

GCCSA

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc.

A Community Action Agency



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2021

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**Former HS Policy Council Chair

+Former HS Policy Council
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Chief Financial Officer

Horace Grant
Director of Operations

Tiamoiya K. Lee
Head Start/Early Head Start Director

Amanda R. Shelton
Director of Client Services

Al Maldonado, III
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Ja'Milla C.K. Lomas
Marketing & Community Relations

Sue Kriegel
Executive Assistant to CEO/Liaison to the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

We are a community of survivors, having lived through powerful hurricanes, historic flooding, long-term federal shutdowns, and now an ongoing global health emergency that is proving beyond compare. Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Incorporated (GCCSA) has been the anchor for many people who have weathered their own personal emergencies in the Harris County Community for 55 continuous years.

GCCSA has had the privilege to administer programs and services that enrich and uplift, infusing our population with not just hope, but a real path toward economic independence and empowerment. Our aim is that the 16 percent of the Houston area population living below the poverty line will swiftly dwindle to less than 1 percent. Effectively putting us out of business.

Since the uncertainty wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, GCCSA has done what we do best – marshal our internal resources and work in concert with external allies for the betterment of the most vulnerable populations in our area. Our team has harnessed our past experiences with disaster relief efforts, assessed the needs of the Community – including immediate food relief to mitigate the limited access to supplies and housing assistance to lessen the impending threat of evictions – and leveraged our community partnerships to build sturdier foundations toward certainty.

GCCSA has bolstered our health/ safety measures and protocols while evolving our capabilities and service offerings for our youngest constituents in our Head Start & Early Head Start program as well as our adult customers in our Community Services programs. Our community in action and service will continue to move forward towards an enduring self-sufficiency, despite the challenges we yet face.

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. is a corporation with a proven track record of providing critical assistance needed to stabilize families so that they can start, continue, and finish their journey towards the “American Dream”. Changing people’s lives, embodying the spirit of hope and improving our communities is the heart of our Community (in) Action Agency. I hope that this report inspires you to serve, as we all so proudly do.



Dr. Jonita Wallace Reynolds
Chief Executive Officer



A Year in Review

Harris County

23,746

**Total Persons Served
by all GCCSA Programs**

\$56,225

**Winter Storm Uri
emergency relief assistance**

152

**Scholarships Provided
for Vocational Training**

91%

**Program Participants
reported improved
financial well-being**

32

**Community
Partnerships**

20

**Transitioned out of
Poverty**



The Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization that engages community partners and forges strategic alliances in order to educate, equip and empower individuals and families in their pursuit of economic independence. Since 1965, the agency has administered diverse services and programs to hundreds of thousands of the under-served and un-served residents of Harris County. The benefits and resources provided assist in earning a living wage and aid in the advancement of education. These services propel our community into gaining financial stability.

As the Community Action Partnership's largest Texas-based Community Action Agency, GCCSA connects the Houston-area's vulnerable community to greater opportunity. Services and initiatives such as the Food Pantry, Head Start & Early Head Start, Utility and Rental Assistance, Federal Furlough Emergency Aid, Texas Eviction Diversion Program Assistance, and other disaster-related assistance, all focus on empowering and equipping a more self-sustaining Houston.

By offering relevant approaches to eliminate the grips of poverty and the harsh consequences of the deepening situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, GCCSA aims to earn the confidence from the citizens of Houston and Harris County so that we remain the exemplary model for social services in the community.



Catherine Jackson, State President of TSCAR

The Texas Society, Children of the American Revolution (TSCAR) bestowed a heartfelt gift that will benefit those amongst our HS/EHS early learners who demonstrate the most need. Society children who attended their Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center workshop decorated bags filled with donated children's books and gift cards meant to purchase approved snacks.

As Lady Bird Johnson co-founded the Head Start Project in 1965 to assist under-served children and laid the groundwork for the modern environmental movement, it was only fitting that the 2021-2022 State Project benefiting the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Community Partnership Program should in turn benefit children in GCCSA's Head Start & Early Head Start Program.

"Honoring our Texas Lady seeks to teach about Mrs. Johnson's life and lead by her example, motivating acts of kindness...whether the acts assist underserved citizens, provide to the military-veteran community, show respect for diversity, or improve the environment. The goal is to make your community a better place - leave it better than you found it," said State President Catherine Jackson.

