

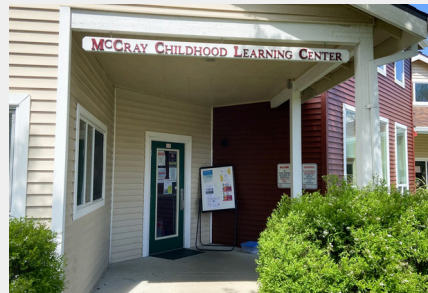
2024

Annual Report



Community Action Team

Serving Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties



Empowering individuals, uplifting families, and strengthening our community — CAT is here to create pathways to stability, resilience, and hope across Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook counties.

Each year, Community Action Team reflects on the impact of our work in the communities we serve—and 2024 was no exception. Amid economic uncertainty, shifting needs, and growing demand for essential services, our programs remained a vital lifeline for thousands of individuals and families across the region.

Our mission is rooted in the belief that every person deserves a safe home, a stable income, and access to resources that support health, independence, and opportunity. This year, we strengthened our role as a connector, advocate, and service provider—supporting vulnerable households, empowering working families, and building a stronger, more resilient community from the ground up.



From expanding emergency housing and utility assistance to delivering meals and wellness checks for older adults, we responded with urgency and compassion. We deepened our investment in child development, housing rehabilitation, and veteran support, while continuing to forge partnerships that amplify our reach and effectiveness.

The 2024 Annual Report is more than a summary of numbers. It's a reflection of the lives touched, the barriers reduced, and the resilience nurtured through collective effort. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who make this work possible. Together, we're creating pathways out of poverty—and building the foundation for long-term stability and hope.

Dan Brown

Executive Director

Introduction



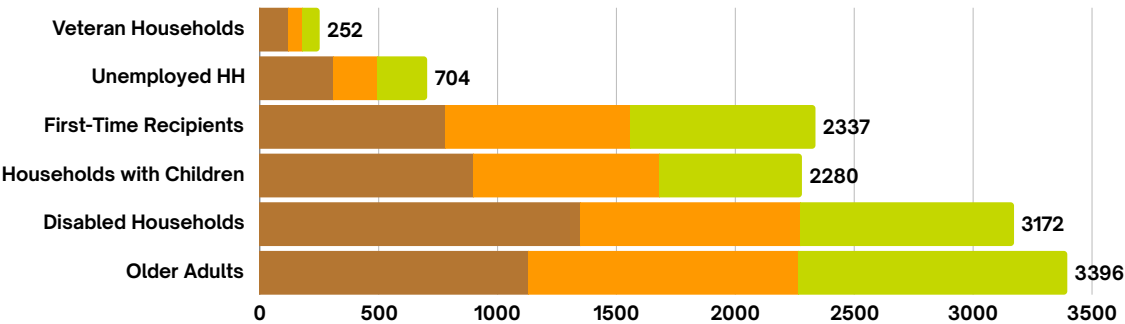
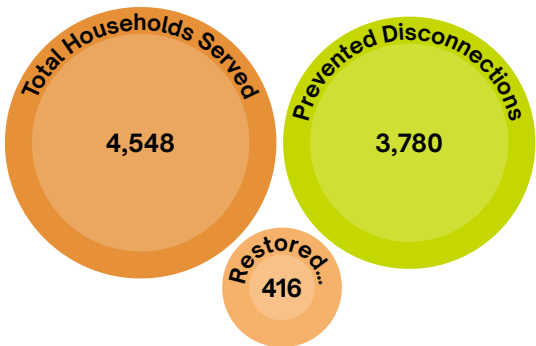
Utility Assistance Program

Utility Assistance creates stability for individuals and the community. It builds financial security, health, and resilience.

CAT's Energy Assistance Program provides critical support to households facing energy insecurity, helping families cover essential utility costs through LIHEAP, OEAP, OLGA & GAP, water assistance, and other funding streams.

By easing the burden of high utility costs, energy assistance helps families avoid crises that can lead to financial instability or even homelessness. It's not just about covering bills; it's about creating stability. Supporting these programs means strengthening our entire community, ensuring that every family has a chance to thrive.

