

ORGANIZED COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.



**IMPACT
REPORT
2023**

CHASE, S. - BRUNDIDGE HEAD START

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

ORGANIZED COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.

507 N. THREE NOTCH STREET
TROY, ALABAMA 36081

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Community Action Partnership Serving:
BULLOCK, BUTLER, COVINGTON, CRENSHAW,
DALE, LOWNDES & PIKE COUNTIES

Head Start Program Serving:
BULLOCK, BUTLER, COFFEE
CRENSHAW, DALE, & PIKE COUNTIES

Greetings!

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the historic Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 that established the community action network alongside other programs and services seeking social equality, it is vitally important to remember why we do the work that we do. It is an honor and privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board for the Organized Community Action Program, Inc.

Our Agency is an intricate part of our service areas. As we selflessly advocate and eliminate societal and economic barriers that inhibit individuals and households from living more fulfilling lives.

Here at OCAP, Inc., we are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those who are most vulnerable. Each program our agency offers is intended to maximize every public and private dollar entrusted to us while delivering the greatest impact to our communities.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to all of our community Partners, funding sources, staff members and fellow Board of Directors.

I close with the community action promise, *community action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of home, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

Respectfully,

Brenson Crenshaw

HISTORY OF OCAP

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was enacted to mobilize the human and financial resources of the nation to combat poverty in the United States. America can achieve its full economic and social potential only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of their capabilities and to participate in the working of our society. It is the policy of the United States to allow everyone the opportunity for education and the opportunity to work to live in decency and dignity.

It is the purpose of this Act to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts in furtherance of that policy. **Under Title II, Section 201 of the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) of 1964, provisions were made for the establishment of General Community Action Programs.** The purpose being, to provide stimulation and incentive for urban and rural communities to mobilize their resources to combat poverty through Community Action Programs.

The Alabama State Office of Economic Opportunity was established in the early part of 1965 with M. C. Colley, a local Troy resident as assistant director. Then, Sam Sawyer, a local businessman, was elected Chairman of the group. This established the Parent Organization that later became the Board of Directors of the Organized Community Action Program, Area 23, or OCAP as it is known today. In 1966, Sawyer resigned as Chairman, and Attorney Jackson W. Stokes became Chairman of the Board of Directors. It was under Attorney Stokes' leadership that this organization became a **non-profit corporation**. All legal procedures were completed and filed in the office of the Probate Judge of Pike County on October 12, 1966.

By April 15, 1967, OCAP was complying with all OEO requirements, organizing itself into a workable organization, and writing up new proposals to begin at the end of the six month trial period. In August of 1967, OCAP received a grant for a Rural Resource Service Program that allowed OCAP to open up branch offices over three county areas. **Workers went to target areas and assessed the true needs of the people, made referrals, and explained the services existing within their communities that they were entitled to.**

OCAP continues this grassroots approach today, extending our reach into the depths of our most vulnerable communities and being the conduit between needs and resources. Our services continue to grow in ways to eradicate social and economic barriers that prevent our families from becoming self-sufficient.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ALABAMA BUSINESS CHARITABLE TRUST FUND

ABC Trust (ABCT) assists low-income families alleviate household burdens. The programs administered under this funding are Emergency Heating, Emergency Cooling and Emergency Food and Shelter. ABCT also provides assistance with simple home repairs in coordination with OCAP's Weatherization Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

CSBG aims to assist low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency. Services vary based on the identified needs in OCAP's service area. Those seeking assistance under this program household income must not exceed 125% of the federally established poverty level.

EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER

Funds awarded through the Emergency Food and Shelter (EF&S) National Board Program provides emergency assistance to individuals without means to provide for themselves. Under this program, OCAP can make a one-time rent or mortgage payment to prevent eviction or foreclosure. OCAP also helps to alleviate food insecurity within communities by making contributions to local food pantries.

FATHERHOOD-MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVE

In partnership with the Department of Human Resources and the State of Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Children's Trust Fund, this initiative promotes healthy relationships between parents, both custodial and noncustodial, and their children through support and empowering efforts to be responsible parents. Most participants of this initiative are referred by the Child Support Court System and DHR in Bullock, Crenshaw and Pike Counties

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LIHEAP seeks to help low-income families meet the costs of home energy, defined as heating and cooling of residences, and to increase their energy self-sufficiency and reduce their vulnerability resulting from energy needs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

OCAP owns 328 housing units throughout Butler, Dale, Houston, Pike and St. Clair Counties. These low-income housing developments were constructed through the OCAP Housing Development Board, in partnership with Alabama Housing and Finance Authority (AHFA).