There is little doubt that our community is better off with the benevolence of community partners like TSCAR. Specifically, the children of GCCSA's early childhood program will prosper knowing that there are neighbors looking out for them and that one day it will be their honor to do the same for others.



Need in Harris County

16.4%

of Harris County residents have incomes at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Source: July 1, 2021, (V2021), U.S. Census Bureau

1 in 4

children under 18 years of age is food insecure and don't receive proper nutrition, even with working adults in the household.

Source: Household Food Security in the United States in 2021, USDA Economic Research Service, Sep 2022

19.9%

of the Harris County population live with severe housing problems, though this number has declined 1.18% since 2014.

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, County Health Rankings

GCCSA'S Reach

79%

of participating individuals
GCCSA served avoided eviction

612 individuals helped of goal of 650

97%

of participating individuals
obtained employment, up to a
living wage

21,911

Total Persons
Served by all GCCSA Community
Service Block Grant Programs

SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

EDUCATE

Early Childhood

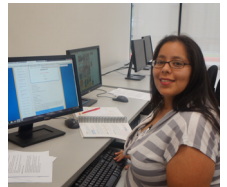
The GCCSA, Inc. Head Start & Early Head Start (HS/EHS) Program is a comprehensive, Early Childhood Development program, serving eligible children and families from economically-challenged backgrounds in the Houston, Harris County area since 1965. GCCSA, Inc. caters to over 1,900 early learners and their families; supporting pregnant women, infants and toddlers (ages 6 weeks to 30 months), and children ages 3 to 5 years.

Operating in 1 Early Head Start and 20 Head Start Centers, the GCCSA HS/EHS Program includes: early childhood education, family involvement, health advocacy, family literacy, fatherhood initiatives, mental health services, disability services, and nutrition to all enrolled children, including in the family homes of those with disabilities.



Adult Literacy & Education

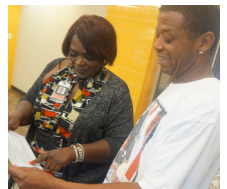
GCCSA, Inc. offers a variety of adult educational opportunities - General Equivalency Diploma, Adult Basic Education, and Career, Vocational & Technology Development tracks. The Agency provides scholarships to adults who are interested in pursuing education or vocational training certifications for career advancement.



EQUIP

Case Management

Individuals and families seeking to regain their economic footing work closely with Specialists. They are provided an assessment of needs, development and implementation of a Service Plan, and monitoring of goal achievement that helps them address their personal and professional development. Financial assistance is offered to qualified individuals and families.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry of GCCSA, Inc. distributes fresh food items through its Crisis Food Assistance and Client Select Programs.



EMPOWER

Parent Committees

Each HS/EHS Center establishes a Parent Committee, where parents/guardians are given the opportunity to take on leadership roles within their respective Center. Parent Committee members and officers assist their Center Administration in developing activities that address the interests and needs of their families.



Policy Council

An important parent-led, elected governing body made up of volunteer parents/guardians and representatives of community agencies, the GCCSA Policy Council works in partnership with the Board of Directors and Agency management to develop, review and approve HS/EHS Program policies, and to oversee the quality of services that all children and families receive.

Additional services include: financial coaching, credit and budgeting classes, nutrition workshops, workforce development, transportation vouchers, and access to community partner programs.



Members of the *Xi Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated* put their holiday spirit to work by organizing a directed donation called *Holiday Cares Drive for Toys*. The drive elicited a large collection of new toys, clothes, backpacks, and other gifts for the benefit of our *Head Start and Early Head Start* scholars. The Chapter did not stop there.

The *Ivy League Educational and Charities Foundation*, a Houston-area non-profit corporation that strives to "empower, encourage and educate youth to elevate their quality of life in Houston and beyond," partnered with *Xi Alpha Omega* to pair a monetary donation with the holiday toy drive.

Our *Head Start & Early Head Start* families don't take anything for granted, and especially not the generosity of long-time community partners like *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority*.



