



**2025**

**Annual  
Report**



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# 2025 Board of Directors

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS (CATEGORY I)



**Gema Perez**

35nd State Assembly District Rep.  
Assembly Member Dr. Jasmeet Bains



**Gina Martinez**

16th State Senate District Rep.  
Senator Melissa Hurtado



**Fred Plane**

22nd U.S. Congressional District Rep.  
Congressman David Valadao



**Lily Pimentel-Stratton**

City of Bakersfield Mayor's Office Rep.  
Mayor Karen Goh



**Chris Parlier**

Kern County Board of Supervisor Rep.

## LOW-INCOME SECTOR (CATEGORY II)



**Fatima Echeverria**

Head Start Policy Council Rep.



**Maritza Jimenez**

South Kern County Rep.



**Ana Vigil**

North Kern County Rep.



**Guadalupe Perez**

Metro Bakersfield Rep.



**Yolanda Ochoa**

East Kern County Rep.

## PRIVATE SECTOR (CATEGORY III)



**Michelle Jara-Rangel**

Owens Valley Center Development Center



**Lee'o Whisenant**

Owner & CEO, Ironsides Construction Inc.



**Denise Boshers**

Certified Public Accountant



**Pastor Jonathan Mullings**

Pastor, Truth Tabernacle



**Curtis Floyd**

Attorney, Law Offices of Curtis Floyd

Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) continues to serve as a trusted resource for individuals and families in Kern County and communities across California. As we reflect on 2025, we are proud to share a year marked by growth, responsiveness, and meaningful impact made possible by the dedication of our board, staff, partners, and supporters.

CAPK is committed to addressing poverty through direct services, advocacy, and locally driven solutions that promote dignity and self-sufficiency in the communities we serve. This mission guided our work throughout the year as we responded to immediate needs while strengthening long-term supports that help individuals and families move toward stability and success.

In 2025, CAPK served 137,201 unduplicated individuals across Kern and surrounding counties. During the federal government shutdown, our teams responded quickly to increase food assistance needs, ensuring families had access to essential resources during a time of uncertainty. This swift response reflected both our operational readiness and our deep commitment to the community.

The year also marked a significant expansion of services for veterans. CAPK absorbed the California Veterans Assistance Foundation and launched the CAPK Veteran Supportive Services Program, strengthening our ability to provide coordinated, respectful support to veterans as they pursue housing stability, economic opportunity, and self-sufficiency.

We celebrated another major milestone with the ribbon cutting of CAPK's new Central Kitchen, an investment that expands our capacity to serve the children in our Head Start program. In addition, 2025 was a successful year for the CAPK Foundation, with fundraising campaigns generating critical resources to sustain and strengthen CAPK programs countywide.

Looking ahead, CAPK will continue working toward a vision of resilient communities where every individual has opportunities to succeed and pursue their unique goals through the expansion and implementation of support services, partnerships, and resources. While challenges remain, we are confident in our collective ability to move forward together.

On behalf of CAPK, thank you to the CAPK Board of Directors, the CAPK Foundation Board, the Head Start Policy Council, and the Friendship House Advisory Council for their leadership, guidance, and steadfast commitment to our mission. We are also deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners whose support makes this work possible.

Together, we are building a stronger and more resilient Kern County.

*Jeremy T. Tobias*  
CAPK Chief Executive Officer





As the 2025 Board Chair of Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), I am honored to serve an organization that plays such a vital role in the strength and wellbeing of Kern County. Having served on the CAPK Board for several years, I have witnessed firsthand the consistency, resilience, and integrity that define this agency.

CAPK's strength as a trusted community organization lies in its unwavering commitment to addressing poverty, promoting dignity, and supporting pathways to self-sufficiency. Guided by a clear mission, sound governance, and thoughtful leadership, the agency continues to adapt, lead, and respond to the evolving needs of our communities with purpose and compassion.

I am proud to serve alongside dedicated board members who share a deep commitment to CAPK's mission and to the individuals and families we serve. Together with our leadership team, staff, volunteers, and valued partners, we remain focused on ensuring CAPK continues to be a reliable cornerstone of support throughout Kern County.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of Community Action Partnership of Kern. It is truly an honor to serve on this board and to be part of an organization that consistently demonstrates strength, compassion, and meaningful impact.

*Maritza Jimenez*

**CAPK BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR**



# 2026-2029 Strategic Plan

*Planning Our Future Together*

## Priority A - Community Investment

Support initiatives that foster pathways out of poverty by promoting community-led investments, thereby expanding access to education, employment, affordable housing, healthcare, and essential services.

## Priority C - Culture

Be an employer of choice by fostering a learning-focused work culture that drives continuous growth, while attracting and retaining a high-quality engaged workforce.

## Priority B - Partnerships

Strengthen our communities by building and expanding strategic partnerships that will enhance collaboration and support community-wide transformation.

## Priority D - Data-Driven Decisions

Increase utilization of data-driven decision-making processes to improve organizational capacity and ensure efficient fiscal stewardship to achieve organizational goals.

The strategic planning process takes a great deal of effort and reliable teamwork. It requires thoughtful people who understand how our programs and organization work together. We thank the 2026–2029 Strategic Planning Team for their dedication and creative ideas in helping us develop a shared vision through this plan.

# Mission, Vision, and Values



## Mission

Community Action Partnership of Kern is committed to addressing poverty through direct services, advocacy, and locally driven solutions that promote dignity and self-sufficiency in the communities we serve.



## Vision

Community Action Partnership of Kern will create resilient communities where every individual has opportunities to succeed and pursue their unique goals through the expansion and implementation of support services, partnerships, and resources.

## Core Values:

### Respect

We honor the dignity, compassion, and perspectives of our clients and staff while fostering a welcoming environment where the principles and experiences of all individuals are valued.

### Collaboration

We transform the way you make an impact by working together, promoting open communication, and creating caring and supportive environments. We can achieve more collectively than we can individually.

### Transparency

We foster authentic relationships, both internally and externally, through clear communication that demonstrates our commitment to fiscal integrity.

### Servant Leadership

We provide guidance to others with compassion and genuine care to empower and serve them.

### Continuous Improvement

We encourage constant growth and progress by embracing a mindset of learning, adaptability, and innovation through feedback from clients, partners, and data analytics.

## Our 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.







Through CAPK's 19 programs, **137,201 unduplicated individuals** were served throughout Kern and San Joaquin Counties, supporting **112,110 households**. These programs include food assistance, providing shelter, childcare, and countless other community-based resources.

