

*Community and Family Services Department*

# Community Action Division Update



**Board of County Commissioners**

**May 18, 2021**



# Presentation Overview

- **Our History**
- **Our Promise**
- **Poverty Profile**
- **Community Centers**
- **Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Programs**
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
- **Senior Climate Efficiency Program**
- **Office on Aging**
- **On the Horizon**
- **Summary of Success**





# Community Action History

- President Lyndon B. Johnson – War on Poverty
  - 1964 Economic Opportunity Act
  - Mission and model of Community Action
    - Family: help people escape poverty and achieve economic security
    - Community: tailor services to meet needs
    - Agency: national indicators and standards of success
  
- Orange County Community Action Division
  - Started as nonprofit (private)
  - Became official county division (public)





# Community Action Promise

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.



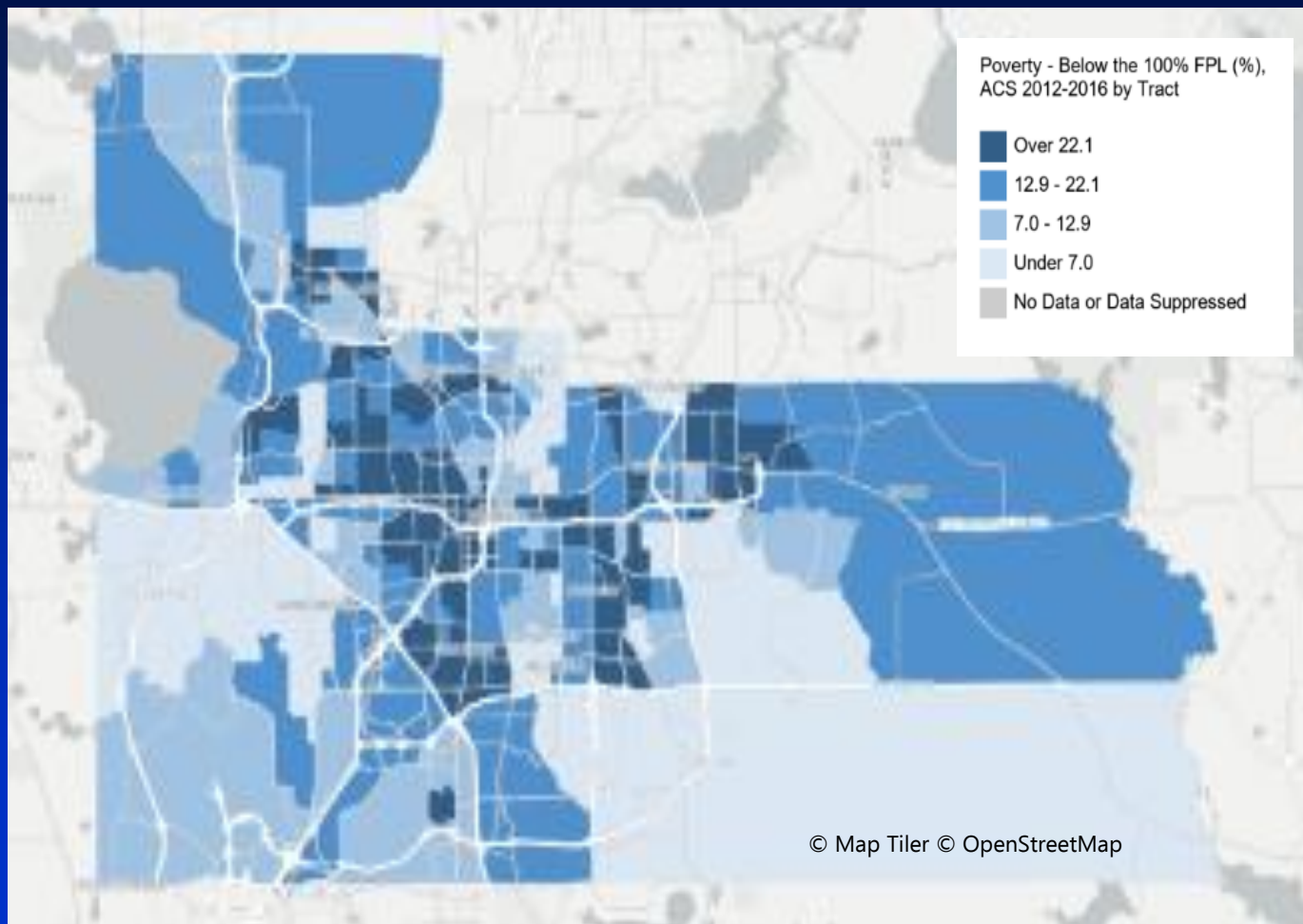


# Poverty Profile

- **Median Household Income - \$58K**
- **Roughly \$20K gap between male median income and female median income**
- **16.1% of the population below poverty level; higher than national average**
- **The largest demographic living in poverty are Females 25 - 34, followed by Females 18 - 24 and then Males 18 - 24.**
- **Children living in poverty – 21.9%**
- **Students eligible for free or reduced lunch – 64.9%**
- **A larger proportion of people of color experience chronic poverty – economic insecurity**



# Poverty Profile



Poverty is more prevalent in densely populated urban areas.  
Here is the spread of poverty in Orange County by Census Tract



# Community Centers

- Seven Targeted Community Centers
- Service locations for families to apply and receive benefits
- Host events, programs, initiatives for whole family
- Over 75 partners licensed to provide services at the centers that meet our organizational goals
- Over 500 volunteers giving approximately 3500 hours of service
- Nearly 200K visitors annually





# Office on Aging

- Commission on Aging
- Community Agency Partnership
- LIFE Workshop Series
- Electronic Newsletter
  - COVID-19 Updates specific to seniors
- OrangeTV shows
- Liaison to Area Agency on Aging
- Resources for aging citizens and caretakers







# Senior Climate Efficiency Program

- **Central air-conditioning repairs and replacements for low-income seniors**
  - Preserves housing stock
  - helps seniors remain in their homes
- **Income eligible homeowners**
  - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), LIHEAP, CDBG, Food Stamps, Section 8 Housing, or household income at or below 200% of poverty level
