

January 5, 2024

CAC FIRST FRIDAYS



Monthly Strategy Updates from our President and CEO

"It is our mission to end poverty by empowering and improving people's lives while building strong communities."



Keith Pitts, President & CEO
Community Action Committee of Pike County

Welcome to 2024! We are all in the same boat with the same struggle in this first week of the new year, aren't we? We are trying to overcome the habit of writing 2023 when we write the date. Habits become so much a part of us that they can be tough to break. We oftentimes approach a new year with an "out with the old, in with the new" attitude and make resolutions to break bad habits or instill good habits. As we begin this new year, I would love for us all to get in the habit of celebrating our successes and having an attitude of gratitude for all that we have. Wouldn't that be a good way to put 2023 to bed and begin 2024? I think so. With that in mind it is fitting to use this space to demonstrate some of the impact that our agency has had on our community during 2023, highlight a few of our notable accomplishments, and get us all headed in the same

IN THIS ISSUE: *New Year. New opportunities.*

"Any new beginning is forged from the shards of the past, not from the abandonment of the past."

~Craig D. Lounsbrough

We learn and build upon the foundation of where we have been. 2023 was a year of growth, impact, and opportunity for CAC. It was a good year that gives us a good starting point for 2024. Let's take a look at the preliminary numbers for 2023.

\$24 million +	2023 program funding
31,800 +	Clients served*
121,000 +	Encounters
195,300 +	Services provided

*The number of clients is based on aggregate numbers presented individually by our programs. It does not identify clients who receive services from more than one program.

CAC received in excess of \$24 million in program funding. How did we use this money? We served more than 31,800* clients/patients/students through our programs. Those clients had more than 121,000 encounters and received in excess of 195,300 distinct services. What does that all mean? It means that our CAC team has impacted many individuals and families in our community by helping them to make ends meet, improve their life situation, take control of their health, and increase their knowledge and independence. In short, we have been game changers for so many by helping so many through some very difficult times.

"It always seems impossible until it's done." ~Nelson Mandela

We want to keep that momentum going in 2024! CAC recently completed the 2023 Community Needs Assessment, which is a deep dive into the needs of our community and availability or lack of resources to meet those needs. This months-long project was planned by team members from across all CAC programs and departments and involved research and data compilation from the public domain, individual and household surveys, and focus group input. This 2023 Community Needs Assessment was ratified by our Governing Board in December, and is what we will use to chart our course for the coming years. I invite everyone to review this needs assessment, which is now available on the CAC website at the following link: <https://www.pikecac.org/s/2023-Community-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." ~Eleanor Roosevelt

As we enter this new year, we will begin rallying around the recommendations that came out of our needs assessment, which are listed below:

- Active economic stabilization and development;
- Jobs creation;
- Workforce retraining and preparedness
- Reduction in food insecurity
- Increased availability of safe and affordable housing options;
- Improved early childhood literacy;
- Improved college, career, workforce, and military readiness;
- Improved access to primary care and mental and behavioral healthcare;
- Improved access to basic and specialty dental access;
- Continued focus on insuring the uninsured;
- Advocacy around health care and prescription drug costs;
- Expansion of school-based health care services;
- Support for broadband internet access and literacy;
- Increased access to public transportation options, including evenings and weekends;
- Increased awareness and support for mental health supports;
- Holistic support for addiction recovery;
- Social supports for LGBTQ+ community;

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." ~Melody Beattie

Let's write our chapter together and find new and meaningful ways to meet the needs of our community. If you have ideas around any of these topics, I would like to hear from you. Stop by my office or send me a message via email (kpitts@pikecac.org) or through Teams.

Until next time...

Community Action Committee of Pike County

941 Market Street • Piketon, Ohio 45661

740-289-2371 (T) • 740-289-4291 (F) • 740-289-2608 (TDD)