

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT



Cynthia Simpson
Executive Director

Stanley Jones
Board Chairman

Prepared By :
Demeka Lark Edwards



**PICKENS COUNTY
COMMUNITY ACTION
COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, INC.**



[www. caapickens.org](http://www.caapickens.org)



71 Lakeside St Carrollton, Al 35447



205-367-8166

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Promises of Community Action

Our Promise

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 we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Our Mission

Pickens County Community Action Committee and CDC, Inc. is dedicated to mobilizing resources in an effort to eliminate poverty and improve the quality of life for the low income and vulnerable populations.

Our Methodology

To provide low-income persons with the information, opportunities, education, and increase self-assurance that they need to become self-sufficient.

Our Philosophy

We believe that every individual seeks to be an asset to the community in which they live, and that circumstance sometimes interferes with one's ability to reach their full potential and to meet their individual needs and the continuing needs of their families. We believe that disadvantaged members of our community deserve to be supported in their effort to acquire the necessities of life, their quest to enter the mainstream of society, and in improving the quality of their life and the lives of their families. We believe that this support can be provided by creating access to community programs that are responsive to the needs of these individuals. The mobilization and coordination of local, state, and national resources will result in the creation of positive outcomes.

From the Executive Director

This Annual Report reflect the Program Year 2025–2026 for Pickens County Community Action Committee and Community Development Corporation, Inc. We are celebrating sixty-one (61) years of changing lives and revitalizing communities.

Pickens County Community Action Committee and Community Development Corporation, Inc. is responsible for providing services to the citizens and families of Pickens County. We work hard to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the mist of plenty. To provide transparency to the full scope of services provided by our Agency we present to the community as well as our federal and state funding partners a review of our success.

From my personal point of view, the success of the Pickens County Community Action Committee and Community Development Corporation, Inc. would not have been impactful without the tremendous support of the entire Organization and its Board of Directors. Because of our commitment to the Agency's mission, we have stepped out on faith and grasped opportunities that came our way. We were also blessed to have these opportunities fall on fertile ground.

This success is rooted in a coalition of team members that fully understand the call for community action, the needs of our community, and strategies designed to effectively mobilize community resources. This success lays upon a foundation provided by our Board of Directors that stood fearless in its pursuit of nontraditional opportunities that with unity of community will enhance the lives of the residents of Pickens County.

It is my honor and pleasure to serve Pickens County Community Action Committee and Community Development Corporation, Inc., Board of Directors, staff, and the residents of Pickens County through my role as the Executive Director.
Respectfully,

Ms. Cynthia W. Simpson, Executive Director





From the Chairman of the Board of Directors

It gives me great honor to present to the citizens of Pickens County, Alabama, the 2025 – 2026 Annual Report for the Pickens County Community Action Committee and Community Development Corporation, Inc.

Each year brings new challenges and new opportunities, and this report shows how our community rises to meet both.

We celebrate the achievements of our programs, the dedication of our staff, and the resilience of the families we serve. With continued partnership and purpose, we look forward to building an even brighter future. I encourage all stakeholders to continue working with us as we identify strategies to improve quality of life in Pickens County.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stanley Jones, Board Chairman

TAB 1

Agency's General Information

Board of Directors

Policy Council Members

Agency's Management Team Staff

Programs and Services

Agency's General Information



Pickens County Community Action Board of Directors

2025-2026

Mr. Stanley Jones, Chairman
Ms. Andrea Ellis-Morris, Vice Chairman
Mr. Charlie Taggart, Treasurer
Ms. Marva Gipson, Secretary
Mayor Craig Patterson
Mayor Donald Sherrod
Commissioner Patti Presley Fuller
Ms. Shirley Barnes
Ms. Gwendolyn Taylor
Attorney William King
Ms. Emma Forte'
Pastor Marcus Wright
Mr. Willie Colvin
Chief Anthony Durrah
Mr. Jimmy Garner
Mr. Lee Richarson
Ms. Cassandra Crawford
Mr. Fate Jones

**Pickens County Community Action Head Start
Policy Council Members
2025-2026**

Ms. Sandra Mayhew (Community Representative)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Henderson (Community Representative)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Taylor (Community Representative & Board Member)
Ms. TeKela McGee
Ms. Ashley Jones
Ms. Charcarya Brown
Ms. Destinye Jones
Ms. Jessica Gipson
Ms. Mulisey Bantum
Ms. Amelia Davis

