

Fresh Finds

The Collaborative on Economic Mobility Newsletter

December 2025

Lessons Learned

Watch the Collaborative on Economic Mobility's recent webinar training series and uncover any insights you may have missed!

Financial Education & Wealth Generation Strategies

This webinar highlights the importance of community-asset building through financial empowerment. The Louisville Office of Financial Empowerment shares their experience of integrating financial empowerment into a Community Action Agency. They showcase how strategic partnerships supported this effort and how financial empowerment programming became a standard part of their service delivery.

[Click here](#) to access the webinar.



Go Beyond the Webinar!

Maximize your learning and drive real change with the Webinar Companion Guide. This resource allows you to dive deeper into promising practices for advancing economic mobility through financial empowerment. You will gain practical, detailed guidance on utilizing a coaching model, implementing a truly integrated approach to services, and establishing a robust data collection system for evaluation. Plus, see success in action with inspiring examples from Community Action Agencies nationwide who are already excelling in this work!

[Click here](#) to access the companion guide.

Equipping the Journey: Exploring Resources from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility

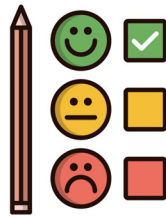
This webinar training offered a practical overview of tools and resources available through the Collaborative on Economic Mobility that are designed to help support individuals, families, and communities on the journey to economic mobility. Participants explored the curated selection of resources that address common challenges to economic mobility and gained insight into actionable strategies for implementation with local community initiatives.



[Click here](#) to access the webinar.

We Want to Hear From You!

Evaluation



Are these newsletters helpful for you? Please take the time to complete this brief evaluation survey to let us know your feedback. We value your opinion and will use the insight to help make improvements moving forward.

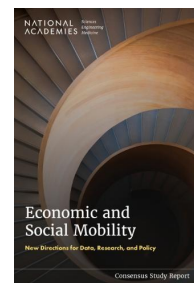
Share Your Feedback!

Economic Mobility

Report: *Research Agenda for Improving Economic Mobility*

Explore this webinar hosted by the National Academies, which offers key insights from [***Economic and Social Mobility***](#), a new study examining the domains that shape intergenerational mobility in the United States. The presentation dives into data, research, and initiatives that can advance economic mobility and improve opportunities for individuals, families, and communities. It discusses topics such as early life and family, space and place, postsecondary education, wealth, credit, and debt, as well as the data infrastructure that is needed to sustain this work.

[Click here](#) to access the webinar.



NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences
Engineering
Medicine

*Research Agenda for Improving
Economic and Social Mobility:
New Directions for Data,
Research, and Policy*

Public Webinar
September 22, 2025

Committee on Population
Committee on National Statistics



Workforce Development

Article: *Effective AI Prompting to Improve Productivity*

With the growing need for artificial intelligence (AI) skills in the workforce, Community Action Agencies can respond by aligning training programs to help meet the demand, equipping community members with the necessary skills, and serving as a bridge to help connect employers to skilled workers. Community Action Agencies can also utilize the technology as a valuable tool for productivity by integrating it into the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating programs and services. With thoughtful prompts, Community Action leaders can streamline complex tasks, communicate with increased clarity, and save time to focus on other priorities that help serve the community. This article from Seattle Jobs Initiative provides general advice and guidance on how to effectively ask AI for the support you need.



[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Webinar Series: *AI 101*

This 3-part webinar series from the California Community Action Partnership Association (CalCAPA) provides an overview on how Community Action Agencies can effectively integrate artificial intelligence to help enhance programs and services. The series includes practical guidance on prompt engineering, helpful automation, and tips for navigating implementation.

[Click here](#) to access the series.



Case Study: *Weatherization Apprenticeship* North East Community Action Corporation Bowling Green, Missouri

This case study highlights how a local Community Action Agency launched a registered apprenticeship program that formalized in-house training, improved recruitment and retention of staff, and created long-term pathway to a career in Weatherization. This practical, people-centered solution helped address workforce challenges, increase service capacity, and build opportunities for economic mobility within the community. Access the case study to learn more about the agency's process of implementation, including funding, partnerships, successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



Agency Context

1 Organizational Capacity

North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC) is a Community Action Agency, a Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Rural LISI) grantee, and a NeighborWorks chartered agency located in Bowling Green, Missouri. The service area spans across 12 counties in Northeast Missouri, including three counties that are part of the metropolitan statistical area adjacent to St. Louis, as well as nine rural counties. The agency's annual budget is approximately \$25 million. This includes over 30 different funding sources, including a mix of both state and federal funding. NECAC is governed by a 36-person volunteer Board of Directors which includes three representatives from each of the 12 counties in the service area. The representatives from each county

include an Elected Official Representative, a Civic Interest Representative, and a Low-Income Representative. The agency has approximately 95 full-time staff and 100 part-time staff. The management team is comprised of 10 individuals including the President/CEO, Deputy Director of Housing Development Programs, Finance Operations Director, Personnel Officer and Assistant Deputy Director, Executive Secretary and Office Manager, Public Relations Officer, Information Technology (IT) Operations Director, Rent Assistance Programs Director, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Operations Director, and Weatherization Director.

