

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Helping People. Changing Lives.

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## BRIDGES

### Community Action Partnership

*Serving Families in Champaign, Delaware, Logan, Madison, Shelby, and Union counties in Ohio*

#### PRESENTED BY:

Ian Evans, Board President  
Andrew Binegar, Executive Director

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Ohio Association of  
Community Action Agencies

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To our Partners and Friends:

We are pleased to present you with the Bridges Community Action Partnership's Annual Report for 2021, our 56<sup>th</sup> year of service as a Community Action Agency in west central Ohio.

We thought that 2020 was a tough year, but 2021 seemed to be just as hard to get through. Although, once again, we saw our agency and staff reach levels we have never seen before!

The pandemic has changed our way of life, inflicted dire consequences in our communities, and challenged the strength of our collective spirit. Most importantly, it has caused us to plan better, think clearer, and act faster.

Thankfully, we are continually reminded that, despite the constant adaptations and obstacles, our communities have pulled together to get through. Pulling together, working together-concepts that are at the core of Community Action.

Our team has worked diligently with tenants and landlords alike to avert hundreds of families from being evicted. Our Weatherization program has built bridges with private contractors to increase our ability to help people's homes be warmer, more comfortable, and more affordable, and our housing/homeless department have helped many people remain in their homes.

All in all, we have had a busy year even as the pandemic remains in the forefront of our conversations. We just hope that this next year brings us positive thoughts and solutions.

Enjoy this report that highlights the amazing reach and outcomes of our programs. The undercurrent of all that good work is unheralded efforts of our staff, volunteers, partner agencies and community-minded businesses to build a network to lift those most in need.

We truly appreciate your ongoing support as we continue to serve people the best we can!!

Sincerely,

*Andrew Binegar*

Andrew Binegar  
Executive Director

*Ian Evans*

Ian Evans  
Board President

## ADMINISTRATION STAFF



Andrew  
Binegar  
  
Executive  
Director



Marla  
George  
  
Associate  
Director



Kari  
Eckard  
  
CFO



Alexis  
Tilson  
  
HR  
Director



Theresa  
Buchanan  
  
Emergency  
Services  
Director



Wanetta  
(Marie)  
Dunston  
  
Empowerment  
Services  
Director



Brian  
Barnhill  
  
Associate  
Director of  
Finance



Nicholas  
Riley  
  
Admin/HR  
Assistant

## AGENCY STAFF

Alisha Shingler  
Amanda Foster  
Amanda Hilgefert  
Amber Green  
Amy Bryant  
Anthony Cooper  
Ashlynn Roberts-Engley  
Bart Disbennett  
Brianna Robinson  
Britany Watts  
Brooke Bolden

Cassandra Fultz  
Charissa Thomas  
CJ Miller  
Christopher Eirich  
Danielle Smith  
Dana Raines  
David Curnutte  
Diana Coffman  
Eileen Henderson  
Gabrielle Spencer  
Heather Bumgarner

Hunter Roberts  
Gail Gabel  
Jeff Groat  
Jenifer Weber  
John Simpson  
Jonnie Akers  
JoVanna Faggs  
Julie Livingston  
Kim Hoelscher  
Kim Taylor  
Laura Dillard

Lynda Lukey  
Marcella Barhorst  
Martin Bowersmith  
Melanie Miller  
Michael Brewer  
Michael Duncan  
Michelle Durfey  
Mitch Marshall  
Oshzina Colwell  
Pauline Klinger  
Payton Conrad

Robert Zimmer  
Roxanna Hamrick  
Ruth Snare  
Samantha Shaw  
Shayla Mullins  
Stephanie Hoving  
Stephanie Kibbey  
Susan Loudenback  
Taja Jones  
Tamara Reid  
Tracy Kinniard

## HOW WE SERVE

### Mission Statement:

Bridges empowers people in need by partnering with them to better their lives and realize personal prosperity.

### Vision Statement:

Joining together and connecting with people to build a bridge of hope, prosperity, and equality in our community.

### CORE VALUES:

- I** – Integrity
- C** – Compassion
- A** – Accountability
- R** – Respect
- E** – Excellence



# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provided by Bridges Community Action Partnership helps income eligible households' combat extreme costs associated with cold winters and hot summers. Every year, the Agency provides the energy assistance program to our six-county area. Families throughout the six-county area struggle with the high cost of home energy bills and face the stress of disconnection threats from the energy providers.

The goal of HEAP is to assist the most vulnerable individuals in our communities. Once approved for a HEAP benefit, the family or individual receives a one-time credit that is applied to both their electric and gas provided.