Management Team Staff

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Cynthia Simpson, Executive Director
Lafrench Ingram, Executive Administrative Assistant/Human Resource Manager
Victoria Gosa, Fiscal Director
Demeka Lark Edwards, Program Administrative Assistant/Data Manager
Anne Jones, Accountant Clerk

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY TEAM

Anne Jones, Community Service Specialist
Tabbatha Sommerville, Community Service Specialist

TANF/FATHERHOOD TEAM

Jill Noland, Project Facilitator
Jennifer Jones, Assistant Facilitator

STARS AFTERSCHOOL TEAM

Jennifer Jones, Project Facilitator
Life Skills Instructors/Recreational Team

SENIOR CHOICES TEAM

Tina Morgan, Project Manager
Center Managers (4):
(Arieanna Gutierrez, Reform, Gwen Hunt, Aliceville, Jenane Vaughn, Gordo,
Myra Shufflebarger, Carrollton)
Homemakers (2)

YOUTHBUILD MANAGEMENT TEAM

Darlene Edwards, YouthBuild Director & ABE Instructor
Myesha Sterling, Case Worker
Tabbatha Sommerville, Case Worker
Job Developer
Chris Taggart, Transportation Manager/Driver
Anthony Gary, Construction Manager

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START/PRE-K MANAGEMENT TEAM

Meschelle Miller, Receptionist (Community Action Central Office)
Fredrick Woods, Center Manager/Compliance Manager/Nutrition Manager/ERSEA Manager
Joanna Williams, Asst. Center Manager/Health/Mental Health Manager/Transportation Manager
Vanessa Hopkins, Early Childhood Education Services Manager
Parvia Bonner, Family and Community Engagement Manager
Lillie Garner, Disabilities Services/In-kind Services Manager
Linda Corder, Family Literacy Service Manager
·William Petty, Maintenance Technician (contractual)

Additional Staff Head Start/ Early Head Start/PreK

(listed in alphabetical order)

Linda Corder, Family Service Worker

Fannie Hinton, Family Service Worker

Dorothy Lavender, Family Service Worker

Anita Prude, ERSEA Assistant & Family Service Worker

Rosie Sommerville, Support Staff

TEACHERS (listed by classroom #)

VANESSA HUGHES, PRE-K

JANET EVANS, PRE-K

EVELYN LOCKETT, PRE-K

KIMBERLY CORDER, PRE-K

LACELLA MCCAAG, PRE-K

DENISE HILL, HEAD START

LATOYA HENDERSON, HEAD START

PATRICIA KING, HEAD START

DOROTHY GARNER, HEAD START

GWENDOLYN KING, HEAD START

AUXILIARY TEACHERS (listed by classroom #)

YOLANDA CURRY, PRE-K

JANIS WILLIAMS, PRE-K

TYTEANNA GUYTON, PRE-K

LAKEISHA GIBSON, PRE-K

HEAD START TEACHER ASSISTANTS (listed by classroom #)

LINDSEY WEST

BEATRIZ RUIZ

ROCHELLE GOODMAN

EARLY HEAD START TEACHERS

SHANNON ADAMS

SHADANTAE BONNER

BILINGUAL RESOURCE ASSISTANT

AMAIRANY RIOS

DIETARY STAFF

**BRENDA COLVIN
GLORIA WILDER
BEVERLY JONES
KEMISHA WILDER**

CUSTODIANS

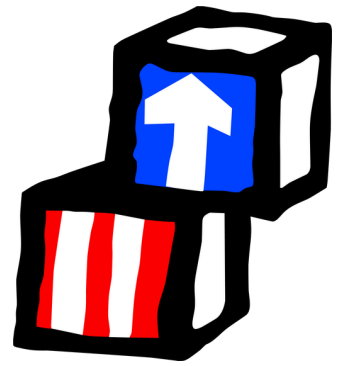
**SHAUN MURPHY
FANNIE WHITE
WILLETTE MCGEE**

BUS DRIVERS

**LATOYA HINTON
SHAUN MURPHY
FANNIE HINTON
SHADANTAE BONNER**

RECEPTIONIST Head Start/Early Head Start Early Learning Center office

CYNTHIA GILMORE ext. 10



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
Children's Trust Fund of Alabama



YB YOUTH BUILD



Programs and Services

Head Start (Age 3-5)

Early Head Start (Age 2)

Alabama Charitable Trust Energy Assistance

CSBG

STARS After School Program

Senior Choices (Adult Senior Centers)

TANF/Fatherhood Program

H.O.P.E.