2 Service Delivery

NECAC operates over 60 different programs across the areas of Community Service, Housing Development, and Community Health Programs within the area of Community

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY ACTION CORPORATION | COMMUNITYACTIONPARTNERSHIP.ORG | 1

High-Quality Education

Apprenticeship and College: *Complementary Approaches to Youth Education and Training*

The resource explores how apprenticeship programs and traditional college pathways can complement each other to strengthen youth education and workforce development. It highlights the growing need for training models that blend academic learning with hands-on experience, giving young workers multiple routes to high-quality careers. Find practical guidance on aligning service providers with apprenticeship programs and creating integrated approaches that support economic mobility and long-term career success.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



Case Study: *Coaches on Campus* Bucks County Opportunity Council Bowling Green, Missouri

This case study highlights an innovative approach from a local Community Action Agency that places Economic Self-Sufficiency coaches directly on campus at the local Community College. This strategic partnership meets students where they are, connects them to critical support, and helps them overcome housing, food, and financial barriers while staying on track to graduate. Learn more about the agency's journey toward implementation, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned along the way.

[Click here](#) to learn more.



Agency Context

1 Organizational Capacity

Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) is a local Community Action Agency located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They serve over 60,000 people annually through five program areas including: Housing, Weatherization, Food, Income Tax Preparation, and Economic Self-Sufficiency. The annual budget is approximately \$15 million which consists of 67% public funding and 33% from private and other funding sources. The work is led by a 21-person tripartite Board of Directors and a 17-person leadership team including a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), three Directors (Development, Compliance, and Client Services), six Housing Site Supervisors, and six Managers (Human Resources, Volunteer and Community Connections, Self-Sufficiency Program, Food Program,

Communications and Development, and Weatherization Program). Additionally, there are 60 employees on staff and over 1,700 volunteers who contribute over 100,000 hours of volunteer service per year.

2 Service Delivery

Bucks County is a suburb of Philadelphia, with a population of approximately 650,000. The county's population has grown by 3.4% since 2010 and the current poverty rate is 5.9%. This includes nearly 17% of children under the age of 16, and 5% of senior citizens over the age of 65. The community's needs vary depending on which part of the county they reside in. For example, in the Lower Bucks County area, income tends to be lower and four of the school districts have free or reduced lunch rates for over 50% of their student body.

BUCKS COUNTY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL | COMMUNITYACTIONPARTNERSHIP.ORG | 1

Community-Asset Building

Case Studies: *Strategic Collaborations Between CAAs and Tribal Entities*

This resource from [Community Action Program Legal Services \(CAPLAW\)](#) highlights the importance of Community Action Agencies, tribes, and tribal organizations collaborating to serve low-income tribal communities. It shows how the flexibility of Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding, whether received directly by tribes or through local Community Action Agencies, can provide opportunities to efficiently support tribal members through a coordinated approach. It also features two case studies, including Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) in Anchorage, Alaska and MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. These case studies demonstrate how strong governance, trust-building, and shared decision making can strengthen local capacity, uplift community development, and encourage the self-sufficiency of communities.



[Click here](#) to learn more.

Two-Generation & Whole Family Approaches

Virtual Event: *Supporting Student Parents*

This live event presentation shares key lessons from the [Data-to-Action Campaign for Parenting Students](#), showing how improved data collection can drive meaningful changes to support the success of student parents. It highlights strategies developed with colleges and universities to identify how many parenting students are being served, and what support is needed to ensure the completion of their degree or certification. The presentation also offers examples of how data insights can be translated into practical support and improved service delivery.



[Click here](#) to access.

Upcoming Webinar: *Scaling a Whole Family Approach*

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 2pm ET | 1pm CT | 12pm MT | 11am PT

Gain an inside look at how Bluegrass Community Action Partnership, a Community Action Agency based in Frankfort, Kentucky has shifted its culture, practices, and services to focus on both children and their parents simultaneously. From their early beginnings to their current achievements and their vision for what's next, Bluegrass CAP is transforming how families are supported across various agency systems and programs. The session will include highlights from their newly released Whole Family design brief and share how they are presenting their progress and work to potential funders.



[Click here](#) to register.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Don't miss out on these upcoming learning opportunities available from the Collaborative on Economic Mobility!

Collaborative on Economic Mobility Listening Session

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2pm ET | 1pm CT | 12pm MT | 11am PT

We want to hear from you! Join the Collaborative on Economic Mobility (CEM) for an interactive listening session to share your needs and ideas and provide insight on tools and resources. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with peers across the Community Action network and gain insight into what is most needed to advance economic mobility, how current tools and resources are being applied to local initiatives, and what feedback can help improve and shape future resources moving forward. The key areas of focus will include Workforce Development, High-Quality Education, Community-Asset Building, Whole Family Approaches, and Innovative Community Programs and Organizations.



[Click here](#) to register.

If you have any questions, contact us at:
cem@communityactionpartnership.com.

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