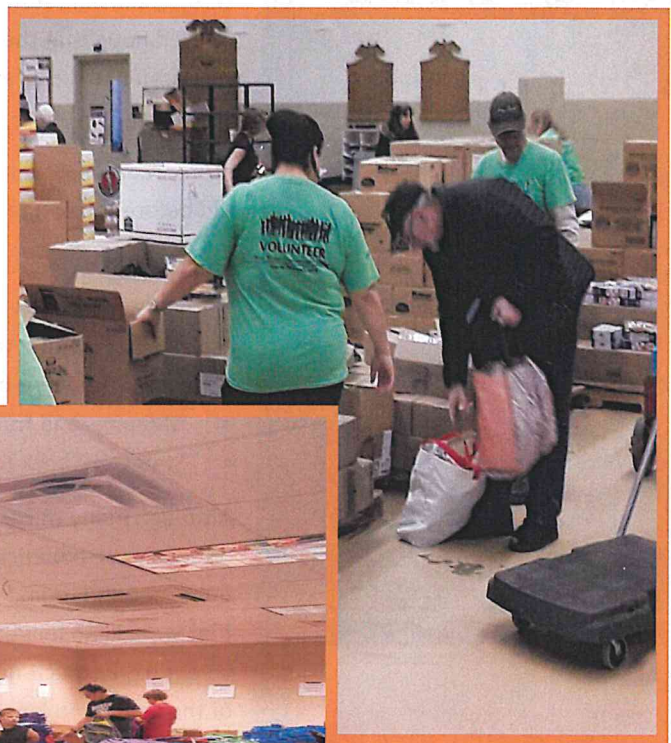


2022

BLUE WATER COMMUNITY ACTION

Annual Report



Helping People Changing Lives

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MISSION

**The mission of
Blue Water
Community
Action is to
advocate for and
provide
individuals with
limited income an
opportunity to
become socially
and economically
self-sufficient in
the community.**

Letter from the Director

Greetings!

Blue Water Community Action's motto is "Helping People, Changing Lives" and the 2021-2022 year has been a year of change. Maneuvering through the pandemic and working within the ever-changing health and grant regulations brought many challenges but also taught us valuable lessons about ourselves and our community.

During the year, programs began to transition to what was more of a traditional setting, allowing staff to reconnect with customers and each other. Although this offered hope that the pandemic would soon end, it also offered challenges since many new staff had never experienced face to face interactions with customers.

The services offered to the community once again began to look different. They were more traditional than when the pandemic began but still looked different than they did before the pandemic.

- Head Start went back to full-day classes, four days a week.
- Early Head Start went back to indoor home visits.
- Weatherization went back to completing home inspections and repairs.
- The HARA went back to rental inspections and in-home case management.
- Meetings and training went back to in-person.
- Staff went back to eating together in the lunchroom.

Although many things went back to normal, we also learned that many of the virtual options were beneficial to our customers and staff. Customers without transportation no longer had to find a ride to the office to drop off paperwork or attend a class. Those that were ill no longer had to reschedule appointments and wait days or possibly weeks to get much-needed services. Many of our customers who live on the outskirts of the county no longer needed to spend their limited resources on gas to make it to the office. Staff were given opportunities to work from home.

As our world adjusts to the end of the public health emergency, Blue Water Community Action is looking to the future and moving forward with the tools and lessons from this time. We are proud of the many services that staff provided during these ever-changing times and their never wavering commitment to our community. They all truly live by our motto "Helping People, Changing Lives".

Sincerely,

Karen Lake

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children Served

321 Head Start
140 Early Head Start
14 Pregnant Women
407 Families Served

Children Up To Date On Medical Services

93.6% of Head Start
53.8% of Early Head Start



Children Up To Date On Immunizations

97.5% of Head Start
89.3% of Early Head Start



Percentage of Eligible Children Served

61.3% Income Below 100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
12.4% Between 100% and 130% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
6.9% Over Income
19.4% Enrolled as Foster Care, Homeless or Receiving Public Assistance

Average Monthly Enrollment As A Percent Of Funded Enrollment

78.99% Head Start
83.19% Early Head Start

Children Up To Date On Dental Services

76.6% of Head Start
12.6% of Early Head Start



Family Connections To Services In The Community

252 Head Start
79 Early Head Start



Blue Water Community Head Start/Early Head Start emphasizes the importance of ongoing preventive care and early detection of health problems. With the lingering effects of COVID, some doctors and dentists are behind in scheduling appointments, but we worked hard to assist families in accessing the care needed when it became available.

