

60 Years in the War on Poverty

1 9 6 5 — 2 0 2 5

THE FOUNDING YEARS

1965

- CAC incorporated; operations began
- CAC housed at UAW/CIO Local 699 and St. Rita's Catholic Church
- CAC set up in Governor's offices
- Honorable Henry Marsh elected as first Board Chair
- Kenneth Anderson is selected as the first Executive Director

1966

- Citizen participation and involvement mandates
- Medical Alert Program began
- Legal Aid Program began under CAC umbrella

1967

- Head Start Program funded
- Neighborhood Youth Corps/Out of School Work Experience began
- Saginaw Black Arts Festival began

1968

- Poverty People's Alliance organized
- Sphinx Art Council
- Summer Youth Program began

1969

- Dental Care Program began
- Poverty People's Alliance/Community Organization as a CAC program began
- Busy Beavers Sewing Club began
- Model Cities enacted

BUILDING PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY

1970

- Black Educator of Saginaw organized
- St. Joseph's Adult Education/Model Cities began
- CAC's administration moved to St. Rita's
- Planned Parenthood defunded
- Model Cities Senior Citizen Program began

1971

- First Black Students Honor Convocation held
- Sickle Cell Anemia Program began
- Addicts Action Coalition formed
- Career Development Program with Delta College began
- Alfred Loveless elected first chair to Michigan Board Chairperson's Association
- Planned Parenthood phased out

1972

- CAC moved to Multi-Purpose Center on Janes
- CAC joined Area Health Education Center/VA

- Daniel Heights Buying Club formed
- Youth Employment Program/Model Cities began
- Students' Rights Center began
- Adult Education Program through CAC began

1973

- Work Experience/CETA began
- Social Task Force formed
- Sickle Cell Program began under Model Cities
- National Guard/Dental Care Program began

1974

- Urban Gardening Program began
- Dental Program funded under Model Cities
- Office of Economic Opportunity become Community Services Administration
- Hunger Task Force Funded
- CAC's Public Relations Campaign began
- A. Phillip Randolph Chapter reorganized
- CETA/Title VI Intake at Winkleman's began

1975

- Energy Conservation/Weatherization began
- Iron Anemia/Deficiency Project began
- Inter-Tribal Association assigned staff from CAC
- Summer Feeding Program began
- St. Joseph's CAC Program began
- Minor Home Repairs Program began

1976

- CAC Human Resource Exposition held at Civic Center
- Bread and Law Task Force formed
- Poverty People's Alliance formed Coalition on Voter Registration/Education
- Eastside Crisis Drug Abuse Center began
- Expanded Nutrition Project began
- Food Co-op organized
- Transportation/Training Project began
- Jail Rehabilitation Program began
- Fuel Stamp/Utility Assistance Program began

1977

- Nommo began publication
- Welfare Rights Organization formed
- Health Systems Agency formed

1978

- Students' Rights and Information Center opened
- Poverty People's Alliance/N'Focus Camera Club organized
- CAC moved to Cherry Street/Sacred Heart site
- Target Fuel Assistance Program began
- B.O.L.D. organized

1979

- Black Social Worker/Tri-City Chapter organized
- Community Organization Outreach & Referral Project began
- Community Research Training Project began

EXPANDING SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

1980

- Family Connection established
- First Energy Expo

1981

- WRO/Fair Budget Rally
- Surplus Commodity Program began food distribution
- Dental Program moved from Wadsworth Clinic to Cherry
- Harambee House/CAC's Halfway House opened
- Talent Search/Ben Branch organized
- Operation Equality organized

1982

- Black Social Workers/Tri-City Chapter reorganized
- Operation Equality implemented
- Commodity food distribution formally began
- Labor Education Advancement Project began

1983

- Max Treu provides storage for commodities
- Emergency Providers Group formed
- CAC Controller became Certified Public Accountant
- Job Training Partnership Act/Work Experience began
- CAC's Executive Director joins Osteopathic Hospital Board of Directors
- SCOSAS formed
- CETA ends/JTPA began

