



Lawrence County
**Community
Action** Partnership

Changing Lives

LCCAP 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Year of Growth and Transformation

In the wake of post-pandemic challenges, LCCAP remains dedicated to supporting Lawrence County's individuals and families on their path to recovery and stability.



www.lccap.org



724-658-7258

Table of Contents

Post COVID- A New Era	<i>page 4</i>
Early Learning	<i>pages 5-6</i>
ACTS	<i>pages 7-8</i>
Community Supports	<i>pages 9-10</i>
Healthy Homes	<i>page 11</i>
SportsNet	<i>page 12</i>
Veterans	<i>page 13</i>
Frew Mill Campus	<i>page 14</i>
Financials	<i>pages 15-16</i>
Testimonials	<i>page 17</i>
Board of Directors	<i>page 18</i>
Agency Summary	<i>pages 19-20</i>

Post COVID-A New Era

The past few years have tested the resilience of communities across the nation, and Lawrence County has been no exception. At Lawrence County Community Action Partnership (LCCAP), our goal has been to navigate the challenges of post-pandemic recovery while continuing to support and uplift the individuals and families who rely on us.

This year's theme, "Post COVID – A New Era," highlights the steps we have taken to adapt, innovate, and rebuild stronger connections within our community. LCCAP continues to evolve, enhancing programs to meet changing needs while prioritizing health, safety, and accessibility—ensuring a lasting, meaningful impact.

Progress and Innovation in a New Era

In response to the unique challenges brought on by the pandemic, LCCAP has implemented lasting innovations and improvements to better serve the community. These changes have strengthened the agency and increased accessibility for consumers:

- Staff adopted new tools like DocuSign, allowing consumers to complete and sign forms remotely.
- Expanded digital presence through increased website and social media use to share critical updates and resources.
- Launched a monthly agency newsletter to ensure regular and transparent communication.
- Shifted to remote communication and collaboration, reducing reliance on in-office visits and traditional mail.
- Digitized hard-copy materials and streamlined processes for greater accessibility and efficiency.
- ACTS adapted its services, allowing individuals to sign up for discounted fare programs over the phone, removing barriers to access.
- Enhanced the Client Portal on the LCCAP website, enabling consumers to efficiently access resources and manage services.

Reflection and Commitment

In this annual report, we reflect on the progress we've made, the lessons we've learned, and the resilience shown by our team, partners, and community members. Together, we are shaping a "new normal" that prioritizes equity, stability, and growth for all residents of Lawrence County.

As we move forward into this new era, LCCAP remains committed to innovation, collaboration, and community-focused solutions. By embracing change and fostering resilience, we continue to build a stronger, more connected future for Lawrence County.

Early Learning

475

of unduplicated students served in the 23-24 program year

Early Learning has 50+ partnerships that support and enhance our program- serving children 6 weeks through 5 years of age

LCCAP Early Learning offers a variety of programs, including **Early Head Start, Head Start, PA Pre-K Counts, and The Learning Tree Childcare and Preschool**. These programs operate across three satellite locations—Ben Franklin Early Learning, Ellwood City Early Learning Center, and Frew Mill Campus—as well as classrooms in six local school districts:

- Hartman Elementary School
- Mohawk Elementary School
- New Wilmington Elementary School
- Laurel Elementary School
- Neshannock Memorial Elementary School
- Shenango Elementary School

In order to foster children’s development, educators and families collaborate to establish objectives and track assessment data. Family Service Workers partner with families to provide support and define family goals. Furthermore, every child undergoes developmental and sensory screenings, which encompass evaluations of hearing, vision, lead levels, hemoglobin, as well as measurements of height and weight.

LCCAP Early Learning also prioritizes nutrition by serving daily meals, which include breakfast, lunch, and snacks. In the 2023-2024 school year, the program provided a total of **125,461** meals to children enrolled in its programs.



The Summer Food Program is a federally-funded child nutrition program that provides healthy meals while schools are on summer break.