OUR ANNUAL IMPACT

Individual & Family Services

Data shows number of individuals served in programs

At GCCSA, we know that making an impact is about so much more than numbers in a report. However, we hold ourselves to our core values of **excellence** and **integrity** when it comes to measuring our work in Greater Houston. Here is a snapshot of our annual impact:

1,561

Households served using variety of Individual and Family Services provided through the Community Services Block Grant. This number equates to 658 households.

4,609

Individuals received food distribution (i.e. food bags, food boxes, Food Share Program, bags of groceries) through the Health & Social/ Behavioral Development Services.

848

Harris County residents participated in Vocational Training, Job Coaching, Resume Development, Interview Skills Training, and Job Placement employment services.

359

Individuals received housing payment assistance, including emergency rent payments.

351

Persons participated in Financial Management Programs, including budgeting, credit management, credit repair, and credit counseling.

101

Individuals received utility payment assistance, including LIHEAP and emergency utility payments.

74%

Engaged individuals who obtained a recognized credential (i.e. credential or degree) in order to achieve educational or vocational skills.

Winter Storm Uri

In its commitment to doing its part in alleviating the pains of disasters affecting Harris County communities, Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. provided \$56,225 in emergency relief assistance to households adversely impacted by Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.

One hundred seventy-three households were awarded gift cards in the amount of \$325 for Wal-Mart, so that they may start the process of replacing items lost or destroyed from the historic freeze. These families live in Harris County, have median household incomes within 200% of the federal poverty line (think a family of 4 with a total income of \$53,000 or less), and have children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start Programs.

Head Start & Early Head Start families who suffered water and/or roof damage, a loss of power and/or water, loss of food and supplies, and missed needed work hours were invited to apply to the GCCSA, Inc. Winter Storm Uri Relief Assistance Program

in late March 2021. Of the 183 applications received, all but ten (10) were deemed eligible. Five were over-income and 5 were duplicate entries.

From the start of the outreach window to the approval and release date (only 23 days!), GCCSA was able to put **173 gift cards** in the hands of all families in a single day, providing the release of much stress that was experienced by so many.

While the Agency saw a sharp increase in demand over the course of the year since the start of the pandemic, GCCSA continued to provide unique relief opportunities that met each moment of crisis affecting the vulnerable populations of Harris County. When the Houston-area was most recently impacted by the Tax Day Floods, Memorial Day Floods, and the worst storm in an age, Hurricane Harvey, GCCSA rose to the challenge, assisting several thousand of Harris County's devastated households per disaster.



Getty Images



Paper City Mag/ @buffalobayou

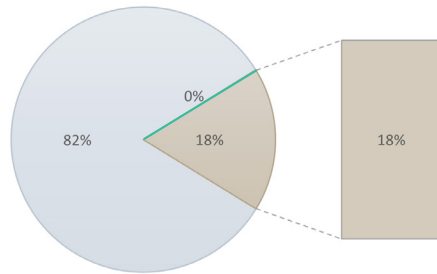
AGENCY FINANCIAL POSITION

Expenditures for the year ended September 30, 2021

GCCSA's organizational impact on the community is supported via an annual operational budget that is over \$43 million. The statement of functional expenses for the October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 reporting period is reflected below.

PROGRAM SERVICES					
	HS/EHS	CSGB	CACFP	Other Programs	Total Program Services
Salaries & Wages	10,315,674	1,859,900	-	4,980	12,180,554
Payroll Taxes	761,339	136,434	-	1	897,783
Employee Benefits Costs	2,340,781	377,562	-	6	2,718,349
Contract Wages	1,387,920	1,488,395	-	-	2,876,315
Building Occupancy Costs	1,242,866	364,620	-	6,761	1,614,247
Utilities	128,792	24,605	-	-	153,397
Telephone	162,175	35,882	-	-	198,057
Insurance	93,017	26,342	-	-	119,359
Travel	12,684	104	-	-	12,788
Equipment Leasing & Repairs	451,053	150,960	-	3,567	605,580
Office Supplies	193,256	62,306	-	-	255,562
Vehicle Operating & Maintenance	24,607	1,687	-	-	26,294
Printing, Reproduction & Publicity	234,668	8,236	-	1,204	244,108
Seminars and Workshops	-	20,325	-	-	20,325
Postage	1,552	1,283	-	-	2,835
In-Kind Contributions	7,171,037	-	-	-	7,171,037
Professional & Legal Fees	423,904	122,336	-	-	546,240
Classroom Supplies	1,534,512	395	-	1,183	1,534,907
Food Supplies	39,192	-	541,678	-	580,870
Health Assessments & Evaluations	253,699	-	-	-	253,699
Training & Technical Assistance	162,332	135	-	-	162,467
Parent Activities	7,720	-	-	-	7,720
Client Direct Assistance	-	8,034,980	-	-	8,034,980
Other Expenses	423	103,030	-	96	103,549
Depreciation & Amortization	168,221	9,975	-	684	178,880
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,111,424	\$12,829,501	\$541,678	\$17,299	\$40,499,902