1984

- CAC moved to Perkins Street site
- Environmental Code/Neighborhood Cleanup Project began
- Project Self-Reliance began
- Poverty People's Alliance Smoke Alarm Project results in ordinance
- Executive Director Robert Viera and Board Chair Al Loveless, lead CAC to acquire Perkins St. location

1985

- CAC's Twentieth Anniversary activities began
- CAC joins FEMA Board
- National Issues Forum/Saginaw Co-Sponsor by CAC
- African Hunger Fundraiser held

1986

- CAC's Fiscal Statewide Training Workshop held
- CAC appointed to Housing Task Force
- CAC joins Community Energy Management Team
- Sickle Cell first Walk-a-Thon
- Green Thumbers join CAC

1987

- Commodity volunteers receive Carnation Award
- Oldies but Goodies began

1989

- Emergency Community Services Homeless program began
- Delta/CAC Community Research Institute began
- Mobile Home Project began

G R O W T H & N E W L E A D E R S H I P

1990

- Twenty-Fifth Year of Operations celebrated
- Friends of CAC established

1991

- Income Tax Assistance Program began

1992

- First Time Homeowner/Urban Homestead Project began
- MSHDA/CAC Supplement Homeowner Purchases began
- Single Family Purchase and Down Payment Assistance began
- Executive Director Robert Viera leaves CAC and moves to Head Start

1993

- New Executive Director hired — Annie Graham
- Minority Senior Outreach and Advocacy Services began
- CHDO set aside for rental properties rehab began

1994

- Agency-wide Centralized Client Intake began
- CAC's Community Service Scholarship Fund established

1995

- CAC conducted local dialogues on Poverty
- Community Action Agencies funding transferred from FIA to Jobs Commission
- Emergency Relief Program began
- SHARE Food Program began
- HUD/MSHDA Housing Counseling Certifications awarded
- Senior Commodity Supplemental Food Program began

1996

- All programs and projects funded
- Saginaw County Child Development Center as a delegated agency dissolved

1997

- Saginaw County Child Development Center became Saginaw County CAC Head Start
- Agency coordinated UNCF Campaign
- Technology Conversion Plan implemented

1998

- A for-profit 'C' Corporation established
- Wage Comparability Study completed
- Personnel Policy Manual updated and approved

1999

- Crossing II Project for Buena Vista Housing approved
- Staff EAP Wellness Plan approved
- Remodeling CAC Center

S T R A T E G I C R E N E W A L

2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAC/Robert Viera Scholarship Fund established ▪ Union Contract written and approved ▪ Interior building renovations completed ▪ Glaucoma Testing Project began
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exterior of CAC Center remodeled ▪ Interim Executive Director — Janie Martin appointed ▪ Arena Floor refinished
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Action Plan completed ▪ Head Start appeal process began ▪ New Executive Director hired — Sylvester Payne
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Head Start kitchen remodeled ▪ All programs and projects refunded ▪ During a transitional period, Robert Viera hired as Interim Director
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updated Strategic Plan approved ▪ Head Start leaves CAC
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fortieth Anniversary Celebrated ▪ Family Self-Sufficiency Program began ▪ Elderly and Disabled Home Repairs Program began ▪ Rebuilding Together Program began ▪ Partnership initiated with Community Legal Resources
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After School Tutoring Program began ▪ Community Learning Center opens ▪ Youth nutrition/obesity reduction program 'Healthy and Wise Without Fries' operates ▪ CAC Board of Directors restructured
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weatherization — Client Education classes began ▪ Housing Counseling returns ▪ HUD Certification restored ▪ MSHDA Home LINKS certification restored ▪ South Saginaw Homes Partnership initiated
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First Housing Expo for Saginaw County ▪ Neighbor Works certification initiated ▪ Community Legal Resources/Butzel Long aids CAC in reducing Administration for Children & Families/Head Start debt from \$204,655 to \$64,000
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends of CAC revived ▪ First annual Walk for Warmth ▪ MPRI Partnership began ▪ Partnership with U.S. Census Bureau ▪ The first Partners Against Poverty Celebration ▪ Michigan Enrolls Program began ▪ Media Smart Project completed ▪ Partnership with Saginaw Public Schools/SCBEP for Summer Youth Employment

