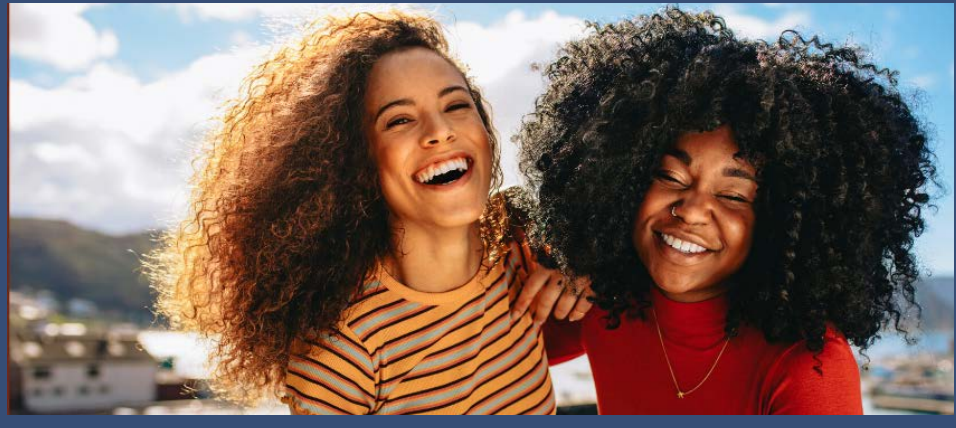
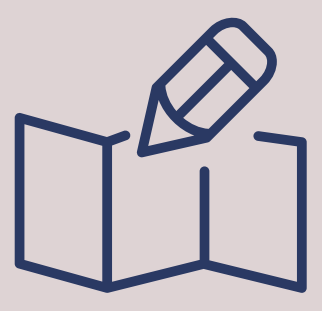


# 2020 Annual Report

Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama



To build coalitions of partnerships, volunteers and programs dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by improving the quality of life and empowering community participants to become self-sufficient in Blount, Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall and St. Clair counties.



Welcome,  
A note from our organization's leadership.

Dear Friends of CAANEAL:

I am honored to serve as the Interim Executive Director of the Community Action Agency of Northeast, Alabama Inc. (CAANEAL). I am proud to present our 2020 Annual Report, which provides a detailed look at CAANEAL's outcomes, client successes, and innovation programs that help individuals, families, and communities.

I am pleased to report that we continually strive and achieve 100% compliance with the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Organizational Standards, the performance management standards that were federally mandated by the Office of Community Services. This worthwhile achievement positions CAANEAL to deliver high quality services, while enhancing the Agency's overall capacity and effectiveness.

Please visit our website, [www.caaneal.org](http://www.caaneal.org), follow us on Facebook @CAANEAL, to obtain specific program information and the latest Agency news and happenings.

For our agency, 2020 was a year full of unknowns. I think all of us have been forever changed by the year 2020 and the coronavirus pandemic. While it has been a year like no other, the growth and development opportunities have been plentiful. CAANEAL has overcome many obstacles since April 2020. Our agency was able to maintain our mission of helping those who were hurting from financial hardships due to COVID through remote work and the use of technology. We were able to keep the lights on in many homes that otherwise would have been cut off. As you look through this report, you will see that our staff, grantors, partners, Board of Directors, and communities came together during this difficult time and met basic family needs.

I would like to thank our outstanding staff and Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work. Our Agency and customer's success would not have been made possible if it were not for each of them. I am excited about the future of CAANEAL and thank the Board of Directors for entrusting me with the opportunity to continue to remain committed to transforming lives, one family at a time.



Sincerely,

Carrie Lea  
Interim Executive Director

Dear Partners & Friends:

Your continued support of the Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama Inc. (CAANEAL) is greatly appreciated.

Since 1965, a year after President Lyndon B Johnson announced the "War on poverty," CAANEAL has strived to implement programs to address poverty and help those living at or below poverty to achieve self-sufficiency.

