



## 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT







**OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE AND EMPOWER  
THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.**

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. studies the underlying issues involved in improving education, economic opportunities, living environments and the general welfare of the community to make recommendations for programs, projects, or activities and create solutions for individuals who reside in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, and Scotland Counties.

# Southeastern Community Action Partnership

## Board of Directors

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**Rodney Hester**  
Board Member  
Bladen



**Keith Graham**  
Board Member  
Bladen



**Victor Singletary**  
Board Member  
Bladen



**Valorie Hatten**  
Board Member  
Brunswick



**Carl L. Parker**  
Vice Chairperson  
Brunswick



**Lakisha Jordan**  
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Columbus



**Pamela Young-Jacobs**  
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**Dorene Evans**  
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Columbus



**Shirley Hart**  
Board Chairperson  
Hoke



**Larry McLean**  
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Hoke



**Jordyn McCormick**  
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Robeson



**Veronica McNeill**  
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Robeson



**Tim Ivey**  
Board Member  
Scotland



**Tony Spaulding**  
Board Secretary  
Scotland



## Letter from the Board Chairperson

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**Dear Community Members,**

On behalf of the board of directors of Southeastern Community Action Partnership, I am pleased to share with you some exciting updates and developments regarding our organization's efforts to promote positive change and address critical needs within our community.

Over the past year, our agency has continued to work tirelessly to deliver vital services and programs to those who need them most. We have been proud to offer a variety of initiatives that focus on providing education, job training, and affordable housing solutions for our most vulnerable residents.

As we continue to look for opportunities to grow and expand, we look forward to adding additional affordable housing in our local communities and continuing to uplift individuals and families through our self-sufficiency programs.

Of course, all of these efforts would only be possible with the support of our community partners, volunteers, and donors. We are deeply grateful for all of the time, resources, and energy that have been contributed to help us achieve our mission of promoting social and economic empowerment in our community.

As we look to the future, we are committed to building on our successes and finding innovative ways to positively impact the lives of those we serve. We are always seeking new partnerships and collaborations to help us achieve our goals, and we encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved with our organization to reach out and join us in this important work.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

**Shirley Hart**  
**Board Chairperson, Commissioner**  
**Hoke**

## Letter from the CEO

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**Dear Friends and Supporters of Southeastern Community Action Partnership,**

As we look back on the past year, I am thrilled to report that Southeastern has made significant progress in advancing our mission to empower and support our community's most vulnerable individuals and families.

Throughout the year, our agency has continued to work diligently to provide critical services and programs that address the various needs of our community. Our comprehensive approach to addressing poverty through education, self-sufficiency, and affordable housing has yielded tangible results for the individuals and families we serve.

**In 2021 - 2022, we were proud to have served over 2200 individuals and families through our various programs, including our early childhood education, self-sufficiency, and grant programs that provide assistance to individuals in our communities, and housing assistance through our HCV Section 8 voucher program.**

We are especially proud of the positive impact we've made in the lives of our participants, from helping individuals secure stable housing and employment to improving academic outcomes for children and youth.

We've also leveraged innovative partnerships and collaborations with community organizations and government agencies to extend our reach and deepen our impact.

Despite the many challenges we've faced over the past year, including the ongoing effects of the pandemic, we've remained steadfast in our commitment to serving our community. I am especially proud of our team's resilience, creativity, and adaptability in the face of these challenges, which has allowed us to continue providing essential services to those in need.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our supporters, donors, volunteers, and community partners who have made our work possible. Your generosity and commitment to our mission have been critical to our success and the success of the individuals and families we serve.

I look forward to continuing our work in the coming year and beyond, as we strive to build a more just, equitable, and vibrant community for all.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Ericka Jones Whitaker**  
**CEO, Southeastern Community Action Partnership**

# OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS



**CAP**  
**LAW**



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**







# HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START



# HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

Southeastern Community Action Partnership's Head Start and Early Head Start programs all have a 4 or 5-Star Rating from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education.

