



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

A YEAR IN REVIEW

SCA COMPANY
NEWSLETTER

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OUR GROWING COMPANY

A word from the Executive Director:

For Schuylkill Community Action, fiscal year 2021 was a year full of many unique challenges including the transition to a new Executive Director, the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, and unprecedented funding to help stimulate economic recovery in our local communities. Our team at SCA was able to rise to the occasion and attack these challenges head on as we continued to look to improve the lives of Schuylkill County's most vulnerable residents and communities we serve.

With the economic uncertainties created by the pandemic, SCA was provided with unprecedented funding to assist households meet their most basic needs. Much of the focus centered around rental assistance and making sure vulnerable households were able to maintain housing stability. During the fiscal year, SCA was able to help 1,366 Schuylkill County residents maintain housing through the provision of rental assistance with over \$1.8 million in rental assistance provided.

While stabilizing housing was a major focus, SCA was also able to address food insecurity through the administration of the Schuylkill Food Network. Because of the pandemic, SCA modified food distributions to drive-thru distributions and non-contact food pickups. Food commodities distributed through the pantry network were at an all-time high and SCA, along with a dedicated network of volunteers were able to increase food security for 6,633 County residents who were the recipients of food boxes provided during pantry and emergency food distributions.

This is only a very small snapshot of the impact SCA was able to provide during the fiscal year. SCA is committed to staying on the forefront of economic recovery and efforts to eliminate poverty in our local communities and improve the lives of Schuylkill County's most vulnerable. We would like to thank our team, our dedicated board of directors, and our community partners for the great work they have done and will continue to do. With that, please take time to review our Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Report, which provide more detailed highlights on some of the major accomplishments from the past year.

#HelpingPeopleChangingLives

Respectfully,
Dave Young
Executive Director



Mission Statement

Our mission is to focus all available resources on low-income Schuylkill County residents empowering them to achieve self-sufficiency.



SCA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. SCA is firmly committed to the provision of assistance regardless of race, color, age, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, military status, or marital/familial status.



Schuylkill Community Action is currently the primary organization for addressing the needs of low-income residents within the county.

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Bryan Geiger

John Patton

John Consugar

Trudy Umholtz

Reginald Edwards

Norm Zwolenik-Vice President

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Commr. George Halcovage

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Alt: Bill Applegate

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Alt: Pete Keitsoek

Sean Haldeman

Alt: Amy Wahalec

Shirley M. German

Alt: Verna Ebling

Deanna Mease

Alt: Jody Dunnigan

HOW CAN YOU HELP SCA?

- Provide in-kind donations such as office supplies, household items and food.
- Volunteer to help at a food pantry
- Start a dress down day in your workplace and donate proceeds to SCA's Emergency Fund
- Conduct a food drive to stock the Emergency Food Pantry at SCA
- Provide a monetary gift to support programming

DONATE



*"Giving is not just about making a donation.
It is about making a difference."
— Kathy Calvin*

 Find us on
Facebook

**SCA IS IN NEED OF ITEMS TO PROVIDE
FOR THE HOMELESS.
ITEMS CAN BE DONATED AT:
225 N. CENTRE ST. POTTSVILLE
8 A.M. - 4 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY
570-622-1995**

Blankets, Socks, Hygiene Products, Toiletry Items,
Non-Perishable Snacks



Thank you for your continuous help for those in need!

Support us with
amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Shop Amazon deals at smile.amazon.com or with
AmazonSmile ON in your app and Amazon donates to
Schuylkill Community Action!
This is a fabulous way to donate and support your
local non-profit!



Weatherization Repair Program (WXR)

SCA has administered weatherization services on behalf of Schuylkill County, since program inception in 1976. One of the most recent and alarming trends SCA found with this program is the deferral rate. One in every three residences we enter with the intent to weatherize, have to be deferred due to varying health and safety factors. This includes unvented heat, broken or open sewer lines, knob and tube wiring, roof leaks, and mold related issues. Instead of being able to help these households, we have to defer the property leaving the homeowner to live in unsafe and hazardous conditions without any real means to rectify the issue.

