Dedicated to helping people attain good health, education, and financial freedom.

Our Mission

Healthy families thriving in their community free from poverty and social exclusion

A wide range of opportunities and accessibility to education, healthcare, careers, and safe, affordable, energy efficient housing

Inclusive communities that sustain economic opportunities and business growth

Natural resources protected and sustained for the future

Our Vision

Our Mission

The mission of CAASTLC, Inc. is to end poverty.

We are committed to helping our community, our region, and our nation.

We are committed to helping people to attain good health, education, and financial freedom.

CAA

2014 Annual Report

Helping People, Changing Lives

SPECIAL MESSAGE AND THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Thank you for your support.

Merline P. Anderson
Executive Director

Rosezetta Eichelberger
Board Chair

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2014 Profile of Program Participation

Community Resources / Outreach Services

Intake, Assessment and Referral (IAR) 3,255 individuals assessed
6,979+ referrals for services

Resource Distribution 1,714 households received goods and services valued at over $74,620

Counseling Drug & Alcohol 407 individuals received over 2,784 hr. sessions

Anger Management Counseling 353 received over 1,527 hr. sessions

Family Support Case Management 218 families received 1,603 hrs. of direct service

Life Skills Classes/Training

Family Strength 181 individuals received 1,272 hrs. of instruction

Energy Conservation 873 individuals received 2,619 hrs. of instruction

Family Development 37 individuals received 331 hrs. of instruction

Employment 2,042 hrs. job readiness classes

172 individuals received job counseling

53+ individuals obtained jobs

Youth Services 3,998 youth class/activity participants

83 individuals received 1,053 hrs. of direct service

Individual Development Account 35 Program participants saved $38,769 for home purchases.

7 people purchased a home

Outreach Sites 1,419 households received services at 7 sites

Housing and Support Services

Dollar More Program (Ameren U/E) $104,777 in total pledges; 385 households assisted

Dollar Help Program (Laclede Gas) $144,005 in total pledges; 557 households assisted

Heat Up/Cool Down St. Louis $29,500 in total pledges; 143 households assisted

MO American Water  $50,877 allocated for direct client services

437 households assisted

Food Pantry 1,971 households received food

Faces have constantly changed over the years as families continue to struggle with challenges. But, some of the main poverty conditions remain the same; poverty is not always at the forefront of leadership policies, but we still fight with whatever resources are available to eradicate the many tentacles of poverty. Food insecurities, poor nutrition, and limited economic conditions are a poverty main stay and added to the growing need is to include access to quality health care. Poor food choices and inaccessibility to quality foods impact nutrition which play a major role in poor health conditions. The Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC) through various contracts has increased its education, outreach and advocacy in providing insurance enrollment, counseling, and wellness information to families. Nutrition is addressed through demonstrations of fresh food preparation and by providing fresh vegetables harvested from CAASTLC’s farms and gardens and made available to low-income families in areas considered food deserts. Improvements in family economics continues to be addressed through various strategies to improve living standards and other family development needs. Through a collaboration of efforts with community partners that address employment, youth, housing issues and other emergencies, we collectively will continues to fight poverty in our region. Thanks is given to the leadership of the CAASTLC Board of Directors for its guidance, dedication and leadership, and to the dedicated staff that work to carry out the strategies to end poverty in St. Louis County.

Thank you all for your support.

SPECIAL MESSAGE AND THANK YOU FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

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Board Chair

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Merline P. Anderson
Executive Director

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Board Chair
EXECUTIVE BOARD and CAASTLC STAFF

We also thank our community partners whose support and financial assistance are greatly appreciated.

Board of Directors
Roswella Eichenberger, Chair
Michael Prendergast, Vice Chair
Paul Bausler, Vice Chair
Volina Austin, Treasurer
Rose Carson, Secretary
Michael Crayton

Human Resources & Public Relations
Sherry Duda, Resource Development Coordinator
Merline Anderson, Executive Director

Administration
Sharon Pace
Marion Clark
Delsie Boyd

Advisory Council
Rev. Derrick Perkins Sr. 02/14-present
Gloria McQueen 10/13-present
Delores Hardwick 02/13-present
Sharonica Hardin 12/14-present
Linda Eichelberger 12/14-present