The agency helped provide many families with connections to services in the community as needed for emergency intervention, housing assistance, asset building, nutrition, medical and oral health education, and other services.

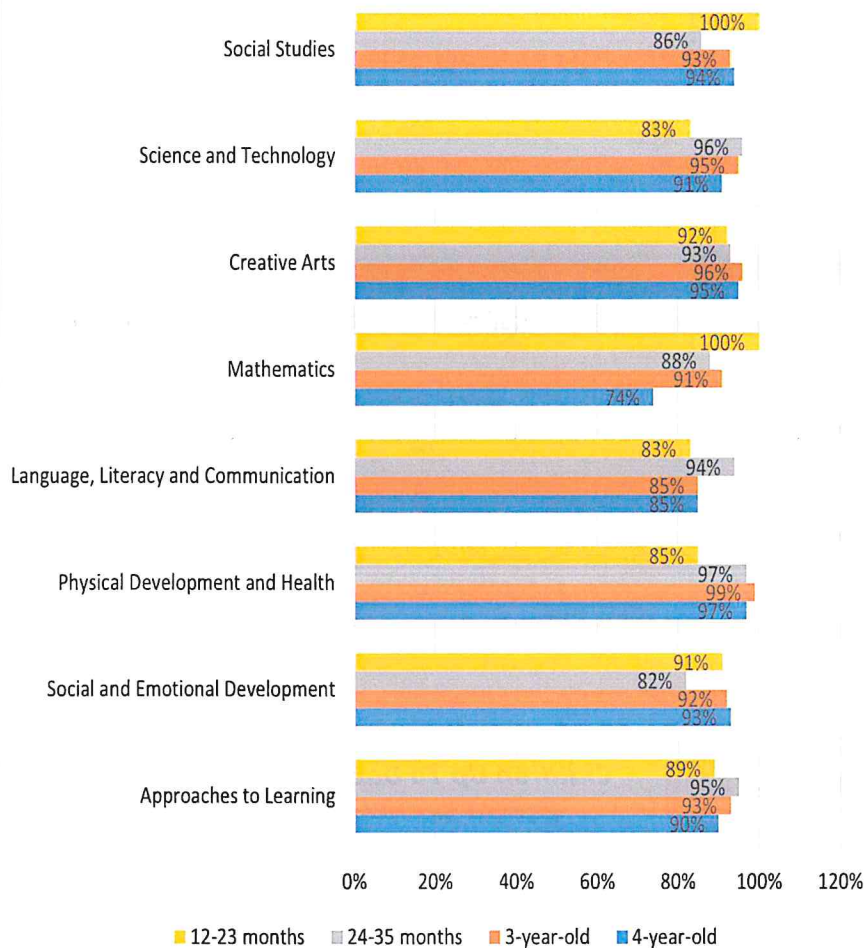


The last Focus Area Two federal monitoring review was completed March 29, 2018. The program met all requirements. The last federal CLASS review was completed March 29, 2019. BWCA scored in the highest 10% for emotional support and at the median for classroom organization and instructional support.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

2021-2022 School Readiness Outcomes



SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES

Numbers to the left indicate the percentage of children deemed school ready, or progressing at their age appropriate level to be ready for school.



BWCA uses COR Advantage as the assessment tool for our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The tool supports the goals and objectives of the curriculums we use in our early learning programs, and measures school readiness outcomes. We measure all eight developmental domains as listed above which include the five school readiness domains of approaches to learning, social and emotional development, language and literacy, cognition, and perceptual, motor, and physical development.