Weatherization aims to address these health and safety issues. Homes that have been deferred for Weatherization services now have the recourse to have that situation remediated!

SCA's Weatherization Program helps reduce the energy burden on income-eligible residents by installing cost-effective energy efficient measures, while ensuring their health and safety.

SCA administers Weatherization services funded by the Department of Energy, Low Income Heating Assistance Program, and PPL Winter Relief Assistance Program. These programs are administered to increase the energy efficiency in participants home and increase the participants knowledge about energy conservation.

Eligibility

Low-income individuals (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level), with priority given to higher risk residents such as the elderly, disabled individuals, families with children and high energy users.

SCA serves as administrator of the LIHEAP Crisis Program. The program is designed to provide necessary repairs or replacement of failing heating systems to help ensure heat for some of our areas most vulnerable residents. Upon program referral, SCA connects the participant with a local contractor to assess the system and make any necessary repairs to the system or complete the install of heating systems that are beyond repair.

During 2020-2021, SCA serviced 147 households within Schuylkill County.

2020-2021 Weatherization Stats

During 2020-2021, SCA was able to assist 3 households for rehabilitation through the HOME WX Deferral program.

19 Households were weatherized with LIHEAP funds

37 Homes received energy conservation improvements through funding provided by the Department of Energy and LIHEAP.

100 Homes received energy conservation improvements through the Winter Relief Assistance Program (WRAP) sponsored by PPL Utilities, Inc.

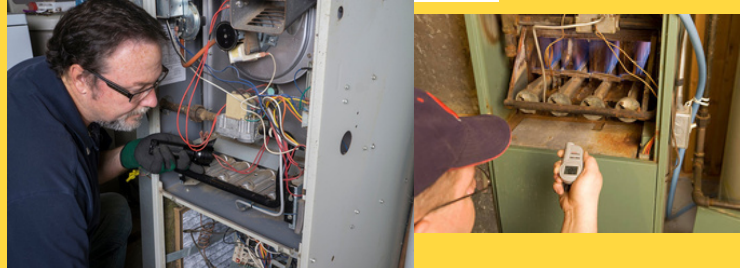


Weatherization Clean & Tune Program

As of October, 2021, SCA has started to assist customers avoid costly repairs and interruptions to their heating service with the Clean & Tune Program. The Clean and Tune program is a pilot initiative through DCED and funded by the American Rescue Plan Act to support maintenance and minor repair of functional heating systems to increase the longevity and effectiveness of the system.

The program will provide general service with the goal of preventing crisis calls. Eligible households can receive energy efficiency services, including the cleaning of primary heating equipment to allow for the safe, proper, and efficient operation.

From October to December of 2021, this program was able to assist 16 households within Schuylkill County.



Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Even as the American economy continues its recovery from the devastating impact of the pandemic, millions of Americans face deep rental debt and fear evictions and the loss of basic housing security. COVID-19 has exacerbated an affordable housing crisis that predated the pandemic and that has deep disparities that threaten the strength of an economic recovery that must work for everyone.

To meet this need, SCA was provided funding to implement the Emergency Rental Assistance program to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities. For eligible households, this program offers rental and utility assistance to help those in Schuylkill County avoid eviction or loss of utility service.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Utilities Included)

Office Location:

**200 N. SECOND ST.
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901
570.622.1995**

NEW Program Guidelines

- **Application Urgencies that are processed first:**
 - First time applicants
 - Applicants in Active Eviction Status
- **ERAP benefits are CAPPED at 12-months of assistance**
- **Future assistance is contingent on funding availability**
- **Landlords & Tenants may apply**

www.schuylkillcommunityaction.com





The mission of the Schuylkill Food Network is to empower local communities in their efforts to provide food for all area residents in need. The Schuylkill Food Network consists of nineteen volunteer operated food pantries serving all of Schuylkill County. Pantries are located in Ashland, Coaldale, Girardville, Mahanoy City, McAdoo, Minersville, New Ringgold, Nuremburg, Pine Grove, Pottsville, Ringtown, Schuylkill Haven, St. Clair, New Philadelphia, Shenandoah, Frackville, Tremont, Valley View and Williams Valley.

