



**Community Action Partnership of Orange County**  
**A History of Helping People, Help Themselves**



## OUR HISTORY



Fifty year ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared war on what would turn out to be one of our nation's most formidable opponents - poverty. This declaration led to the formation of Community Action agencies across America through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Subsequently, Community Action Partnership of Orange County was created to respond to President Johnson's call to action by working everyday to help individuals overcome hunger and poverty by providing them with the tools to gain self-sufficiency.



The Partnership was instrumental in introducing Orange County to community centers, youth and adult employment programs, food and nutritional programs, senior and disabled transportation, community improvement, utility assistance, weatherization, health services, day care programs, emergency housing, Farm 2 Kids, Farm 2 Families, Headstart, Legal Aid Society, Neighborhood Youth Corps, and Community Mentor Partnership.

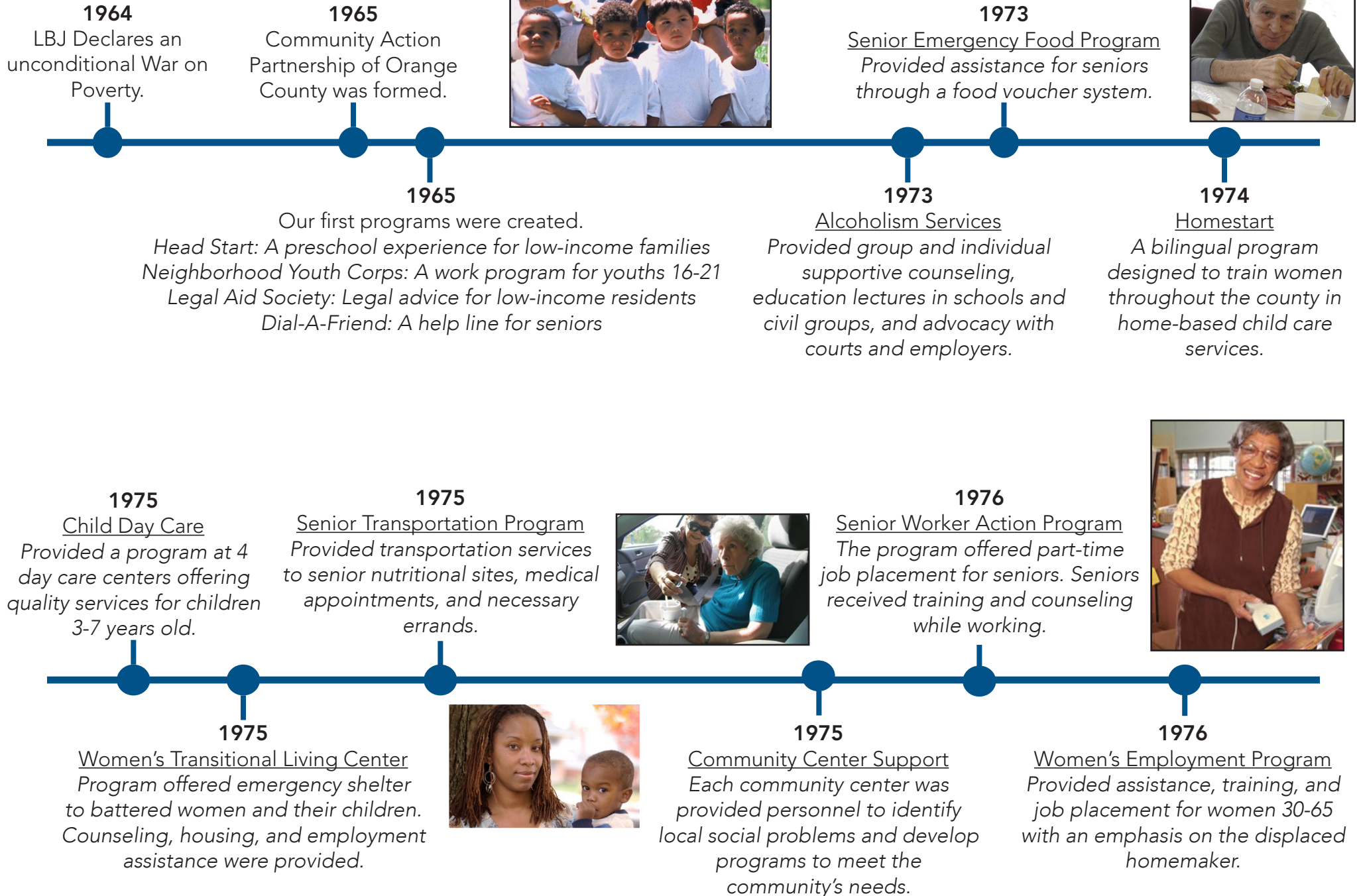


President Johnson declared a war on poverty in order to expand access to equal economic opportunity. Today, the middle class is shrinking, good jobs have disappeared, and millions of people work in low-wage jobs that leave families in poverty. Poverty is still with us. Not every program of ours worked, but decades of research has taught us how much direct policy can accomplish. Renewing our commitment to the poor will open opportunities for more Americans and strengthen our society and economy.