During 2023-2024, there were **6,350** meals served at the Summer Food Program.



of Physicals Completed:

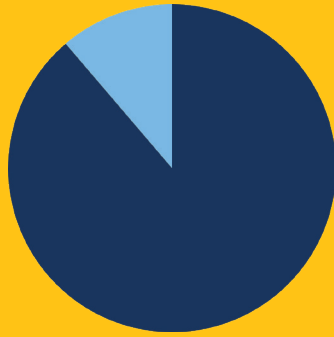
of Dentals Completed:

Early Head Start

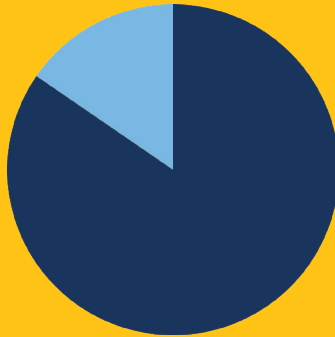
Head Start

Early Head Start

Head Start



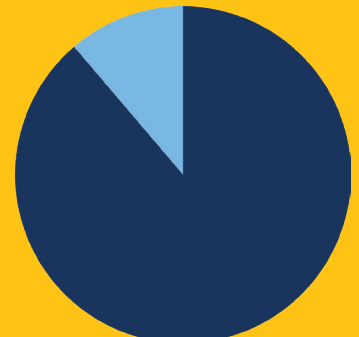
71 out of 80



269 out of 318



46 out of 80



202 out of 318

A total of 5,003 combined hours were volunteered by 717 individuals with Early Learning

LCCAP Early Learning Programs establishes a Center Committee for each site, which is elected by the families of all enrolled Early Learning children at that center.



Ellwood City Parent Center Committee

The Center Committee has the opportunity to:

- Plan and participate in family engagement events
- Contribute ideas for program policies and services
- Elect and communicate with Policy Council members
- Organize and participate in the Parent Only Event
- Attend educational workshops
- Assist in the recruitment and screening of Head Start staff