Meals Served

21,589 Breakfasts

22,535 Lunches

20,808 Snacks

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

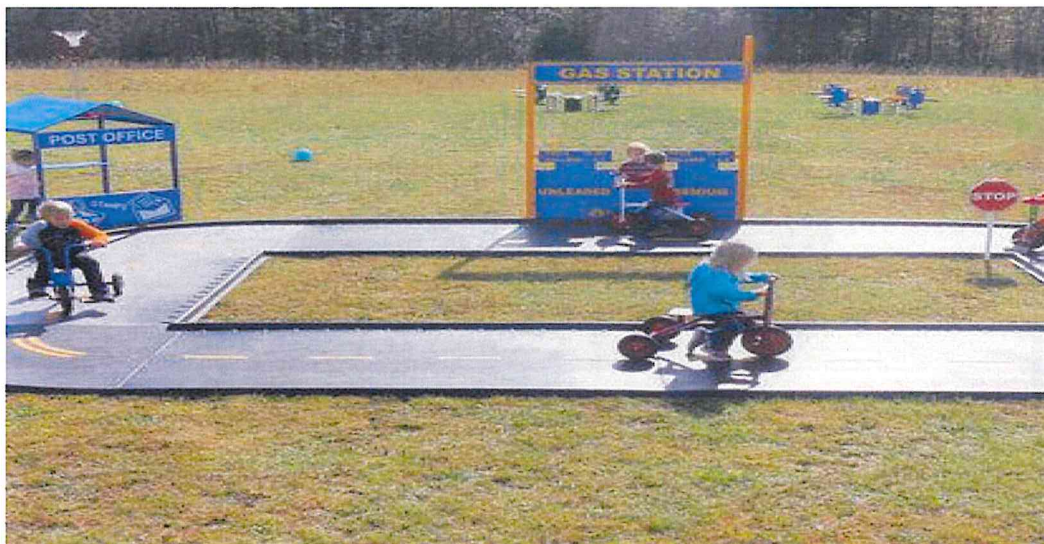


Playground With Playscapes

"Their minds were not built to sit and be taught. They were built to explore, play, and learn." -Layla Gordon Lu



Playground With Playscapes



Our Bike Path With Ball Play

With Covid, one of our greatest challenges was how to get all classrooms their outdoor gross motor time while maintaining separate cohorts. With the money we received, it allowed us to build three new playgrounds. One playground is a bike path with play houses, art activities and ball play. Two separate playgrounds were built with playscapes for children to play on as well as musical equipment, and other activities. We also have our original natural playground which will be used for outdoor classrooms and gardening, and our Early Head Start playground. This makes a total of five playgrounds allowing for five classrooms to be outside at the same time.

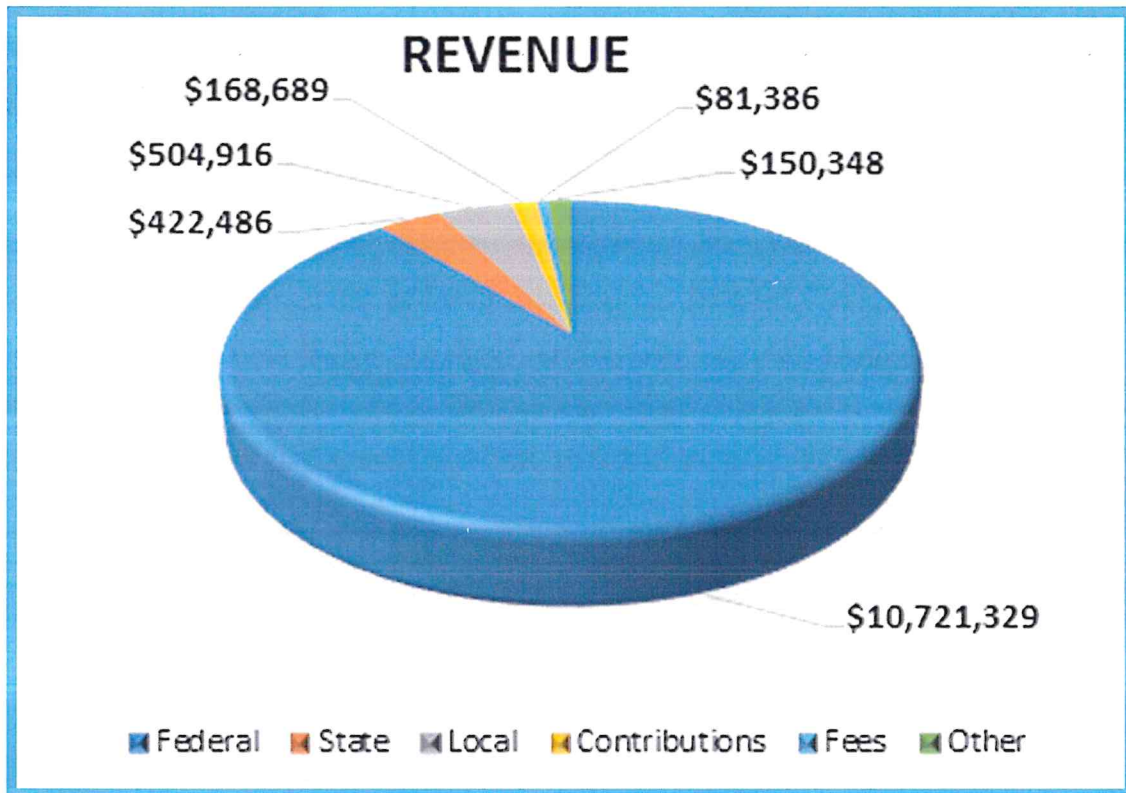
**Covid money used
for additional
playgrounds.**