Reduced Financial Stress
Covering utility bills eases the burden on low-income families, allowing them to allocate resources to essentials like food and healthcare.

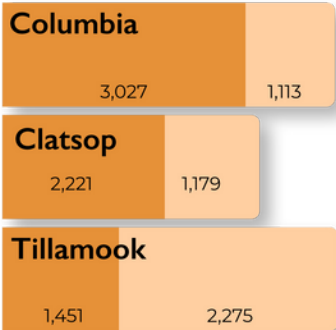


Increased Housing Stability

Utility support prevents disconnections, reducing risks of unsafe living conditions or eviction, which promotes stable housing and stronger community ties.

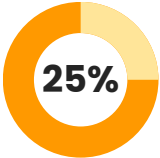


Service Reach



Service reach is calculated as the percentage of households served by our program out of the estimated eligible households (≤150% FPL), using ACS S1701 (Selected Economic Characteristics) data.

Reduced Energy Burden



First Time Recipients



Breaking the Cycle

Utility aid prevents financial crises, helping families maintain stability and work toward self-sufficiency.

When Maria and her two young children moved into their new apartment after leaving an unsafe situation, everything felt uncertain.

She had just started a part-time job and was trying to rebuild a sense of stability for her family—but then the winter utility bills started arriving. The heating system in their building wasn’t efficient, and despite careful use, the costs quickly piled up. Facing disconnection and not knowing where to turn, Maria reached out to the local Energy Assistance program and applied for help through LIHEAP.

Within weeks, Maria was approved for assistance. Not only did it cover the past-due amount and stop the shutoff notice, but it also helped reduce her bill for the rest of the heating season. The relief was immediate and profound —she could focus on her job, get her kids to school on time, and begin saving again. LIHEAP wasn’t just a financial lifeline; it gave her breathing room and a fresh start when her family needed it most.

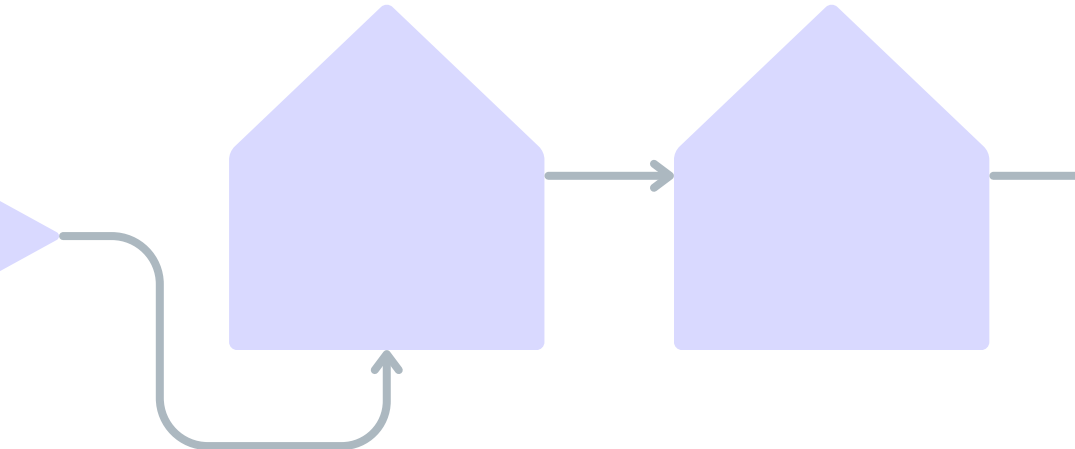
Supportive Housing

Housing First

Without a safe place to live, it's nearly impossible to find or keep a job, care for one's health, or build a future.

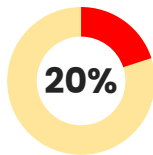
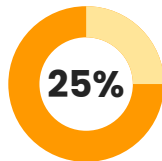
Housing Solutions' mission is to empower individuals and families to become self-sufficient by living within their means in affordable, permanent housing.

