



History of Community Action Agencies

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF MID-NEBRASKA

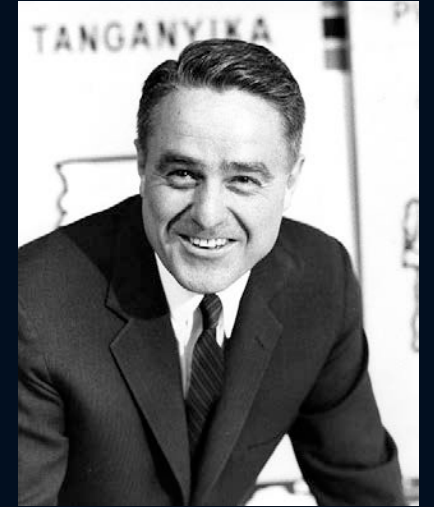
What is Community Action?

- In 1964, The Great Society, as envisioned by President Lyndon B. Johnson, was a sweeping plan to improve the lives of all Americans, regardless of their circumstances.
- Inspired by President Kennedy and his New Frontier, Johnson pledged to fulfill his promise of equal opportunity for all by enacting several comprehensive changes within the federal government. In August of 1964, the Economic Opportunity Act was signed into law by President Johnson creating the nationwide Community Action Network.



Appointment of Sarge Shriver

- President Johnson selected a member of President Kennedy's inner circle to head up the newly formed "Office of Economic Opportunity" –Sargent Shriver.
- Shriver was head of Peace Corps in the Kennedy administration and married to Kennedy's sister, Eunice. He had proved himself to be a capable leader and President Johnson admired his abilities. President Johnson, legendary for his acumen in recruiting key personnel, offered the position to Shriver and would not take no for an answer. Shriver was installed as the first head of the OEO in October 11, 1964 and leapt into action.
- Unfortunately for Shriver, he simply did not have adequate funding to begin the process of addressing national poverty issues. However, he assembled an impressive team of advisers, including Michael Harrington, author of *The Other America* and began to implement new policies and actions to resolve these issues.
- The Economic Opportunity Act was amended (known as the Green Amendment) in 1967 to mandate the board structure of community action agencies, which complemented the earlier Quie Amendment which required the tripartite representation, including low-income participation.
- Tripartite Boards were developed to include private, public, and consumer representatives to emphasize community partnerships and input from all levels.



The Economic Opportunity Action of 1964

The Economic Opportunity Act was innovative legislation, but it received only about \$1 billion to divide among the various programs and remained critically underfunded. By 1966, Congress appropriated \$4 billion for the programs. Initiative included:

- Head Start
- Job Corps
- Work-Study program for university students
- VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) - a domestic version of the Peace Corps
- Neighborhood Youth Corps
- Basic education and adult job training
- Community Action Programs - This turned out to be the most controversial part of the package, as it proposed the "**maximum feasible participation**" by low-income individuals to determine what would help them the most. This was a radical departure from how government had run most social reform programs in the past.



The Community Action Focus of Services

TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Head Start, Literacy Programs, WIC

TO SUPPORT THE WORKING POOR: Child Care, Adult Education, GED Preparation, Job Training and On-The-Job Support, Job Search Assistance, Job Placement, Job Creation

TO SUPPORT THE POOR FACING CRISIS: Homeless Shelters , Utility Deposits, Eviction Prevention, Transitional Housing, Food Pantries Energy Crisis Assistance & Shelter, Emergency Food Baskets, Emergency Clothing, Supplies

TO SUSTAIN AND HONOR THE ELDERLY: Meals on Wheels, In-Home Care Programs, Senior Centers, Senior Day Care, Congregate Meals, Volunteer Chore Services.

TO STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE FAMILY: Comprehensive Family Development Support, Nutrition Education, Parenting Education, Community Gardens and Canneries, Food Stamps, Health Clinics, Weatherization Assistance, Energy Assistance, Rental Assistance, Home Ownership Programs, Community Centers, Individual Development Accounts.

TO STRENGTHEN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY: Low-Income Housing Development, Economic Development and Support for New Business Ventures, Community Reinvestment Act Partnerships, Support for Groups Working on Neighborhood Improvements, Support for Dialogue and Planning among all Sectors of the Community.