2020-2021 Schuylkill Food Network Highlights:



Over 1 million pounds of food were distributed at local food pantries across the Schuylkill Food Network.

The Schuylkill Food Network held 158 pantry distributions.

The estimated value of food delivered was \$804,000 which does not include the value of donated food obtained and delivered by local pantry sites.

8,066 children had their food crisis alleviated by accessing our local food pantries.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

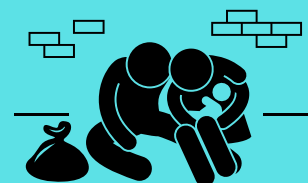
Assistance is available for Schuylkill County residents who are experiencing a food crisis. If you are experiencing a food emergency, Please call SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY ACTION for an appointment.

(570)622-1995

Poverty Snapshot Schuylkill County

- 12.4% of Schuylkill County residents live in poverty, the national average is 12.3%
- 3.17% of Schuylkill County homes are vacant. Our county has the 31st highest home vacancy rate among U.S. counties. This leads to lower property values, increased blight and increase crime in neighborhoods.
- 2021 in Schuylkill County had ended with a 4.3% unemployment rate. The rate had declined from 8.9% in February 2021, due to the pandemic.

"We only have what we give."
— *Isabel Allende*

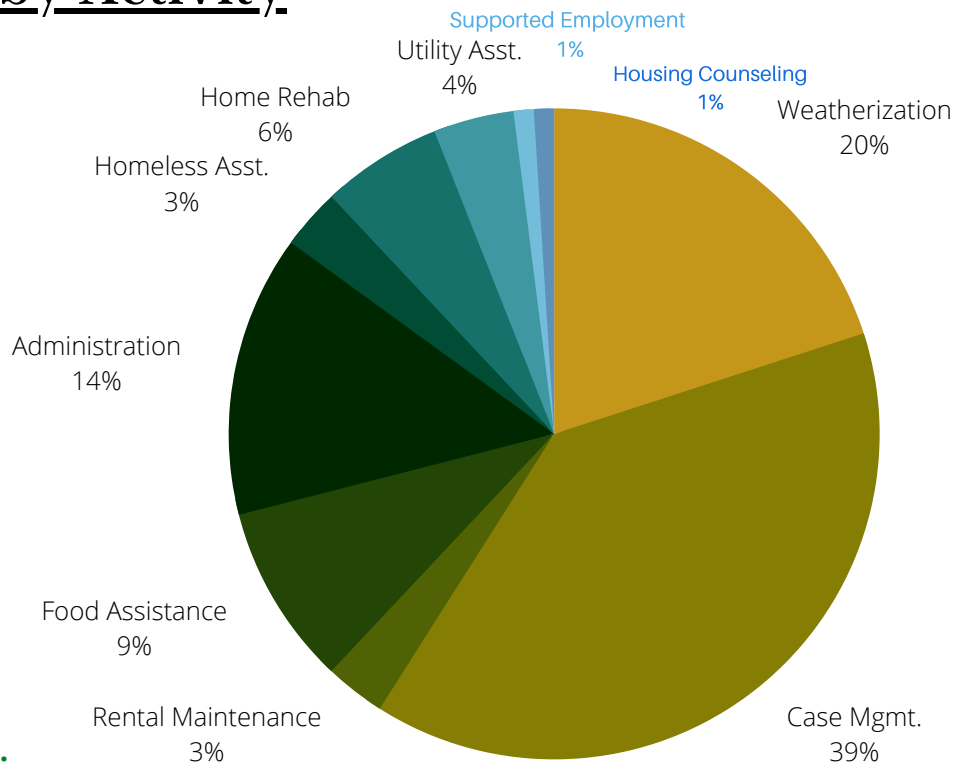


Expenditures by Activity

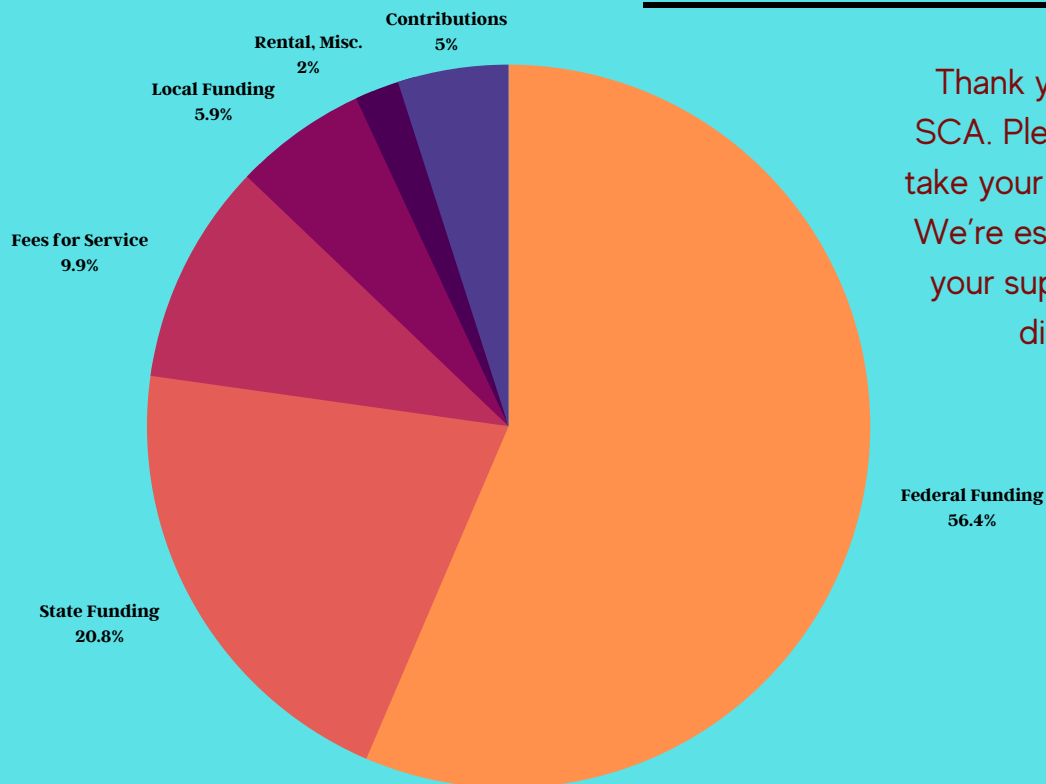


Helping People, Changing Lives

During the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, SCA generated \$5,703,651 in revenue and expended \$5,838,745, which represented a decrease of \$135,094 in net assets.



2020-2021 Revenues



Thank you for supporting SCA. Please know we don't take your loyalty for granted. We're especially grateful for your support during these difficult times.



Community Services Block Grant & CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. Funds from this act were allocated to supplement the Community Services Block Grant program, which is a core funding source for SCA.

The combination of these two resources allowed SCA to support individuals and households to sustain their everyday lives during the initial economic impact of COVID-19. These funds were intended to address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption.

FY '20-21' Data:

- 131 Households were able to be assisted with Rent/Mortgage CSBG CARES Aid.
- 84 Households gained Utility Assistance through the CSBG CARES Act.



ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR MORTGAGE????

Contact SCA to see what programs you may qualify for. Our experienced Housing Counselor is here to help!

  **SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY ACTION**



(570) 622-1995
M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
www.schuykillcommunityaction.com

PP&L ON TRACK PROGRAM

- **Proof of Income required**
- **Income Guidelines Apply**

The On Track payment program is a great way for PPL customers to catch up on their back debt. This program will lower a customer's monthly payment while PPL forgives a portion of the back debt upon compliance with the program.

