



**COMMUNITY ACTION
PARTNERSHIP**
ORANGE COUNTY

2026

POLICY AGENDA

To access a digital version of our 2026 Policy Agenda please visit capoc.org/empowering-communities

A Word from Our President & CEO

Dear Friends,

Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) is proud to share our 2026 Public Policy Agenda, a bold framework designed to strengthen the well-being and economic stability of Orange County's most vulnerable residents. As a leading poverty-fighting organization in our region, this agenda confronts systemic barriers and promotes sustainable, long-term solutions.

Since our founding in 1965, CAP OC has been a steadfast advocate for low-income families, championing policies that reduce poverty following the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act. More than sixty years later, our work continues—reinforcing the critical role of advocacy in empowering communities and creating pathways out of poverty.

At the core of this agenda is our commitment to Orange County families. The agenda outlines four priority areas and the state and federal legislation we support, including policies related to child tax credits and school meal programs. Together, these efforts address the persistent challenges of poverty that too many families in our community continue to face.

This work is strengthened by a nationwide network of Community Action agencies, each advancing anti-poverty efforts in their local communities. While we recognize that today's political climate presents new challenges, our collective advocacy remains a powerful force in state and federal policy discussions.

We invite you to join us in this important work. Please consider sharing our 2026 Public Policy Agenda with your network and partnering with us to support policies that address poverty. Your voice matters, and together we can advocate for a thriving Orange County for all.

With gratitude,



GREGORY C. SCOTT
PRESIDENT & CEO

ECONOMIC MOBILITY & INNOVATION

CAP OC pursues anti-poverty policies promoting:

**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

**AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**FINANCIAL
STABILIZATION**

FAMILY & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

CAP OC strives to support a whole-family approach, fostering change across communities by:

**STABILIZING
FAMILIES**

**SUSTAINING
SENIORS**

**EMPOWERING
LOCAL YOUTH**

HEALTH & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

CAP OC works to address immediate needs of communities, and grow and create resilience against disasters and downturns:

**FOOD
SECURITY**

**HEALTHIER
HOMES**

**STRONG
COMMUNITIES**

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & BRAND AWARENESS

CAP OC looks to develop and better leverage relationships and resources to meet policy goals:

**COVENING LOCAL
LEADERS**

**POLICY & ADVOCACY
AGENDA**

**PARTICIPATION IN STATE &
NATIONAL COALITIONS**

OUR MISSION

We seek to end and prevent poverty by stabilizing, sustaining and empowering people with the resources they need when they need them. By forging strategic partnerships, we form a powerful force to improve our community.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY & INNOVATION

One of the key factors contributing to and exacerbating poverty is a lack of economic prosperity. This is a factor both when the economy is shrinking, and as a result of wealth gaps. CAP OC can help to alleviate economic stressors and create opportunities for growth with policies to promote:

**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

**AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**FINANCIAL
STABILIZATION**

These policy areas serve to promote and protect essential CAP OC programs and governmental funding opportunities including, but not limited to:

- » **CAP OC Housing Units:** providing supportive housing within the community; Wraparound Services to be offered by CAP OC programs.
- » **Utility Assistance:** Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides temporary assistance to families in need.
- » **CalWORKS:** provides money and other resources to low income households, or those suffering enhanced need.
- » **Free Tax Filing Services:** provides financial literacy support to those in need.
- » **Earned Income Tax Credit:** promotes entrepreneurship among low and middle-income individuals.
- » **Child Tax Credit:** reduces child poverty across the United States.
- » **Workforce Development Programs:** working with the OC Conservation Corps and other organizations to provide job training and placement in Orange County.

To bolster Economic Mobility & Innovation, CAP OC supports additional legislation including:

- » **AB 79 (Arambula)** - Student Benefit Assistance Program
- » **AB 398 (Ahrens)** - Earned Income Tax Credit

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Expansion of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): CAP OC advocated for the expansion of the federal EITC, benefiting OC low-income families by providing crucial tax relief and incentivizing work.