History of Community Action

1964-1966



- August 20
 - The Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) is signed by Lyndon B. Johnson. Sarge Shriver is hired as the first Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.
- 1965
 - Mid establishes the first of many offices in Kearney and surrounding locations, a Neighborhood Youth Center
- February 20, 1966
 - Eighteen months after passage of the EOA, over one thousand CAA's had been granted funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity

History continued:

1970-1975

- December, 1971
 - Nixon's administration discusses severing CAA's from the OEO and transferring them to HUD
- January 27, 1973
 - Howard Phillips is named acting director of the OEO by President Nixon to oversee the office's dismantlement
- February 26, 1973:
 - Several CAA's and labor unions file suit to stop the dismantlement. In April, a U.S. District judge halts the termination of the OEO
- 1974: Impeachment hearings begin and President Nixon resigns from office
- January 5, 1975
 - President Ford signs the legislative bill creating the Community Services Administration

History continued:

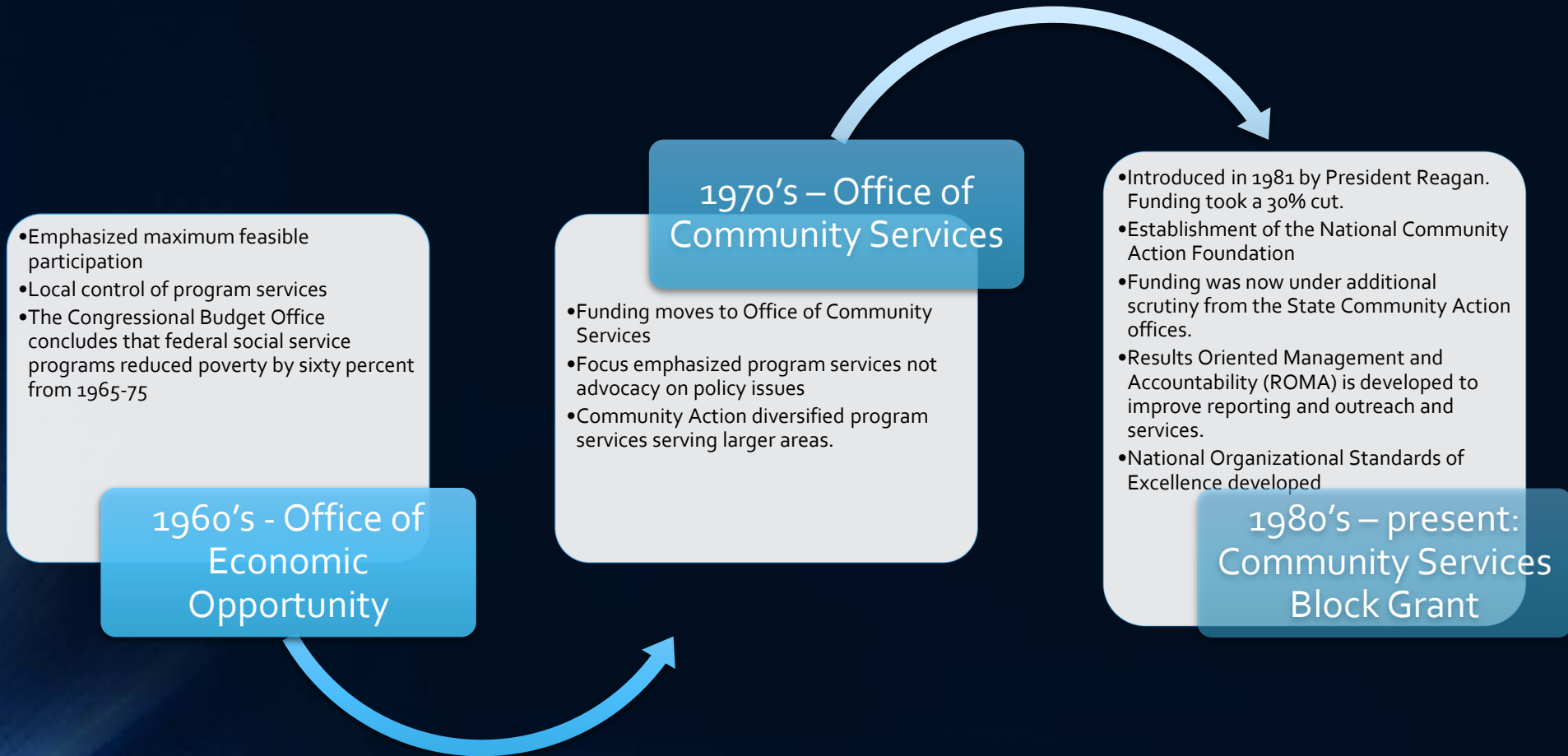
1977- present

- January 18, 1977
 - The Congressional Budget Office concludes that federal social service programs reduced poverty by sixty percent from 1965-75
- 1981
 - The Community Services Block Grant is established to fund CAA's. Another life saving measure after President Reagan cut funding by 30%
 - CSBG provide funds for community-based programs offering health, nutrition, housing, and employment services.
 - CSBG funding is the cornerstone of Community Action

1990-present:

- From 2008 – 2015, much work is done on developing national performance standards for CSBG.
- Even with the improved data outcomes, CSBG and our other programs continue to struggle with level or reduced funding.

Timeline of funding for Community Action Program



Mid Program Service History

- 1970's: Mid begins to expand program services with Youth, Outreach, Summer Head Start, Public Transportation, and Family Planning
- 1975: Part Year – Part Day Head Start Program