TOTAL REVENUE
\$40,995,612



FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT REVENUE	\$33,795,724
IN-KIND REVENUE	\$7,171,036
OTHER REVENUE	\$28,852

2020-2021 Audit Results

"In our opinion the financial statements referred to...present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization [Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc.] as of September 30, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

- McConnell & Jones, LLP, Certified Public Accountants

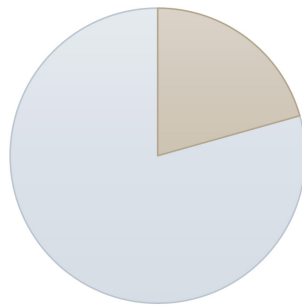
SUPPORTING SERVICES

	Management & General	Total Support Services	Total Expenditures
Salaries & Wages	-	-	12,180,554
Payroll Taxes	-	-	897,783
Employee Benefits Costs	-	-	2,718,349
Contract Wages	-	-	2,876,315
Building Occupancy Costs	-	-	1,614,247
Utilities	-	-	153,397
Telephone	-	-	198,057
Insurance	-	-	119,359
Travel	-	-	12,788
Equipment Leasing & Repairs	-	-	605,580
Office Supplies	11,062	11,062	266,624
Vehicle Operating & Maintenance	-	-	26,294
Printing, Reproduction & Publicity	-	-	244,108
Seminars and Workshops	-	-	20,325
Postage	-	-	2,835
In-Kind Contributions	-	-	7,171,037
Professional & Legal Fees	105	105	546,345
Classroom Supplies	-	-	1,534,907
Food Supplies	2,837	2,837	583,707
Health Assessments & Evaluations	-	-	253,699
Training & Technical Assistance	-	-	162,467
Parent Activities	-	-	7,720
Client Direct Assistance	-	-	8,034,980
Other Expenses	-	-	103,549
Depreciation & Amortization	-	-	178,880
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,004	\$14,004	\$40,513,906

HEAD START / FUNDING EARLY HEAD START

Head Start and Early Head Start's impact on the families in our community is supported through public and private funds that total over \$25 million. The financial position for the June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 program year is reflected below.

TOTAL REVENUE
\$25,300,743



GRANT REVENUE

\$20,078,564

IN-KIND REVENUE

\$5,222,179

Expenditure for the program year ended May 31, 2021

	Budget	Actual
<i>Salaries & Wages</i>	12,639,320	11,216,851
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	3,546,852	3,139,047
<i>Travel</i>	25,000	8,295
<i>Parent Services</i>	47,500	7,644
<i>Food Expenses</i>	270,000	26,936
<i>Children's Services</i>	311,334	99,995
<i>Supplies & Equipment</i>	2,041,417	2,793,844
<i>Equipment Leases</i>	242,900	636,284
<i>Contract Services</i>	132,711	264,012
<i>Administrative Services</i>	1,268,996	1,652,251
<i>Utilities</i>	90,000	123,148
<i>Training & Technical Assistance</i>	267,231	110,257
<i>In-Kind Expenses</i>	4,579,416	5,222,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$25,462,677	\$25,300,743

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



The GCCSA HS/EHS Program understands that each child comes into our program with a unique personality, various abilities and a distinctive cultural background. We believe all children can reach their utmost potential when provided with a stimulating learning environment supported and fostered by adults who are nurturing and accepting.

Our Child Development Team ensures that our classrooms provide quality Early Childhood Educational and developmental services for all enrolled children, including those who are differently abled. Our HS/EHS high quality, child-focused services and programming promotes children's cognitive, social and emotional growth for later success in school.