## A Mother's Journey From Crisis to Success

Four years ago, Maria Lopez made the courageous decision to leave Arizona in search of better opportunities for her and her family. With nothing but her van and her children, she arrived in Ridgecrest, uncertain of where to turn for help. It was during this pivotal moment that Maria was referred to CAPK's Oasis Family Resource Center (FRC), marking the beginning of a long-term relationship that would provide stability, support, and empowerment for her and her children.

Maria's first encounter with Oasis Family Resource Center (FRC), was filled with uncertainty. She only spoke Spanish, had no home, and had no established support system in the area. However, despite the language barrier, she recalls her first visit to the center as a pivot in her life. "I only spoke Spanish, and the day I came in,

Eric was the only one there. Even with a language barrier, he told me to come back the next day when Ada would be there and provided me with food boxes," Maria recalls. That small act of kindness led to years of wraparound support through Oasis Family Resource Center's case management services. Maria received guidance and essential resources that helped her navigate significant hardships, ultimately setting her and her family on a path toward stability and success.

Through the years, Maria built a close relationship with Ada Harpster, a Case Manager at Oasis (FRC), who has played a major role in helping her overcome challenges. One of the most difficult moments Maria faced was when a fire broke out in her neighbor's home, causing damage to her own house by direct contact.

"Eric and Ada immediately reached out to me and got me a hotel to stay in, vouchers for groceries, even beds eventually for my kids," Maria shares.

Maria's relationship with Oasis (FRC), extended far beyond emergency assistance. The case management team remained in contact, ensuring that she and her children continued to receive the resources they needed.

One major area of support was through CAPK's Diaper Supply Program, funded through California Community Action Partnership Association and SupplyBank. Maria explains how this program has been vital to her family's well-being.

"I come here and am able to get clothes, diapers, gift cards for Walmart, and even gift cards for gas. My kids can't use the usual diapers that you guys have because of their skin condition, but thanks to Eric, they approved special diapers that my family specifically needed."

Furthermore, Ada helped Maria secure Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) for two of her children with special needs, ensuring they received the tailored education and support they required. This guidance and advocacy empowered Maria to better navigate the school system for her children, reinforcing the wraparound services that Oasis provides.

Today, Maria's life has transformed in ways she never imagined. She now works for Cerro Coso Community College, assisting with administrative tasks and supporting Spanish-speaking students. She is also currently enrolled in child development courses, working towards her dream of helping children.

Her success, however, extends beyond herself, her eldest son, Yahir Jimenez, recently graduated from Cerro Coso Community College with a degree in Cybersecurity. Maria credits case manager Ada as one of his biggest influences, encouraging his educational journey.

"I never imagined working in a college while also being in school myself," Maria says. As Maria reflects on her journey, she expresses deep gratitude for the Oasis Family Resource Center team.

A portrait of Maria Lopez, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a black t-shirt. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

*Maria Lopez*

**More Than a Program, a Resource Center**

For Joy Leon, family is everything. A widowed mother of six and grandmother of eight, her home is filled with the energy of children and the love of multiple generations. Four of her adult children and a granddaughter still live with her, and Joy often helps care for the others.

“My family means a lot to me,” Joy said.

That devotion has carried her through hardship. When her husband passed away five years ago, Joy lost not only her partner but also the stability of his income. “It’s been a little more difficult for us,” she explained. “The kids were younger then. Just trying to make ends meet. We don’t get food stamps or anything like that every year, so everything I get, I get from working. It’s harder to maintain everything and to save up for the bills and emergencies. Everything just piles on at once.”

On top of daily struggles, Joy works full-time as a caregiver for her 27-year-old son, who lives with a seizure disorder and must stay cool at all times. “We run the AC 24/7 because he has to stay cool,” she said. “So it’s a pretty penny.”

That constant energy use, combined with the need for repairs, created even greater challenges. Because of her son’s medical needs, Joy’s home required attention in ways she couldn’t afford on her own. “We’re grateful they came and patched [the walls], because that saves us energy that was going through the walls to the outside,” she explained.

The help didn’t stop there. “The biggest struggle I believe was replacing

appliances,” Joy said. “They did come in and replace the stove, it had a gas leak. So I’m very grateful for that. The microwave had went out. They replaced that and put the hood range, which is much better for us now.

Through Community Action Partnership of Kern’s Energy Program, Joy received support from both the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Together, they provided immediate relief and lasting improvements.

“It really didn’t take forever. They were very prompt,” she recalled. “Within like a month span, they had everything done. Each appointment was for a different thing, one for the AC, one for the heater, one for patching, one for appliances. It was very quick and efficient. The staff was very friendly. It’s just like having a neighbor talking to you.”

The results were life-changing for Joy. “I did notice changes...my bill went down about \$100. That extra \$100 can go towards food or another bill that I need.”

But what touched Joy most was how she was treated. “They don’t judge your home. They don’t judge your person. They’re very helpful and very attentive, asking ‘Do you need anything else? Is there anything else we can do for you?’ They came in, and they really helped us out. They were so friendly.”

Her story reflects what CAPK’s Energy Program means for so many families

across Kern County. It is practical assistance delivered with dignity and compassion.

In 2025 alone, CAPK Energy helped more than 5,784 households with a utility bill and supported over 133 homes in repairing unsafe appliances.

This work reinforces our mission of being the helping hand that allows families to catch a breather.

## Relief, Renewal, and ‘Joy’

*Joy Leon*



# Community Development

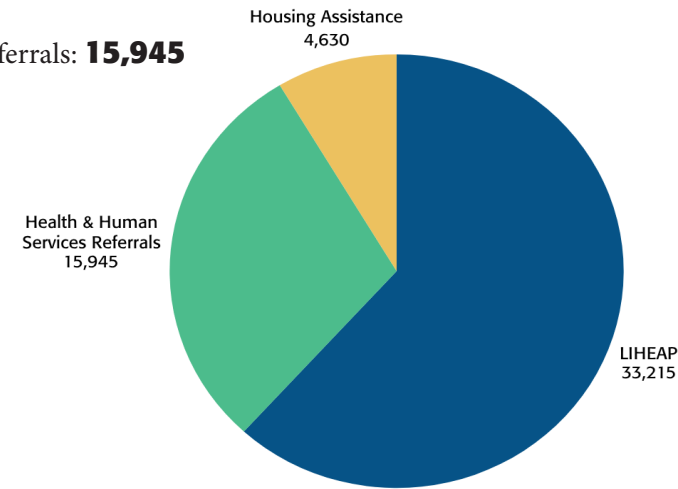


## Supportive Services

2-1-1 administered application assistance with LIHEAP, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and the First 5 Help Me Grow Program.