- **Low Income Energy Efficiency Program – water heaters and minor weatherization**





# Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

- Provides financial assistance for utility bills
- Household income at or below 150% of federal poverty guideline for household size
- Crisis and Home Energy benefits
- Increased benefit for seniors, disabled and households with children under 5 years old
- LIHEAP Outcomes
  - YTD Expenditures – \$9,211,686
  - YTD Units of Service – 17,825
  - Average Assistance per Household - \$517





# Community Services Block Grant

- **Community Action Board**
  - Maximum feasible participation
  - Public, Private and Community
- **Family Self Sufficiency Program**
  - Income eligibility – 125% of poverty guidelines for household size
  - Improve employability and income
  - Supportive services
  - Referral and placement with partners and employers
- **Individual and Family Indicators**
  - Employment, education, income, housing, health, civic engagement





# On the Horizon

- Tangelo Park Center
- Barber Park Expansion
- District 3 Center





# Tangelo Park Center

## Property Details

- Located on 5 acres of county-owned land
- A 14,855 SF recreational facility and family center
  - Includes an administration building, gymnasium, and swimming pool
  - Adjacent to an Orange County Pocket Park and golf training facility



# Tangelo Park Center

- Currently, \$350K in FY20/21 CIP Budget
- Proposing to install temporary modular buildings on site to begin service delivery
- Provision of services can begin as early as July 2021
- Services include:
  - Youth, family and senior outreach and social services
  - utility assistance, vocational training and job placement
- CIP request in Budget Discussions (\$3M – \$4M)



# Summary of Success

- **Met organizational standards 100%**
- **Migrated to a state-wide grant/case management software and implemented online application process**
- **Streamlined facility rentals and license agreements**
- **Expanded and delivered specialized services through partnerships**
- **Modernized standard operating procedures**
- **Focused on meeting National Performance Indicators**
- **Participated at National, Regional and State Organizations**







# Summary of Success

- Families sustained and stabilized
- Individuals empowered
- Senior citizen health and safety
- Household crisis support







# Community Action

The success of CAD would not have been possible without the support of the:

- Orange County Board of County Commissioners
- Community Action Board Members
- Community Action Division Staff
- CFS Department
- Comptroller
- County Attorney's Office
- Administrative Services Department
- Community Action Partners
- Volunteers



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