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WX aspires to reduce energy costs for low-income households, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities and families with children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. In order to receive assistance, the applicant's income must not exceed 200% of the federally established poverty level.

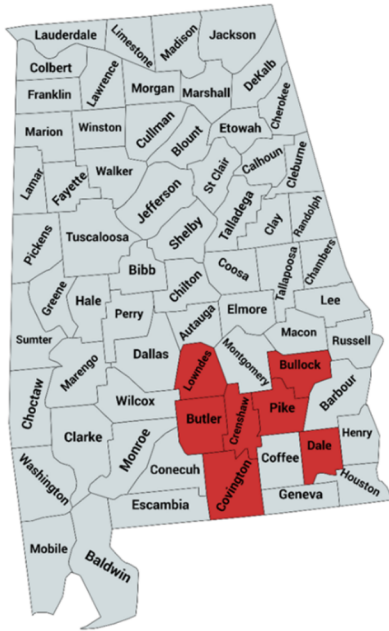
HEAD START

The Philosophy of OCAP's Head Start program is to construct and initiate a comprehensive family service program that meets the immediate needs of all eligible families, focusing on the utilization of programmatic objectives designed to promote parent participation and develop self-study skills, thus moving families towards self-reliance. We know and believe that each child is unique and has different lived experiences, current needs, and are connected by their shared potential to excel academically. Students are taught pre-school subjects to help fulfill their development potential.

Meeting the community's need, OCAP has introduced Early Head Start to Coffee and Pike Counties with aspirations to have EHS in every Head Start center.



SERVICE AREA SNAPSHOT



OCAP, Inc.'s seven-county service area has a social vulnerability index score of .76, which is greater than the State of Alabama's average of .63. This index measures the degree to which a community exhibits certain social conditions, including high poverty, low percentage of vehicle access / public transportation, or crowded households, may affect that community's ability to prevent human suffering and its ability alleviate poverty-related conditions. Lowndes County is the most vulnerable county within the service area with an index of .90 while Crenshaw County is more resilient with an index of .60.

A total of **173,301 individuals** live in OCAP, Inc.'s 4,988.35 square mile service area.

67% of OCAP's customers are **female** which aligns with 2020 U.S. Census that shows 51.03% of the area's population is female; **17%** is between the ages of **25 and 44**

Conversely to the service area's racial demographics - 63.4% Caucasian, 31% African American, and 5.6% other; **80%** of OCAP, Inc.'s customers are **African American**

11.35% of OCAP, Inc.'s service area have, at least, a college bachelor's degree, while **37.30%** ended their formal education after attaining a high school diploma. The majority (**46%**) of customers hold a **high school diploma or GED** while **4%** hold at least a Bachelor's degree.

Single households account for **90%** of OCAP's customers. Married individuals account for **6%** and **5%** are widow/widowers.

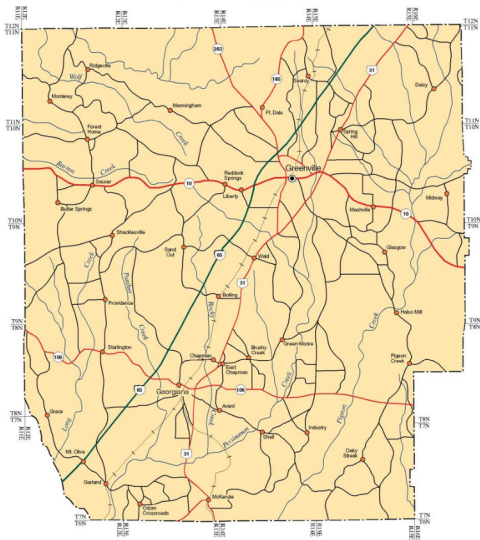
The Top Concerns of the Service Area:

Neighborhood/Community Concern: Employment Opportunities

Family Concern: Paying Necessary Bills (Gas, Water, Rent, etc.)

Community Sector Neighborhood/Community: Crime, Violence and Drug Abuse

BUTLER COUNTY



BUTLER COUNTY ACHIEVEMENTS

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$2.2M** in
Butler County, impacting **2,393**
households in Fiscal Year 2023

Head Start provided **150 children**
and families with comprehensive
early-childhood and family services.