CAT's Supportive Housing programs help individuals and families not only get housed—but stay housed. Through tailored programs they support those experiencing homelessness, those with disabilities, and very low-income veterans on their journey toward long-term stability.



Temporary Housing Programs facilitate the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. The Permanent Housing Program provides stable housing and ongoing supportive services for chronically homeless individuals and families with disabilities. The goal is to help people stay housed while they work on increasing their income and self-sufficiency.

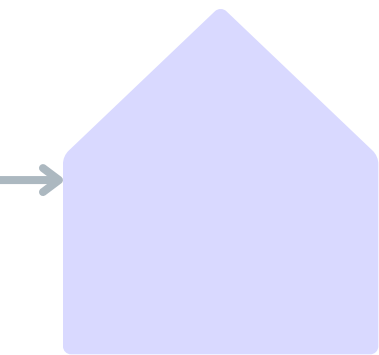
CAT staff work closely with clients to develop skills for independent living and long-term housing stability. This case management helps navigate challenges by advocating with landlords, neighbors, counselors, law enforcement, Social Security, and Veterans Affairs.



Just One Month

After their rental was suddenly sold, the Reyes family found themselves in a heartbreaking limbo. Laura and Miguel had already secured a new place—closer to their kids' school and Miguel's work—but the timing didn't line up. Their old lease ended before the new one began, and they simply didn't have the extra funds to cover both deposits and that awkward in-between month of rent. For a few nights, they stayed with a cousin. Then in their car. Then in a motel. Miguel kept going to work. Laura packed school lunches out of a cooler. They did everything right—but it wasn't enough.

That's when CAT's Housing Solutions team stepped in. Through short-term rent assistance, they were able to cover just that one missing month. With that support, the Reyes family moved into their new apartment on time, without falling further behind. It wasn't a huge grant or a long-term subsidy—it was a simple, timely investment in a family's stability. And it made all the difference.



\$232,000



258 Rental Deposits

Programs for Older Adults

76

264

276

3,396

This past year, CAT's Senior Services team made a real difference—helping older adults and people with disabilities stay independent, healthy, and connected.

Through programs like **Home Delivered Meals** and **Oregon Project Independence**, 76 seniors were able to keep living at home with the support they needed.

We also supported **264 individuals with disabilities** manage daily life while staying independent and in control.

Volunteers played a huge role—**276 people** stepped up to deliver meals, make friendly visits, and help out at senior centers—contributing over **6,000 hours** of service.

In total, we served **3,396 older adults** this year—offering everything from meals to wellness check-ins, all designed to keep people thriving at home, not in institutions.

Connection Over Isolation

Social programs and community visits combat loneliness, promoting mental health and quality of life for older adults.

This work is only possible thanks to strong community partnerships and a shared commitment to aging with dignity and choice.

Caring for the Caregivers

Respite programs give family caregivers a much-needed break, helping them sustain their own health while continuing to support loved ones.

When the Safety Net Starts to Tear

Senior Services in Crisis—and the People Holding it Together

This year, our Senior Services team faced a perfect storm. Skyrocketing food costs meant our Home Delivered Meals budget—meant to last a year—ran dry after just seven months. Then, the Saint Helens Senior Center abruptly closed, leaving dozens of older adults without meals, connection, or their trusted community hub.

Through it all, our staff stepped up. They rerouted deliveries, found new partners, and answered every call from scared, isolated seniors. Leading that charge was Julian Davis, our Senior Programs Manager. Julian worked late nights, made tough calls, and held her team—and the community—together with compassion and determination. She is the kind of quiet hero this work depends on.