Our staff is highly qualified to deliver age and developmentally-appropriate educational opportunities to our enrollees in a warm and inclusive atmosphere.



**Our Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote school readiness for toddlers and children from low-income families by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of education, health, nutrition, social and wellness services to enrolled children and families.**

Here are some ways in which our Head Start and Early Head Start program helps children:

**Early Learning:** Head Start programs provide children with a comprehensive early learning experience that includes cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development. Children learn through a variety of activities that are developmentally appropriate and designed to support their individual needs and interests.

**Health and Nutrition:** Head Start programs provide children with access to medical, dental, and mental health services, as well as nutritious meals and snacks. These services ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn.

**Family Engagement:** Head Start programs work closely with families to engage them in their child's learning and development. Families are provided with resources and support to help them meet their own goals and to become their child's first and most important teacher.

**School Readiness:** Head Start programs are designed to ensure that children are prepared for school. Children learn essential skills such as letter recognition, counting, and social-emotional skills that are necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

**Community Support:** Head Start programs often partner with other community organizations to provide additional services and resources to families, such as job training, housing assistance, and legal services. This holistic approach helps families achieve greater stability and success.

**Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Southeastern Community Action Partnership serves 1107 children in 13 Head Start facilities, eight of which are agency-owned.**



**Social-emotional**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Social-Emotional: 36.7%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Social-Emotional: 71.7%

**Social-emotional**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Social-Emotional: 49.5%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Social-Emotional: 82.2%

**Physical**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Physical: 16.7%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Physical: 68.7%

**Physical**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Physical: 43.5%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Physical: 69.2%

**Language**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Language: 16.7%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Language: 73.7%

**Language**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Language: 52.5%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Language: 75.5%

**Cognitive**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Cognitive: 33.9%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Cognitive: 33.3%

**Cognitive**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Cognitive: 52.5%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Cognitive: 75.1%

**Literacy**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Approaches to Learning: 26.5%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2020 – 2021 (Spring)  
Approaches to Learning: 73.7%

**Literacy**  
*Four-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Approaches to Learning: 51.2%

*Three-Year-Olds*  
Domain: PY– 2021 – 2022 (Winter)  
Approaches to Learning: 75.5%

### **Mental Health:**

- Mental Health professionals observed all 51 classrooms.
- 24 children were referred by the program for mental health services; 7 of the 24 received mental health services and 21 of the 24 received a mental health assessment.

### **Health:**

- 353 children entered the program with no health insurance. However, 277 children of these 353 at the end of the enrollment year had health insurance.
- 1,188 cumulative enrollees had health insurance at the end of the program year.
- 908 children, at enrollment, had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care. However, at the end of the program year, 1,169 children had an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care.
- 16 enrollees were determined to be underweight, 1,136 enrollees were determined to have a healthy weight, 52 were determined to be overweight, and 60 were determined to be obese.

### **Disabilities:**

- 47 children were determined to have a diagnosed disability; 47 children received services related to the disability.
- The diagnosed disabilities were speech and language impairments (41 children), hearing impairment (1 child), and non-categorical/developmental delay (5 children), and 37 children received therapy services through their health insurance.

### **Staff:**

- 100% of all Head Start teachers and teacher assistants met or exceeded the degree/credential requirements for their position, as mandated by Southeastern Community Action Partnership's Board of Directors and federal regulations governing staff education.







# HOUSING



# HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (HCV) SECTION 8

**Southeastern Community Action Partnership** has been providing affordable housing assistance options as a Public Housing Agency (PHA), to Scotland County for over 30 years. The mission of SCAP HCV-Section 8 Program is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.



**The mission of SCAP HCV-Section 8 Program is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) is the culmination of public housing legislation and programs that began in the 1930s and changed over time to better serve families and participants. The Housing & Community Development Act of 1974 created the Section 8 Program which enabled federal housing rental assistance payments to be paid directly to the owners of private housing units, as subsidy assistance to lower-income families.

Funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), SCAP offers two (2) additional types of housing programs to eligible individuals and families: **Project-Based Housing Voucher Program and HCV Home Ownership Program.**

**HCV Home Ownership Program** allows current voucher recipients the option to purchase a home; transferring the subsidy from rental assistance to a mortgage payment. Southeastern partners with local agencies that provide housing counseling services to educate program participants on the home-buying process. Through the HCV Section 8 Program, Southeastern provides up to 437 housing vouchers to the Scotland County area annually.

**During FY: 2021-2022 the Section 8 staff served an average of 350 families per month.**



### Section 8 Spotlight

**Ms. MyQuisha Q. McNeil has successfully completed the goals established for the program and has earned an escrow disbursement of \$8,063.00. Ms. McNeil has obtained full-time employment with the Scotland County Department of Social Services as an Income Maintenance Caseworker II. She plans to use her escrow money to buy her first home.**

**Below are excerpts of Ms. McNeil's testimonial of how the program has changed her life:**

*"In June 2015, I moved into Greenfield Apartments. Soon thereafter, I was introduced to FSSP and began the program on July 1, 2015. At the start of my participation, I was asked to establish three goals. I selected: (1) secure a job, (2) enroll in and complete a college program, and (3) Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) Section 8 FY: 2022 Annual Report open a savings account. My goals stemmed directly from circumstances I wanted to improve. I was a mother of one son working third shift at Campbell Soup and earning approximately \$9/hour through a temporary agency. At this wage, I was living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to keep up with essential expenses such as daycare. Deep down, I wanted better financial stability for myself and my family. Unfortunately, my situation worsened before it improved. Specifically, the breakdown of my car resulted in the loss of my only reliable form of transportation and eventually my job. During this period, it became clear to me that my lack of emergency savings left me vulnerable to life's financial shocks, no matter how small..."*

**The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a program offered to the residents of Greenfield Apartments in Scotland County. Residents of Greenfield Apartments receive housing assistance through SCFS, Inc. HCV Section 8 Assistance Program.**

*"In August 2020, by God's grace and my determination, I began attending the Income Maintenance Caseworker class two afternoons weekly while also working the night shift at Perdue. In October 2020, I earned my first certificate for completion of phase one of the course. Thrilled by this accomplishment, I continued in the program and earned a second certificate for completion of phase two. With my education goal achieved, I began searching for opportunities"*

**The Family Self-Sufficiency Program encourages each participant to set employment goals that will allow them to increase their earning potential, with the incentive of establishing an escrow account. Once the participant has completed the program, they are eligible for the money they have earned. Higher education and Home Ownership are other goals that are encouraged.**

*"In early 2022, I applied for an Income Maintenance Caseworker II position. Weeks later, I was invited to participate in the company's interview process. My heart leapt, I was so excited. After completing a pre-interview questionnaire and interview, I was offered the job." "Presently, my next big goal is homeownership. Receipt of the balance of my FSS escrow account will help me move closer to finding a home that my growing boys and I can call our own. I envision the day when they are running around, riding their bikes, playing games, practicing sports, and celebrating life's moments in our beautiful yard. I am taking the proper steps to make this dream our reality."*





**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)**



# COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

Southeastern Community Action Partnership, Inc. (SCAP, Inc.) believes that when a family moves above poverty, they are empowered and become strong, capable members of society, by not only detaching from public assistance but also contributing to the economy.

Funded through the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Family Empowerment Self-Sufficiency (FESS) project works with families to determine their individual and family strengths, needs, and visions for the future.



In 2021-2022 participants in this program have achieved one or more of the following:

- ☑ **Moved from poverty to self-sufficiency**
- ☑ **Achieved gainful employment and medical benefits from their employer**
- ☑ **Completion of educational or job training**
- ☑ **Purchased a home**

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) served 225 customers in all seven counties and moved 26 families out of poverty in 2021-22.**

Also in the 2021-22 year, CSBG accomplished the following:

- ☑ **Assisted 55 participants with gaining employment; 20 of those customers obtained benefits from their employment.**
- ☑ **14 participants gained better employment.**
- ☑ **18 participants completed education goals.**
- ☑ **16 individuals and families obtained standard housing.**
- ☑ **94 individuals received employment support.**
- ☑ **49 individuals received education support.**

In spring, the CSBG program held a non-self-sufficiency project for seniors in all seven counties. 700 seniors received fresh produce, non-perishable food boxes, COVID supplies, and hurricane disaster kits.