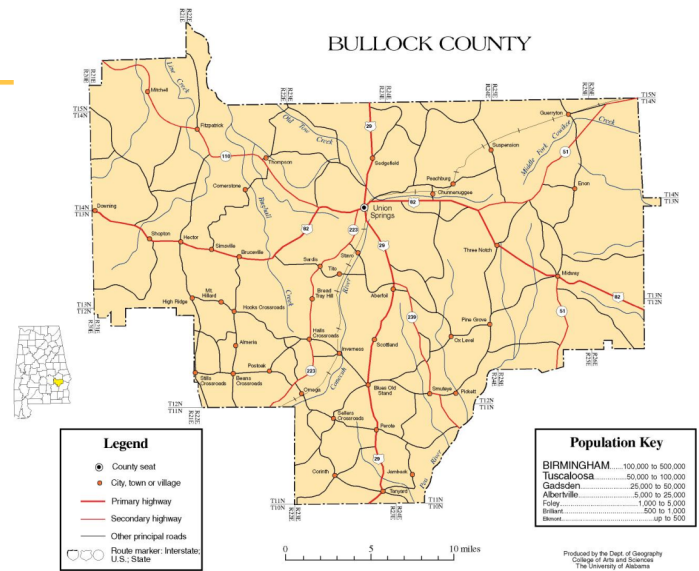
A total of **51,180 meals** were distributed
throughout the program year.

2,239 households received assistance
to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or
other emergency situations.

Four households improved their living
conditions through the Weatherization
Program

BULLOCK COUNTY

ACHIEVEMENTS



OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$1.3M** into Bullock County, to help combat the causes of poverty, impacting **1,324 households** in Fiscal Year 2023

Head Start provided **68 children and families** with comprehensive early-childhood and family services.

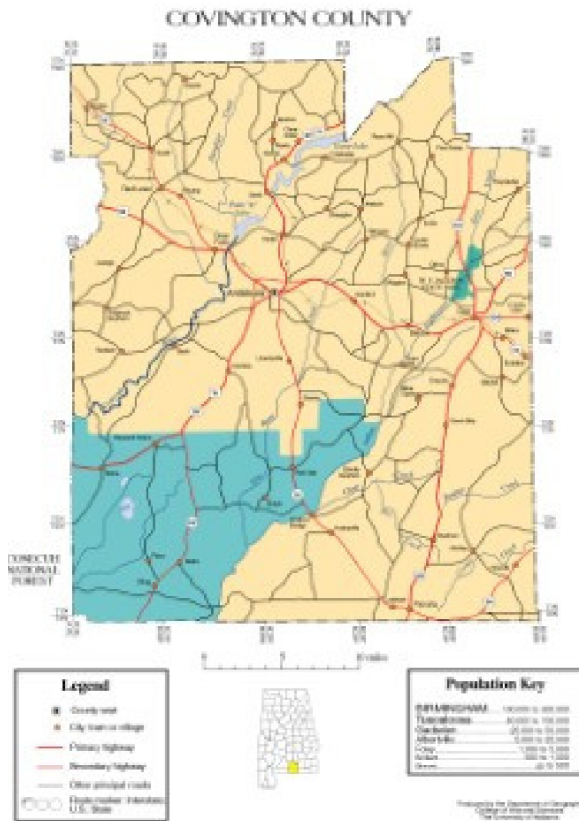
A total of **15,552 meals** were distributed throughout the program year.

1,242 households received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.

10 mothers and fathers improved their relationships with their child(ren) through their involvement with the Fatherhood-Motherhood Initiative.

OCAP Inc. successfully credentialed **one** individual from Bullock County to become a certified welder through its workforce development program, Pay-to-Learn.

Four households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program



COVINGTON COUNTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

2,562 households received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$2.6M** in Covington County, impacting **2,567 households** in Fiscal Year 2023

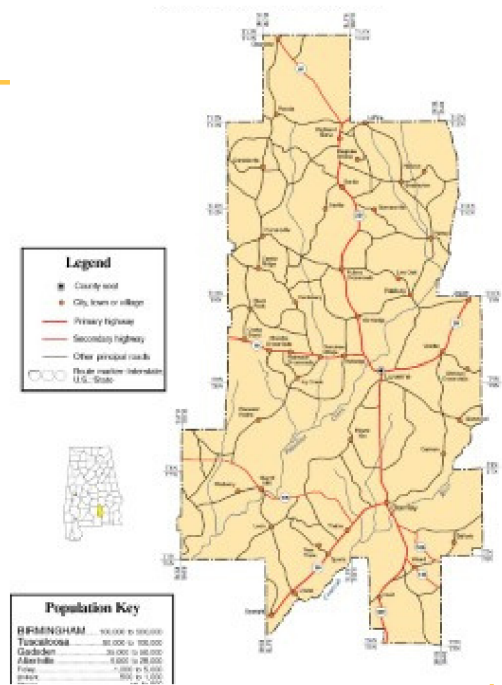


Five households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program

CRENSHAW COUNTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$1.4M** in Crenshaw County, impacting **1,328 households** in Fiscal Year 2023



Head Start provided **20 children and families** with comprehensive early-childhood and family services.