CALL TODAY (570)622-1995

**Contractors & Electricians
NOW WELCOMING BIDS!**

SCA is compiling a list of contractors and electricians for contractual work completing moderate to complete rehabilitation projects throughout Schuylkill County.

To obtain more information about getting on our contractor bid list, please call (570)622-1995.



 **SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY ACTION**

Tamaqua Location:
105 W. Broad Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
(office door in rear of building)
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
570-668-1038

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King

Utility Assistance

- OnTrack enabled **4,235** PPL customer households to maintain service and reduce arrearages through the OnTrack payment program for fiscal year 2020-2021.
- During FY 2020-2021, **358** Schuylkill County families were able to receive heating assistance through PPL's Operation Help program. OP Help is a heating assistance grant eligible one time annually for PPL customers facing a heating crisis.
- Through UGI's Customer Assistance Program (CAP), **33** households obtained sustainable monthly budget plans to pay for their gas service.
- Operation Share through UGI allowed **30** households in Schuylkill County to avoid a utility shut-off and maintain their gas service.



Anne's Fund/Emergency Fund
SCA is able to address small emergency and employment needs through it's Emergency Fund and Anne's Fund. Our Emergency Fund is developed by donations from community members and organizations. Anne's Fund is made possible through donations by the family of the late Anne Phillips. These programs are used to purchase items such as Birth Certificates, Photo ID's, and work attire.

Housing Counseling

Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program:

SCA, in partnership with the Court of Common Pleas-Twenty-First Judicial District and the Schuylkill County Bar Association, has developed the Schuylkill County Mortgage Diversion Program to assist homeowners in the county who are faced with mortgage foreclosure. SCA counseled **4** households during 2020-2021. This average is significantly low due to the moratorium of mortgage protections that had been in place due to the pandemic.

Home Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP):

This program is funded by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). When you apply for HEMAP intervention, applicants are able to have their foreclosure postponed for 60 to 90 days. SCA counseled **18** households, who were faced with mortgage foreclosure proceedings. **3** applications were approved for financial assistance.



Home Buyer Workshops:

SCA offers pre-closing workshops for low-to-moderate income Schuylkill County residents interested in purchasing their first home. Workshop completion is often a requirement for FHA and PHFA home loans. These loans are available to potential homeowners that have credit issues, enabling customers to purchase their first home at a reduced interest rate.

All of these programs comply with Equal Housing Opportunity guidelines, as well as federal and state standards.



Home Rehab Program

SCA serves as administrator of multiple rehab programs on behalf of municipalities located throughout the county. Pine Grove Township, West Penn Township and the City of Pottsville offer programs that are designed to eliminate safety hazards in the home and help with major system repairs and accessibility accommodations.

During 2020-2021, funding from Community Development Block Grant (CSBG) allowed SCA to oversee the rehab of **2** property in West Penn Township. Through HOME grant funding provided by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, SCA was able to complete **1** rehab project in the City of Pottsville.

In addition to the aforementioned programs, SCA serves as administrator of a Senior or Individuals with a Disability Home Repair program. This is a moderate rehab and/or replacement of major home systems in homes occupied by seniors or individuals with disabilities with our county. This program is funded through the Schuylkill County Affordable Housing Trust Fund. **15** Households were able to reach completion during fiscal year 2020-2021.

BRIDGE HOUSE

SCA's Bridge House is a Transitional Housing program located on the grounds of the Pottsville Housing Authority. While residing at Bridge House, clients receive intensive case management services enabling them to establish and achieve goals to move towards self-sufficiency. Bridge House staff and clients work closely with other local human service providers to ensure barriers to success are addressed comprehensively.

Bridge House Data FY '20-21"

- 11 individuals remained in compliance with Adult Probation during their stay.
- 7 Drug Court clients were served and 5 remained in compliance with Drug Court rules.
- 76 households were referred to Bridge House by other agencies.

