

## Community Action Programs: Educate >Empower>Succeed

*There are no problems we cannot solve together and very few that we can solve by ourselves.” – President Lyndon B. Johnson*

As a part of LBJ’s War on Poverty, Boulder County Community Action Programs (CAP) has been working since 1965 to empower people struggling with poverty and those underrepresented in the community to become self-sufficient and have their voices heard.

CAP, working collaboratively with community partners, works with small groups of clients to foster long-lasting changes in their lives. We work an “inch wide and a mile deep” to move people closer to their goals of self-sufficiency, self-determination and success.

### Populations Served

CAP manages a number of programs, including the Circles Campaign (Circles), the Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE), and the People Engaged in Leadership Program (PERL). In 2017, CAP served 230 clients and other program participants.



### Client Story – Maye Cordero



A new lifestyle came with many positives for Maye Cordero. Having grown up in Puerto Rico, she received her bachelor’s degree from Sagrado Corazon University before moving to Boulder. She had hopes of opening her very own photography business, but understood she couldn’t do it alone. That’s when she learned about the PIE program.

“While in the PIE program, I learned how to run my own business in the United States, and I received matching funds to make my business possible”, Maye said.

After saving through the PIE program she was able to purchase new items – a camera, lenses, a computer, editing software, and reflectors - for her photography business.

After graduating from PIE, she became a mentor to new PIE participants. Maye saw this as her chance to spread the word about the PIE program and to encourage others through the process. “It is so refreshing to know that there are organizations and people out there that are willing to help others succeed.”

## Partnering to Make a Difference

CAP understands and believes that collaboration is the best way to serve the community. All CAP programs work in partnership with nonprofit organizations, county and city departments, faith communities, educational institutions and others to accomplish our goals. Below is a list of a few of our key external partners:

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sister Carmen Community Center | Small Business Development Center   |
| EFAA                           | Front Range Community College       |
| OUR Center                     | City of Longmont                    |
| Foothills United Way           | City of Boulder                     |
| R-12 Charities                 | Community Foundation Boulder County |
| A Woman’s Work                 | Longmont Community Foundation       |

## Stewarding our Resources – CAP and CADC Boards

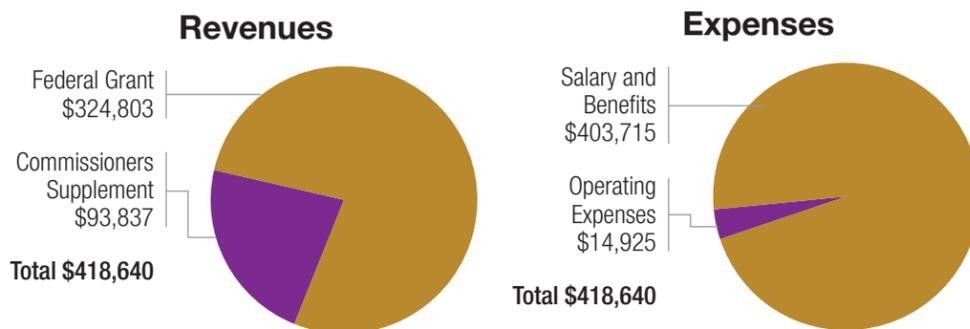
CAP is funded primarily by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) through the Office of Community Services, which supports staff and some program costs. CSBG requires that CAP’s advisory board include members that are either low income or can represent low income communities. This board is appointed by the Boulder County Commissioners and provides input and oversight to CAP. Board members are Gina Barajas, Jamie Brandess, Manuela Chavez, Tahlia Bear, Nicole Dillon, Robin Chavez, Susan Boucher, Amy Maziarz, Tracey Jones, Megan Jooste, Nikki McCord, Courtney Schwartz, Melanie McGinn, Tallis Salamation, Stella Thomas Morris.

In 1984, the Community Action Development Corporation (CADC), a registered 501(C)(3), was formed to help fundraise and support CAP programs. CADC has its own governing board that oversees its finances and provides input into CAP programs. The board members are Janet Heimer, Erika Moats, Jann Oldham, Michelle Orge and Cameron Tyler.