BRIDGES provided energy assistance to **4,688** households this past year.

## WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM

The Winter Crisis Program falls under our Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). In our HEAP Winter Crisis Program, the agency helps with utilities (natural gas and electric), heating with wood, corn pellets, or coal and providing bulk propane or fuel oil. To use this assistance for heating with bulk propane or fuel oil, the individual must have a notice of disconnect or 25%/25 days or less of bulk fuel.

This program will run November 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>. To be eligible the total household income must be at or below 175% of federal poverty guidelines.

Last winter, BRIDGES provided assistance to **1,530** households.

## SUMMER CRISIS PROGRAM

The Summer Crisis Program also falls under our Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). In our HEAP Summer Crisis Program, the agency helps with utilities (electric only), by providing air conditioners once every three years, by providing fans once every three years, and assisting with deposits on new services or transfers of old bills.

This program will run July 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup> and is offered in all six counties. To be eligible the total household income must be at or below 175% of federal poverty guidelines and must be 60+ years of age or medical documentation is required.

Last summer, BRIDGES provided assistance to **744** households.



# EMERGENCY SERVICES – CONTINUED

## PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PLAN

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) is another energy assistance option available at Bridges. PIPP makes energy bills more affordable to customers by entering a monthly budget billing payment plan based on utility usage with the participating utility company. The customer pays a portion of the budget billing and the State of Ohio pays the remaining amount. A PIPP customer pays approximately 6% of the total household income.



## MORTGAGE & RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Mortgage and Rental Assistance Program helps remove the fear of losing a home by getting rent or mortgage caught up and paying 3 months ahead. Mortgage lenders and landlords can be paid directly in full. To be eligible for this the total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines and have been financially impacted by COVID-19.



**139** households helped in 2021 with Mortgage Assistance and **4087** households were helped in 2021 with, Rent and Utility assistance related to COVID.

## UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Utility Assistance Program helps with past due bills, disconnection and deposits for water, trash, sewer, electric, gas, and bulk fuel. To be eligible for this the total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines and have been financially impacted by COVID-19.

## WORK RELATED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Work-Related Assistance Program helps those who have difficulty gaining or maintaining employment due to transportation needs, uniforms, and everything else that it takes to succeed in the workforce. Assistance with this includes clothing purchases (such as work boots, uniforms, and interview attire), transportation, childcare, training fees and other work-related expenses, assistance with barriers to employment such as funding GED exams. To be eligible, the total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

BRIDGES helped **14** people with work related barriers last year.

# EMPOWERMENT SERVICES

## GETTING AHEAD PROGRAM

Getting Ahead is a 9-week step-by-step life planning process and training offered to adults who are hardworking, play by the rules and are highly motivated to leave poverty behind. Training shows participants how to use the hidden rules of class to build positive relationships by working with co-investigators to research the cause of poverty and how to “get ahead”.

**9** individuals dug deep and learned significant skills to rise above poverty

In Getting Ahead, participants (investigators) examine their current situations to better understand how our society and economy work.

The two parts of this program are important to addressing poverty.

First, the Getting Ahead sessions help you create a mental model of poverty; discover the driving forces and hidden rules of social class; assess your resources; understand the barriers of change and develop your own unique life plan to move away from poverty.

Second, you will carry out your plans with the assistance of a mentor (ally) and share your knowledge about poverty to assist the community in planning and decision-making.

BRIDGES helped **39** people last year in our shelters.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

With our own private shelters in Madison and Shelby counties, we can help when a client is faced with homelessness. We understand and we are here to help the client get back on their feet and on the path toward self-sufficiency. Our priority is to ensure that our clients are safe with short term accommodations. This could include negotiating with the client’s current living arrangements to extend their stay, as we find them a more permanent residence.

If this is not an option, we may help by placing our clients in our own private shelters or other appropriate accommodations. When a new residence is secured, assistance is provided with gaining the necessities for starting over in a new residence.



# RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

## WEATHERIZATION

Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) helps with reducing energy costs by providing free weatherization and energy – saving services. These services can include home inspection for safety and energy efficiency, installation of insulation, reducing air leakage, repair or replace furnaces, and access to other repair programs.

To be eligible, the total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.



BRIDGES  
weatherized **90**  
homes last year  
with all 3 of our  
programs.

## COLUMBIA GAS WARM CHOICE

The Warm Choice program is funded by Columbia Gas. Customers of Columbia Gas, who qualify can use these services: home energy inspection, attic and wall insulation, air sealing, safety checks on gas appliances, and heating unit repair/replacement and weatherization.

To be eligible, the client must be a customer of Columbia Gas, the total household income must be at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. Mobile homes are not eligible on this program.