When families work through our programs, they develop greater confidence and motivation to manage setbacks in their lives. At Community Action, the answer lies in empowering people to recognize and make use of their own unique strengths and resources in order to improve their lives. Our participants commit to playing the lead role in making lasting changes in their lives.

This is a time line of what Community Action Partnership of Orange County has accomplished in the last 50 years.

## CAPOC's Program Time Line



**1977**

Conservation Improvement Project  
Program provided repairs and weatherization of homes to low-income residents.



**1979**

AYUDA

Hispanic senior program for job counseling and placement.

**1981**

Training & Technical Assistance Library  
Program to offer non-profit agencies assistance in fundraising, agency management, and human resource development.

**1982**

Housing Assistance Program  
This program offered advocacy, technical assistance, tenant education, and referrals.



**1979**

Orange County Food Bank  
The start of our program to collect and store donated food for our member agencies.

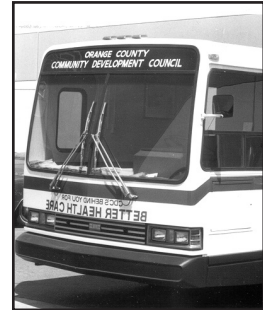
**1979**

Rape Crisis Network  
Coordinated all rape hot lines in Orange County.

**1981**

Mobile Clinic

First program that was designed to offer quality medical services to low-income residents. A Mobile Health Clinic traveled from site to site serving all segments of the population in the County.



**1982**

Energy Assistance  
Home weatherization services provided at no cost to low-income tenants or owners.



**1984**

Emergency Food Assistance  
Provided food to low-income OC residents.

**1984**

Dept. of Energy Weatherization  
Home weatherization services became more readily available to our clients, including a larger variety of work.



**1986**

Energy Education  
Taught households a variety of skills which promoted self-sufficiency and reduced energy costs.

**1983**

Direct Assistance Program  
Weatherization services to Southern California Gas Co. customers designed for energy conservation and reduction of energy bills.

**1984**

Domestic Violence Safety Net  
This program provided motel vouchers and food to victims of domestic violence along with counseling opportunities.

**1985**

Federal Emergency Mgmt. Assistance  
Provides rehabilitation for emergency shelter facilities and emergency food assistance.

**1986**

Housing Loan Program  
Assisted with paying apartment move-in costs.



**1986**

Information and Referral  
A centralized database of human service programs. Individuals could call one number and receive a range of referrals.

**1986**

Bulk Purchase  
Offered small agencies the opportunity to buy food in bulk to cut costs.

**1987**

Tenant Assistance  
Resettled residents of Santa Ana who were displaced by building code enforcement.



**1988**

McKinney Homeless Program  
Provided rental assistance, shelter vouchers, and housing assistance for the homeless.

**1989**

EFSP Rent & Utility  
Tracks rent and utilities for FEMA Board ESFP dollars.

**1986**

Edison Revamping  
Working with Southern California Edison, we installed energy efficient fluorescent lighting and electric space heaters.

**1986**

Meal Deal  
Gave families the opportunity to buy food and hygiene purchase in bulk to cut costs.

**1987**

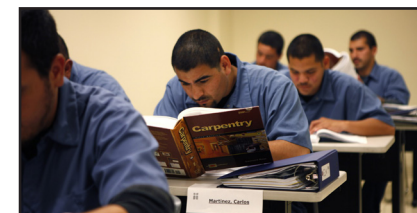
Neighborhood Service Center  
Developed the Minnie Street Residents in Santa Ana into a Neighborhood Service Center.

**1987**

Home Energy Assistance  
Program that aimed to reduce the burden of energy costs.

**1989**

Office of Community Service  
Focused on developing jobs for low-income residents.



**1990**

Telephone Training  
Consumption education on the use of the telephone and other utilities.

**1991**

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Funding for the Summer Food Service Program for Children which expanded to School Breakfast Program, and child nutrition projects.

**1993**

Toilet Replacement  
New toilets were available at no cost to low-income families.

**1994**

CAP  
Program provided money management and nutrition classes in Spanish, Vietnamese, and English with sessions dedicated to farm workers.

**1991**

Appliance Repair and Replacement  
Repair or replacement of furnaces, stoves, ovens, and water heaters in family homes.

**1991**

Commodity Supplemental Food Program  
Provides supplemental foods and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, postpartum and breast feeding women, infants, and children up to the age of six.

**1994**

Share Our Strength  
Grant supported CDC Summer food service programs.

**1994**

OC Rent/Loan Assistance  
Project tracked clients served with county funds for rent-loan program.



