

## HEALTHY HOME INITIATIVE

by Watauga, Avery, Mitchell & Yancey (WAMY)  
Community Action, Inc.

Region 4B • Boone, North Carolina  
wamycommunityaction.org



## Housing • Health

### INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

**The Healthy Homes Initiative is a statewide program addressing social determinants of health.**

This initiative is administered through the North Carolina Community Action Association (NCCAA) to local Community Action Agencies across North Carolina. WAMY Community Action, one of those agencies, has effectively administered and leveraged program funding to create an especially transformative impact on the local community. This initiative provides installation measures and other services that promote safe and healthy indoor living environments for families. Services provided through the initiative include:

- Healthy home assessment
- Accessibility/fall prevention in the interior of the home
- Replacement of carpet with hard-surface flooring
- Deep cleaning of the home
- Interior pest control
- Moisture control (basement & cross space sealing)
- Air filter change-out (plus 4 additional replacements)
- Air purifiers
- Installs battery changeout of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors

This initiative addresses community-wide social drivers of health.

### LOCAL NEED ADDRESSED BY INITIATIVE

Many low-income families within this four-county area live in unsafe and unhealthy living environments due to the condition of the home. This community initiative



addresses these critical needs by promoting healthier homes. This need was included in the agency's most recent Community Needs Assessment.

### ROLE OF CSBG FUNDS

CSBG funds are leveraged to carry out the Community Needs Assessment, which identifies housing needs, as well as to provide staff support.

### TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

This initiative makes homes safer and more energy-efficient, which promotes economic self-sufficiency, contributes to greater child health, and allows seniors to age in place. **53% of homes served by the Healthy Home Initiative were occupied by seniors and 20% had children under the age of 18 within the home.**

### EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

There is substantial data highlighting the positive impacts of this initiative. For example, an independent study analyzing data from a similar program

administered by the NCCAA found that 45% of families receiving home energy-efficiency measures reported positive health impacts, 36% reported decreased stress, and 12% reported fewer doctor visits. In the homes WAMY has served, 74% of participating households included residents experiencing chronic health conditions, including arthritis, asthma, Alzheimer's, cancer, COPD, diabetes, heart disease, mental health, musculoskeletal disorder, and stroke.

## EQUITY LENS

WAMY Community Action, Inc.'s four-county service area is relatively racially homogeneous, with each county reporting between 92% and 96% of its citizens as white. Regardless, **WAMY maintains diversity as a core value and ensures that anyone who seeks services is screened for eligibility and has an equal opportunity to participate in this initiative.**

Statewide, 51% of homes served through the Healthy Home Initiative were occupied by White/Caucasian families; 44% by Black/African American Families; 4% by Native American families; and 1% by Hispanic families. These numbers can be compared to the overall racial composition for the state: White/Caucasian: 71%; Black/African American: 22%; Native American: 1%; Hispanic: 10%.

## CUSTOMER VOICE

Customers served through this initiative participate in a telephone survey and are invited to provide qualitative feedback. Overwhelmingly, the surveys have revealed the program's strong performance and the improved quality of life it provides participants.

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