A total of **6,996 meals** were distributed throughout the program year.

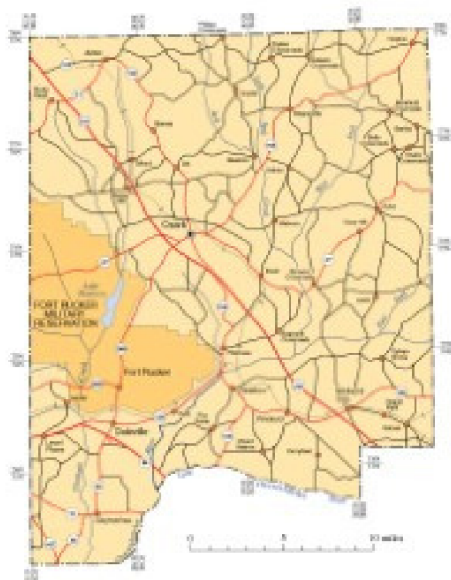
1,284 households received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.

20 mothers and fathers improved their relationships with their child(ren) through their involvement with the Fatherhood-Motherhood Initiative.

OCAP Inc. successfully credentialed **one** individual from Crenshaw County to become a certified welder through its workforce development program, Pay-to-Learn.

Four households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program

DALE COUNTY



Population Key	
DEMOGRAPHIC	100,000 +
Suburban	50,000 +
Centerville	25,000 +
Monticello	10,000 +
Other	5,000 +
Other	1,000 +
Other	500 +
Other	250 +



Legend	
County seat	City/town/village
Primary highway	Secondary highway
Other principal roads	Highway/interstate
U.S. State	

Prepared by the Dept. of Geography
The University of Alabama

DALE COUNTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Head Start provided **45 children and families** with comprehensive early-childhood and family services.

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$2.2M** in Dale County, impacting **2,176 households** in Fiscal Year 2023

A total of **14,564 meals** were distributed throughout the program year.

2,126 households received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.

Five households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program

LOWNDES COUNTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$2.8M** in Lowndes County, impacting **2,737 households** in Fiscal Year 2023



Population Key	
Population	100,000+
Population	50,000 - 100,000
Population	25,000 - 50,000
Population	10,000 - 25,000
Population	5,000 - 10,000
Population	1,000 - 5,000
Population	500 - 1,000
Population	100 - 500

0 1 2 Miles



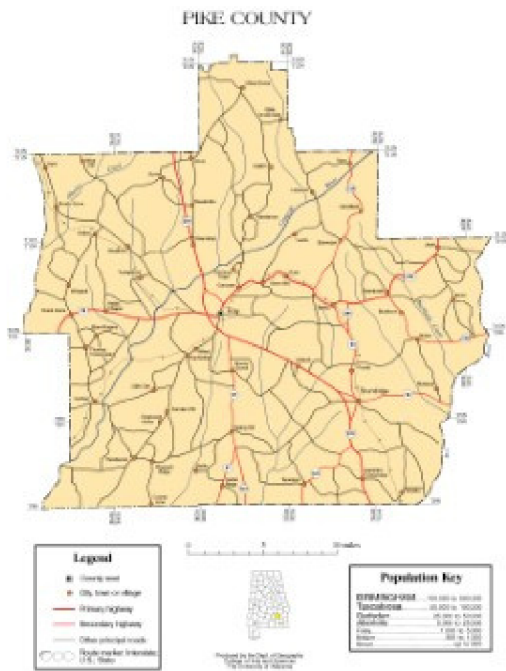
Legend	
County seat	●
City, town or village	▲
Primary highway	—
Secondary highway	—
Other paved roads	—
Unpaved roads	—
Other paved roads	—
Unpaved roads	—

Two households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program

2,735 households

received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.





PIKE COUNTY

ACHIEVEMENTS

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$2.9M** in Pike County, impacting **2,714 households** in Fiscal Year 2023

Head Start and Early Head Start provided **20 children and families** with comprehensive early-childhood and family services.

A total of **29,291 meals** were distributed throughout the program year.

2,589 households received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.