GCCSA's teaching staff have the guidance, training and support needed to implement developmentally appropriate curriculum and instruction that meet the needs of all our enrolled children, supporting their growth throughout their educational journey. Our child-focused program has the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children.

We enthusiastically partner with families to ensure that the needs of our students are met.

We believe that our HS/EHS parents are the first and most important educators of their children. Parent involvement is a core value. We invite our parents to be integrally involved in the education of their children by volunteering in the classroom, attending parent meetings, serving on an advisory committee, and/or making decisions about the HS/EHS Program within the parent committees. Parents can also be elected to serve on our Policy Council - an opportunity to participate in shared decision-making about the Program.

Parents who are actively involved in their children's education ensure student success in school and in life. GCCSA's Family Empowerment Program provides many experiences at each Center aimed at empowering parents, equipping them with stronger parenting skills, and educating them on becoming full partners in their children's journey towards a superior education.

Our Centers have a host of ways parents & guardians can be involved, including:

- Site-Based Parent Committees
- Classroom Volunteer (i.e. reading a book!)
- Fatherhood Program
- Family Night, Family Fun Day, Holiday Celebrations
- Policy Council Leadership

1834

number of early learners (aged 0 to 5) who demonstrated improved emergent literacy skills.

100%

percentage of young scholars (aged 0 to 5) achieving the outcome of demonstrated school readiness skills

96%

percentage of HS/EHS students who demonstrated improved positive approaches toward learning and attention skills

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

GCCSA, Inc. operates a total of 1 Early Head Start and 20 Head Start Centers, serving as either stand-alone centers or sites that operate in collaboration with school partnerships. This was the first full school year where we, and other programs, conducted virtual classes due to the danger the COVID-19 pandemic posed. Our community of under-resourced families was particularly vulnerable and our children need a more personal, tailored touch. The Double Session service option was set aside in favor of conducting exclusively Full Day Services in all of our sites. Full Day Services are typically available for parents who are employed or attending job training or school on a full-time basis and have no caregiver in the home. However, in light of the pandemic and partial lockdowns, it was also available for parents who were not employed, attending job training, or attending school, and where a caregiver is present in the home.

Funded Enrollment

Head Start	1,838	Early Head Start	80
1,838	Full Day, 5 days/week	80	Center-Based, 5 days/week
<i>Virtual Classrooms were held across all Centers</i>			

Average Monthly Enrollment

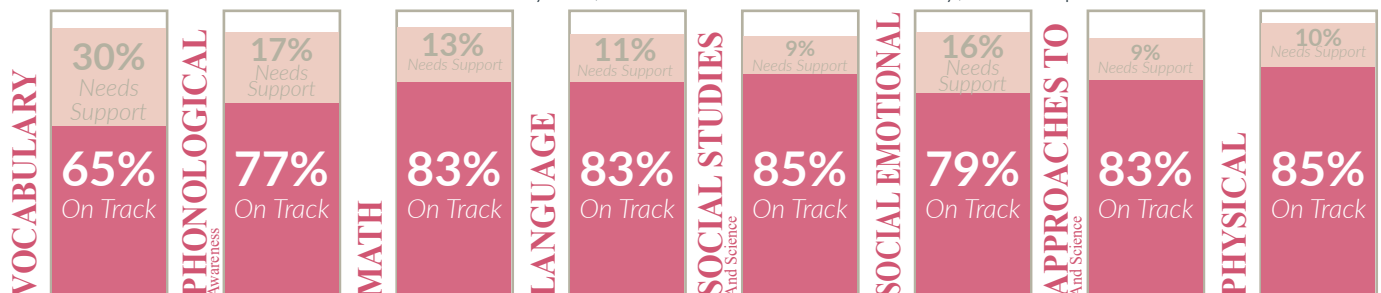
Head Start	55%	Early Head Start	99%
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Total Children Served

Head Start	2,108	Early Head Start	119
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The Head Start & Early Head Start Program promotes school readiness by enhancing the physical, social, emotional, linguistic, and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services.