- 1975: Weatherization Program
- 1976: Women, Infants, and Children Program
- 1979: North Platte Senior Center
- 1982: Child Abuse Resource and Education
- 1989: Mid's Budget was \$2.2 Million

1990-1993

- Mid-Nebraska Food Bank
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Minden Senior Center
- Parenting Classes/Happy Bear

1991 Agency
Budget:
\$4.4 Million
Dollars

1993-present

- 1993 – The Immunization Program
- 1995 – Affordable Housing
- 1995 – The Micro-Enterprise Loan Program
- 1998 – Every Woman Matters
- 1998 – Kids Connection/P.H.O.N.E
- 1998 – The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P)
- 1999 – Maternal Child Health Clinics
- 1999 – Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
- 2000 - Reach Your Destination Easily (R.Y.D.E.)
- 2000 – Interfaith Caregivers
- 2001 – Senior Companion Volunteer Program
- 2002 – Minority Health Clinics
- 2003 – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
- 2004 – Purchase, Rehab, Resale Program
- 2005 – Weatherization/Housing Crew
- 2005 – HUD ServicePoint Data Entry
- 2006 - REACH Homebuyers Education
- 2007 – Love and Logic Parenting Skills
- 2007 – EPA Lead Testing and Prevention
- 2008 – L.I.F.E. Program
- 2009 – ARRA funded program/R.Y.D.E Hastings
- 2010 – Peterson Senior Nutrition Program. 2010-11-Financial Peace
- 2011-Individual Development Accounts
- 2012 – Community Health Workers
- 2013 – Job/Educational Scholarships
- 2014-17 – ACA Navigator/CHW expansion
- 2017-18 – Mobile Produce Pantries

2017 Agency
Budget: 11 Million
Dollars

Mid Board of Directors

- The Mid Board of Directors sets policy, reviews and approves all grant applications, budgets, etc.
- The Tri-Partite Board consists of representatives from the following community segments
 - 1/3 elected public officials
 - At least 1/3 consumer representatives
 - The remaining private representatives

Board Governance

- Hire & Evaluate Chief Executive
- Fiduciary Responsibility
- Develop & Approve Mission, Vision, & Strategies
- Establish & Approve Agency Policy
- Approve Budget/Contracts/Grants
- Agency Advocates
- Attends Board & other Related Meetings