\$200,000.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES FINANCE REPORT

Head Start	Expenditures	Budget
Personnel	\$ 1,405,644.00	\$ 2,028,500.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 344,227.00	\$ 542,827.00
Communication	\$ 28,239.00	\$ 6,863.00
Contracted Services	\$ 226,424.00	\$ 294,720.00
Equipment	\$ 25,378.00	\$ 20,000.00
Occupancy	\$ 179,110.00	\$ 142,430.00
Other	\$ 64,252.00	\$ 47,016.00
Staff Development	\$ 33,546.00	\$ 34,175.00
Supplies	\$ 98,983.00	\$ 107,700.00
Travel	\$ 8,016.00	\$ 7,850.00
Specific Assistance	\$ 1,999.00	\$ 400.00
In-Kind Expense	\$ 109,675.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 2,525,493.00	\$ 3,232,481.00

Carryforward	Expenditures	Budget
Personnel	\$ 575,907.00	\$ 420,000.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 165,048.00	\$ 138,166.00
Communication	\$ 76.00	\$ -
Contracted Services	\$ 1,261.00	\$ 50,000.00
Equipment	\$ 4.00	\$ -
Occupancy	\$ 758.00	\$ -
Other	\$ 92.00	\$ 25,000.00
Staff Development	\$ 7.00	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 559.00	\$ 110,546.00
Travel	\$ -	\$ -
Specific Assistance	\$ -	\$ -
In-Kind Expense	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 743,712.00	\$ 743,712.00



Early Head Start	Expenditures	Budget
Personnel	\$ 640,463.00	\$ 793,742.00
Fringe Benefits	\$ 227,482.00	\$ 288,488.00
Communication	\$ 8,284.00	\$ 6,195.00
Contracted Services	\$ 15,362.00	\$ 4,000.00
Equipment	\$ 4,747.00	\$ 3,501.00
Occupancy	\$ 48,341.00	\$ 17,150.00
Other	\$ 16,404.00	\$ 14,428.00
Staff Development	\$ 18,901.00	\$ 26,022.00
Supplies	\$ 24,739.00	\$ 12,213.00
Travel	\$ 8,494.00	\$ 15,050.00
Specific Assistance	\$ 746.00	\$ 206.00
In-Kind Expense	\$ 7,636.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 1,021,599.00	\$ 1,180,995.00

CRRSA/HET	Expenditures	Budget
Communication	\$ 111.00	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 150,563.00	\$ 255,427.00
Equipment	\$ 185.00	\$ 91,680.00
Total	\$ 150,859.00	\$ 347,107.00

COMMUNITY SERVICES



17
Households

Hygiene and Sanitation

The Hygiene and Sanitation Closet provided a variety of personal hygiene and cleaning items for families and individuals.

Backpack Giveaway

Backpacks are provided to school age children filled with the basic supplies to ensure a successful start to the school year. Each backpack is filled with supplies based on the school level of pre-school, elementary, and middle school. Distributed in Port Huron, Capac, East China, Yale, and Algonac for St. Clair County children.

1,453 Backpacks Distributed



2 Families for Car Insurance Totaling **\$1,866.00**

2 Families for Bus Passes Totaling **\$216.00**

2 Families for Gas Cards Totaling **\$200.00**

Transportation

Funding through the CSBG-CARES provided assistance for families/individuals needing transportation for medical appointments or work or transporting their children to and from school.