We regularly assess all children to determine their strengths, needs and progress toward school readiness goals, guiding individualized learning plans. Our teaching staff use informal observations and information from parents and guardians to assess children's progress. This pandemic year was challenging. But we are nothing if not determined to meet our scholars where they are, recalibrate where necessary, and help them excel and soar.



OUR ANNUAL IMPACT

Early Childhood Health & Well-Being

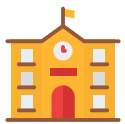
GCCSA Head Start children

80%	have Medical Homes
62%	had Well-Child Exams
77%	have Dental Homes
55%	had Dental Exams
85%	had Hearing & Vision Screening
73%	have Insurance

GCCSA Early Head Start children

99%	have Medical Homes
40%	had Well-Child Exams
100%	have Dental Homes
40%	had Dental Exams
91%	had Hearing & Vision Screening
90%	have Insurance

Children's nutrition is no small issue at GCCSA. Our Head Start and Early Head Start Programs provide free meals sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture's Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). GCCSA promotes lifelong healthy eating and physical habits in children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start. Our primary goal is to serve nutritious meals. Secondary intentions are: 1) establishing positive eating habits at the earliest stages of development; 2) reduction of future health care and education costs due to lack of proper early development; and 3) providing training and support to Head Start/Early Head Start staff.



18
Eligible Sites

The goals of the CACFP are to improve and maintain the health and nutritional status of children and adults, promote development of good eating habits, and integrate nutritious food service with organized child and adult day care services.



1,698
Eligible Children

Head Start & Early Head Start children are benefited by being fed nutritious USDA regulated meals that ensure their proper development. These children gain from early nutrition education that helps them establish positive eating habits that will enrich the quality of their diet throughout their lives.



38,410
Breakfasts

The program makes healthy eating an integrated part of their active play as they learn and experience new things. Parents are assured that their children receive high quality meals. With proper nutrition, the child is less likely to experience illness, fatigue or obesity and will develop at a normal physical and intellectual pace. Good nutrition is the recipe for an all-around happier child!



38,437
Lunches



85,592
P.M. Snacks



\$299,490.66
Reimbursement to
GCCSA

Health is the foundation of school readiness. Our early learners' overall health and development is necessary for a happy and healthy child, ready to experience new things. We work with community partners so our families can access health services and development screenings. In this manner, they learn the importance of setting a strong physical, medical, and educational foundation for their children.

OUR ANNUAL IMPACT

Emergency Contactless Curbside Pantry

20,350

**Individuals Served via
Emergency Food Pantry**

3,892

**Households, including HS/EHS,
Served via Emergency Food Pantry**

A 2021 report by Hunger Free America found that from 2018 to 2020, an average of 4,112,002 Texas residents lived in food insecure homes, according to USDA data.

Houston's food insecurity rate is 4 percent higher than the national average (10.2 percent). The number of Houston-area residents who endure hunger with no access to healthy food is upwards of 738,000. Of those, 360,000 are children. Higher still is the population living at or below the poverty line - 15.6 percent in Harris County compared to 12.8 percent in the country as a whole.

The ongoing disaster of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting intermittent closures exacerbated the problem. People who would not normally have needed food assistance continued to find themselves in dire straits and those who regularly live without were even worse off.

At the start of the pandemic, GCCSA was one of the first organizations to develop contactless, curbside service. In the early

stages after our initial large-scale food distributions, we were only able to open 2 to 3 days per week because the need far surpassed our supply. However, over the course of the year, we acquired new avenues of food supplies that allowed us to open for our customary 4 days per week.

Thanks for many generous donations and sources, GCCSA's Contactless Curbside Food Pantry operated every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday throughout the majority of 2021.





The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

The Vision of Community Action Partnership

A nation that creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society.

The Mission of Community Action Partnership

To ensure the causes and conditions of poverty are effectively addressed and to strengthen, promote, represent, and serve the Community Action Network.

The Values of Community Action Partnership

We believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.

We believe that this nation has the capacity and the moral obligation to ensure that no one is forced to endure the hardships of poverty.

We believe that with hope, adequate resources and opportunities, everyone can reach their fullest potential, and we are committed to achieving that vision.

We pledge ourselves to creating an environment that pursues innovation and excellence through multi-sector partnership and collaboration.

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc.