### 138,855 calls in 2025

- LIHEAP: **33,215**
- Health & Human Services Referrals: **15,945**
- Housing Assistance: **4,630**



## 2-1-1

The CAPK 2-1-1 Kern program provides residents with access to essential services such as food, housing, and utility assistance through a partnership with agencies in Fresno and Madera, Kern, Kings, Merced and Mariposa, Tulare, and Stanislaus counties. We are available 24/7 to offer resources and support to the community. For additional information about available services and resources, visit our website at [www.211KernCounty.org](http://www.211KernCounty.org)

# Operations

Behind every successful initiative at CAPK is a dedicated team working tirelessly behind the scenes. Our Information Technology, Information Services, Facilities, Maintenance, and Risk Management teams play a vital role in ensuring our organization thrives keeping systems secure connected and efficient while maintaining safe welcoming and beautifully maintained facilities. Their expertise responsiveness and commitment to excellence, enable our staff to focus on serving our community and advancing CAPK's mission.

## 3,849 Facilities Work Orders Completed

These teams serviced over **90** facilities including the conversion of a previous maintenance facility into a modern Central Kitchen with triple refrigeration and individual cooking stations (pg. 24).

## Technology & Information Systems

These teams advanced CAPK's digital infrastructure through major initiatives such as the agency-wide RingCentral migration and the implementation of the Food Bank's Oasis Insights platform, improving reporting capabilities, and operational effectiveness, and much more to improve operations.



# Youth & Community Services



## 57 Youth Enrolled

Over 50 youth participated in our programs this year, with **57** children joining our summer program.

## Enhancements

Offered a variety of programs and activities that bring people together such as Zumba, basketball tournaments, and fitness camps.



## Shafter Youth Center

The Shafter Youth Center served as a vital community hub dedicated to supporting local youth. Through programs focused on nutrition, recreation, education, and active living, the center promoted healthier lifestyles and positive youth development. In addition to youth programming, the center provided space for a variety of community resources and activities, including Citizenship and Zumba classes, basketball tournaments, and partnership opportunities that supported broader community engagement efforts.

# Friendship House Community Center

The Friendship House Community Center (FHCC), in Southeast Bakersfield is a vibrant hub where young people ages 6–18 learn, play, and thrive. Featuring a computer lab, sports field, covered playground, and indoor gymnasium, the center offers a fun and engaging environment for growth and discovery. Through free afterschool and summer programs, youth enjoy daily meals, exciting recreational and educational activities, and supportive mentoring. Beyond youth programs, FHCC is a cornerstone for the community, providing essential services such as WIC, the Migrant Childcare Program, and access to a wide range of valuable resources that strengthen families and uplift the entire neighborhood.

## Over 70 Youth Enrolled

**72** Youth participated in our after school program, and **72** youth were connected to mentors through our Positive Youth Development Program.

## California Violence Intervention and Prevention Program

Through our CalVIP program, we served **+20** clients across Kern County, working to disrupt cycles of violence and build safer communities.

## Casino Night Fundraiser

Thanks to a coordinated special fundraiser by our CAPK Foundation, and FHCC Advisory Council, our Friendship House youth got to go to the beach, zoo, and aquarium. For many, it was their very first time!





## Oasis Family Resource Center

CAPK's Oasis Family Resource Center is a trusted hub of support for families in Ridgecrest. The center offers kindergarten readiness programs, parenting education, and personalized case management, along with practical assistance such as diapers, baby supplies, food support, hygiene kits, and transportation. Families also receive educational materials and community referrals, all designed to promote stability, strengthen parenting skills, and help build a brighter future.

### 581 Families Served through First 5 Kern Partnership

Through our First 5 Kern partnership, we served **581** families with kindergarten preparation, parenting classes, and case management.



### 354 Families Enrolled in Diaper Program

Through support from CalCAPA and SupplyBank, we provided diaper assistance to **354** families enrolled in our program.



### 9,676 Instances of Assistance

Walk-in community services, provided **9,676** instances of assistance, offering baby supplies, food support, hygiene kits, transportation services, educational materials, referrals, and more.

## 836 Families Served through First 5 Kern Partnership

Through our First 5 Kern partnership, we served **836** families with kindergarten readiness, parenting classes, and case management support.

## 130 Rural Drop-in Clients Served

Through our rural homeless drop-in center, we provided housing assistance and case management support to individuals and families, helping guide **130** clients toward stability.

## 20,000 Instances of Assistance

Supported **836** Families through our Diaper Program, and over 20,000 instances of assistance, offering hygiene kits, food boxes, clothing, referrals, and more.

## East Kern Family Resource Center

The East Kern Family Resource Center serves as a trusted community hub in the City of Mojave, offering essential support services to individuals and families throughout Eastern Kern County. The center provides a wide range of programs designed to strengthen family stability and well-being, including case management, Play and Learn early childhood programs, Summer Bridge activities, referrals to partner agencies, access to a food pantry, utility and diaper assistance, housing support, laundry services, emergency clothing, parenting classes, and CalAIM services.





## **\$5,573,467 in overall Utility Assistance**

These funds ensured comfort and safety for **5,785** Kern County homes by keeping vital utilities operational.

## **133 Homes Weatherized**

These homes received weatherization services, which included both repairing and replacing materials and appliances. Making homes more energy efficient.

## **2,456 Clients Enrolled**

Clients are able to receive the help they need by calling 2-1-1 to enroll.

### **Energy**

The Energy Program assists income-eligible Kern County residents with utility bill payment, free weatherization, and energy education at no cost to the participant. Weatherization services include weather stripping; repair or replacement of windows and doors, heating/ cooling appliances, stoves, refrigerators, and more. The goal is to improve client well-being by offering guidance, resources and ongoing support tailored to each household's needs.

# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free, year-round tax preparation and secure e-filing for individuals and families. IRS-certified staff and volunteers work diligently to maximize refunds and ensure eligible taxpayers receive important credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Beyond preparing returns, VITA promotes long term financial stability by providing tax education, helping taxpayers better understand their fillings and make informed financial decisions. The program also assists with new and renewal ITIN application through Certified Acceptance Agents, expanding access to reliable, trustworthy services for underserved and immigrant communities.

**\$20,903,007 in Total Refunds**

VITA secured free tax preparation throughout Kern County with **11,731** tax returns processed.

**184 ITIN's Processed/Renewed**

VITA is a Certified Acceptance Agent (CAA), and provided Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITIN's) for **184** undocumented workers.

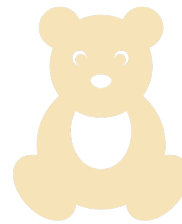
**New Website!**





## Migrant Childcare

The Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment (MCAP) Program helps agricultural families access affordable, flexible childcare and has experienced tremendous growth in the number of families served in recent years. Eligible families living in Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare, or Fresno counties can apply and continue receiving support anywhere in California as they move for seasonal farm work. As demand has expanded, MCAP has increased its reach by offering personalized childcare options for children from birth to age 12, and for individuals with special needs up to age 21, ensuring more working families can access stable, high quality care when and where they need it.



