

60 Years in the War on Poverty

- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 2000 CAC/Robert Viera Scholarship Fund established
Union Contract written and approved
Interior building renovations completed
Glaucoma Testing Project began
- 2001 Exterior of CAC Center remodeled
Interim Executive Director – Janie Martin appointed
Arena Floor refinished
- 2002 Strategic Action Plan completed
Head Start appeal process began
New Executive Director hired – Sylvester Payne
- 2003 Head Start kitchen remodeled
All programs and projects refunded
Interim Director hired – Robert Viera
- 2004 Updated Strategic Plan approved
Head Start leaves CAC
- 2005 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 After school Tutoring Program began
Community Learning Center opens
Youth nutrition/obesity reduction program “Healthy and Wise Without Fries” operates
CAC Board of Director’s restructured
- 2007 Weatherization – Client Education classes began
Housing Counseling returns
HUD Certification restored
MSHDA Home LINKS certification restored
South Saginaw Homes Partnership initiated
- 2008 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 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 thru ARRA
CAC achieves no “Findings Fiscal Audit”
CAC received CSBG Discretionary Grant
- 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 will begin
CAC received Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity "low risk" scoring
Fiftieth year Celebration
- 2016 CAC receives Zeta Phi Beta Sorority-Organization of the Year award
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Skating at CAC opens as a fundraiser
Sk8aerobics for youth will begin
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Fiftieth year Celebration
- 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;

- 2020 The Pandemic hits; COVID-19 outbreak across the world. Agency closes in-person services for a period due to COVID-19. Community Action responds with a \$700,000 in funding called the CARES Program to respond to emergencies across the county. Executive Director Lillie Williams-Grays retires after many years of service to CAC.
- 2021 CAC Board of Directors hires Hurley J. Coleman III as its new Executive Director. Saginaw CAC is awarded \$1.75 million from the City of Saginaw and Saginaw County for ARPA funding for capital improvements, housing, and emergency food response.
- 2022 Saginaw CAC is 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 is demolished; its seeded and sodded for shovel ready projects.
- 2024 Saginaw CAC begins building renovations at 2824 Perkins Street location and 1443 E. Genesee location. Executive Director, Hurley Coleman III receives his Certified Community Action Professional certification through the National Community Action Partnership in Seattle, W at the NCAP Conference. He becomes the first person at Saginaw CAC to accomplish this.
- 2025 Saginaw CAC continues the work in food, emergency assistance, housing, senior outreach, and being a community hub. About 75% of all the renovations were completed at the 2824 Perkins location, including the roof, 1800 sq. ft. food storage facility, classroom/multipurpose space, and exterior of the building.