LIHEAP Energy Assistance Program

Pre-K Program (Age 4)

Red Cross/Project Share

USDA

YouthBuild

TAB 2

Agency's Budgets

Contracts and Grants

Alabama Business Charitable Trust

Alabama Department of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Children Trust
Fund of Alabama (TANF/Fatherhood & STARS)

Alabama Office of School Readiness: PRE-K

Area Agency on Aging of West Alabama (Senior Choices)

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG):2025

Department of Labor (YouthBuild)

General Fund

Head Start

Early Head Start

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap): 2025

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap):IIJA 25

Project Share

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Local Funding:

University of Alabama: (H.O.P.E.)
Tombigbee RC&D: Pickens County Community Action Head Start STEM
Program

Budgets Contracts and Grants ECONOMIC IMPACT SUMMARY 2025-2026

Grants By Titles:

Alabama Business Charitable Trust: \$3,900.00

Alabama Office of School Readiness: \$420,000.00

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) (017-25):2025 \$67,000.00

General Fund: \$3,387.38

Head Start: \$2,090,489.00

Head Start (Supplemental): \$923,150.00

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap): (LI-017-25) \$251,640.00

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap): IIJA-25 \$5,279.00

Project Share: \$12,500.00

Senior Choices Program: \$68,000.00

STARS 25: \$70,000.00

TANF/Fatherhood: \$130,000.00

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): \$200,893.00

YouthBuild: \$1,500,000.00

Indirect: \$304,072.63

Inkind: \$515,120.00

TOTAL \$5,946,238.38

University of Alabama: (H.O.P.E.) \$3,000.00

Tombigbee RC&D: Pickens County Head Start (STEM): \$9,951.92

TOTAL: \$5,959,190.30



Alabama Business Charitable Trust: \$3,900.00

The Alabama Business Charitable Trust Fund, known as the ABC Trust, was established by Alabama Power to help meet the energy needs of Alabamians.

For more than 30 years, the ABC Trust has partnered with Community Action Agencies, nonprofits, and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to help pay energy bills, conduct weatherization projects, and support basic human needs. The ABC Trust also supports nonprofits by providing grants for energy efficient upgrades and health and human service projects.

Because the ABC Trust operates under different guidelines than many government energy assistance programs, families that do not qualify for federal energy assistance may benefit from the Trust's programs. The ABC Trust is not funded with ratepayer dollars.

The ABC Trust touches Alabamians across 60 counties in central and south Alabama. Colbert, DeKalb, Jackson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties are outside the Trust's coverage area.

<https://powerofgood.com/abc-trust>



Alabama Office of School Readiness: \$420,000.00

www.children.alabama.gov

We have six (6) Pre-K classrooms at our Early Learning Center.

Alabama First Class Pre-K has been ranked as the nation's highest quality state pre-kindergarten program for 20 consecutive years!

Alabama First Class Pre-K offers 4-year-olds access to high-quality pre-Kindergarten programs in their communities. It currently serves more than 24,000 children and has been awarded the highest quality rating by the National Institute for Early Education Research for 20 years.

Research on the program's long-term impacts shows that children who participated in First Class Pre-K are more likely to be successful throughout their school careers than their peers who did not participate in the program. Alabama's diverse delivery, voluntary, high-quality pre-K programs must meet specific quality assurances and abide by rigorous operating guidelines.



Community Service Block Grant (CSBG (017-25):2025 \$67,000.00

Overview

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is funded through a grant from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Currently there are 18 community action agencies located throughout the state with a presence in all 67 counties, who administer the CSBG grant.

