

Community Action, Inc.

(Serving Clarion & Jefferson Counties, Pennsylvania)

105 Grace Way, Punxsutawney, PA 15767-1209
(814) 938-3302 · (814) 938-7596 – FAX · www.jccap.org



Community Action, Inc. Strategic Plan Summary

2011 – 2013
(Approved 1/20/2011)

In 2008 Community Action Inc. (CAI) began to lay the foundation for establishing CAI's 2011-2013 Strategic Plan by identifying the needs of the most vulnerable population in Clarion and Jefferson Counties, Pennsylvania. CAI followed the "Principles Of Planning" model and developed survey questions pertaining to the following categories: Transportation; Housing; Health; Employment; Adult Education; Children's Education; Opportunities for Youth; Basic Needs; Household Finances; Crime; and Health and Fitness.

CAI used two surveys. The first survey was distributed to bi-county service providers of vulnerable populations and designed to collect their perspective and level of severity regarding the 11 categories identified above. The second survey was distributed to their consumers and designed to collect their perspective and level of severity regarding the 11 categories identified above as being a problem for at least one person in their household. The consumer survey was also designed to identify the barriers preventing the household from meeting their perceived needs.

CAI also conducted community meetings in Clarion and Jefferson Counties to share the results of the surveys and seek their perspective regarding community needs and how to improve our community.

In January 2009 CAI's Planning and Evaluation Committee began meeting with CAI's management (hereafter referred to as "the Strategic Planning Team") to develop Community Action, Inc.'s Strategic Plan. During the next seven meetings the Strategic Planning Team accomplished the following:

1. **Determined the strategic planning process**
2. **Reviewed the national Community Action mission and the related legislation**
3. **Reviewed the six national Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Goals**
4. **Reviewed and validated CAI's Mission Statement**

Community Action Association of Pennsylvania member agency

The official registration and financial information of Community Action, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

5. **Analyzed community needs**
6. **Analyzed CAI's existing projects**
7. **Discussed and created CAI's Vision Statement**
8. **Developed the following priorities to determine CAI's goals and strategies:**
 - a. Mobilize the community to resolve its problems
 - b. Increase the visibility of Community Action, Inc. in the community
 - c. Increase the amount of involvement in youth activities
 - d. Increase the involvement of the community in Community Action, Inc. activities
 - e. Focus on helping those who are ready to be helped
 - f. Place a higher priority on operating projects that move people towards self-sufficiency
 - g. Maintain some stabilization projects
 - h. Focus on resolving social and community problems through working in partnerships with other organizations
 - i. Increase the role of Community Action, Inc. in community development
 - j. Prioritize projects that are self-supporting
 - k. Prioritize using discretionary funding for community development initiatives and projects that move people towards self-sufficiency
 - l. Promote personal responsibility
 - m. Maintain high organizational standards
 - n. Operate within the administrative capacity of Community Action, Inc.
 - o. Focus on pursuing large grants vs. small grants
 - p. Continue to identify and monitor the needs of the community
 - q. Maintain anchor projects

9. Developed the following strategic goals to guide the future of CAI:

Goal 1: Mobilize the community to identify and solve its problems and encourage members of the community to get involved in Community Action, Inc.'s activities.

Goal 2: Operate the organization at the highest of standards and within its administrative capacity while maximizing its impact on alleviating poverty and the effects of poverty in the community.

Goal 3: Assist the community solve social and economic problems by addressing community, organization and family level needs.

Goal 4: Develop strategies that engage youth in activities which break the cycle of economic insecurity.

Goal 5: Prioritize community development initiatives and services which lead to long-term solutions and self-sufficiency.

CAI's new focus will be to conduct activities which help the community find solutions to social and economic problems and help families achieve economic security. CAI will continue to provide direct services but will emphasize those which have the highest probability of producing self-sufficiency and those which are self-sustaining. CAI may also operate projects designed to provide temporary stability. CAI will ensure needed services are available in the community.