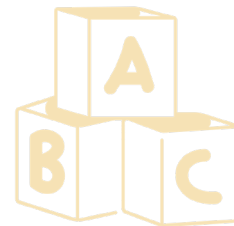
### 3,951 Children Enrolled

The Migrant Childcare Program served **3,951** children in 2025, providing safe, reliable childcare for agricultural working families.



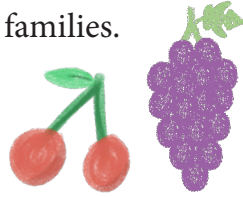
### \$29,608,920 in Provider Payments

MCAP provided subsidized payments to **751** childcare providers serving agricultural workers, simultaneously offering essential childcare for families and creating local jobs that stimulate the economy.



## 19,685 Families Served

CAPK's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program proudly served **19,685** families in 2025, providing vital nutritional support to families.



## 167,348 Packages

In 2025, WIC distributed **167,348** food packages to families in need of meals.

## 2,677 Participants

CAPK's WIC program is unique in its administration of the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program, where we have had over **2,500** mothers participate this previous year.



**New Website!**



## Women, Infants, and Children

The WIC program serves families in Kern and San Bernardino counties by supporting pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under age five. Services include breastfeeding support, access to nutritious foods, health referrals, and nutrition education. Ensuring families are empowered to make healthy choices and build strong foundations for lifelong wellness.

# Food Bank

The CAPK Food Bank at the Wonderful Community Food Center remains a cornerstone in the fight against hunger in Kern County. In partnership with more than 150 agency partners, the Food Bank distributes nutritious food to thousands of families and individuals each month.

One of its key initiatives, the Senior Food Program, supports elderly adults by providing a 30-pound box of shelf-stable, nutrient-rich groceries each month to seniors aged 60 and over. This program helps promote food security, health, and independence for one of Kern's most vulnerable populations.

Through these efforts, the Food Bank continues to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

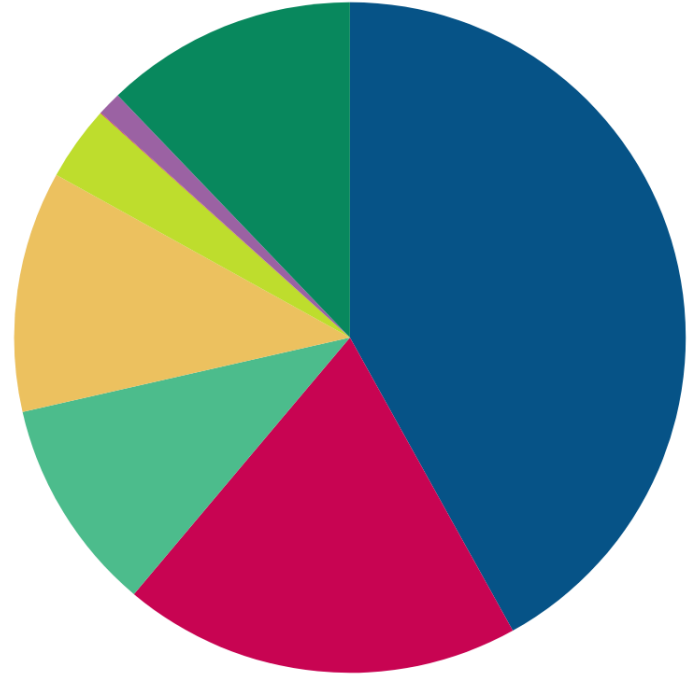




**22.35 million pounds of food distributed across Kern County**

- Emergency Food Assistance Program **42%**
- Pantry Program **19%**
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program **10%**
- Fresh Rescue **12%**
- Community Events **12%**
- Free Farmers Market **4%**
- Snack Attack **.04%**
- Brighter Bites **1%**

**Distribution Poundage:**



**+45,000 Volunteer Hours**

Our community showed up in full force with **1,569** volunteers lending a hand at CAPK’s Food Bank, investing their time to help feed families across Kern County.

**+5,600 Seniors Enrolled**

CAPK connected **+5,600** eligible seniors with monthly 30-pound boxes of shelf-stable, nutrient-rich groceries, a 10% increase from the year prior, reaffirming our commitment to serving our most vulnerable neighbors.



## CalFresh Healthy Living

The CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) program offers nutrition, physical activity, and training to build a healthy, knowledgeable community through direct classes, indirect materials, and Policy System and Environmental Change efforts (PSE).

### 1,260 Participants

During 2025, CalFresh Healthy Living delivered direct education to over **1,260** participants through **106** different sessions across Kern County.

### Nutrition Pantry Program

CAPK CFHL exceeded its goal by adding **9** new Nutrition Pantry Partners and helped certify Bakersfield College as a Gold Pantry, advancing a trauma-informed, health-focused food distribution.

# Central Kitchen

The Central Kitchen provides nutritious meals to children in CAPK'S Head Start and State Child Development Programs, serving 30 sites across Kern County. It promotes healthy eating habits and supports children's growth and development, ensuring they thrive in their early educational environments and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**678,052 Meals Served**

The program provided **678,052** nutritious meals this past year to support child development and health.

**+1,400 Children Served**

Served over **1,400** children enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start and State Pre-School programs across **30** centers in Kern County.



# Housing & Supportive Services



## 1,390 Shelter Clients Served

In 2025, CAPK served **1,390** homeless individuals with **127** pets, **75,000** meals served, and **75** permanently housed.

## 560 Clients Served in Safe Camp

CAPK's Low Barrier Navigation Center provided vital support by serving **560** clients through safe camping and an additional **120** clients through Safe Parking, a key alternative to congregate sleeping. The Café served **17,300** meals and accommodated **86** pets, and this program successfully transitioned **25** individuals into permanent housing.

## M Street Navigation Center

CAPK, in partnership with the Kern County, operates a 24-hour, 147-bed Low-Barrier Navigation Center providing shelter, meals, healthcare, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including those with pets and partners. The program also offers Safe Camping and Safe Parking options for shelter-resistant individuals while connecting them to housing and resources.