## VECTREN PROJECT TEEM

Project Teem is funded by Vectren. Customers of Vectren, who qualify, can use these services: home energy inspection, attic and wall insulation, air sealing, safety checks on gas appliances, and heating unit repair/replacement and weatherization.

To be eligible, the client must be a customer of Columbia Gas, the total household income must be 200 – 300 % of federal poverty guidelines. Mobile homes are not eligible on this program.

## ELDERLY HOME REPAIR

The Elderly Home Repair Program helps eligible homeowners over 60 years old with minor repairs to make their homes safer and more accessible.

This program provides services such as wheelchair ramps, grab bars or walk-in showers, plumbing, electrical repairs, roof repair/replacement, and heating unit repairs/replacement.

To be eligible, the client must be a homeowner. Although there is no income guideline, the client may be required to provide a copayment based on income.

We helped **38**  
elderly clients  
with repairs last  
year.





# RESIDENTIAL SERVICES – CONTINUED

## PROJECT SAFE HEAT

Project Safe Heat is an inspection and cleaning service of furnaces for homeowners over 60 years old in Delaware and Union Counties. Services include furnace clean and tune-up (safety inspection), free carbon monoxide detector, and other potential repairs up to \$500.00.

To be eligible, you must be a resident in Delaware or Union County and be a homeowner older than 60.

BRIDGES helped  
**31** households  
with Project Safe  
Heat last year.

## HOUSING TRUST FUND

The housing trust fund helps eligible low-income homeowners by helping with home repairs. These services include roof repairs/replacement, handicap modifications and accessibility, heating unit repair/replacement, electrical and plumbing services, health or safety issues, and minor home repair.

To be eligible, the total household income must be 50% of the area median income for your county. Only homeowners are eligible for this program.

BRIDGES helped  
**58** households  
with Housing  
Trust Fund last  
year.

## ELECTRIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Electric Partnership Program (EPP) helps by reducing the electricity usage of income – eligible Ohioans. By being an EPP provider, Bridge Community Action Agency can conduct in-home electricity audits, as well as installing appropriate energy – efficient measures.

To be eligible, the client must be a customer of AEP, DP&L, or Ohio Edison and the total household income must be below 150% of federal poverty guidelines.

BRIDGES helped  
**479** households  
with EPP.



## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - CONTINUED

### AEP OHIO

Those individuals who qualify for HEAP or PIPP plus, may be eligible to receive assistance from AEP making their home more energy efficient and reducing energy costs. AEP Ohio Low-Income Program is designed to work with the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) to provide free services and repairs making clients homes safer and more energy efficient. These services can include electrical safety inspections, electric furnace repair/replacement, electric hot water tank repair/replacement, insulation (all-electric homes only), CFL or LED light bulbs, and low-flow showerheads and faucet aerator replacement.

To be eligible, clients must be a customer of AEP and the total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.



### OHIO EDISON - COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Community Connections Program is funded by Ohio Edison. This program is designed to work with the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) to provide services including electrical safety inspections, electric furnace repair/replacement,

electric hot water tank repair/replacement, insulation (all-electric homes only), CFL or LED light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerator replacement and potential roof repairs. To be eligible, the client must be a customer of Ohio Edison. The total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.



### DP&L - SMART ENERGY

The smart Energy Program is funded by DP&L. This program is designed to work with the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP). This program can provide electrical safety inspections, electric furnace repair/replacement, electric hot water tank repair/replacement, insulation (all-electric homes only), CFL or LED light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerator replacement and potential roof repairs.

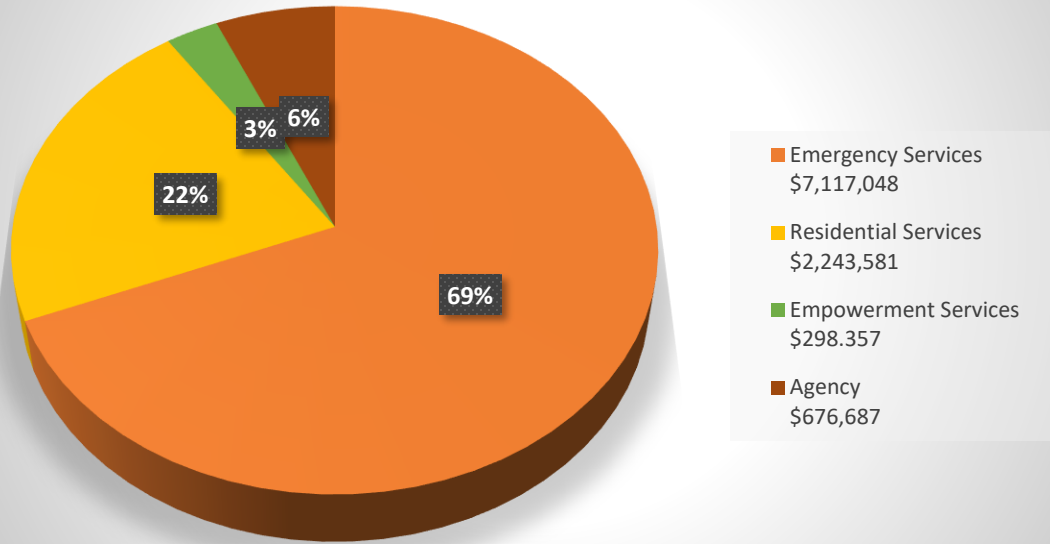
To be eligible, the client must be a customer of DP&L. The total household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.