**1995**

CSBG Discretionary Fund

The Board of Directors created a community investment that provided discretionary grants to community organizations.

**1996**

Caller ID Program

Community education on caller ID and call blocking options.

**1997**

Computer Technology Partnership

A program to salvage and rehabilitate used computers and put them into the hands of low-income families and schools.



**1998**

Family Resource Centers

Took over management and operations at the El Modena Community Center.

**1996**

Soup Kitchen

We became the first food bank in the state to directly receive, store and distribute USDA commodities designed for distribution to soup kitchens and others preparing meals for the homeless.



**1996**

Community Mentor Partnership

Enabled collaboration of approximately 30 organizations and business dedicated to provide mentors to at-risk youth.



**1997**

First Things First Coalition

Created a coalition with more than 60 community organizations to reach out to help low-income residents enroll in health insurance programs.



**2003**

Name Change

We changed our name from Community Development Council to Community Action Partnership of Orange County.

**1999**

Family Resource Centers

Took over management and operations at the Anaheim Community Center.

**2000**

Fact Finding

To Strengthen and Transition Community Centers to Family Resource Centers.

**2002**

Rapid Deployment to Respond to Energy Crisis

Launched a variety of programs and services to help the poor during California's energy crisis.

**2000**

Community Services

Department that works in collaboration with diverse sectors to impact community problems.



**2002**

Food Stamp Outreach Coalition

Formed a coalition with the County Social Services Agency to increase enrollment into the Food Stamp Program.

**2003**

5-A-Day Powerplay

Teach kids to make healthy choices for good nutrition and to engage in physical activities.



**2003**  
Santa Ana Ombudsmen Outreach to residents in Santa Ana to enroll them into employment and self-sufficiency programs.

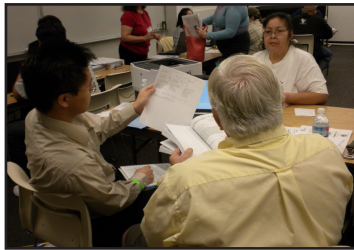
**2003**  
Santa Ana Motel Families: Case Study  
Conducted a study of the needs of motel families in Santa Ana and made recommendations to address unmet needs.

**2008**  
Backpacks for Success  
We supply needy children with the basic necessities for a successful education.



**2008**  
Community Building Initiative  
Our parent leaders have gained knowledge and skills in leadership, advocacy, and nutrition to improve the well-being of their communities.

**2003**  
Financial Literacy & Development Account  
Piloted a program to help increase financial assets as a pathway out of poverty. We provided financial literacy, assisted low-income individuals to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit, enroll in Federal Food Programs and create savings.



**2004**  
Lead Elimination Action Partnership  
Undertook to collaborate with others to end childhood lead poisoning as a public health threat that results from lead hazards in low-income homes.

**2009**  
ARRA Grants  
We received a \$6 million governmental grant to help create jobs.

**2012**  
Farm 2 Kids  
We give elementary school children fresh fruit each month and educate them on the importance of healthy eating habits.



**THANK YOU**

We do not do this work alone. Working with our donors, volunteers, local businesses, and the community, we are finding solutions and resources to help people help themselves, and build strong communities. Together, we will fulfill America's promise to the poor by reinvesting in our community so that we can help meet basic needs, create financial stability, further educational advancement, and provide employment opportunities.

We create change that results in a better and brighter community. With your support, we are excited to celebrate our net 50 years of service. Thank you!

**Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.**

### **SOME OF OUR 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

With your support, we raised \$1,501,832.51 that produced the following results to make a difference in 2013 and attack the underlying conditions that contribute to poverty:

- Our Orange County Food Bank distributed 18,226,621 pounds of food to nearly 400 partners that served 174,957 low-income children, families, seniors, and veterans.
- We assisted 1,826 people in applying for food stamps amounting in \$266,012 in initial first month benefits.
- We provided minor home repairs and weatherized 1,499 low-income homes that will help the poor reduce their utilities bills.
- Through our utility assistance program, we helped 4,017 households from having their utilities shut off.
- We reached 119,049 low-income children and their families through our nutrition and physical education programs, educating them on the benefits of exercise and physical activity to prevent childhood obesity.
- 22,000 low-income seniors were provided a monthly box of food.
- 316 school age children were enrolled in our afterschool and youth development programs receiving tutoring in writing, math, sciences and the arts.
- 700 youth received backpacks filled with school supplies at the start of the school year.
- 12 students received their GED through our ACCESS program at our El Modena Family Resource Center.
- We built a community garden in a crime infested and deteriorated community that was slated for demolition. A garden now thrives and affordable housing will be built in that neighborhood. We planted the seeds for hope and opportunity.

If you would like to get involved in the Community Action movement or make a donation, please contact:  
support@capoc.org or call 714.897.6670 ext. 3404  
or visit [www.capoc.org/getinvolved](http://www.capoc.org/getinvolved)