Water Plumbing Repairs

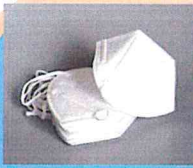
Funding through the CSBG-CARES provided water repair to ensure families/individuals had access to water to sanitize in their home.



1 Family Received a
New Water Heater



COMMUNITY SERVICES



15,732
masks were
distributed

782
tests were
distributed



Personal Protection

Face masks were made available to individuals to be worn as directed by the CDC to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and Covid tests were made available to individuals to test at home for the COVID-19 virus.

Asset Development

Asset Development supports clients with homeownership, including home purchase preparation and assisting those behind on their mortgage and/or property taxes.



14 Pre-Purchase Counseling

136 Homebuyer Education Attendees

62 Home Purchases

63 Foreclosure Prevention Counseling

47 Mortgage and Tax Assistance

Testimonials from the asset development program.

"Great news, I'm officially a home owner now as of today. Yay!!! I want to thank you for your help and checking up on me during this long journey. I truly appreciate it."—Pre-Purchase Client

"Financially things are going well. I finished off April with all bills paid, got rid of all the little extra things that were on my account like Netflix and all that, which made an incredible difference and currently all my bills for May are paid and it looks like we're still going to have some left over in the bank."—Foreclosure Prevention Client

COMMUNITY SERVICES

DTE	\$43,417.62
SEMCO	\$1,730.93
Fuel Oil/Propane	\$6,422.69
Water	\$5,695.66
Consumers	\$396.15

Utility Assistance

Funding through the CERA program provided **\$389,320.30** of assistance to **605** households toward their utilities.

Utility Assistance

\$57,663.05 of funding from CSBG-CARES, Deliverable Fuel, and Walk for Warmth was used to help **50** families avoid shut-off of their utilities.

DTE	\$278,283.05
SEMCO	\$87,752.94
Fuel Oil/Propane	\$1,572.46
Water	\$21,711.91
Consumers	\$1,572.46

TEFAP

Boxes of Food Distributed **5,780**

Pounds of Food Distributed **202,300**

CSFP

Boxes of Food Distributed **5,476**

Seniors in Program **979**

Food Assistance

To meet the nutritional needs of seniors and provide food assistance to needy families. BWCA utilizes CSFP and TEFAP programs. This is the last year BWCA will have TEFAP to assist families with food. The program has been turned over to the Food Bank of eastern Michigan in order to pair the TEFAP foods with the Food Bank foods and offer more variety to our community.

Money Management

BWCA provides fee-based services for individuals who find themselves under financial stress and in need of financial management skills and/or services. Clients can sign up on their own or be referred through various agencies.

145 Clients Served

COMMUNITY SERVICES

HARA

Fielded **1,989** calls and accepted **863** applications.

Placed **64** families in hotels at a cost of **\$177,649**.

Put **20** tenants on permanent supportive housing.

Helped **11** homeless move from the streets to stable housing.

Total funding used for eviction prevention was **\$3,994,308**.

Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA)

HARA provides centralized intake and housing assessment for individuals and families who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness; assisting families with rental costs, eviction notices and/or utility shut-off notices, as well as information and/or referral.



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Facebook Review

★★★★★ 5 hours ago

The BWAC does so much for the community and county of St Clair (myself included). They offer services such as money management assistance, help with utilities and food assistance, their preschool program, financial literacy and homeownership classes, help with home foreclosures applications, and so much more.

The very best thing about the BWCA is their INCREDIBLY AMAZING EMPLOYEES who throw themselves into helping and do so without reservation.

The BWAC employees exude compassion, respect and kindness and serve their positions with immense dignity and privacy considered for those who need and seek help.

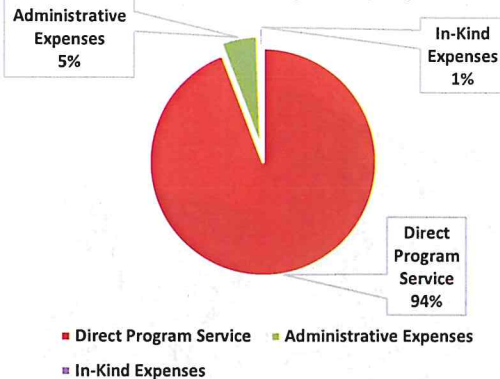
Candice, Kathy and Pam E have specifically done SO much for my husband and I during a very difficult time in our lives. The beautiful people handing out food have also shown such kindness and grace, even in brutally hot weather on a Saturday, no less!