- Weatherization receives over \$6 million in funding through ARRA
- CAC achieves no 'Findings Fiscal Audit'
- CAC received CSBG Discretionary Grant

INNOVATION & RECOGNITION

2010

- Family Self-Sufficiency becomes 'Dream Catchers for Life'
- Job Readiness Classes began
- GED/ABE Classes began
- TABE Test utilized for Adult Basic Skills Literacy
- Summer Employment Program for Adults
- CAC Weatherization Crews returns
- CAC achieves no 'Findings Fiscal Audit'

2011

- CAC develops and launches agency website
- Parenting Skills classes added to Dream Catchers for Life
- Financial Literacy classes added to Dream Catchers for Life
- Dream Catchers for Life highlighted in report to Governor Snyder as a best practice program
- Executive Director elected to the MCAAA Board of Directors
- CAC achieves no 'Findings Fiscal Audit'

2012

- Partnership with MEDC/Community Ventures
- Joined Alignment Saginaw
- CAC Strategic Planning begins
- CAC achieves 'low risk auditee' status
- CAC joins Wildfire Credit Union
- Art Smith retires from CAC with many years of service

2013

- Partnership with MSHDA/Step Forward
- CAC made final payment to ACF for Head Start debt
- Income Tax Assistance Program ended
- Homes Project Partnership began

2014

- Nurturing Fathers classes added to Dream Catchers for Life
- Partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and Neighborhood House to offer Dream Catchers for Life to youth
- MPAP Program offered
- CAC hosts Community Forum
- CAC completes Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment
- CAC received Business Friendly Award from Great Start Collaborative
- MIPPA Program added to the agency's portfolio of services

2015

- CAC receives Zeta Phi Beta Sorority — Organization of the Year award
- Literacy +1 Tutoring Program began
- Skating at CAC opens as a fundraiser
- Sk8aerobics for youth began
- CAC received Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity 'low risk' scoring
- Fiftieth Year Celebration

2016

- CAC receives minor home repairs grants program from City of Saginaw

- CAC Literacy +1 Tutoring Program continues
- CAC hosts several workforce development job fairs for the community
- Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity 'low risk' scoring maintained

2017

- CAC receives DNR Summer Youth Program Grant, Wicks Foundation Grant for Food, and LIHEAP Crisis Assistance Grant
- Unity in the Community Neighborhood Association begins meeting at CAC and established as its anchor institution

2018

- CAC receives the Neighborhood Improvement Grant for \$25,000
- Dream Catchers receives a workforce development grant for youth from the DNR for \$60,000
- CAC receives funds to purchase laptops and internet for community members

2019

- CAC receives Chemical Bank Home Repair Grant

RESILIENCE & THE ROAD AHEAD

2020

- COVID-19 pandemic hits; agency closes in-person services for a period
- Community Action responds with \$700,000 in CARES Program funding for county-wide emergencies
- Executive Director Lillie Williams-Grays retires after many years of service to CAC

2021

- CAC Board of Directors hires Hurley J. Coleman III as new Executive Director
- Saginaw CAC awarded \$1.75 million from the City of Saginaw and Saginaw County for ARPA funding — capital improvements, housing, and emergency food response

2022

- Saginaw CAC selected to receive \$125,000 in Appropriations for a food storage and capacity grant through Congressman Dan Kildee's Office

2023

- Saginaw CAC receives \$200,000 from MSHDA MI NEIGHBORHOOD Grant
- 801 S. 20th Street building demolished; seeded and sodded for shovel-ready projects

2024

- Saginaw CAC begins building renovations at 2824 Perkins Street and 1443 E. Genesee locations
- Executive Director Hurley Coleman III receives Certified Community Action Professional certification through the National Community Action Partnership — first person at Saginaw CAC to accomplish this

2025

- Saginaw CAC continues work in food, emergency assistance, housing, senior outreach, and serving as a community hub
- Approximately 75% of all renovations completed at 2824 Perkins location, including roof, 1,800 sq. ft. food storage facility, classroom/multipurpose space, and building exterior

Six decades. Countless lives changed. One unwavering mission.

Hope in Action. Community in Motion.