154
parents in attendance at Center Committee for 2023-2024

Ben Franklin Parent Center Committee

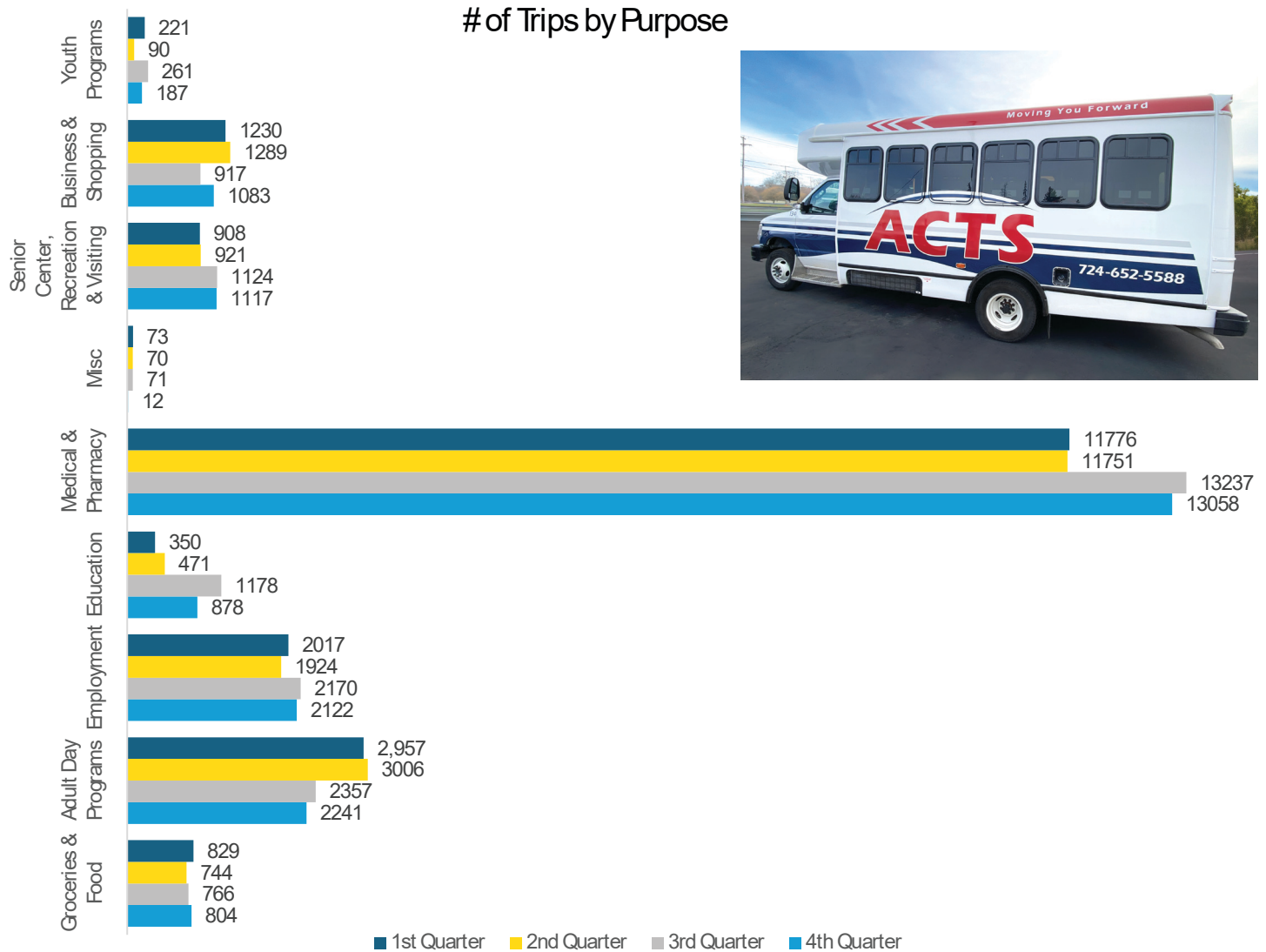
Transportation ACTS

Moving You Forward

Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. (ACTS)

ACTS provides door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service that is open to all Lawrence County residents. ACTS is open to the public, meaning anyone can ride with ACTS and pay the full fare, however, most of our passengers qualify for a reduced fare program. ACTS provides service throughout Lawrence County each weekday, and into neighboring PA counties several times each week.

Passengers Age (Years)	Unduplicated Riders	Total # of Trips
0-4	28	1,246
5-17	171	8,503
18-29	100	7,283
30-49	230	21,835
50-64	362	19,577
65+	690	26,036
Totals	1,581	84,480



Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)

Administered by Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. (LCSS), the MATP provides free medical and pharmacy transportation to individuals who have Medical Assistance through the Department of Human Services. Based on each person's needs, their residence location, and the destination of their medical appointment or pharmacy, LCSS must provide the least costly, most appropriate mode of transportation that meets their needs. During FY 2023-24, LCSS provided **82,540** trips to **1,092 unduplicated Lawrence County residents** who receive Medical Assistance. These trips were provided on the following modes of transportation for both in-county and out-of-county medical destinations:

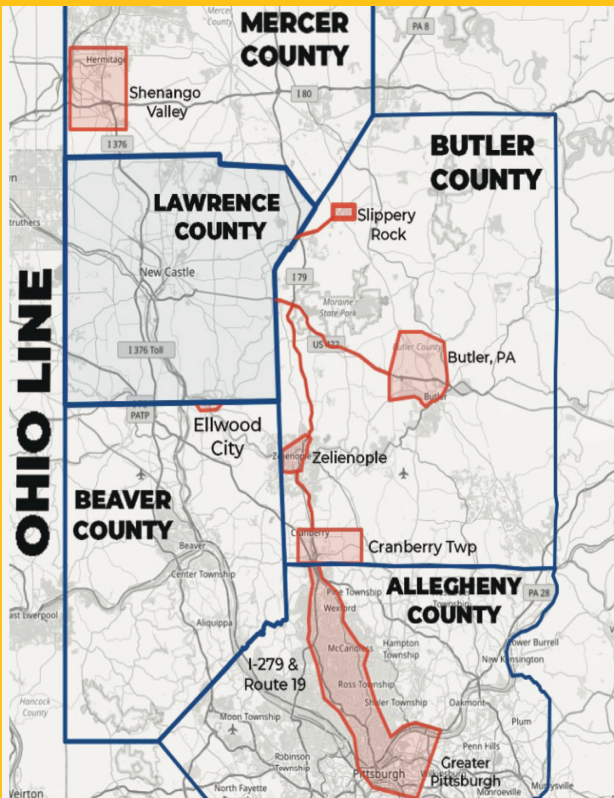
- Private Automobile Mileage Reimbursement: **37,207** trips provided.
- New Castle Area Transit Authority: **5,835** bus trips provided.
- Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc: **39,378** bus trips provided.
- Private Subcontractors: **120** trips provided.

