



Community Action Wayne/Medina

Providing LEADERSHIP in FAMILY
EDUCATION and SELF-SUFFICIENCY



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(THURSDAYS ONLY)

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Collect Calls Accepted

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www.cawm.org

Working to narrow the opportunity gap.

Since 1966, Community Action Wayne/Medina has worked to help people help themselves. As a non-profit community agency, CAW/M dedicates its resources to serving the resource-challenged populations of Wayne and Medina Counties through a strong network of supportive services that promote self-sufficiency based on our customers' needs.

Our staff, CAW/M Board of Directors, the Head Start Policy Council and countless volunteers partner to leverage local, state and federal resources to strengthen the health, welfare and education opportunities for the families we serve. Head Start sites are scattered throughout both service counties to provide convenient access.

Through an ongoing focus on current community needs, CAW/M cultivates innovative solutions to poverty. Its Head Start programs work to close the opportunity gap through a two-generation approach, assisting families in developing and supporting education for their children. CAW/M's economic assistance programs support people in achieving their goals for their financial well-being and housing stability.

When our low-income neighbors flourish, the entire community benefits.

"We came in looking for help with our gas bill and left with information about housing, Head Start, and how to get a better job!"
- CAW/M Customer

OUR MISSION

We strengthen the community through collaborations and services by promoting self-sufficiency, household stability and family and childhood education.

Child & Family Development

Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS)® is a program that serves eligible pregnant women, infants, toddlers and preschoolers through age 5 and their families.

- **HS/EHS**® promotes social, emotional, intellectual and physical development through health, nutrition, mental health, dental health, developmentally appropriate education, social services, parent engagement and services to children with disabilities (in partnership with Help Me Grow) and Preschool Special Education programs through sites scattered throughout both service counties.
- **HS/EHS**® promotes parents as the primary educators of their children by providing them with tools to enhance their role from pregnancy to the child's kindergarten year and beyond.
- **HS**® services are offered at eight locations, four in each county. The program year runs from late August until mid-May with the exception of one full working day session at the Wooster 3 location. Priority is given to families with a JFS Childcare Voucher.
- **HS/EHS**® are available as home-based services. This option includes a once weekly home visit by a trained Family Visitor and twice-monthly socialization activities designed for adults and children to interact and learn with their peers.
- **All of CAW/M's centers are 5-star Step Up to Quality rated, the highest possible rating.**

Safety Programs emphasize the prevention of unintentional injuries to children and youth. CAW/M provides services using a curriculum that includes pedestrian and school bus safety, hands on demonstrations, child passenger safety seat check-ups by a Certified Safety Seat Technician, and no-cost child passenger safety seats for eligible parents.

Energy Services & Economic Assistance

Housing Assistance Program (HAP) aids eligible homeowners with home repairs that impact health and safety issues, including handicap accessibility access.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency, and is designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating. HEAP pays a one-time payment for most PUCO regulated utility customers reflecting their usage for the current winter heating season as well as a credit to a bulk fuel company toward the purchase of heating oil, propane, kerosene, wood or coal.

Winter Crisis Program (WCP) provides a onetime per heating season financial assistance to benefit low-income households that: are threatened with disconnection of their heating source, have already had service disconnected, need to establish new service or pay a transfer of service charge, have 25% or less of the fuel capacity of their tank.

Summer Crisis Program (SCP) is a special component of HEAP and it provides summer cooling assistance for low income elderly households and for Ohioans with qualifying medical conditions. This program applies to electric utilities only and usually runs from July 1st through August 31st.

Fuel Fund Programs offer aid funded by the public companies during winter crisis months. Income criteria and guidelines vary by program.

PIPP Plus is an income-based payment plan for those with household incomes up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. The utility company must be a regulated gas or electric utility.

Free Transportation helps individuals who need assistance getting to medical appointments, as well as shopping, social service appointments, or personal errands. In Wayne County, the program includes two free, round trip rides per month in county / one free round trip ride for those inside Wooster City limits, as well as out of county medical appointments as needed and as funding is available. Rides must be requested at least 24 hours in advance. In Medina County, the free options include unlimited rides on the Medina Transit fixed route and passes for the Medina Transit demand route option.

Wooster Transportation Program is operated by CAW/M. Participants must be a City of Wooster resident, fall within low-income guidelines, be a veteran/active military, a senior citizen, or have a disability. Call for current program features.

Mobility Management enhances access to mobility for seniors, people with disabilities and other transportation disadvantaged people by providing travel training, coordinating transportation options to meet the public needs, and building sustainable and healthy communities by integrating transportation into planning and programs throughout Wayne County.

Car Repair assists low-income individuals who do not qualify for repair assistance at any other agencies. The program allows for one repair up to \$750. The applicant must prove they are the owner of the vehicle, have car insurance, a valid driver's license, and three repair estimates from certified mechanics. Repairs are offered as funds are available and can be accessed every 2 years.

Rittman Outreach/Food Pantry serves families in the Rittman area with an emergency three-day supply of food, as well as taking appointments and walk-ins for utility assistance and any other CAW/M programs.

Bridges out of Poverty and Workforce Stability is a framework for understanding poverty. The workshop helps participants to understand the causes of poverty, and how to build resources in order to create a path to eliminate poverty in our communities.

Getting Ahead is an eight-week program to help individuals who are struggling financially to build their resources, obtain the soft skills necessary to secure and keep a job, create a budget, and learn, then apply financial skills. After graduation, a life coach continues to guide progress in making and meeting goals.

Workplace Stability workshops help employers to recognize the range of factors that create instability for employees and how that impacts the bottom line for their business. By better understanding these issues, employers are guided through different options that can increase productivity, retention, and morale.

Ohio Benefit Bank—Taxes assists families in submitting state and federal income taxes through a web-based program at no cost.

Spring Plant Program is a week-long program that provides free vegetables and flowers donated by local greenhouses to eligible families.

Volunteer Program gives the community an opportunity to make a difference through CAW/M. Opportunities are available for individuals or teams throughout the year in both counties.