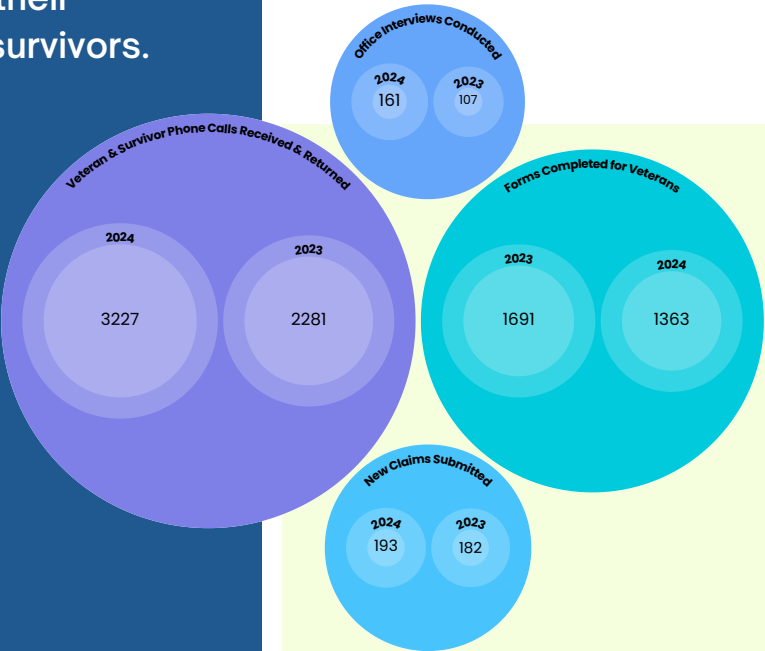
This year revealed just how fragile life can be for older adults. And it proved, once again, why Community Action Team is essential—because when everything else falls apart, we show up.



Veteran Services Office

A Veteran's Service Officer is the advocate for Veterans, their families, and survivors.

The VSO's mission is to ensure that Columbia County Veterans and their families receive all entitlements provided by Federal and State law.



The VSO has an understanding of the problems which confront Veterans and their families and knows the extent, the meaning, and the application of Federal Veteran's laws passed in the interest of Veterans and their dependents. The VSO assists in filing Federal VA claims for compensation, pension, other benefits, and as needed, represents Veterans through the appeal process. The VSO strives to achieve the highest quality service possible.

Healthy Families

Community Investment

CI works to strengthen the safety, stability, and sustainability of homes for low-income individuals and families across our service area.

Energy Programs

Reduce energy costs, increase energy efficiency, and ensure safe, livable environments through services like weatherization, energy education, and heating/cooling system replacements.

Weatherization

reduces energy costs by improving energy efficiency and promotes health and safety.

Heating/Cooling Replacement

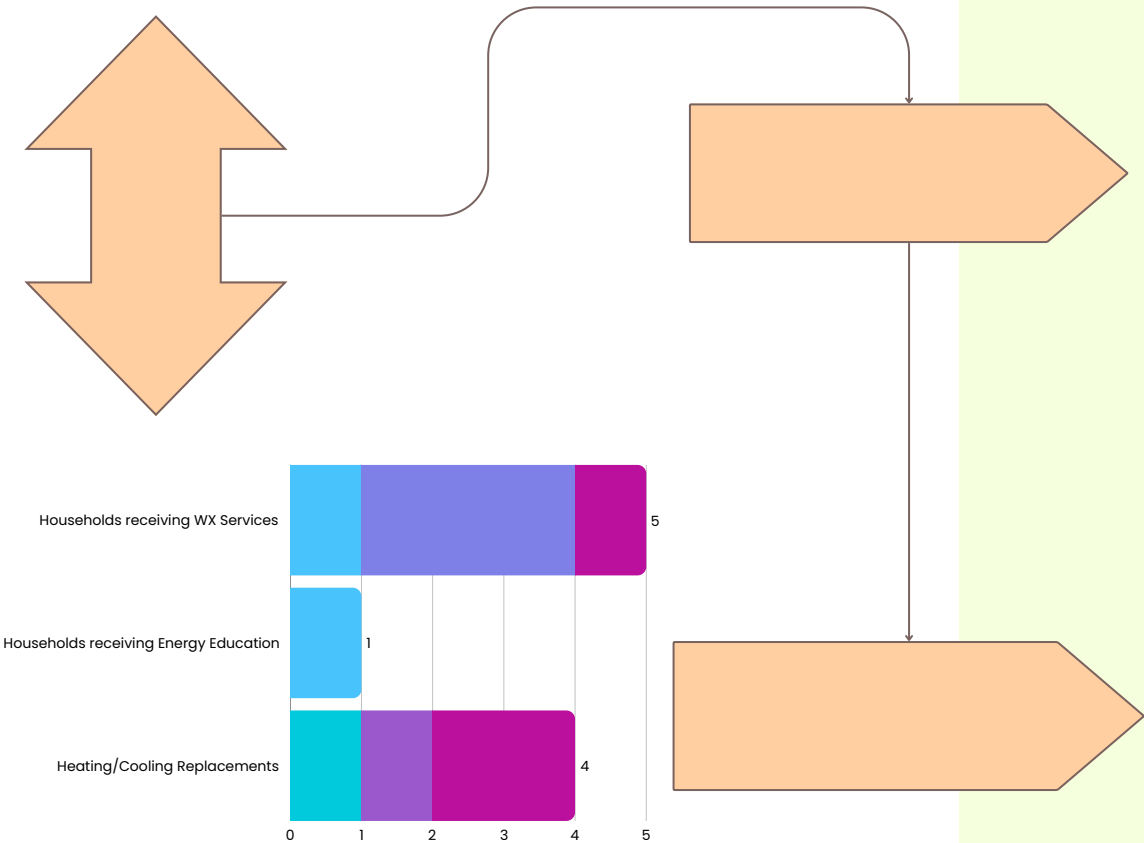
supports families by repairing or replacing heating and cooling systems, ensuring homes remain safe, comfortable, and energy-efficient.

