Community Action 2004-2007 Strategic Plan

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

OUR VISION: Washington County's residents are strong, resilient, involved in the community, and live with dignity and security.

OUR MISSION: In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination.

OUR CORE COMPETENCIES: Community Action

- has a genuine concern and knowledge regarding the needs of the low-income Community
- is recognized, respected and works collaboratively with funders and other service providers
- is a community leader in the area of early childhood development
- is a catalyst in community efforts to address homelessness and affordable housing

2004-2007 Key Strategic Directions:

1. Bridge the Gap Between Poverty and Economic Self-Determination

- a. Lead the effort to define the gap between poverty and self-determination.
- b. Pursue sustainable growth that builds on our core service areas of early childhood, emergency needs, and self-sufficiency.
- c. Take reasonable risks in making program and infrastructure investments to increase effectiveness.

2. Increase Our Capacity to Address Issues of Poverty

- a. Focus and clarify our message on poverty and our mission.
- b. Diversify and increase resources, including appropriate income-producing strategies.
- c. Expand community partnerships with a focus on faith-based organizations.

Lead Efforts to Strengthen Community's Response to Poverty

- a. Serve as a knowledgeable resource to policy makers and leaders considering poverty related initiatives.
- b. Leverage the leadership power of board and staff to impact public opinion.
- c. Increase educational efforts to improve community response to poverty.
- d. Build public awareness and support that result in public policies that effectively address poverty.

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- c. Expand community partnerships with a focus on faith-based organizations.

Lead Efforts to Strengthen Community's Understanding of and Response to Poverty

- a. Serve as a knowledgeable resource to policy makers and opinion leaders considering poverty related initiatives.
- b. Leverage the leadership power of board and staff to create a supportive mindset on issues of poverty.
- c. Increase educational efforts to improve community response to poverty.
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I. Bridge the Gap Between Poverty and Economic Self-Determination

- a. Lead the effort to define the gap between poverty and self-determination.
- b. Pursue sustainable growth that builds on our core service areas of early childhood, emergency needs, and self-sufficiency.

II. Increase Our Capacity to Address Issues of Poverty

- a. Focus and clarify our message on poverty and our mission.
- b. Diversify and increase resources, including appropriate income-producing strategies.
- c. Expand community partnerships with a focus on faith-based organizations.
- d. Take reasonable risks in making program investments to increase effectiveness.

III. Lead Efforts to Strengthen Community's Understanding of and Response to Poverty

- a. Serve as a knowledgeable resource to policy makers and opinion leaders considering poverty related initiatives.
- b. Leverage the leadership power of board and staff to create a supportive mindset on issues of poverty.
- c. Increase educational efforts to improve community response to poverty.
- d. Build public awareness and support that result in public policies that effectively address poverty.

IV. Position Community Action Infrastructure for Sustained Success

- a. Resolve building ownership issues and implement a plan.
- b. Use available technology more effectively; invest in IT/Web based databases.
- c. Achieve financial stability and eliminate agency deficit.
- d. Maintain a stable and qualified workforce.