33 mothers and fathers improved their relationships with their child(ren) through their involvement with the Fatherhood-Motherhood Initiative.

OCAP Inc. successfully credentialed **six** individuals from Pike County to become a certified welder through its workforce development program, Pay-to-Learn.

Eight households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program

ADDITIONAL IMPACT AREAS

OUTSIDE OF OCAP'S PRIMARY SERVICE AREA

OCAP, Inc. Invested **\$202K** in Coffee County, impacting **2,393 households** in Fiscal Year 2023

Head Start provided **150 children and families** with comprehensive early-childhood and family services in Coffee County.

A total of **51,180 meals** were distributed throughout the program year.

2,239 households received assistance to help alleviate burdens related to utility, rental, or other emergency situations.

SIX households improved their living conditions through the Weatherization Program in Barbour, Coffee & Houston Counties

The OCAP Housing Development Board provided **328 income based Housing Units** to eligible families in Butler, Conecuh, Dale, Pike, & St. Clair Counties.



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Samantha Turner, am writing this letter to let you know about how appreciative I am of Crenshaw County's OCAP (Organized Community Action Program) and their help over the years. I have been given assistance through the weatherization program and received assistance with paying my heating and light bills.

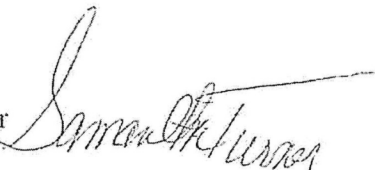
The interaction with the employees was always pleasant, whenever I have called to ask questions, request an appointment and at the actual appointment. They are very knowledgeable and offer help in any way they can.

I am grateful to OCAP for all their assistance and help that I have received over the years. I think it is a wonderful program that has helped many citizens of Crenshaw County.

Again, I would like to say I am very thankful for all OCAP's help and assistance.

Sincerely,

Samantha Turner



CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

I would like to share with you what an impact the help from Ocapi has made in my life as well as my family.

The generosity and kindness that has been shown has saved me. I am very thankful and blessed for all the help.

My story begins as I was made to lose my job to gain custody of my premature grand daughter CaLee.

She only weighed 4lbs 2oz and has a heart defect, ~~peripheral~~ peripheral pulmonary stenosis. It put me in a situation to be unemployed for almost 4 months. I only had income of 492.00 month it could not pay everything Ocapi has paid for electricity, gas and water. Thank you for everything without Ocapi I would have lost my child plus my sick grandchild would have gone into foster care and I would be homeless. To all the people and organizations, companies that fund Ocapi thank you. A special thanks to Ms Lisa for always helping and having a ~~kind~~ kind uplifting word to me she always asked about CaLee. That meant a lot I am humbled today as before now I didn't realize what wonderful

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL CONTINUED

work and services OCAP offers to
people like me in communities everywhere.
OCAP you are truly miracle workers
and all recipients that get benefits
from you should be eternally thankful.

OCAP saved my family

Thank you from the bottom of my
heart

Amela Davis
and family

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services

Enhancing the health and well-being of all Americans

TROY
UNIVERSITY™



**CHARITABLE
TRUST FUND**

ADECA
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs



*children's trust fund
of alabama*

 Alabama Power

preventing child abuse
and neglect



**TROY
BANK
& TRUST**



Proud member of the Community Action Network
Helping People, Changing Lives

SPECIAL THANK YOU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bullock County:	Alonza Ellis, William Hodge, Gary Lewis
Butler County:	Tom Braxton, Carolyn Griffin, Edward Robinson
Crenshaw County:	Lisa Brown, Alroy McGhee, David Sankey
Covington County:	Susan Harris, Mack Hines, Terry Powell
Dale County:	Dana Courtney, Edna Green, Eric Minniefield
Lowndes County:	Arlean Allen, Brenson Crenshaw, Joshua Simmons
Pike County:	Mary Griffin, Catherine Jordan, Michael MaKau

SPECIAL THANK YOU POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brundidge Head Start:	Quanisha Walker, Roderick Bridges
Elba Head Start:	Alexandra Horton, Faith Gilley
Enterprise Head Start:	Constance Conrad-Jones, Chasity Cole
Georgiana Head Start:	Tiara Stallworth, Ciara Palmer
Luverne Head Start:	Christina Hall, Jasmine Hawkins
Ozark Head Start:	Alexus Rothwell
Troy Head Start:	Laeprish Davis
Union Springs Head Start:	Jamelia Clark
Community Representatives:	Paul Mitchell, Shantell Rouse