# Coordinated Entry System (CES)

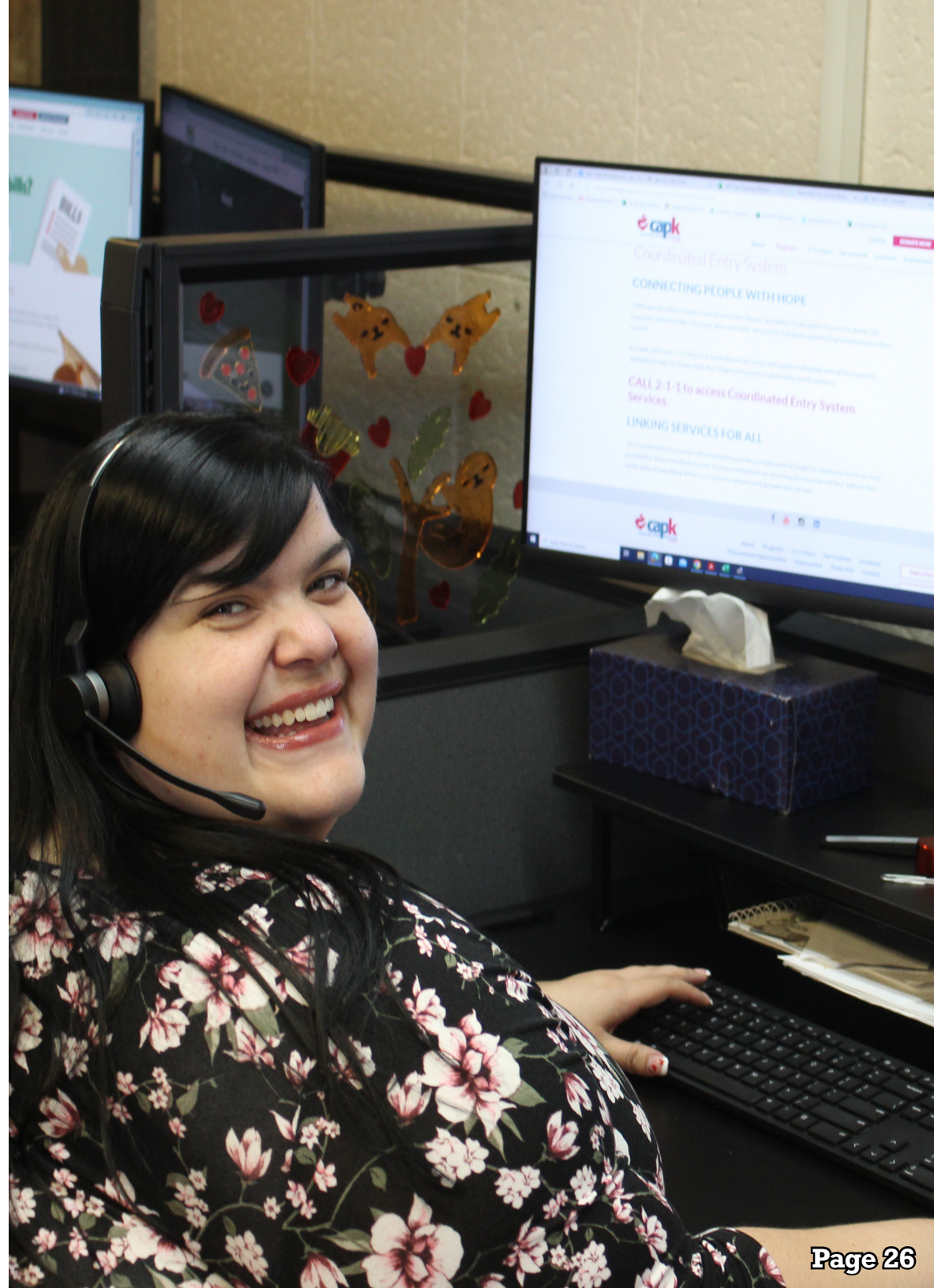
Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), in partnership with the Kern County Continuum of Care, administers the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Kern County. The CES functions as the centralized access point for individuals experiencing homelessness, employing standardized assessment tools and coordinated referral processes to ensure timely and appropriate connections to housing, prevention, and supportive services. This approach promotes equitable access, system-wide coordination, and improved service delivery outcomes.

## 33,166 Homeless Referrals

In 2025, CAPK received over **33,000** calls, an 8% increase from the previous year.

## 68 Matched to Housing Subsidy

We provided housing subsidies through vouchers or rapid rehousing to **68** clients, helping them secure stable housing.





## 4,836 Medi-Cal Members Served

CAPK's Cal-AIM program supported over **4,836** Medi-Cal members enrolled through Kern Health Systems and Anthem.

## 216 Clients Received Housing & Furnishing Deposits

Cal-AIM also secured one-time use up to \$5,000 housing and furnishing deposits for **315** enrolled clients and housing placement for **105** individuals.

### Cal-AIM

The CalAIM initiative, led by the California Department of Health Care Services, helps Medi-Cal members improve their health and quality of life. It does this by offering support with everyday needs like housing, food, and recovery services. One important part of this program is Enhanced Care Management (ECM), which provides extra support for people with more complex needs by helping coordinate their medical care and services.