65%
of all passenger
trips were
provided to
passengers with
a disability



Early Learning School Bus Service

LCCAP owns and operates a fleet of school buses to transport many of our preschool students to school each day. During the 2023/2024 school year, LCCAP operated **7** school bus routes, serving **307 children** throughout the school year.



Lawrence County	(All Areas): Mondays – Fridays (Greater New Castle Area): Saturdays
Mercer County	(Shenango Valley): Mondays- Thursdays
Beaver County	(Ellwood City): Mondays- Fridays
Allegheny County	(Rt 79 to 279 and 19 Corridors): Wexford, Sewickley, North Hills, Downtown Pittsburgh, and Oakland): Mondays- Thursdays
Butler County	(Rt 422 to Butler): Tuesdays (Rt 108 to Slipper Rock Twp): Mondays- Thursdays (Rt 79 and 19 to Zelenople, Cranberry Twp, Seven Fields, and Mars): Mondays- Thursdays

	Trips	% of Trips
Allegheny	740	1%
Beaver	1,666	2%
Butler	721	1%
Mercer	1,420	2%
Totals	4,547	6%

All ACTS Buses are ADA Accessible

Community Supports

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) is a sexual education program for youth 11-18, which utilizes the **Making Proud Choices (MPC)** and **Sexual Health and Adolescent Risk Prevention (SHARP)** curriculums to encourage and promote youth participants to make healthy and responsible decisions about their future and their health.

In the 2023-2024 project year, LCSS PREP served **77** youth with evidence-based sexual education curricula. Of those youth, **75** completed **100%** of programming.

- **7** youth participated in SHARP and were referred by the Office of Juvenile Probation, the remaining participated in MPC.
- **18** Hispanic youth and **8** youth in foster care/kindship care received programming.
- **95%** of the youth served were from low-income families.

Through the connection with this grant, the Agency receives LGBTQ+ training for all Agency staff each year.



#iMatter is an afterschool drop-in program committed to providing youth with evidence-based delinquency prevention/intervention programming by addressing criminogenic factors in an effort to positively impact the community.

The program served **36** youth during the 2023-2024 program year with cognitive behavior intervention and hands-on service learning and career focused activities. During the youths' time in the program and up to six months following, there were reported no accounts of recidivism from the office of juvenile probation.



Life Skills Enhancement (LSE) Program targets youth between ages 10-21 that are in the juvenile justice system. During the project year 2023-2024, **19** youth were served with one-on-one and group workshops and activities totalling **80** hours or more, to help remove barriers to employment, education, services, and provide growth in decision making and goal setting and achievement of said goals. Of those youth, seven gained employment while in the program, two graduated from highschool, and there was only one account of recidivism.



Supportive and Affective Family

Education (SAFE) Parenting serves families of Lawrence County with parenting education. While in this program, families are provided parenting education workshops in the form of weekly group workshops utilizing the Nurturing Parenting Program, and weekly to bi-weekly home visits utilizing Brainwise and Making Parenting a Pleasure, all curriculums being evidence-based. Additionally, supportive services are available to assist with barrier removal to maintain and/or reunify families.

In 2023-2024, **103** individuals were referred for programming from Children and Youth Services, and an additional **17** individuals from the community self-enrolled and participated in programming.

IM4Q (Independent Monitoring For Quality) is a program used to collect information to improve the quality of life of people served/supported. IM4Q uses trained independent monitoring teams to interview people receiving services and their families about the quality of their lives using a standard survey instrument. In 2023-2024, Monitors surveyed **34** individuals identified with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Lawrence County.

353

of clients were served for tax year 2023 through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

IM4Q
INDEPENDENT MONITORING FOR QUALITY

Healthy Homes



The **Weatherization Assistance Program** helps families to reduce energy costs by increasing energy efficiency. This is done by installing energy efficiency measures in the home.

LIHEAP Crisis and Cooling help provide a warm home in the winter and a cool home in the summer. These programs assist with these needs by repairing or replacing heating and / or cooling systems.