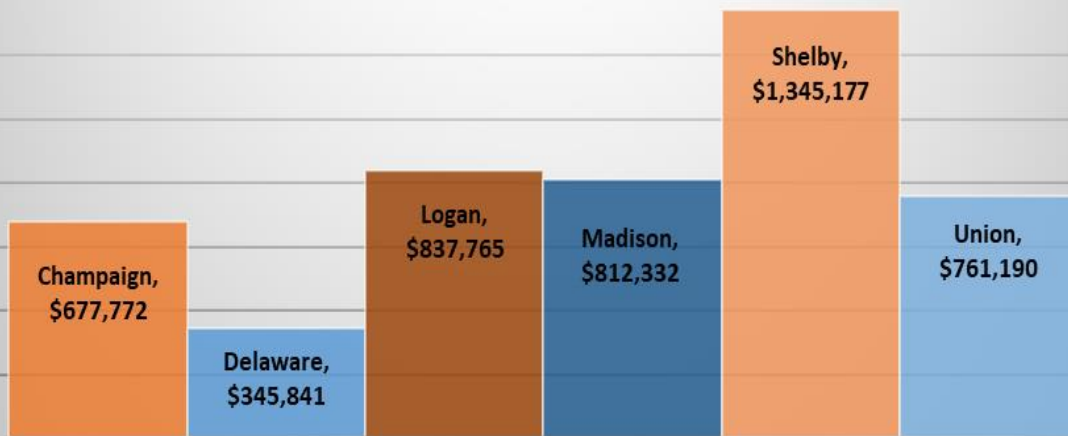
BRIDGES helped  
**46** households  
with our electric  
programs last  
year.

# FINANCIALS

## 2021 Expenditures by Department



## 2021 Client Assistance by County



## BRIDGES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ian Evans – Union County – President

Joe Antram – Logan County – Vice President

Stacy Cox - Champaign County– Treasurer

Cynthia Hefner - Logan County – Secretary

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Jacqueline Howley

Jan Engle

Marilyn Cohn

Stacey Logwood

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Barb Lewis

Lauren Kimmel

Lily Wiest

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### Logan County

Brooke Wage

Carrie Hunt

Joe Ziraldo

### Madison County

Chris Wallace

Heidi Sorden

Lori Dodge-Dorsey

Robin Bruno

Stuart Itani

### Shelby County

Bob Guillozet

Diann Rodrigues

Helen Hovestreydt-Scott

Judy Wells

### Union County

A-Jay Orr

Chris Schmenk

Jason King

Terry Emery

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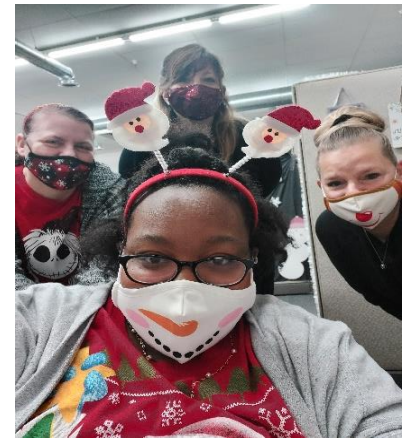
# BRIDGES

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COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP







Logan County  
165 E. Lake Street  
PO Box 74  
Lakeview, Ohio 43331

Union County  
232 N. Main Street  
Suite D  
Marysville, Ohio 43078

Shelby County  
950 Children's Home Rd  
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Delaware County  
555 Sunbury Road  
Delaware, Ohio  
43015

Champaign County  
1679 State Route 29  
Urbana, Ohio 43078

Madison County  
306 Lafayette Street  
Suite A  
London, Ohio 43140