## 304 Clients Received Case Management

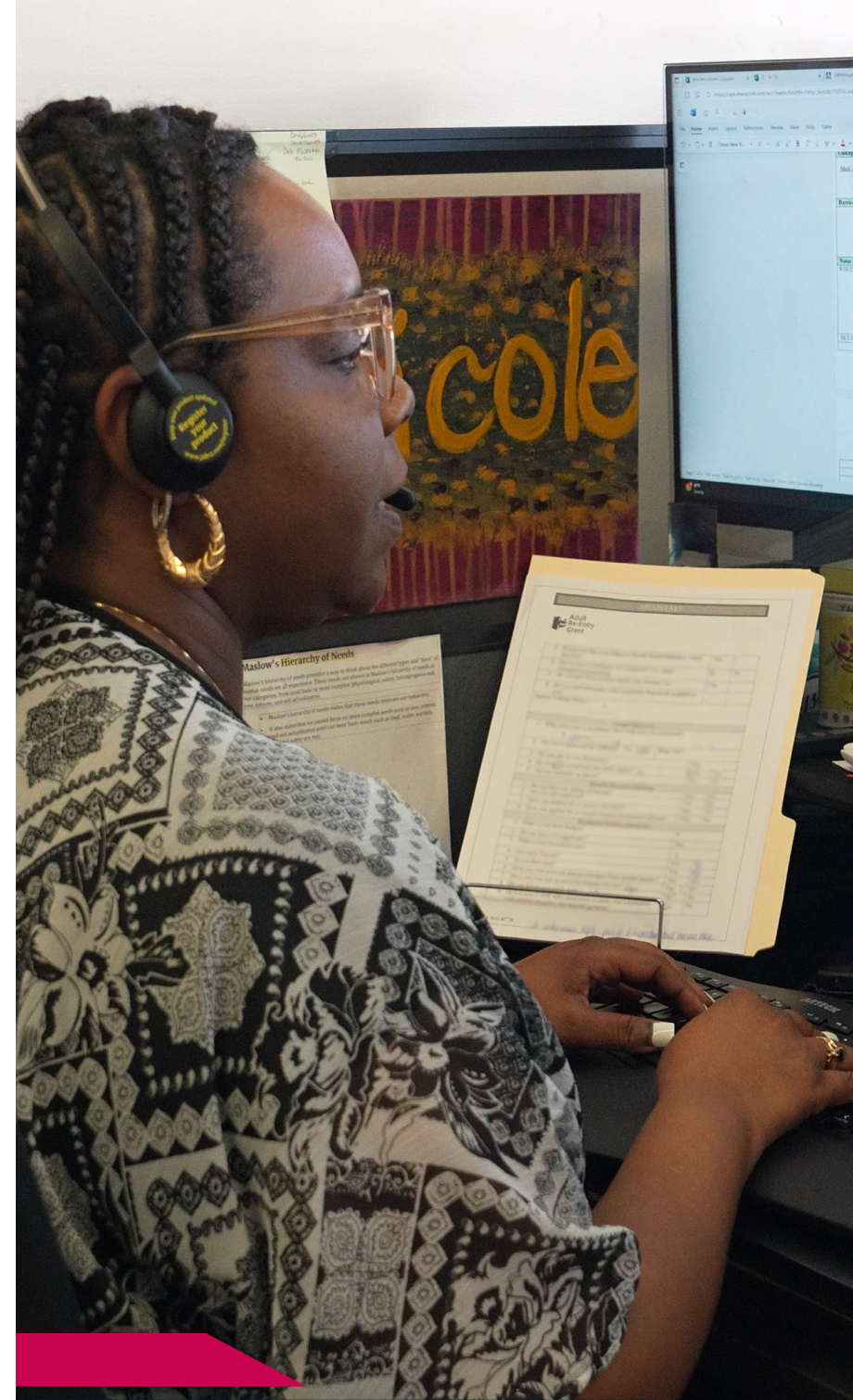
The Adult Re-Entry program served **304** clients who were recently released from incarceration. **108** have obtained safe and affordable housing and **52** have obtained employment.

## 427 Referrals to Social Services

The ARG program has connected clients with over 400 referrals to social services. **169** referred to Mental Health and Substance Abuse services, **125** in Financial Management Programs, and **26** clients in Transitional Housing Placements.

## Adult Re-Entry (ARG)

The Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Adult Re-Entry Grant Program supports individuals recently released from incarceration by reducing homelessness through coordinated, strengths-based case management focused on housing stability, employment, and mental health. Services include housing search and placement support, financial education, tenant rights guidance, and individualized planning to promote long-term self-sufficiency.



# Veterans Supportive Services Program

The CAPK Veterans and Supportive Services provides targeted support to qualified veterans and their families who are experiencing housing insecurity, helping them achieve stability and long term self-sufficiency. Through comprehensive case management and the frameworks of the Grants and Per Diem (GPD) enrolled **96** veteran households, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programs, CAPK connects veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness to housing assistance rental payments for **418** veterans, rapid re-housing resources, healthcare, employment support, and other community services. CAPK also operates housing initiatives such as Covey Cottages and hosts community events like the Veterans Stand Down for over **428** attendees to strengthen outreach and access to essential support systems. By addressing both immediate needs and pathways to stability, the program honors veterans' service and enhances overall well-being in the community.

## Covey Cottages

Covey Cottages is a 12-unit permanent housing program, located in north Bakersfield at 604 Covey Avenue. This program is dedicated to supporting veterans who are transitioning out of homelessness. As part of the CAPK Veteran Supportive Services Program, it provides safe, stable homes and a community center that fosters connection, dignity, and long-term well-being.



# Veterans Stand Down

Your support is critical

The Kern County Veterans Stand Down Event, hosted by the CAPK Veterans and Supportive Services Program and Community Planning Committee is an annual event dedicated to connecting veterans with essential community resources and support services. Open to all veterans, the event provides opportunities to meet service providers, access assistance programs, and build connections within the local veteran community.

## 428 Veterans in Attendance

Among those in attendance were **53** women Veterans and **375** men Veterans, totaling **428** participants.

## 32 Unhoused Veterans

Of the **32** unhoused Veterans in attendance, **2** were women and **30** were men.

## 19 Veterans at Risk

Among the **19** Veterans identified as being at imminent risk of losing housing, **1** was female and **18** were male.

Become a Sponsor!





## Head Start

In Kern and San Joaquin counties, Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) delivers Head Start and Early Head Start services, connecting children and families to the education, resources, and comprehensive support they need to thrive. Head Start and Early Head Start provide high-quality early childhood education for children from birth to age five through center-based and home-based settings. Beyond the classroom, families are empowered through Parent Policy Council participation and meaningful Family Engagement opportunities.

# Head Start Contents

## 02 Introduction

A letter from Yolanda. A former Head Start parent, and our Director for nearly 20 years.

## 03 School Readiness

The CAPK Head Start approach to ensuring children find success in k-12 and later in life.

## 05 Did You Know?

Program achievements and milestones.

## 07 Quality Transitions

School Readiness includes starting off on the right foot.

## 09 Engagement

Children don't enroll in Head Start, families do. Find out how you can get involved with your child's success.

## 11 Accountability

Financial Information; outcomes of our annual, local, and federal audits.



# Introduction

Head Start and Early Head Start is a community of families, teachers, and organizations dedicated to forging a path towards a bright and healthy future for every child.

We embrace families as a source of tremendous linguistic, ethnic, and cultural diversity that serves as the foundation for our entire program.

We recognize parents as the child's most important teacher. For us, one of our most important charges is to empower parents to support their children not only in preschool, but to advocate for them throughout their educational careers.

As the old adage goes, it truly does take a village to raise a child. It is the strength, dedication, and expertise of our partners and staff that allow us to offer high-quality, comprehensive early care and education services to all of our children. As a community, we value every child.

Yolanda Gonzales's story is one of resilience, dedication, and the power of believing in the potential of every child. Her journey began when she enrolled her own children in the Head Start program, seeking to give them a strong foundation in early learning. What started as a parent's choice quickly became a life calling. While volunteering at a Head Start center, Yolanda was encouraged by staff who saw her natural gift for working with children and families. With their support, she made the bold decision to return to school and pursue her passion for education.



*Yolanda Gonzales*

**Director of Head Start / State Child Development**

# School Readiness.

School readiness is fundamental across all early childhood systems and programs. The Head Start Approach to School Readiness means that families are ready to support their children's learning, children are ready for school, and schools are ready for children. Head Start is a pillar among the early childhood development field, leading with a clear and comprehensive focus on all aspects of healthy development through research-based curricula and philosophies.