CAANEAL Board of Directors represent the following sectors of the population: one-third low income individuals, one-third public officials, and one-third private individuals. The three classification groups are vital to the success of fighting the "War on poverty".

All board members work diligently to fulfill their duties and responsibilities to ensure the mission of the Agency is carried out.

As we continue this important work we hope you will partner with us. We are stronger as a community when we work together for the common good.

Sincerely,

D. L Stiefel  
Board Chairman





## Service Area

CAANEAL proudly serves low-income families and individuals residing in seven northeast Alabama communities.



## Blount County

According to the 2017 Census, Blount County is home to over 57,000 residents. Of these residents, nearly 16% live at or below the federal poverty guideline. In the agency's most recent Community Needs Assessment survey, individuals from Blount County cited their top five needs as: 1) inability to pay necessary bills, 2) inability to afford adequate food, 3) lack of affordable healthcare, 4) inability to afford fuel, and 5) lack of home repairs.

## Cherokee County

Cherokee County, located on the eastern side of the state, has a population of just over 29,000 individuals. 16% of these individuals are reportedly living at or below the federal poverty guideline. The top five needs assessed in Cherokee county are as follows: 1) inability to pay necessary bills, 2) inability to afford fuel, 3) inability to afford adequate food, 4) lack of affordable healthcare, and 5) lack of home repairs.

## DeKalb County

DeKalb County, home to over 71,000 residents, reports approximately 18% of those residents as living at or below the federal poverty guideline. These residents have stated the following as their greatest needs: 1) lack of home repairs, 2) inability to pay necessary bills, 3) lack of affordable healthcare, 4) inability to afford adequate food, and 5) inability to afford fuel.

## Etowah County

The Census records that Etowah County has a population of just over 102,000 individuals with 18% of these individuals living at or below the federal poverty guideline.

## Jackson County

Jackson County has a population of over 51,000 individuals. Of these individuals, nearly 15% fall at or below the federal poverty rate. The top five needs identified by the Jackson County community are: 1) inability to pay necessary bills, 2) inability to afford adequate food, 3) lack of affordable healthcare, 4) inability to afford adequate food, and 5) inability to afford fuel.

## Marshall County

One of our organization's largest counties, Marshall County, Alabama is home to nearly 97,000 residents. The county has a poverty percentage of 16%. These impoverished individuals cited the following as their community's greatest needs: 1) inability to pay necessary bills, 2) inability to afford adequate food, 3) lack of affordable healthcare, 4) lack of affordable housing, and 5) inability to afford fuel.

## St. Clair County

Our southern-most county, St. Clair County, has a population of just over 91,000 residents. Of these residents, 18% are identified as being at or below the federal poverty guideline. The community's greatest needs are: 1) inability to pay necessary bills, 2) inability to afford adequate food, 3) lack of home repairs, 4) inability to afford fuel, and 5) lack of affordable healthcare.



# Organizational Resources

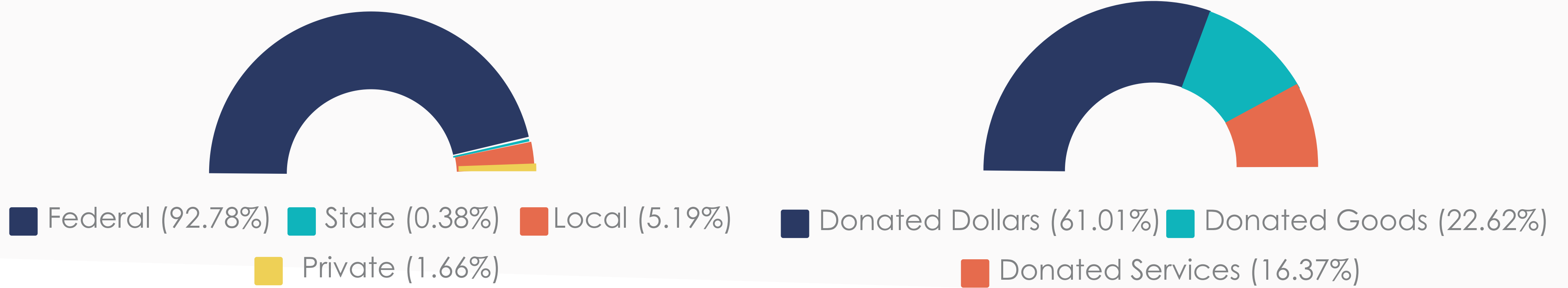
CAANEAL is a financially sound nonprofit organization funded through the Community Services Block Grant and other Federal, State, Local and Private sources.