The **HOME Rehabilitation program** ensures homes are structurally sound and habitable by current standards.

The **Lead Hazard Control Grant** maximizes the number of children under the age of six protected from lead poisoning by identifying and controlling lead-based paint hazards.

Before Lead Rehabilitation



After Lead Rehabilitation



60

of homes that received LEAD Hazard Control and Housing Rehabilitation and are now lead safe and up to minimum standards.

68

of homes that received Energy Efficiency Measures through the Weatherization Assistance Program

165

of homes that received Heating or Cooling System replacements and/or repairs through the LIHEAP Crisis & Cooling Programs

Completed Projects

57

Weatherization

30

Lead

198

Crisis

57

Rehab



The Department of Healthy Homes has played a key role in administering Housing Rehabilitation grants for several municipalities that have applied for assistance. This includes administering grant projects for municipalities such as the:

- **City of Farrell**
- **Pine Township**
- **Mercer County**
- **City of Hermitage**
- **Greenville Borough**
- **Grove City**

In addition to supporting municipalities that applied for the grants, the Department has also proactively applied for these grants on behalf of Union Township and the City of New Castle, overseeing the administration of the work in those areas as well. Through these efforts, the Department of Healthy Homes has helped improve housing conditions and promote healthier living environments in these municipalities.



SportsNet

Lawrence County SportsNet is a dedicated program within Lawrence County Community Action Partnership (LCCAP), committed to showcasing and celebrating the achievements of local youth. As an integral part of LCCAP, LC SportsNet provides a platform for recognizing student-athletes, artists, and scholars in and around Lawrence County. This initiative ensures that the talents and accomplishments of our students are highlighted and appreciated, reinforcing the community's pride in its young people.



In its third year, Lawrence County SportsNet significantly surpassed its initial goal of 100 broadcasts, concluding the 2023-2024 school year with **160** broadcasts. This expansive coverage included high school events across twelve varsity sports, youth tournaments, unified sports, and eSports competitions. The network also featured prominent community events such as the Lawrence County Band Festival, further celebrating the diverse talents of local students.

Thanks to the support of **27** local businesses that served as sponsors, Lawrence County SportsNet has been able to thrive and expand its reach. Their generosity has played a key role in making these broadcasts and opportunities possible.

Lawrence County SportsNet also offers invaluable opportunities for students interested in journalism and digital media. Through educational programs and work-study placements, students across the county can engage in creating and editing content for the network. These experiences provide practical skills and exposure to the media industry, helping students develop their talents and career interests.



Veterans



LCSS, Inc. Regional Veteran Services empowers veteran households to become successful in acquiring or retaining their housing by utilizing temporary financial assistance and additional

supportive services to stabilize housing. The assistance offered is paid for, in whole or in part, by VA, through a federal grant award, PA DCED, HUD, and/or CoC Funding.

Our Regional **Veteran Services SSVF Program (Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grant)** is funded by the Veterans Affairs Office. From 10/1/23 to 9/30/24, we served **245** veteran households in our regional SSVF program, with **58** veterans from Lawrence County. Veterans in the program achieved housing stability through temporary financial assistance and veteran-centered case management.

- **91%** of homeless prevention (eviction) households exited to permanent housing.
- **88%** of rapid rehousing (homeless) veterans exited to permanent housing.

SSVF Award amount: \$1,811,187

The SSVF grant is primarily based on the Butler Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN) 4 catchment area and services the following counties:

- **Armstrong**
- **Beaver**
- **Butler**
- **Clarion**
- **Jefferson**
- **Lawrence**
- **Mercer**



In addition to these counties, our regional veteran services are offered in other counties throughout the Western PA Continuum of Care.

Frew Mill Campus

The Frew Mill Campus (FMC) stands as a symbol of progress, economic advancement, and community enhancement in Lawrence County, PA. When LCCAP acquired ownership of the former Youth Development Center property in 2019, it marked a transformative new chapter for this **153**-acre, **13**-building site. Previously owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it served as a 100-bed residential facility for delinquent youth. Once closed in 2013, the campus laid dormant awaiting a new purpose. Under LCCAP's ownership, this expansive property has been revitalized and now hosts a variety of educational, community-focused, and family wellness services, including partnerships with other non-profit organizations and the County of Lawrence. While numerous buildings have undergone rehabilitation and are currently operational, LCCAP remains vigilant, seeking new opportunities and collaborations to restore the remaining structures, thereby enhancing the economic and community advancements already initiated on the campus.