### **Cares Grant**

The total number of served customers that received services due to loss of employment and income due to COVID-19-related reasons is 354. Customers received rent, mortgage, utilities, food support, transportation support, and childcare support.

### **NC Relief Grant**

The total number of served customers was 146: customers received home repairs, housing supports such as furniture replacement, appliance replacement, food support, hurricane readiness kit, and employment supports

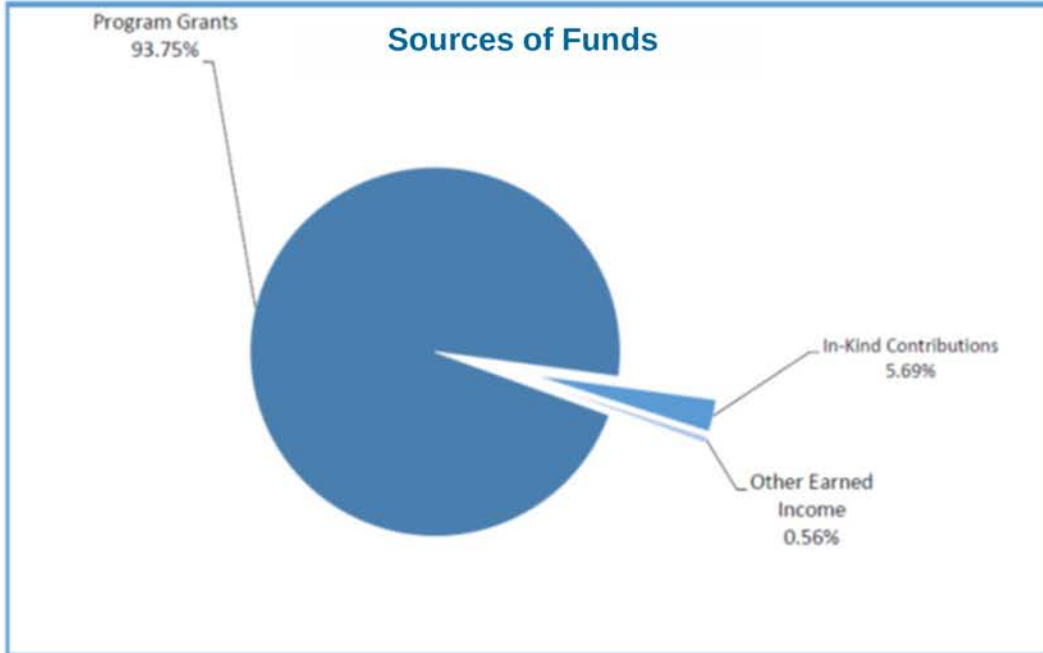
### **New Community Partners**

Kramden Institute, Hyde Park Church Communities in Schools Robeson, Communities in Schools in Pender, Communities in Schools Cape Fear, Staffing Alliance