## Resource Allocations

- Federal: \$7,776,763  
 \* CSBG: \$1,001,124  
 \* DOE: \$237,707  
 \* HHS: \$4,839,400  
 \* FEMA: \$52,226  
 \* CSBG CARES: \$1,353,818  
 \* LIWAP: \$292,188

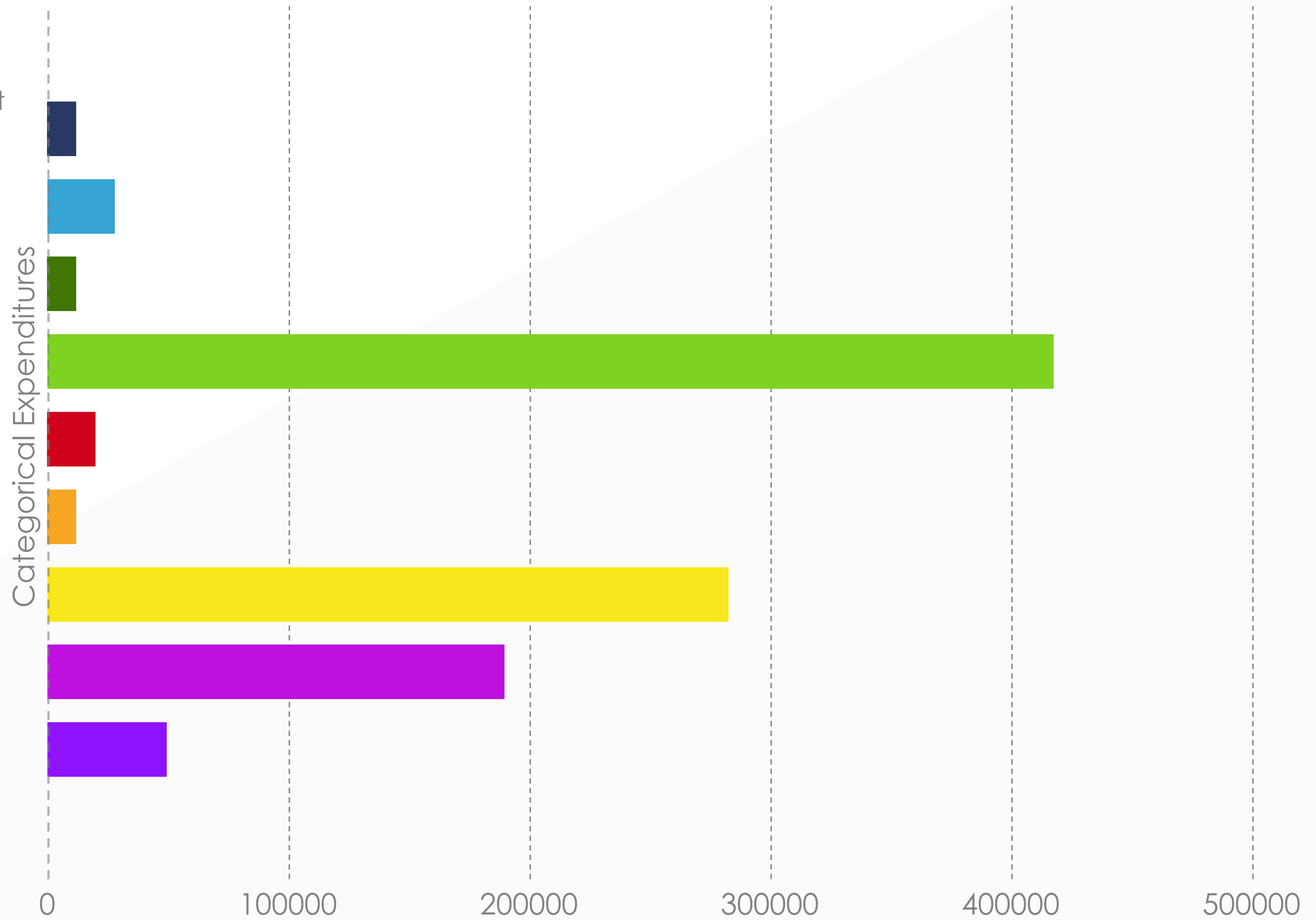
- State: \$25,013  
 - Local | Private: \$112,232

