



February 13, 2025

Re: In Support of Senate Bill 666: Maryland Community Action Agencies Funding

Dear Honorable Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,
On behalf of Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC), I urge you to support SB0666 – Maryland Community Action Agencies Funding.

- GCCAC provides homeless services, community development assistance for the 8 towns in Garrett County , HeadStart for nearly 200 children, Meals on Wheels for 200 seniors, public transportation to over 1000 individuals, subsidized housing for over 700 families, budgeting classes, first-time homebuyers loans, energy, rent, and utility assistance, and a dozen other programs to fight poverty and create sustainable families in Garrett Co.

GCCAC supports SB0666 because of the impact it will have on the work we do each day to serve our community. **Two of our agency’s Vice Presidents are women who benefitted from our services, giving them the help they needed to overcome adversity and succeed. Last month I walked into a medical office for the first time, and when they learned that I worked at GCCAC three of them told me about the help they have received and credited our programs for being where they are in life. Two of them had children currently enrolled in HeadStart. I wept.**

SB0666 is a landmark bill that ensures sustained funding for CAAs, reinforcing our collective mission to combat poverty and uplift Maryland’s families and communities.

If passed, the bill would:

- Mandate the Governor to allocate essential appropriations to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide operating grants to Community Action Agencies across the state.
- The structured funding plan phases in from FY 2027 to FY 2032 and allows these funds to enhance the capacity of CAAs to provide critical anti-poverty services.
- The Community Action Fund supports the work of Community Action Agencies across Maryland to offer competitive wages, meet the rising demand for services, and revitalize communities through housing and community development.

Your partnership and advocacy play a crucial role in making these necessary investments a reality. With your dedication, we are making significant strides towards creating pathways to economic mobility. We appreciate your leadership and collaboration in championing this cause. Your efforts make a meaningful difference, and we look forward to continuing our work together to see SB0666 pass and be successfully signed into law. If there is any additional information that I can provide as you consider this bill, I would be happy to help. You can contact me any time by cell at 304-669-0175 or cmullett@garrettcac.org.

Hope!

Christopher P. Mullett, President and CEO – 23101 Royale Lane SW, Barton, MD 21521