Energy Education

offers direct support through home visits, assisting families in making informed energy decisions.

Safe & Healthy Housing Preservation Programs

provide critical home repairs, accessibility upgrades, and health-related modifications. These programs protect vulnerable families, prevent displacement, and ensure safe, livable homes across our region.





159

4,244

7,984

\$6,650

\$2.5 MILLION

\$53.4 MILLION

Community Action Team believes that investing in the local community. Connecting individuals in need with the local services available to help them step out of poverty and into self-sufficiency is the most effective way to reduce the incidence and effects of poverty. This includes everything from referring clients to the Department of Human Services to enroll in SNAP benefits to employing local contractors to complete Housing Rehabilitation and Weatherization projects.

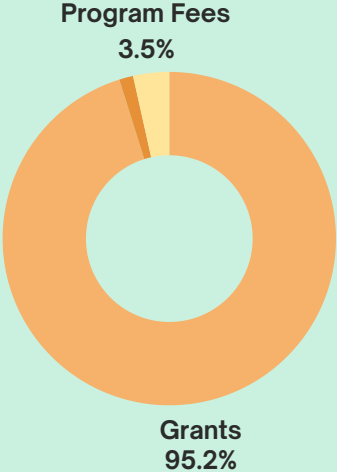
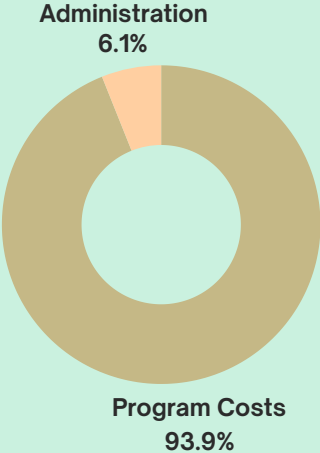
Provided 159 jobs through housing rehabilitation and weatherization contracts

CAT served 7,984 persons and 4,244 households. 47% were children or seniors, and 42% were either employed or on Social Security. The economic impacts of this service year included:

\$6,650 estimated energy savings from weatherization projects

\$2,543,328 in annual rent savings

Multiplier effect – our total impact on the Local Economy



Budget

Funding	
\$16,943,743	Grants
\$241,490	Private Contributions
\$621,908	Program Fees
\$17,807,141	TOTAL

Expenses	
\$16,727,274	Program Costs
\$1,079,867	Administration
\$17,807,141	TOTAL