FAMILY & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Policies which seek to tackle community issues through a whole-family approach to not only prevent conditions of poverty, but represent opportunities to highlight and build on positive examples from those assisted by CAP OC and our partner network. This includes policies that promote:

**STABILIZING
FAMILIES**

**SUSTAINING
SENIORS**

**EMPOWERING
LOCAL YOUTH**

These policy areas serve to promote and protect essential CAP OC programs and governmental funding opportunities including, but not limited to:

- » **The OC Diaper Bank:** providing diapers to needy families across Orange County.
- » **The End Diaper Need Act:** a Congressional bill to assist low-income families struggling to afford diapers.
- » **School-Meals-for-All:** A program that helps reduce hunger and the stigma surrounding it, while supporting children's growth and learning.
- » **Family Resource and Community Centers:** El Modena Family Resource Center, Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center, Southwest Community Center. Providing resources including housing placement, hot meals, nutrition education, youth empowerment, etc.
- » **Educational Loan Forgiveness:** increases potential for educational attainment and has a direct impact on personal finances for low-income households.
- » **Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE WAP):** home improvement contracting to reduce costs for low-income households.

To bolster Family & Youth Empowerment, CAP OC supports additional legislation including:

- » **Fully Funding CalFoods Budget (\$60 Million)**
- » **AB 636 (Ortega)** - Establishes Diapers as a Covered Benefit for Children

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Diaper Bank State Funding: CAP OC advocated for the funding of diaper banks focuses on addressing diaper need as a critical public health and economic stability issue, ensuring families have access to this essential resource across California.

HEALTH & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Solutions that address the lack of basic necessities are essential not only for meeting the immediate needs of families, but also for tackling deeper issues such as child poverty. These policies help communities build and grow by strengthening resilience to disasters and economic downturns, with a focus on areas including:

**FOOD
SECURITY**

**HEALTHIER
HOMES**

**STRONG
COMMUNITIES**

These policy areas serve to promote and protect essential CAP OC programs and governmental funding opportunities including, but not limited to:

- » **The Giving Farm:** promoting urban agricultural solutions.
- » **SNAP, TEFAP, WIC:** federal nutrition assistance programs supporting CAP OC families.
- » **CalFresh:** a supplemental nutrition program providing financial support to qualifying individuals.
- » **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):** senior food boxes distributed monthly.
- » **CalFood:** \$60M provided by the state, ongoing, to purchase CA grown produce.
- » **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** state funded support for heating/cooling costs to assist low-income households.
- » **Edible Food Recovery Grant Program:** state program putting cap-and-trade dollars towards methane emission reduction by minimizing food waste.
- » **Federal Farm Bill:** No farm bill is better than a bad farm bill; reject work requirements, cuts to SNAP

To bolster Health & Community Resilience, CAP OC supports additional legislation including:

- » **SB 48 (Gonzalez)**- Safe Access to Schools
- » **H.R. 1464** - Modern WIC Act

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Did you know CAP Agencies advocated for and implemented this federal program, which helps low-income families reduce energy costs by improving home energy efficiency, benefiting over 7 million households since its inception.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & BRAND AWARENESS

The growth and development of CAP OC itself serves to allow us to better leverage relationships and resources to meet our policy goals. We do this through:

COVENING LOCAL
LEADERS

POLICY & ADVOCACY
AGENDA

PARTICIPATION IN STATE &
NATIONAL COALITIONS

These policy areas serve to promote and protect essential CAP OC programs and governmental funding opportunities including, but not limited to:

- » **Community Service Block Grants (CSBG):** the baseline government funding for the administration of Community Action Partnership, nationwide. Our efforts to maintain this funding include regular updates with local elected officials to emphasize CSBG impact.
- » **Community Directed Spending:** also known as “earmarks”, provide Members of Congress an opportunity to fund targeted, local projects in their home states or districts.

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Community Service Block Grants (CSBG): CAP OC continues to advocate for these essential federal funds, hosting community forums and surveys to understand need and allocate grant funds.

THIS IS WHERE **POVERTY ENDS**

OUR STORY

For over 60 years, Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has worked to enhance the quality of life for Orange County families. Since 1965, we have worked to boldly address the root causes of poverty, helping our neighbors make ends meet. We live and work in the neighborhoods we serve—working together to stabilize, sustain and empower families, providing a pathway towards self-sufficiency.

OUR MISSION

We seek to end and prevent poverty by stabilizing, sustaining and empowering people with the resources they need when they need them. By forging strategic partnerships, we form a powerful force to improve our community.

OUR VISION

We see generations of healthy communities where poverty ceases to exist.



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