Secretary
Treasurer
Vice Chair
Michael Prendergast, Rosezetta Eichelberger,

Board of Directors

Change in Net Assets -115,492 -85,876
Fund-Raising 21,787 2,225
Management and General 1,063,798 306,593
Total Program Services 9,283,892 7,148,164
Housing/Rental Assistance 32,452 46,913
Community Services 2,279,707 1,698,309
Weatherization 2,707,715 2,782,149
Program Services:
Expenses
Total Public Support and Revenue 10,253,985 7,371,106
Other
Total Support Services 14,780 14,605
Total Program Services 9,283,892 7,148,164
Supporting Services:
Management and General 1,063,798 306,593
Fund-Raising 21,787 2,225
Total Supporting Services 1,085,085 308,818
Total Expenses 10,389,477 7,456,902
Change in Net Assets 116,492 85,974
Fund Balance 26,203,057 25,627,481

SECTION

Historical Overview
The St. Louis County agency is one of over a thousand Community Action Programs (CAPs) founded by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fight poverty by empowering the poor as part of the War on Poverty. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were intended to promote self-sufficiency, reaching 11.5 million people on an annual basis. CAPs depend heavily on volunteer work, especially from the low-income community. In 1981 the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) became the CAAs’ core federal funding. Agencies also operate on a variety of grants that come from federal, state and local sources. These grants vary widely among agencies. Other programs frequently administered by Community Action Agencies include Low-Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP), LIHEAP utility grants and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOD). CAASTLC, Inc., like the other CAAs, is governed by a board of directors consisting of at least one third-income community members, one third public officials, and up to one third private sector leaders. This board structure is defined by federal statute and known as a tripartite board.

CAASTLC was founded in 1968 as a satellite entity under the Human Development Corporation of St. Louis (HDC), which was one of many grass roots organizations formed in response to urban riots then sweeping the nation in poverty-stricken areas. A citizen group organized for the purpose of receiving federal funds to help the SL county low-income residents was created. The group incorporated as The St. Louis County Advisory Council to the Human Development Corporation of Metro St. Louis. The advisory group was made up of twelve devoted community-minded individuals who wanted a voice in identifying the problems and needs of low-income St. Louis County residents.

Five years later, the name was changed to Metroplex, Inc. and the Board of Directors was increased to thirty-six members. During early years, Metroplex, Inc. operated from several community-based locations throughout St. Louis County. In 1978, Metroplex, Inc. severed its administrative relationship with the Human Development Corporation of St. Louis and became a separate designated entity to provide anti-poverty programs for St. Louis County. In January of 1996, the name was changed to Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) for simplicity.

The agency’s focus, from its earliest beginning until present day, remains: ‘To serve as an empowerment service to those in the poorest section of society.”

COMMUNITY ACTION and ITS ORIGIN

The Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation that has provided a variety of services to low-income people in St. Louis County for over 35 years.

Statement of Activities

For years ending 9/30/2012 and 9/30/2013

Program Services:
Weatherization 2,707,715 2,782,149
Energy Assistance 4,249,238 2,605,988
Community Services 2,279,707 1,698,309
Housing/Rental Assistance 32,452 46,913
Other Programs 14,780 14,605
Total Program Services 9,283,892 7,148,164
Supporting Services:
Management and General 1,063,798 306,593
Fund-Raising 21,787 2,225
Total Supporting Services 1,085,085 308,818
Total Expenses 10,389,477 7,456,902
Change in Net Assets 116,492 85,974
Fund Balance 26,203,057 25,627,481

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty

On Jan. 8, 1964, in his first State of the Union address, President Lyndon Johnson committed the nation to a war on poverty. He declared that too many people were living on the outskirts of hope.

1964 - 2014 Helping People for 50 Years

*There are a whole bunch of folks all across the country who need help. And we are going to help every single person who needs help.*

“People want a hand up, not a handout.”

*President Barack Obama*

Fifty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched his “war on poverty,” which led to many of the federal and state initiatives low income Americans rely upon today:

- Medicaid, Medicare, subsidized housing, Head Start, legal services, nutrition assistance, raising the minimum wage, and later, food stamps and Pell grants.
- Five decades later, the battle continues.

Financial Report

Community Gardens and two urban farm programs partially funded by USDA. These efforts address ‘food deserts’ by expanding household access to fresh produce and nutrition education.

The Federal Census Bureau released 2014 data tables and reports in September 2015. While the numbers show positive change in a few areas, including increased access to healthcare as a result of the Affordable Care Act, the poverty numbers for families and children, at 9.5 million, remains too high. These statistics are incredibly important for Community Action because they highlight great needs in the communities we serve. The current numbers are critical to State and Federal Advocacy because they reflect that there is still much to be done to address poverty and more resources are needed to make true progress.