## School Readiness for All Children

CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start center-based learners utilize the research-based Creative Curriculum. Creative Curriculum is designed to be able to meet the learning needs and interest of all children through an organized, developmental scope and sequence based on developmental progression of how children learn. Topics such as Trees and Water are introduced via play-based, hands-on investigations that place the child at the forefront of their learning. Each lesson aligns instruction and opportunities for play, exploration, discovery, and problem solving with the early learning outcomes. Home-based providers utilize the curriculum Parents as Teachers. Parents as Teachers is a parenting curriculum that provides a variety of topics focused on family care, self-sufficiency, and infant mental health. Regardless of program, CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start creates each child a Child Development Project Plan. These plans help promote individual development that is unique to each individual child's learning needs and temperament.

## Dual Language Learners

CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start celebrates the integration of culturally and linguistically responsive practices for all our families and children. This is done in the spirit of creating the best early education experience possible. Nationally, there is a growing population of children who are dual language learners. At CAPK, 616 preschool-aged children, or 52% of our three and four-year-old children, were determined to be Dual Language Learners.

CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start assess each child's performance in a culturally and linguistically inclusive manner, whereby a child is assessed in their preferred language. As a reflection of our diverse children population, CAPK makes a strong effort to hire bilingual team members to better support both children and families with the preservation of their home language, while also fostering families to develop their English language skill. Teachers are encouraged to speak in a child's home language and use dual-language books, songs, and cultural materials to support language development.

## Positive Behavior Support

Relationships, both in and out of the classroom, shape the way children learn, interpret, and connect with others. A child's first years of school are filled with wondrous moments and it's a time of tremendous physical and intellectual development. Children are also developing self-regulation, the ability to calm themselves when they are upset, and this process can lead to some challenging moments for both adults and children.

At CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start, the Pyramid Model's Positive Behavior Support framework is utilized to offer evidence-based strategies that support the learning and engagement of all children, giving teachers and parents strategies for promoting children's healthy social and emotional development.

As children begin learning to regulate their behaviors and

emotions, challenging behaviors are often part of the typical development of young children. The Pyramid Model builds upon a tiered public health approach to providing universal support to all children to promote wellness, targeted services to those who need more support, and intensive services.



### EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE

Systems and policies promote and sustain the use of evidence-based practices.

### NURTURING & RESPONSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Supportive responsive relationships among adults and children is an essential component to promote healthy social and emotional development.

### HIGH-QUALITY SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTS

High-quality early childhood environments promote positive outcomes for all children.

### TARGETED SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

Systematic approaches to teaching social skills can have a preventive and remedial effect.

### INTENSIVE INTERVENTION

Assessment-based intervention that results in individualized behavior support plans.

# Did You Know?

**1,689**  
FUNDED  
ENROLLMENT<sup>1</sup>



372  
SAN JOAQUIN  
COUNTY

2,039  
KERN COUNTY

**2,411**  
CUMULATIVE  
ENROLLMENT<sup>2</sup>

**46**  
CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTERS



39 | Kern  
7 | San Joaquin

**24**  
HOME-BASED  
EDUCATORS



16 | Kern  
8 | San Joaquin



**1,183**  
PROGRAM  
ELIGIBLE<sup>3</sup>



97%

**1,485**  
AVG. MONTHLY  
ENROLLMENT



88%

**1.3M**  
CLASSROOM  
INSTRUCTION  
HOURS



**32**  
PREGNANT  
WOMEN PROGRAM  
BIRTHS<sup>4</sup>



91%

**167**  
TRANSITIONS  
TO HEAD START



63%

**416**  
TRANSITIONS  
TO KINDER<sup>5</sup>



48%



**1,762**  
KIDS RECEIVED  
MEDICAL EXAMS



74%

**870**  
PRESCHOOL  
DENTAL EXAMS



74%

**492k+**  
SCHOOL MEALS  
PREPARED



79%



98%

HOURS OF OPERATION



99%

LOCATION CONVENIENCE



100%

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS



56%

ACCEPTED EMPLOMENT



73%

SUSTAINED EMPLOYMENT



48%

FOUND BETTER EMPLOYMENT



99%

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS



99%

PARENT/TEACHER CONNECTIONS



100%

DAILY ACTIVITIES



**1. Funded Enrollment:** The total number of clients CAPK Head Start is contracted to serve each day.

**2. Cumulative Enrollment:** The total number of clients served during the school year.

**3. Program Eligible:** Clients who meet income requirements or are categorically eligible for services. Categorical eligibility includes children in foster care or families who are experiencing homelessness, etc.

Visit <https://www.capk.org/apply-now/> for more information.

**4. 35** clients were provided prenatal or postnatal services in the Pregnant Women Program. **32** clients gave birth during the 2024-25 school year.

**Data Sources:**

2024/25 Program Information Report, Section A.1-A.18.b.1 & Section B.

Survey results are from the Spring 2024-25 Desired Results Parent Survey, a product of WestEd for California State Preschool Programs.



# Quality Transitions

Transitions to a new care and learning setting impact the entire family. For both children and families, transitions between settings can lead to great excitement and joy. Children can look forward to new possibilities, new friends, and experiences. Transitions can also bring on uncertainty.

Children may experience loss of familiar people and predictable routines. Families may have mixed reactions to their child getting older and wonder if they are ready for the next stage. As early childhood professionals, we offer support and guidance to help families feel secure and ready to make the move to a new setting.

## Early Head Start

Early Head Start Transition activities are designed to create the supportive climate needed for toddlers transitioning into a preschool setting. These activities ensure a cohesive relationship that is secure and consistent as the family transitions into the Head Start program.

Teachers and parents will develop a transition strategy, called the Exit Plan, when a toddler turns two years old. During this time, the teacher and parent will review all child assessment outcomes, artwork, and writing samples to illustrate the child's readiness for transition. Teachers will provide information for alternate preschool options to families if they are not able to attend a Head Start program.

The Exit Plan begins when the child reaches 30 months. Children will make a minimum of 3 visits to their preschool classroom, for up to 30 minutes per visit, to familiarize them with their new environment.

Quality transitions are important at any stage in a child's development. Transition interviews and classroom visits will be arranged each time a child enters a new program, program option, or even simply a new classroom or center.

## Head Start

In Head Start we understand that the transition to kindergarten is a time that presents changing demands, expectations, and support for children and their families. Smooth transitions greatly reduce the risk of academic struggle and social adjustment problems. Thus, building and implementing a seamless kindergarten transition can make a significant difference for children's early education experiences.