Please seek the BWAC's help if ever in need. You won't be sorry.

Thank you to all the BWAC and that sweetheart of a lady at the front desk, too. You make seeking help easier and the dedication and support you have shown my husband and I has brought comfort and peace to our hearts. ❤️

COMMUNITY SERVICES FINANCE REPORT

Expenditures by Category



Revenue

Federal	\$8,667,634
State	\$655,855
Local	\$379,090
Contributions	\$116,643
Fees	\$89,246
Other	\$143,354
Total	\$10,051,822

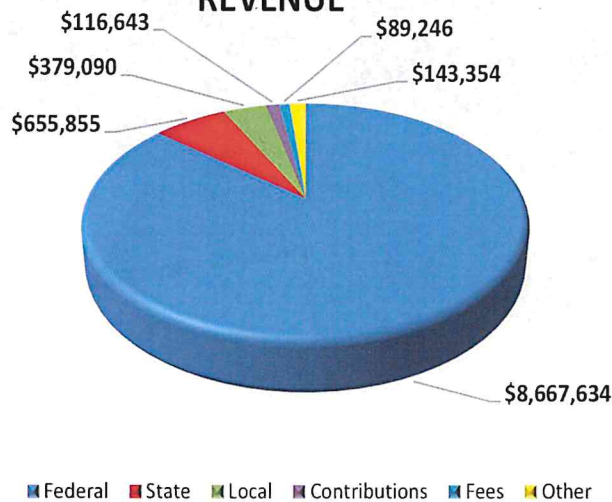
Direct Expenditures by Program

Children's Services	\$5,240,708
Nutrition & Health	\$525,153
Other	\$106,207
Home Weatherization	\$711,472
Client Assistance	\$2,986,214
Housing	\$666,915
Total	\$10,236,669

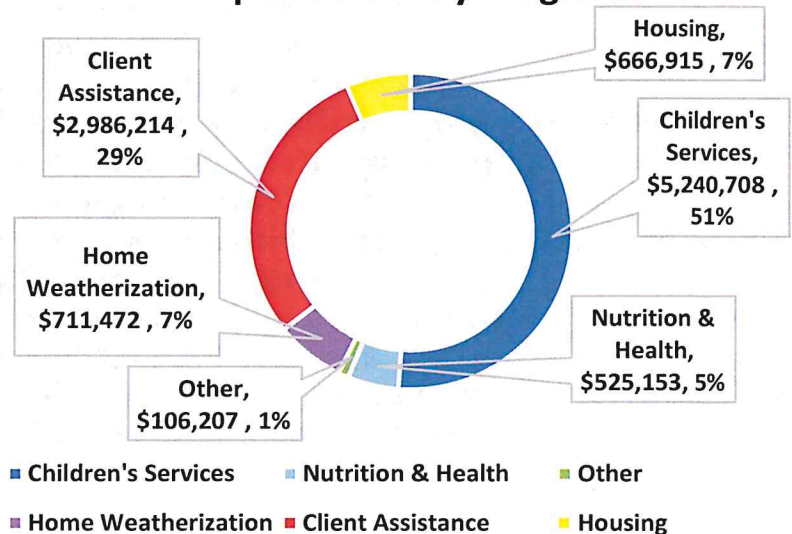
Expenditures by Category

Direct Program Service	\$9,642,191
Administrative Expenses	\$536,027
In-Kind Expenses	\$58,451
Total	\$10,236,669