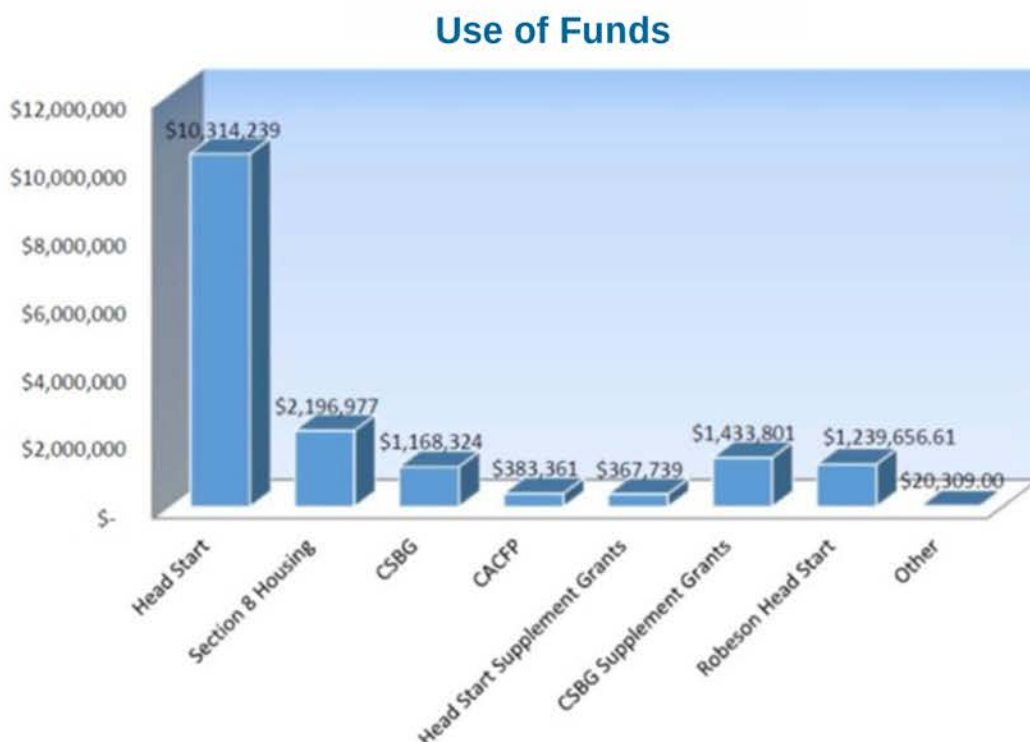


# Financials

Southeastern's management practices ensure that operating funds raised in the current year are effectively put to use to support programs to further the mission. The following figures represent sources and uses of operating funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022 (Audited). SCAP publishes detailed financial information in the form of its annual report, audited financial statements, and IRS 990 tax returns.



Program Grants	\$19,779,367
In-Kind Contributions	\$582,138
Other Earned Income	\$117,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,478,841</b>





# Our Community Leaders

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Southeastern Community Action Partnership would like to thank our dedicated community leaders for their ongoing support of our agency.

## **Bladen County Commissioners**

Rodney Hester, Chairman  
Dr. Danny Ellis, Vice Chairman  
Ray Britt  
Arthur A. Bullock  
G. Michael Cogdell  
Mark Gillespie  
Cameron McGill  
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins  
Charles Ray Patterson  
Gregory J. Martin, County Manager

## **Brunswick County Commissioners**

Randy Thompson, Chairman  
Mike Forte, Vice Chairman  
J. Martin Cooke  
Pat Sykes  
Frank Williams

## **Columbus County Commissioners**

Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
Barbara Featherson  
Chris Smith  
Giles E. Byrd  
Lavern Coleman  
Brent Watts  
Scott Floyd

## **Hoke County Commissioners**

Allen Thomas, Jr., Chairman  
Tony Hunt, Vice Chairman  
James Leach  
Harry Southerland  
Lonnie Baldwin

## **Pender County Commissioners**

Jackie Newton, Chairwoman  
Wendy Fletcher-Hardee, Vice Chairwoman  
Jerry Groves  
Fred McCoy

## **Robeson County Commissioners**

Tim Taylor, Chairman  
John Cummings, Vice Chairman  
Lance Herndon  
Wixie Stephens  
Pauline Campbell  
Feline Locklear-Dial  
Judy Sampson  
David Edge

## **Scotland County Commissioners**

Tim Ivey, Chairman  
Darrel Gibson, Vice Chairman  
John T. Alford  
Bo Frizzell  
Whit Gibson  
Darrin Williams  
Clarence McPhatter, II  
Kevin Patterson, County Manager





"We must ensure that every person has the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to our society, regardless of their background or circumstances."

- Hillary Clinton

Thank you for your continued support.