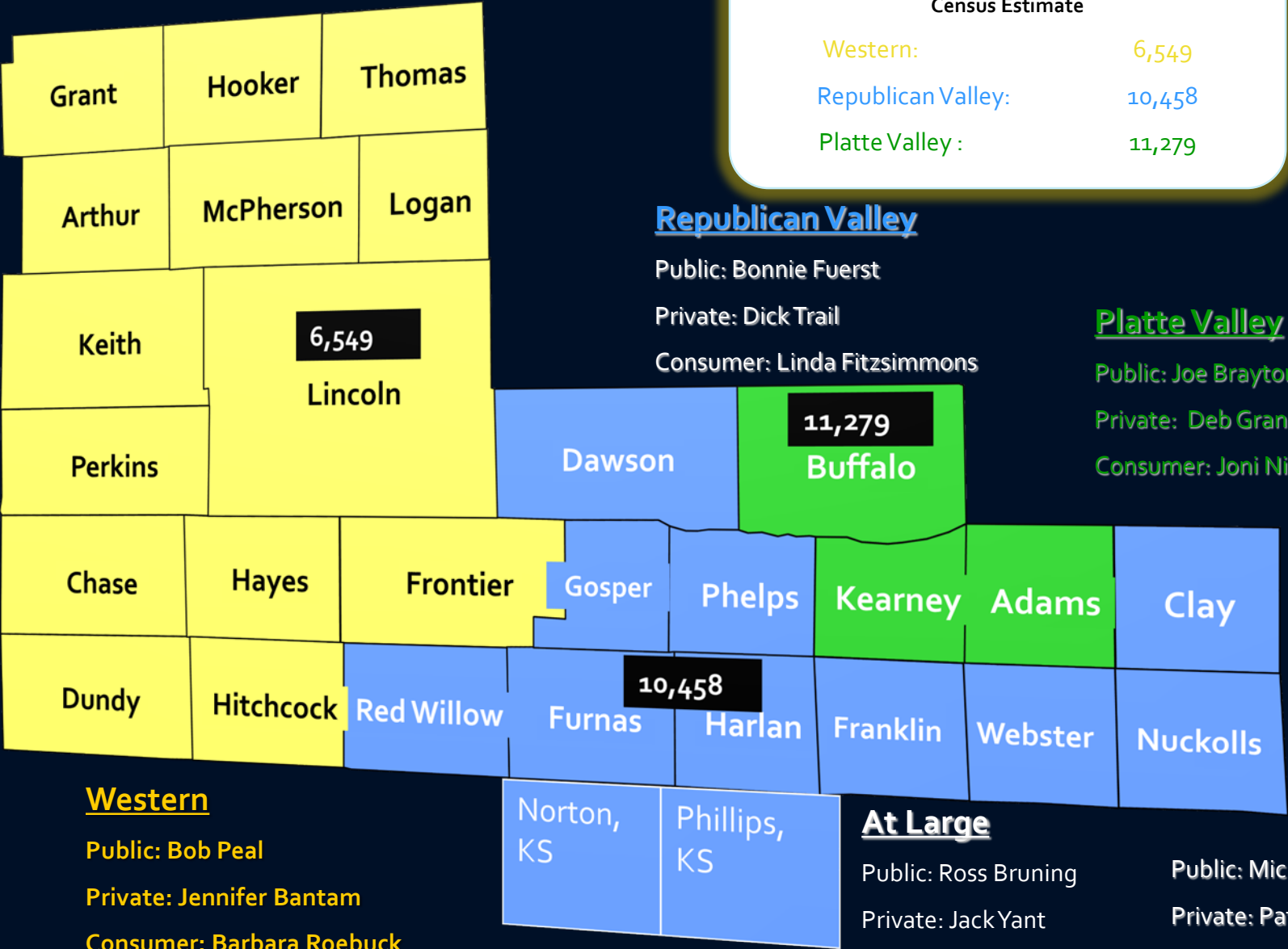
Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska Board Service Area Map

Low-Income Individuals: 27,160
Census Estimate

Western: 6,549

Republican Valley: 10,458

Platte Valley: 11,279



What makes Community Action Unique?

- Our Board of Directors' Structure
- Volunteer Support - Averaging 27 million hours of services nation wide
- Leveraging resources – Every CSBG dollar leverages nearly \$6 of state, local, and private contributions.
- Innovative Solutions – Flexible control to implement programs when needed
- Low administrative costs
- Comprehensive and responsive approach to prevent future crisis's
- Community and Family Programs
- Reaching Millions of Americans

Mid Visibility