The Community Services Block Grant Act was enacted to assist low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency. Services provided by the community action agencies vary based on the identified needs in the agency's service areas. The services provided are to enable families/individuals to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- To secure and retain meaningful employment

- To attain an adequate education

- To make better use of available income

- To obtain and maintain adequate housing and suitable living environment

- To obtain emergency assistance to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs including the need for health services, nutrition, food, housing, and employment related assistance

- To remove obstacles and solve problems which block the achievement of self-sufficiency

- To achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community

- To enhance youth and family development, including after school child-care and youth mediation

- To provide an emergency basis for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foodstuffs, and related necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among the poor

- In order to receive assistance, the applicant's household income must not exceed 125% of the federally established poverty level.

<https://adeca.alabama.gov/CSBG/>



General Fund: \$ 3,387.38



We have one (1) Early Head Start classroom at our Early Learning Center.

We serve only 2-year-old children at this current time.

Early Head Start programs provide family-centered services for low-income families with very young children. These programs are designed to promote the development of the children, and to enable their parents to fulfill their roles as parents and to move toward self-sufficiency.

Early Head Start programs provide similar services as preschool Head Start programs, but they are tailored for the unique needs of infants and toddlers. Early Head Start programs promote the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of infants and toddlers through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving. This prepares these children for continued growth and development and eventual success in school and life.

Following the general Head Start model, Early Head Start programs support parents, both mothers and fathers, in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children. Programs assist families in meeting their own personal goals and achieving self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security.

Early Head Start programs also mobilize the local community to provide the resources and environment necessary to ensure a comprehensive, integrated array of services and support for children and families.

www.headstart.gov



Head Start: \$2,090,489.00

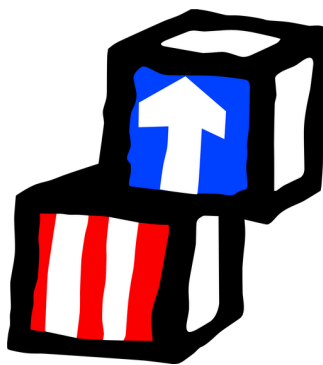
www.headstart.gov

We have six (6) Head Start classrooms at our Early Learning Center.

Head Start programs prepare America's most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and in life beyond school. To achieve this, Head Start programs deliver services to children and families in core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way.

The Head Start program encompasses Head Start Preschool programs, which primarily serve 3- and 4-year-old children, and Early Head Start programs for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Head Start programs operate in every state, many tribal nations, and several U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico. Head Start services are delivered nationwide through 1,600 agencies that tailor the federal program to the local needs of families in their service area.

Head Start (Supplemental): \$923,150.00





Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap): (LI-017-25) \$251,640.00

Overview

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ADECA contracts with community action agencies and local nonprofit agencies to deliver LIHEAP to low-income households throughout the state.

The objectives of LIHEAP are 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.

The target population is low-income households, especially those with the lowest incomes and the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size.

Additional targets are low-income households with members who are especially vulnerable, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and young children. In order to receive assistance, the applicant's household income must not exceed 150% of the federally established poverty level.

<https://adeca.alabama.gov/liheap/>

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap): IIJA-25 \$5,279.00

<https://adeca.alabama.gov/liheap/>



Project Share: \$12,500.00



In partnership with the Salvation Army, Project SHARE helps low-income Alabamians who are 60+ or disabled pay winter energy bills. In summer, those with medical emergencies may also qualify if funds are available.

<https://www.alabamapower.com/residential/billing-and-payment-options/payment-assistance-programs>



Senior Choices Program: \$68,000.00

www.westalabamaaging.org

Senior Activity Centers provide a central location for socialization, education, recreation and health promotion for area seniors. Located throughout West Alabama, there are currently 21 senior centers open to anyone 60 years of age or older and their spouse.

Senior Activity Centers offer a Home Delivered Meal Program for those seniors in the community whose health prohibits their participation in the Congregate Program. Space for this program is limited and eligibility must be determined prior to receiving service. The Home-bound Meal Program provides both hot and frozen meals. The centers provide nutritionally balanced meals five days a week Monday through Friday.

In addition to the meals, each center offers a variety of nutrition, health and public education programs and activities. Many centers also offer free computer access, exercise programs, craft projects and occasional day trips.

Pickens County Senior Centers
Contractor: Pickens County Community Action
71 Lakeside St
Carrollton, AL 35447
(205)367-8166

Aliceville: Aliceville Senior Activity Center
416 3rd. Ave. NE
Aliceville, AL 35442
205-373-8872
Open Monday - Friday
Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Carrollton :Carrollton Senior Activity Center/(Located in Carrollton Methodist Church)
85 Tuscaloosa Ave.
Carrollton, AL 35447
205-463-2139
Open Monday - Friday
Hours: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Gordo
Gordo Senior Activity Center
228 Main St.
Gordo, AL 35466
205-364-7966
Open Monday - Friday
Hours: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Reform
Reform Senior Activity Center
213 7th Ave. SW
Reform, AL 35481
205-375-2514
Open Monday - Friday
Hours: 8:30 am -12:30 pm



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
Children's Trust Fund of Alabama

Supporting The At Risk Students

STARS 25: \$70,000.00

www.ctf.alabama.gov

School-based/Afterschool programs serve children and youth of all ages across Alabama.

These programs encompass a broad range of focus areas that may include:

Personal Safety*

Body safety (Body safety can be taught through Grade 3. After 3rd grade, the focus should be child maltreatment prevention.)

Must have research-based positive outcomes that prevent child abuse and neglect. *If using a curriculum that focuses on Personal Safety, the program must incorporate identifying, managing, and communicating feelings.

Child Maltreatment Prevention

Internet Safety (including "sexting", and internet exploitation prevention)

Identifying and Managing Feelings

Violence Prevention

Empathy Training

Impulse Control

Anger Management

Stress Management

Problem Solving/Decision Making

Peer Relationships

Conflict Resolution

Self-Control

Assertive Behavior

Communicating Feelings

Identification and Maintenance of Healthy Relationships

Development of Personal Resources

Parenting for Teen Parents

Child Trafficking

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (Erin's Law)

Afterschool Programs may include additional academic support, mentoring, positive youth development, arts, sports and recreation, apprenticeships, workforce development programs, and programs for opportunity youth (i.e., youth not in schools or the workforce) and youth experiencing homelessness.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
Children's Trust Fund of Alabama

H.E.R.O.E.S. TANF/Fatherhood: \$130,000.00

www.ctf.alabama.gov

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (ADCANP) has expanded the number and services of fatherhood programs in the state with increased funding from the Department of Human Resources (DHR), utilizing Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollars. Each program is evaluated by Auburn University.

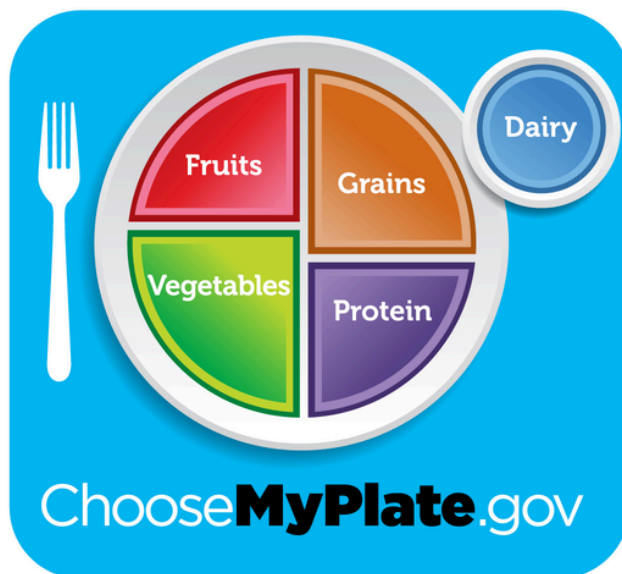
Each will serve families, including mothers, while tracking child support payments, job placements, enrollment in food assistance programs and other elements if applicable, such as re-entry programs and non-custodial parents. Many thanks to the Commissioner of Human Resources, Nancy Buckner, and our colleagues at DHR for securing the funding necessary to continue these worthy programs in Alabama.

In addition to our standard fatherhood programs, we also recently partnered with DHR to launch the Strengthening Families through Fathers pilot program in three regions of the state.

This program involves fathers (and mothers) who are involved in SNAP, the child care subsidy program, and child support cases to engage them as participants in a free program to gain education and employment services, while also training them in the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework.



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): \$200,893.00

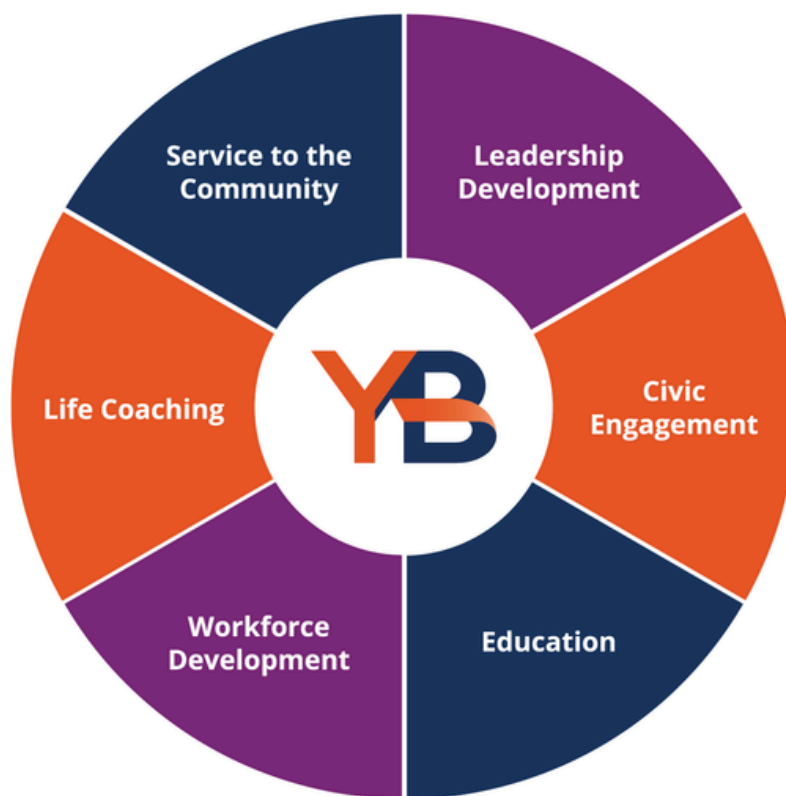




YouthBuild: \$1,500,000.00

www.youthbuild.org

PCCA operated its first YouthBuild grant in 2009. We were awarded the current grant in 2023. This is a 3-year-grant.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

University of Alabama: (H.O.P.E.) \$3,000.00

The University of Alabama, with funding support from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), is confronting the shortage of behavioral health services for youth in rural Alabama by implementing the H.O.P.E. Project.

H.O.P.E. PROJECT

Health. Opportunity. Passion. Empowerment.

The HOPE Project is dedicated to offering comprehensive behavioral health and substance use services with a focus on evidence-based, strength-based, and trauma-informed approaches. This initiative is designed to cater to the specific needs of children and adolescents residing in Pickens County and its surrounding areas.

<https://sites.ua.edu/hopeproject/>

Pickens County Community Action partners with the local Board of Education and Community Service Specialists to offer food vouchers to those participants/students that qualify for the services.



Tombigbee RC&D: Pickens County Head Start (STEM): \$9,951.92
<https://tombigbeercd.org>

Tombigbee RC&D Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to enhancing the environment, improving quality of life, and promoting sustainable economic and community growth across Bibb, Fayette, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa counties.

2025- 2026 Low Income Clients Survey Results

PROGRAMS/SERVICES Needed IN THE COMMUNITY:

Basic Living Needs: 183

Emergency Services: 168

Affordable Housing: 137

Head Start / Early Head Start: 119

Transit / Transportation: 97

Work Force Programs: 86

Mental Health Services: 61

Senior Services: 47

Youth Services: 49

Substance Abuse Services: 34

Other: Computer/Internet classes: 19

Programs/Services Ranked from 1st to 10th

1. Basic Living Needs, 2. Emergency Services, 3. Affordable Housing,
4. Head Start/Early Head Start, 5. Transit/Transportation, 6. Workforce, 7. Mental Health Services
8. Senior Services, 9. Youth & Family Services, 10. Substance Abuse Services, Other:
Computer/Internet Classes



Thank you for joining us in an overview of 2025-2026 program year!

Our Board of Directors, Policy Council, staff, parents, and clients sincerely appreciate you taking the time to learn more about Pickens County Community Action Committee & CDC, Inc. and the services we help to provide to residents of Pickens County, Alabama. We are looking forward to continue building new relationships and memories during the 2026-2027 program year.

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