



The mission of Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc., is to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self-sufficient and by providing essential services in collaboration and cooperation with partners.

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The March of Change



Walt Disney once commented, “Time and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future.” For Community Action two events in March reflect the relevance of this statement to our ongoing work.

Seeking to pursue innovative reforms, Governor Hogan signed an [Executive Order](#) entitled “Two Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program” on March 9, 2017. This is a major policy development and one that has long been a goal of Community Action. To be chaired by Lt. Gov. Rutherford, the 2-Generation

Commission will investigate policy gaps, opportunities, and best practices while also considering how to better leverage funding sources in order to enhance and sustain the 2-Generation approach.

The dedication and work ethic of the all at GCCAC have helped to establish evidenced based outcomes and processes which have not gone unnoticed by the Hogan administration.

Also in March, came the release of the [President’s budget blueprint](#) which proposes elimination and significant cuts to Federal budgets that are the key funding sources for many of the programs and services Community Action administers. Among these are Energy Assistance, Meals on Wheels, Weatherization, the Community Services Block Grant, and Transportation. The blueprint is the Executive Branch’s outline, and it is ultimately up to Congress to determine final appropriations. Cuts and eliminations have been proposed by prior administrations but have not been fully implemented because of support for Community Action by local communities. What President Trump is proposing does give us cautionary pause to consider how to reduce our vulnerability and strengthen our work in Garrett County.

We must continue to be innovative and create positive outcomes for the sake of the agency, for those we serve, and for the community at large; we must not shy away from change but remain focused on the impacts it can create for better or worse. Positive outcomes can continue to be achieved because of the dedication of staff, the engagement of community partners, and the continued community support.

Warm regards,

Duane Yoder

President, Garrett County Community Action Committee

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Gov. Hogan Signs Executive Order Forming 2-Generation Commission and Pilot Program

Called "A Bold Step for Maryland"

At the invitation of Hogan administration, [Rural IMPACT partners](#), Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) and Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission (HRDC), attended the [announcement](#) of Governor Hogan's [Executive Order](#) to establish a "2-Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program" on March 9, 2017 in Annapolis, MD.

Leadership at GCCAC and Allegany HRDC participated in briefing members of the Legislature and the Governor's Office over the past 6 months on the benefits of the 2-Generation approach in helping families achieve their goals and realize greater economic security.



Flanked by members of his administration Governor Hogan announces his Executive Order.

We have been working to develop and implement 2-Generation practices for many years and the Governor's Commission and pilot study will better enable the practice to become more mainstream across the State," said Duane Yoder, President of GCCAC.

In Case You Missed It...

Employees of Community Action Awarded Certificates of Excellence

"National Employee Appreciation Day occurred on March 3rd this year and on that day 6 employees at GCCAC were honored with "Certificates of Excellence" for their exemplary attitude, dedication, and service towards those they work with and those they serve," commented Barbara Miller, Vice President of Family Economic Security at GCCAC.

"These individuals were selected by their department Directors and Community Action is proud of what they do every day and are able to accomplish for the sake of others in the community," she commented further.

Aging and Nutrition

Rodney Durst, Operations Manager for the Senior Centers and Health and Fitness Coordinator, is also a talented musician and songwriter. In 2016 Rodney raised \$6,697 for senior programs by organizing the Garrett County Opry, an evening of entertainment featuring performances by several well-known musical groups. Additionally, Rodney teaches Tai Chi, Health Self-Management and leads Historic Walking Tours.



Service Coordination

Although **Emily Roy** is relatively new to GCCAC, her can-do attitude and warm and friendly smile help to put people at ease when they visit the Service Coordination Department.

Offering [energy assistance](#) and [rental assistance](#) programs, [crisis intervention services](#), and more, Service Coordination is always busy and one of the main departments for families and individuals visiting the agency. Emily's down to earth personality and work ethic make staff and the people she serves feel valued.

Child and Family Development

As a Family Service Coordinator with 17 years of experience in Child and Family Development, **Jill Warnick** has "seen it all" and helped hundreds of parents and children have their needs addressed. Jill assists families by developing [Pathway Plan goals](#) and by gathering information in order to bundle needed programs and services that allow them to more fully thrive.

A Family Service Coordinator is vital to a families' success as they help to bridge them to a brighter future. More than case management, Jill builds a deep relationship with her families and coaches them as they make progress towards fulfilling their Pathway goals.

Ruby King is the lead teacher for the Crellin Head Start classroom and has been employed at GCCAC since 2002. As a resident of the Crellin community, she is able to establish relationships with families long before children join her classroom. That relationship enables parents to know that they can talk to her about any concern and that she will understand. She uses her warm and loving personality to deal calmly and successfully with any behavioral problems in an inviting classroom with books, hats, gloves, and cool new toys. Additionally, Ms. Ruby is mentor to staff helping them become successful leaders.

Asset Development

Everyone knows **Jason Hensley** as always willing to extend a hand to his co-workers, people in the community and especially to the people served by the [weatherization program](#). For Jason, no challenge is too great. Recently, he was asked to provide weatherization services for a gentleman whose house was considered beyond repair. Jason rallied his co-workers to help improve the quality of life for the homeowner with services available through our programs. In addition Jason operates Garrett Energy Solutions, LLC and volunteers with the VITA program which provides no cost tax preparation services to the community.

Garrett Transit Service

During his three years with Garrett Transit Service (GTS), **Jessie Thomas** has proven himself to be a reliable and talented employee. Maintaining a fleet of safe and dependable public transit and Head Start buses can be challenging. Jessie is always on hand to respond to meet the challenges of vehicle and facility maintenance quickly and efficiently. GTS drives nearly 1 million miles a year providing over 110,000 passenger trips in ever-changing, physically demanding, and fast-paced circumstances. Jessie helps the staff and drivers to better respond quickly, efficiently, and safely with reliable vehicles.

Did You Know?

In calendar year 2016, Garrett County Community Action provided programming and services to **5,633** residents from **3,064** households.

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