RAPID REHOUSING

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Rapid Rehousing Program provides homeless individuals and families with rental assistance, financial assistance, financial management and housing stability case management services as program participants work towards housing stability. ESG Rapid Rehousing is conducted in partnership with Schuylkill County, the Pottsville Housing Authority, and the Schuylkill County Housing Authority.

FY '20-21' Data

- 23 Households enrolled in ESG Rapid Rehousing.
- 30 Households received rental assistance and comprehensive case management in an effort to stabilize their housing situation.
- 21 formerly homeless households were able to secure safe and affordable rental housing.

"Stories change lives. We get to be examples, and that's a privilege."

Emergency Shelter

SCA is able to provide emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families. SCA provides these households with a motel voucher at a local hotel. A typical stay at the hotel is 5-7 nights.

A total of 88 households received emergency shelter in 2020-2021. 157 individuals were provided shelter at a local motel and 21 children were able to remain with their families because of this service.



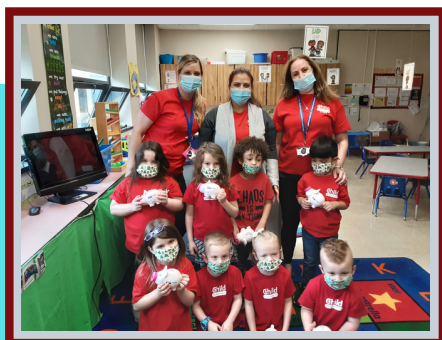
Financial Education Coaching Program (FECP)



SCA has partnered with local financial institutions including Santander, M&T Bank, and Wells Fargo to support FECP. This program offers one-on-one counseling and workshops to provide free financial education, coaching, and counseling to low-income Schuylkill County residents. Partnerships with CareerLink, Child Development, Inc., Schuylkill Lifelong Learning Center and Schuylkill County Housing Authority allow SCA to provide meaningful financial education to Veterans, formerly homeless individuals, low-income seniors, children and their parents/guardians.

FY '20-21' Data:

- **500** Children were serviced throughout Child Development, Inc. in Schuylkill County, **120** of those children were in the Pottsville location.
- **284** Households were given Financial Coaching while participating in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).
- **62** Individuals received an online presentation on best practices of how to protect your financial data when using a mobile device.



"Financial freedom is available to those who learn about it and work for it." — Robert Kiyosaki



Brighter Holiday Campaign

One of the very rewarding ways to give back during the holiday season is to sponsor a family or child in need. SCA's Brighter Holiday Campaign allows us to provide gifts, clothing, and a holiday meal to those in need. Local businesses and private sponsors give SCA the benefit to provide a Happy Holiday for those variety of needs. To make a donation, please contact our office at (570)622-1995.

In 2021, **\$5,725** was collected in donations which provided **9** households and **22** children with a wonderful holiday.

**WELLS
FARGO**

 **Santander**

Pennsylvania
CareerLink
Pottsville

**Child
Development, Inc.**
Ready for school and a lifetime of learning

M&T Bank



SCA
SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY
ACTION

Schuylkill
Intermediate
Unit 29

**Schuylkill County
Housing Authority**



"The assistance I received from your office was a real life line for me and will enable me to get back on my feet. Thank you, Schuylkill Community Action!"
Mikaela Gavaletz



We express our appreciation to the generous donors who made this program successful, Hexcel Corporation, M&T Bank, and donations made by private sponsorship.





This publication is financed, in part, by a Community Services Block Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Development.

**For Services or Information, please
contact:**

Main Program Office:	Tamaqua Office:
225 North Centre Street	105 West Broad Street
Pottsville, PA 17901	(entrance in rear)
570.622.1995	Tamaqua, PA 18252
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	570.668.1038

Administrative Office:	ERAP Office:
206 North Second Street	200 North Second Street
Pottsville, PA 17901	Pottsville, PA 17901
570.622.1995	570.622.1995
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Helping People, Changing Lives