2017 PIE Graduates

# 2017 COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS ANNUAL REPORT



## Circles – Building Community to End Poverty

The Circles Campaign, an evidenced-based program model, is part of an innovative national campaign to end poverty in our community, one family at a time. Individuals and families take charge of their lives and are assisted by community volunteers called Allies. Allies help participants realize their potential through networking, listening, and guidance.

“After completing Circle Leader training, we can all spread the gospel of getting out of poverty.

– William L., 2017 Circle Leader

This is the first program I've been a part of that did what they said they would. Build you up.

– Erin O., 2017 Circle Leader”

**43** families served by Circles in 2017

## Satisfaction with Program

Satisfaction with the program is extremely high among participants.

**87%** of Participants are invested in accomplishing the mission of Circles

**88%** of Leaders felt their Allies connected them with important resources

**83%** of Circle Leaders describe their relationships with their Allies as Satisfactory or Excellent

**63%** of Allies describe their relationship with their Circle Leaders as Satisfactory or Excellent

## Program Outcomes

The program was instrumental in boosting income, reducing the use of public assistance dollars and increasing the social capital of participants.

Over the 18-month Circles program, Families who were launched (graduated) in 2017 averaged:

Earned Income rose **29%**  
avg. \$2,304 > \$2,974mo

Welfare benefits decreased **100%**  
avg. \$159 > \$0

Assets increased **146%**  
avg. \$1,466 > \$3,645

## Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE) – Building Assets to Change Lives

PIE is a financial empowerment program that provides education and access to opportunities that help participants reach a variety of personal goals, including first-time home ownership, education advancement or the development of a new business enterprise. PIE provides a maximum match of \$4,000 toward one of these goals, and requires participants to save their own money as a part of the program. Participation in the program results in families and individuals becoming more active members of the community through greater economic and personal growth.

## Program Participants

Since the Personal Investment Enterprise program began in 2001, PIE has celebrated a total of 290 graduates:

**118** participants have become first-time homeowners

**107** participants have pursued a post-secondary education

**65** individuals have started their own small business

## 2017 Outcomes

In 2017 PIE served 61 families and saw a number of significant outcomes:

**68%** Of PIE Participants continue saving on a regular basis

**100%** of PIE homebuyers still own the home that they purchased through the PIE program

**57%** Of PIE Participants' debt remains the same or decreased since leaving PIE

**73%** of PIE homebuyers think that they influenced others' ability to access or maintain housing

**83%** Of PIE Participants achieve new savings goals after leaving PIE

**68%** of PIE homebuyers are actively involved in their community



## Programs that Change the Community, One Person at a Time

In addition to Circles and PIE, the CAP program manages other initiatives designed to support and acknowledge the contributions of people of color and those living in poverty.

## People Engaged in Leadership (PERL)

PERL is a 10-week training designed for people of color and people with low-income across Boulder County to learn about, and become a member of, a governing boards. PERL increases the number of individuals from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds to join non-profit boards and government commissions.

“In my journey through PERL, I understand now what impacts I can make in my community through engagement and providing my voice. I feel confident that I can now walk into a board meeting and know that I'm prepared.

– Joel M., Fall 2017 Graduate”

**19** participants served in 2017

**61%** of PERL clients have served on boards and/or commissions since 2008

## Multicultural Awards Banquet (MCAB)

MCAB, held since 1989, honors people of color and provides educational scholarships to those who have made significant contributions to the community.

**248** award winners since 1989

**193** attendees at the 2017 MCAB to celebrate our award winners

**\$159,471** raised for community scholarships since 1994

**The THRIVE Conference** was designed to help Boulder County residents with low income to build and acquire assets including homes, businesses, post-secondary education, health insurance, and senior income. It started as a partnership of nine agencies from across the county, and more than half of the workshops are presented in Spanish. Participants learned about resources available to them, and left the conference with clear, next steps.

## Poverty Simulation

The Community Action Poverty Simulation is an interactive immersion experience that was held twice in 2017. It is designed to sensitize community participants to the realities of poverty.

**99** members of the community participated in THRIVE or one of the Poverty Simulations