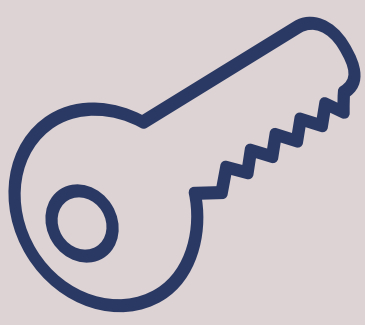
- Donated Goods Services | Values: \$227,968



## Household Assistance Categories

- Employment
- Education
- Income Management
- Housing
- Health
- Civic Engagement
- Multi-Domain
- Linkages
- Capacity Building





## Key Outcomes and Activities

CAANEAL provides strategic services focused on assisting low-income individuals improve their self-sufficiency and quality of life.

### EMPLOYMENT

- 8 individuals obtained jobs

- Resource Coordination

### EDUCATION

- 4 adults obtained a basic education  
- 3 adults obtained a GED  
- 3 adults obtained skill certifications  
- 6 adults obtained an advanced education  
- 155 students served (best robotics)

- Education Counseling  
- Education Supports

### INCOME & ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 10 households met basic needs 90 days  
- 17 households improved financial well-being

- Financial Management Counseling  
- Savings Account Establishment Assistance

### HOUSING

- 16 individuals accessed emergency shelters  
- 231 individuals obtained housing  
- 33 individuals avoided eviction  
- 5 individuals avoided foreclosure  
- 107 individuals improved health and safety and home  
- 9,757 individuals reduced energy burdens

- Rental Payment Assistance  
- Landlord Mediation  
- Tenant Rights Education  
- Utility Bill Payment Assistance  
- Level Billing Assistance  
- Home Energy Repairs  
- Home Health Repairs

### HEALTH

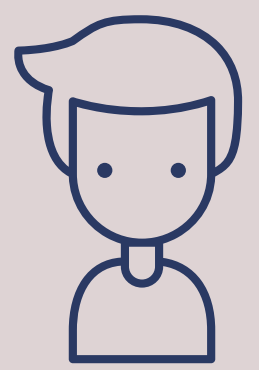
- 13 individuals increased nutrition skills  
- 31 individuals improved physical health

- Medication Assistance  
- Dental Assistance  
- Food Assistance  
- Prescription Vouchers  
- Medical Visit Co-pay (St. Clair)

### MULTI-DOMAIN/OTHER

- 9,834 achieved outcomes in multiple domains

- Case Management  
- Resource Coordination  
- Transportation Assistance  
- Emergency Clothing Assistance