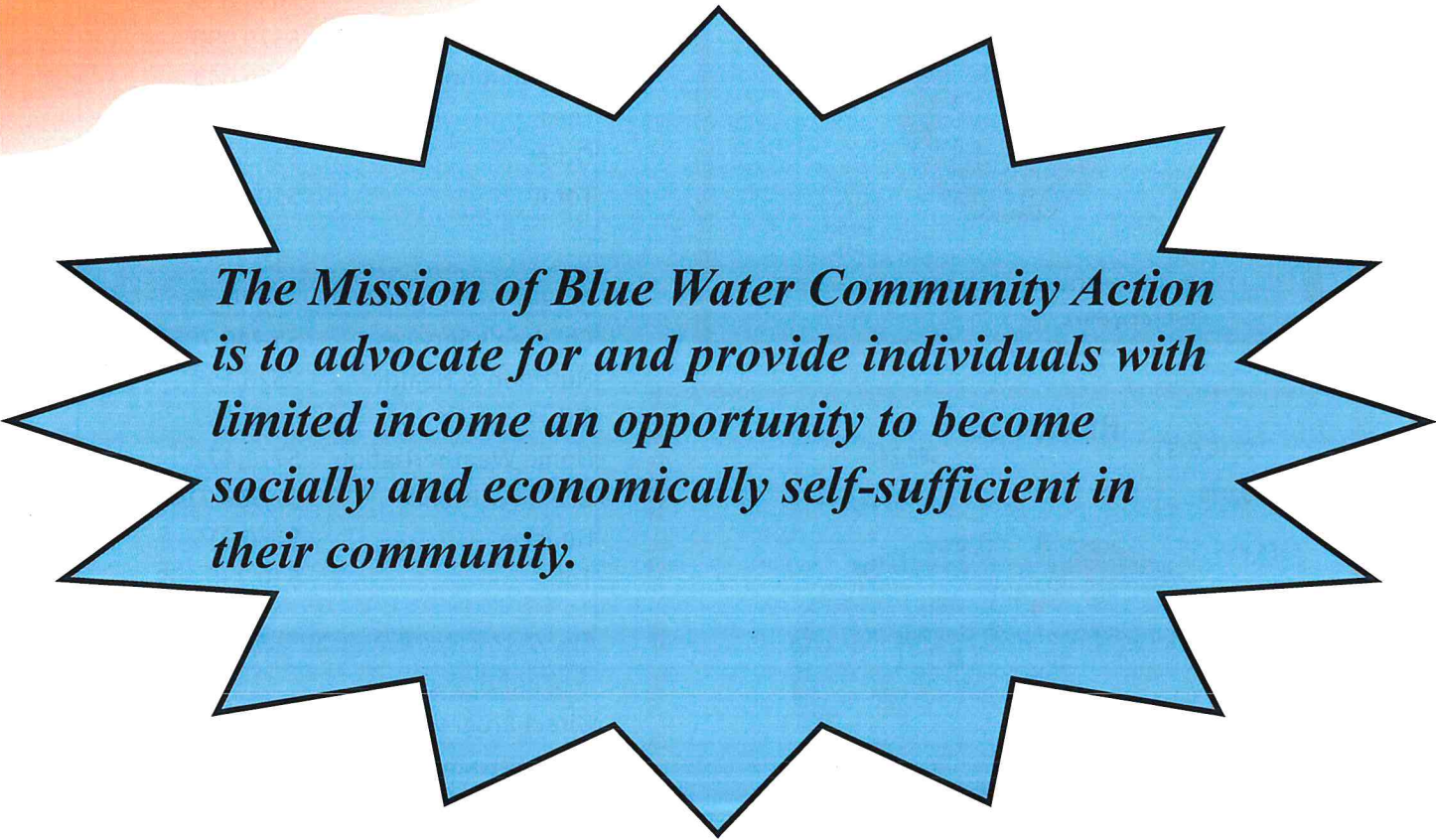
REVENUE



Expenditures by Program



BWCA's financial audit was prepared by UHY, LLC for the year-ended September 30, 2022. BWCA was found to have no material weaknesses, questioned costs, or significant deficiencies in the financial review, and qualified as a low-risk audit.



The Mission of Blue Water Community Action is to advocate for and provide individuals with limited income an opportunity to become socially and economically self-sufficient in their community.

Cultural Contract

We treat everyone with dignity and respect.

We are open and honest with each other.

We encourage initiative and forward thinking.

We set challenging, realistic goals and deliver on our commitments.

We regularly communicate with each other on important issues and developments.

We develop and leverage the abilities and perspectives of all individuals in our diverse organization.

We make decisions that consider both the short-term and long-term needs of the agency and those we serve.

We involve the right people in making decisions and base them on what is best for the entire agency and those we serve.