emergency Home Heating, Crisis Fuel, Warmth

- ✚ **1,033** units/homes were weatherized by Community Action Agencies
- ✚ **\$2,240,474** was spent on labor, materials and replacement systems through the Emergency Heating Repair and Replacement program
- ✚ **3,449** Vermont households have improved energy efficiency and energy burden reduction
- ✚ There is a zero deferral policy in Weatherization because of funding to include heat pumps, wood and pellet stoves with an over view to energy savings
- ✚ VCAP Agencies engaged in the effort to make our world safer and more sustainable through participation in the work of the VT Climate Council
- ✚ **3,449** Vermonters were served through the Crisis fuel Program for short term emergency assistance
- ✚ **\$615,841.42** was raised in the heating season for the Warmth Program which is a sustained entirely by donations



Tom Donahue



Sue Minter



Paul Dragon



Jenna O'Farrell



Kevin Brennan



Dear Vermont Legislator, success is found in thinking, planning, working and serving together. We are grateful for your wisdom, advocacy and dedication to all Vermonters.