## Customer Demographic Highlights

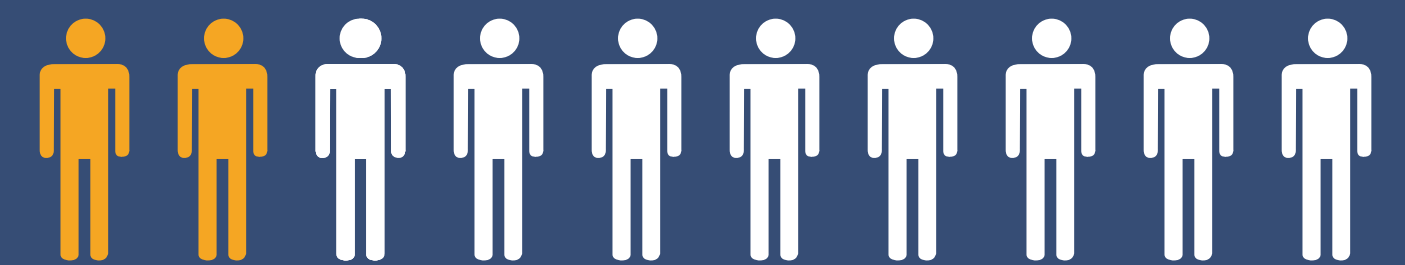
CAANEAL served a total of 9,980 low-income individuals during Fiscal Year 2020

# 9,980



More than half were female

# 64%



Slightly less than 2% were Hispanic



Children | Adults | Seniors

## Unemployed

Able-Bodied Adults



9 out of 10 were Caucasian



Slightly more than half were disabled

# 233

Veterans/Active



The majority were insured



## Program Highlights

CAANEAL is excited to announce our new Mobile App: LITTLite This app is free in the App Store and Google Play. Through this app you can apply directly for assistance for our programs.

This year we are highlighting two great programs that help promote self-sufficiency and quality of life.

### SMILES

Making people SMILE is what Community Action Agency is all about! That's why our organization is happy to share about our Community Level Initiative Partnership with SMILES, Inc. SMILES is a nonprofit organization located in Jackson County. After identifying a lack of affordable dental care as a community need, our organization was able to partner with community servants in order to establish an affordable dental care facility.

When SMILES first began, the clinic only provided tooth extraction services to its clients. As additional community support and funding were provided, the clinic was able to begin conducting cleaning appointments and eventually provide dentures to the community.

We have been selected by the Community Action Association of Alabama to present our SMILES Dental Program for the Human Community and Capacity Transformation Project to the Regional Performance and Innovative Consortia.



### Healthcare Programs

In response to the healthcare needs identified by our Community Needs Assessment, our agency began two new healthcare programs. Our agency partnered with the Free Health Clinic of St. Clair County to begin providing vouchers for copays. Doctors and physicians volunteer their services at the clinic in a variety of means to provide affordable services to low-income families in St. Clair County. By providing the cost of the copay, CAANEAL is able to help make the clinic's services even more accessible to our clients.

Our agency also began providing prescription vouchers to our clients through our CSBG CARES grant. Individuals with high prescription costs are able to fill out an assessment form and receive a voucher for \$75 toward their prescription payments. After receiving their voucher, clients are contacted by agency case managers to assess their increased well-being on behalf of the prescription program.



## Household Demographic Highlights

During Fiscal Year 2020, CAANEAL served a total of 5,963 low-income households.

# 5,963

### HOUSEHOLD SIZES

1 Person:	64%
2 Persons:	20%
3 Persons:	8%
4 Persons:	5%
5 Persons:	2%
6+ Persons:	1%

### HOUSEHOLD TYPES

Single Person:	64%
2 Adults/No Child:	13%
Single Parent:	12%
Two Parent:	6%
Multi-Generational:	3%
Non-Related Parent:	1%
Other Type:	1%



Homeowners:	2,804
Renters:	3,084
Homeless:	11
Other/Unknown:	28

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Deep Poverty:	17%
51-100% Poverty:	50%
101-125% Poverty:	20%
>126% Poverty:	13%

### HH INCOME TYPES

Earned:	10%
Unearned:	3%
Earned/Unearned:	80%
No Income:	7%

### GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

LIHEAP:	96%
SNAP:	45%
SSI/SSDI:	35%
Housing Subsidies:	24%

Designed by:

