



2020-2021 Annual Report



STRONGER, TOGETHER

EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT IN RAPIDES PARISH

From the Desk of the Executive Director

All of us at Cenla Community Action, from our Board of Directors to our dedicated staff and volunteers, understand the struggles with debt, family issues, sickness, and other life challenges that threaten to cripple us. The overwhelming onset and continuation of COVID and multiple storm events that we experienced in 2020 and 2021 has stifled our economy, closed many businesses, and caused many to lose their jobs throughout Rapides Parish and the nation.



We also know how to turn lives around – creating new opportunities with information, collaboration, hard work, a clear vision, and a lot of heart. We take our mission to heart: Cenla CAC offers pathways to self-sufficiency through service, training, advocacy, and collaboration for our customers.

It is my continued desire that Cenla CAC be intentional about providing the best possible services to our target communities by seeking more innovative and effective ways to enhance our community presence, community involvement, and outcomes that solidify our mission as a community action agency.

We look forward to an even better 2022 and serving our community as the officially designated anti-poverty organization in the Rapides Parish area.

Best Wishes
Sally C. Cowan, Executive Director

Agency Staff

Sally C. Cowan, MBA

Executive Director

Pamela Ballott

Program Director

Tia Speed

Accounting Manager

Elisa Smith

Accounting Assistant

Shirley S. Coutee

Executive Secretary/
Board Administrative Assistant

Tina Guidry

Program Specialist

Carolyn Dixon

Resolution Counselor

Quanita Walker

Community Service
Coordinator

Pattie Reed

Community Service
Coordinator

Monique Moore

Community Service
Coordinator

Sheila Thomas

DWG Receptionist



From the Desk of the Board President



Dear Stakeholders of Central Louisiana,

Cenla CAC is committed to creating an environment conducive for a thriving community and is taking the lead in connecting families with much needed resources, information, training and guidance that contribute to a sustainable and healthy community.

In order to sustain, our agenda is both a commitment and an invitation. Simply put, we cannot do it alone. We must first work with our citizens, social services advocates, community and faith-based organizations, and other government agencies, etc. as active change agents. By communicating our priorities and goals clearly, Cenla CAC seeks to establish a firm foundation for partnerships in achieving attainable goals; many of which are already well underway.

Many thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors, Executive Director, leadership team and staff who provide a standard of excellence and innovation required to survive in today's world.

In partnership,

Stephan Fontenot, President
Board of Directors

About Cenla CAC

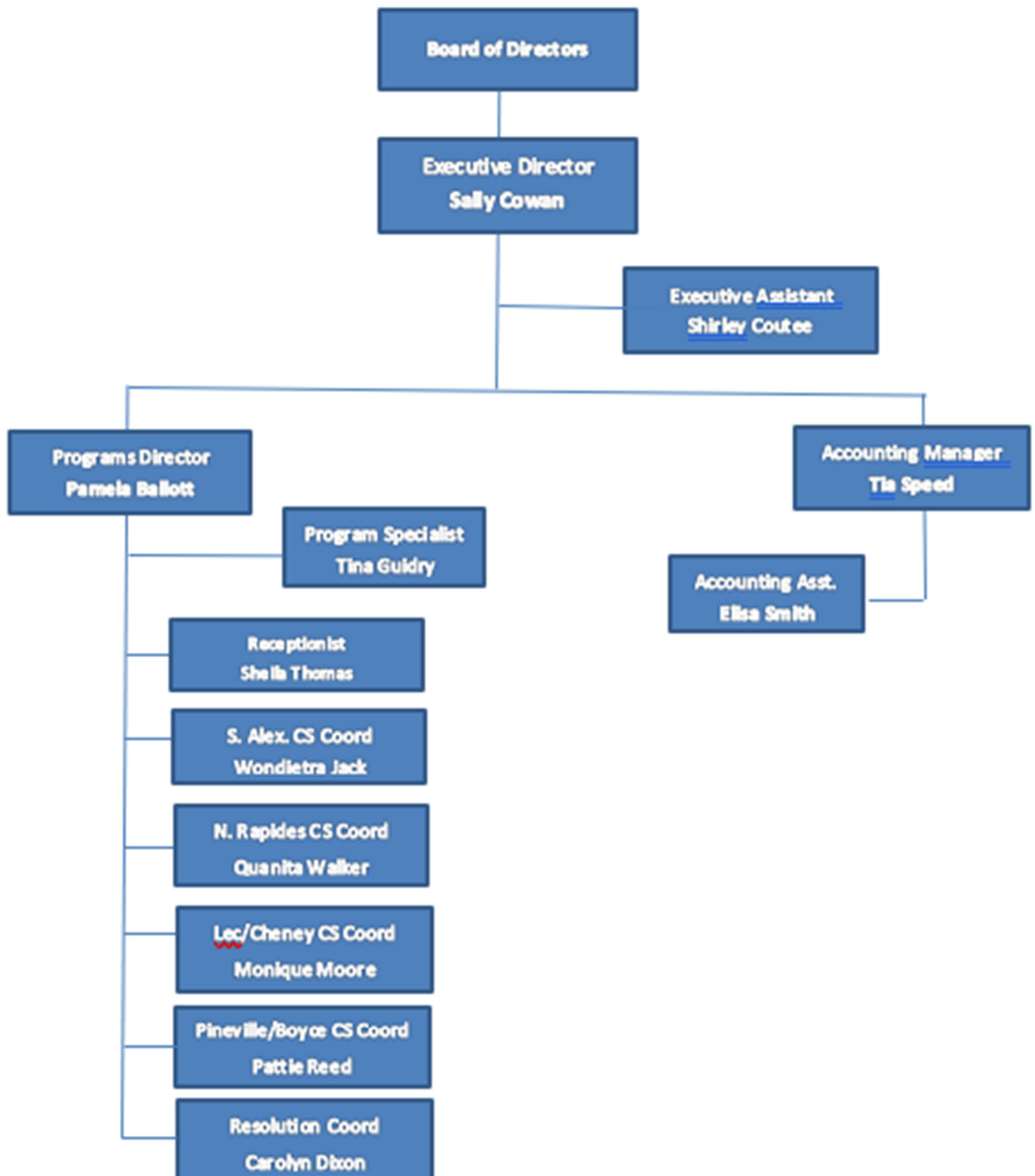
Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc. (Cenla CAC) was incorporated as the anti-poverty agency for Rapides Parish in 1965. The objective and purpose for this corporation was and still is to promote and develop economic opportunities in the community comprising all of the Parish of Rapides in the State of Louisiana; the provision of services directly and indirectly to those in need of increased economic opportunities; to act as a liaison between Public Housing Authorities, Private Sector Landlords and low-wealth to moderate income individuals and the homeless; to provide housing counseling services designed to enable clients to obtain, retain and/or maintain ownership or rental rights of acquired housing; and to link clients with other available resources to combat poverty and economic instability in Rapides Parish.

The roots of Community Action's work are in intervention to alleviate the most immediate, destabilizing effects of poverty in the lives of individuals and families, as well as in the larger community. Over the years we have come to interpret our mission broadly to include, not only people who have lower incomes, but others who are marginalized, such as youth and members of minority groups. Our desire to secure our community's future health and prosperity, and our sense of ethical practice, compelled us to offer primary prevention services in order to get ahead of the need for intervention. While many of our programs are targeted to intervene with specific issues or populations, many also incorporate prevention practices and are open to all who meet state income guidelines.

Cenla CAC currently operates under the administration of Executive Director Sally C. Cowan. She oversees a managerial staff that includes Finance Manager, General Community Programs Director and Executive Secretary/Board Executive Assistant. Cenla CAC is governed by an 18 member Board of Directors, representing a cross-section of the public, private and low-income sectors of Rapides Parish. The volunteer board serves as the legal entity of the organization.

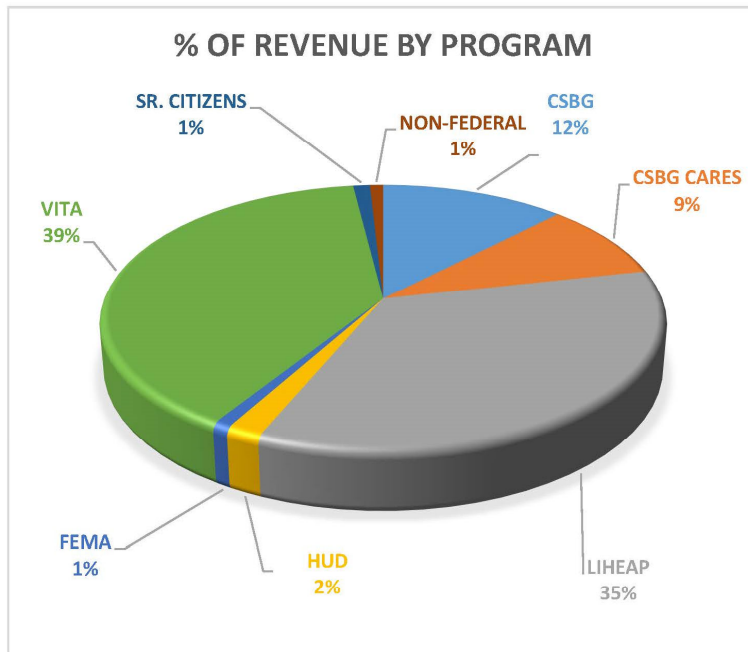
Our goal is to "Expand Our Footprint in Rapides Parish." On June 30, 2021, we conducted an outreach event where we held a ribbon cutting for our newly acquired Administrative Office. Acquisition of this building has afforded us the opportunity to relocate administrative staff, freeing up much needed space in our program's building. This will allow us to conduct community themed workshops and trainings geared towards educating our families in the areas of homeownership, financial literacy and energy conservation. Additionally, we have automated our appointment scheduling system which reduces time spent on calls that could be better utilized providing direct services to individuals in need. This allows for a more efficient and effective service delivery process.

Organizational Chart



Operational Budget Report

Program Year 2020-2021



Programs	TOTAL
Louisiana Workforce Commission: Community Service Block Grant	
Administrative	\$150,846.65
Program/Client Assistance	\$200,250.88
Total CSBG	\$351,097.53
Louisiana Workforce Commission: Community Service Block Grant CARES	
Administrative	\$15,165.82
Program/Client Assistance	\$249,119.39
Total CSBG CARES Act	\$264,285.21
Louisiana Housing Corporation LIHEAP	
Administrative	\$137,693.69
Program/Client Assistance	\$857,554.43
Total LIHEAP	\$995,248.12
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):	
Administrative	\$0.00
Program/Client Assistance	\$51,256.81
Total HUD	\$51,256.81
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):	
Unity Way of Central Louisiana -- EF & SP	\$24,110.00
Total FEMA	\$24,110.00
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA):	
Administrative	\$0.00
Program/Client Assistance	\$1,115,990.00
Total VITA Assistance	\$1,115,990.00
Rapides Parish Emergency Assistance Programs:	
Rapides Parish Police Jury Senior Citizens*	\$31,843.94
Total Local Emergency	\$31,843.94
Non - Federal*	
Total Non - Federal	\$25,008.36
Total Operational Budget	\$2,594,554.76

Cenla CAC Programs & Services

The following are brief summaries of Cenla CAC's programs and services provided throughout our Rapides Parish service area

CSBG Emergency Assistance Program

Provides assistance with utilities, rent/mortgage, prescription drugs, must have disconnect, termination of services or eviction notice, high medical bills and some sort of income.

CSBG CARES ACT Emergency Assistance

Provides assistance with utilities, rent/mortgage, prescription drugs, must have disconnect, termination of services or eviction notice, high medical bills for those individuals impacted by Covid-19.

LIHEAP

Provides assistance with utilities, must meet Federal Income Guidelines. Eligible participants are allowed to receive one heating and one cooling benefit per program year.

LIHEAP Crisis

Provides assistance with utilities, must have disconnect or termination of services notice. Eligible participants are allowed one crisis benefit per program year.

Senior Citizens Assistance

Provides assistance with utilities, rent/mortgage, prescription drugs, must be 60 years or older, meet Federal Income Guidelines and have not been assisted in the last 6 months.

Food for Families/Food for Seniors

Seniors receive 40 pounds of food monthly, must be 60 years or older and meet USDA Income Guidelines.

Adopt-A-Senior

Seniors receive 50 pounds of food monthly, must be 65 years or older, meet USDA Income Guidelines and have a sponsor. The sponsor is responsible for paying The Food Bank \$150.00 that will entitle recipient to receive the food box for 12 months.

ATMOS

Provides assistance for ATMOS Energy customers, must have a disconnect notice, reduction in income or an increase in necessary expenses. Priority shall be given to the elderly, families with young children and persons with disabilities.

HUD Housing Counseling

Receive free counseling in the areas of first-time homebuyers, reverse mortgage, budget/money management and renter's rights.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Free Income tax preparation with automatic EITC determination and e-filing for clients earning up to \$54,000 annually.

DHS Medicaid and Food Stamp Application

Provides assistance with online completion of applications for services provided through the Department of Human Services. These services include Medicaid and Snap Benefits.

FEMA

Provides assistance with emergency food purchase, must meet Federal Income Guidelines, demonstrate a need for food and receive little or no food stamps.

HiSet Exam Reimbursement

Reimburse students who have successfully completed the Adult Education Course at CLTCC and passed the HiSet (GED) test. These students must be referred from CLTCC.

Pamper Me With Love

Provides assistance with the purchase of diapers and diapering/incontinence supplies. This program is designed to raise awareness of diaper need in our service area and to do our part in eliminating that need by distributing supplies to low to moderate income families.

Services Provided

Program Year 2020-2021

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Program	Families Served	Aggregated Dollar Amount
CSBG Emergency Rent/Mortgage	51	\$23,334.75
CSBG Emergency Utility	9	\$3,144.00
CSBG Emergency Prescription	2	\$459.74
LIHEAP Heating/Cooling/CARES ARP Assist.	2,042	\$962,117.68
LIHEAP Crisis Assistance	559	\$240,691.60
Emergency Food & Shelter Program	241	\$24,110.00
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance	678	\$1,115,990
ATMOS	2	\$1,105.76
CSBG Cares Assistance	86	\$176,745.43

HOUSING SERVICES

Program	Families Served
HUD Housing Counseling Services	501

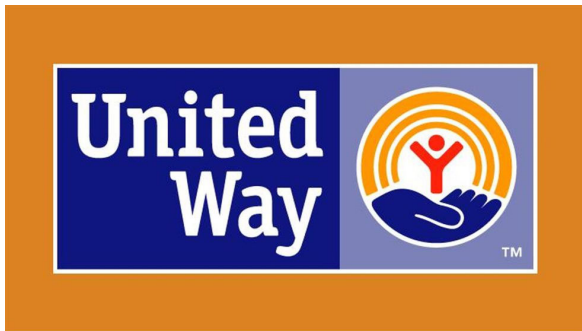
SENIOR SERVICES

Program	Families Served	Aggregated Dollar Amount
Senior Citizens Rent/Mortgage	4	\$1,600.00
Senior Citizens Utility	1	\$400.00
Senior Citizens Prescription	1	\$374.31
Food for Families/Food for Seniors	901	Not Applicable
Adopt A Senior Food Boxes	32	Not Applicable

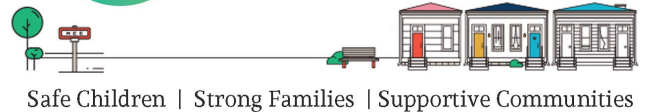
EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION SERVICES

Program	Families Served
HiSet Exam Reimbursement	2
Information and Referral	89

Community Partners



**MY
COMMUNITY
CARES**





OUR MISSION



**Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc.'s
mission is to serve, train, advocate, and
collaborate for low-income residents to
reduce poverty and promote economic
stability in Rapides Parish.**



COMMUNITY

ACTION

MONTH

Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Private Sector Representatives

Irene Thomas, President
Eunice Fuller, Vice President
Roxane Barnes, Secretary
Sandra Franklin
Flora Keys
Clifford T. Person, Jr.

Public Sector Representatives

Mary Wardsworth, Treasurer
Chauncey Hardy, Parliamentarian
Lonnell Clark
Janice Johnson
Yuvonka Brown
VACANT

Low-Income Sector Representatives

Stephen Fontenot, President
Marie Ashmore
Nedra Simmons
Charles W. Allen
Tobey Bowie
Edith Beard