Purchased for **\$2 million** by LCCAP's Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, the campus was reimagined under the visionary leadership of LCCAP CEO Tom Scott. His ambitious plan aimed to convert the former institutional space into a vibrant community hub. The vision for Frew Mill included establishing a countywide STEM academy in partnership with local school districts to expand educational opportunities and developing a charter school to meet special educational needs within the community. Plans also included a primary health clinic or urgent care facility to improve access to healthcare in the area, along with short-term housing to support individuals and families in transition.

Since acquiring the campus, LCCAP has created **45** jobs, further contributing to the local economy and fostering community growth.

Exciting developments are on the horizon for Frew Mill Campus, with new initiatives designed to strengthen its role as a vital community hub. These upcoming additions will further the campus's growth, fostering opportunity, support, and innovation. As these projects unfold, Frew Mill Campus is poised to become a central point of progress and opportunity for the Lawrence County community.



Financials

Lawrence County Social Services, Inc (LCSS) Year Ended 6/30/23

Revenues:

Grants	\$21,220,236
In-Kind services	643,300
Indirect cost income	289,000
Contract revenue	5,148,292
Interest income	172,366
Other income	2,586,277

Total revenues

\$30,059,471

Expenditures:

Salaries	7,705,605
Building material supplies	479,639
Classroom supplies	115,201
Depreciation expense	539,661
Dues and publications	21,686
Employee fringe benefits	2,340,844
Equipment	-
Equipment rental	6,133
Field trips	241
Food supplies	451,608
Fuel	63,960
General supplies	649,088
In-Kind services	643,300
Insurance	115,389
Interest	20,999
Leasehold improvements	-
Payroll taxes	668,296
Retirement contribution	734,141
Professional services	168,930
Private landlords	3,697,935
Purchased services	8,772,364
Real estate taxes	4,704
Recruitment/outreach	41,628
Rent	616,176
Repairs and maintenance	181,565
Travel and training	174,163
Utilities	272,852
Miscellaneous	233,554

Total Expenditures

\$28,719,662

Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc.
Year Ended 6/30/23

Revenues:	
Lottery-Shared Ride Program Transportation	294,584
Persons with Disabilities	52,329
Welfare to Work	75,068
Medical Assistance Transportation Program	1,007,219
Lawrence County Association of Retarded Citizens	85,104
Capital Assistance Grant	162,302
DHS Retention Funds	132,295
LARK	110,410
Rent	918,446
Client Fares	50,777
#I Matter	19,374
GED Testing Fees	2,638
Challenges, Options in Aging	15,259
New Castle Area Transit Authority	115,377
TEAM	71,953
Extinguishment of debt	104,074
Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping	4,403
Early Learning	5,028
Insurance	415,730
Haven Nursing Home	9,172
Interest Income	5,159
Gain on sale of equipment	13,685
Miscellaneous	45,435
Total Revenue	\$3,715,821
Expenditures:	
Program services	3,164,213
Supportive activities	275,106
Total Expenditures	\$3,439,319

United Community Services of Lawrence County, Inc. (UCS)
Year Ended 6/30/24

Revenues:	
Program fees	\$2,178,516
Interest income	53,405
Rental income	17,267
Total Revenues	2,249,188
Expenditures:	
Program services	2,267,266
Supportive activities	15,800
Total Expenditures	\$2,283,066

Board of Directors

Lawrence County Social Services, Inc.

1. Joe Ambrosini
2. Henry Karki
3. Pastor David Young
4. Hygeia Moss-Eggleston
5. Lou Perretta
6. Gary McKissick
7. Kate Keech
8. Dr. Terence Meehan
9. Bill Humphrey
10. Senator Elder Vogel
11. Honorable Craig Cox

United Community Services of Lawrence County, Inc.

1. Henry Karki
2. Honorable Craig Cox
3. Joe Ambrosini
4. Betty Cini
5. Lou Perretta

Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc.

1. Honorable Thomas Piccione
2. Honorable Craig Cox
3. Betty Cini
4. Gary McKissick
5. Lou Perretta



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