To reinforce school readiness, our dedicated staff coordinate many activities throughout the year that both three and four-year-olds take part in. Children, enrolled in Head Start centers located on elementary school campuses, will have the opportunity to visit cafeterias, libraries, and kindergarten classrooms. If the Head Start center is a stand-alone site, teachers will invite elementary librarians and kindergarten teachers to visit their preschool classrooms - an activity often dubbed "Tour our Center Week". Additionally, teachers will recreate the elementary cafeteria experience at their Head Start center.

Before four-year-olds leave our program, parents are provided with information to assist them with enrolling their child in a local school district kindergarten classroom. Families are provided Summer Activity Packets to complete with their child, as well as a set of goals to work towards before the first day of kindergarten. Lastly, for our students with an individualized education plan (IEP), teachers conduct an exit interview to ensure that children's IEP goals are up to date before entering kindergarten.

# Engagement.

## Positive & Goal-Oriented Relationships

CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start practices the “Whole Child, Whole Family,” approach while working with parents and their children. Family Engagement at CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start is about building relationships that support family well-being, strong family relationships, as well as ongoing learning and development for both parents and children. The Parent/Guardian, Family, and Community Engagement Framework is our road map for achieving outcomes which lead to positive and enduring change for children and families. During the 2024-2025 school year, **56%** of surveyed parents seeking employment were able to accept employment, while **73%** of parents surveyed stated they were able to sustain employment while their child was enrolled in CAPK Head Start and Early Head Start.

Parent and family engagement activities are grounded in positive, goal-oriented relationships with families. When parent and family engagement activities are systemic and integrated across program foundations, family engagement outcomes are achieved, resulting in children who are healthy and ready for school. For example, correlations between our parent surveys and developmental assessment outcomes show a significant increase in the following Early Learning Outcomes Framework central domains: Cognition, Math, Science, and Self-Regulation.

Parents are the primary educators of their children, and research shows engagement activities at home are paramount to their child’s success. In 2025, CAPK Head Start hosted the inaugural Fatherhood Conference, where 65 parents attended and learned about the importance of having a male figure in their child’s life.

Families enrolled in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs also have access to ReadyRosie, a research-based parenting curriculum which provides families with customized parenting videos and activities to reinforce learning initiatives from the classroom, while away from the classroom.

ReadyRosie builds on parents’ knowledge, harnessing the power of video modeling and mobile technology to build powerful partnerships between families and educators, resulting in Ready Families, Ready Educators, and Ready Children.

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ReadyRosie is a parenting curriculum that builds on parents’ knowledge, harnessing the power of video and mobile technology to empower families and schools to work together to promote school readiness goals.



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# 17

Workshops provided to parents and families to introduce and train them on the use of the Ready Rosie mobile app.

# 1,184

Parents and families registered to use the Ready Rosie mobile service.



## Parent Activities

- Monthly Parent Policy Council and Sub-Committee Meetings (Planning, School Readiness, Finance and By-Laws)
- Quarterly Regional Parent Committee Meetings
- Health, Nutrition and the Disabilities Advisory Committee Meetings
- Center Family Engagement and School Readiness Parent Activities
- Family Education Night (Open House)
- Monthly VIP Parent Meetings
- Workshops such Families as Partners, You Can Make A Difference, Relationship Matters, and Annual School Readiness Resource Fair.



# Accountability

Early Head Start  
\$22,862,003

Head Start  
\$17,229,422

California State Preschool (CSPP)  
\$7,381,970

General Child Care (CCTR)  
\$3,996,470

General Child Care (SJC CCTR)  
\$2,788,764

Migrant Child Care (CMIG/CMSS)  
\$343,006

California Adult/Child Food Program  
\$1,423,043



**2024-2025 Budget**  
\$56,024,678



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**¡SÍGUENOS!**

@CAPKHeadStart





## CAPK Foundation

In 2025, the CAPK Foundation deepened its role as a critical partner to the CAPK programs in times of need, mobilizing resources to respond to emergencies, sustain essential programs, and uplift families across Kern County. From community fundraisers to rapid emergency food support, the Foundation ensured CAPK programs could meet unprecedented challenges with care and urgency.

### Keeping Our Kids Warm

Every child in Head Start received a brand-new winter coat, ensuring that over **1,400** children were wrapped in warmth and care during the colder months. More than just protection from the cold, these coats represented our shared commitment to nurturing children with dignity, comfort, and love.



[Scan to Donate Now](#)





*Ending Homelessness*

### Holiday Luncheons

Individuals experiencing homelessness at the M Street Navigation Center enjoyed special Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. During both holidays, clients received a full festive meal, including ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, and all the traditional fixings, helping create a sense of warmth, comfort, and celebration.



### Gourmet for Good

On June 7, 2025, the CAPK Foundation hosted its Gourmet for Good fundraiser, a night of fine dining and community impact. The event grossed over **\$202,000**, with all proceeds supporting CAPK programs that fight hunger, reduce homelessness, and uplift families throughout Kern County.



*Fighting Food Insecurity*

### Feeding our Neighbors

The annual KGET Holiday Drive was transformed into a festive drive-thru lunch, raising crucial funds for CAPK's Food Bank. The event united the community in the spirit of giving, helping ensure neighbors facing hunger received the support they needed during the holiday season.

### \$1,293,784 Crucial Funds Raised

In 2025, the CAPK Foundation raised \$1,293,784 in unrestricted funds to support CAPK programs, empowering families, fighting hunger, ending homelessness, and uplifting youth across Kern County.

# Agency Financial Report

## Statements of Financial Position

February 29, 2024 and February 28, 2025

### Assets

#### Current Assets

	2025	2024
Cash	17,762,889	13,083,898
Investments	2,552,529	2,500,000
Grants and contracts received	9,329,530	13,126,684
Inventories	4,851,792	3,994,657
Prepaid expenses	902,379	789,129

#### Total current assets

**35,933,119**

**33,494,368**

#### Noncurrent Assets

Cash restricted for program use by funding agencies	6,169,544	5,949,616
Property and equipment	50,599,052	46,215,312

#### Total assets

**96,660,894**

**85,659,269**

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Current Liabilities

Current maturities of long-term debt	308,671	298,029
Accounts Payable	5,669,897	6,041,950
Accrued Expenses	6,303,239	5,606,878
Advances Payable	3,890,350	2,923,249
Deferred revenue	16,523,053	17,042,996

#### Total current liabilities

**34,461,831**

**31,615,073**

#### Noncurrent Liabilities

Long-term debt, less current maturities	7,320,507	7,629,178
---	-----------	-----------

#### Total liabilities

**45,021,541**

**39,244,251**

#### Net Assets

With donor restrictions	133,758	211,309
Without restrictions		
Board designated for accrued vacation liability	1,173,890	1,097,908
Undesignated	50,331,705	44,807,799

#### Total Net Assets

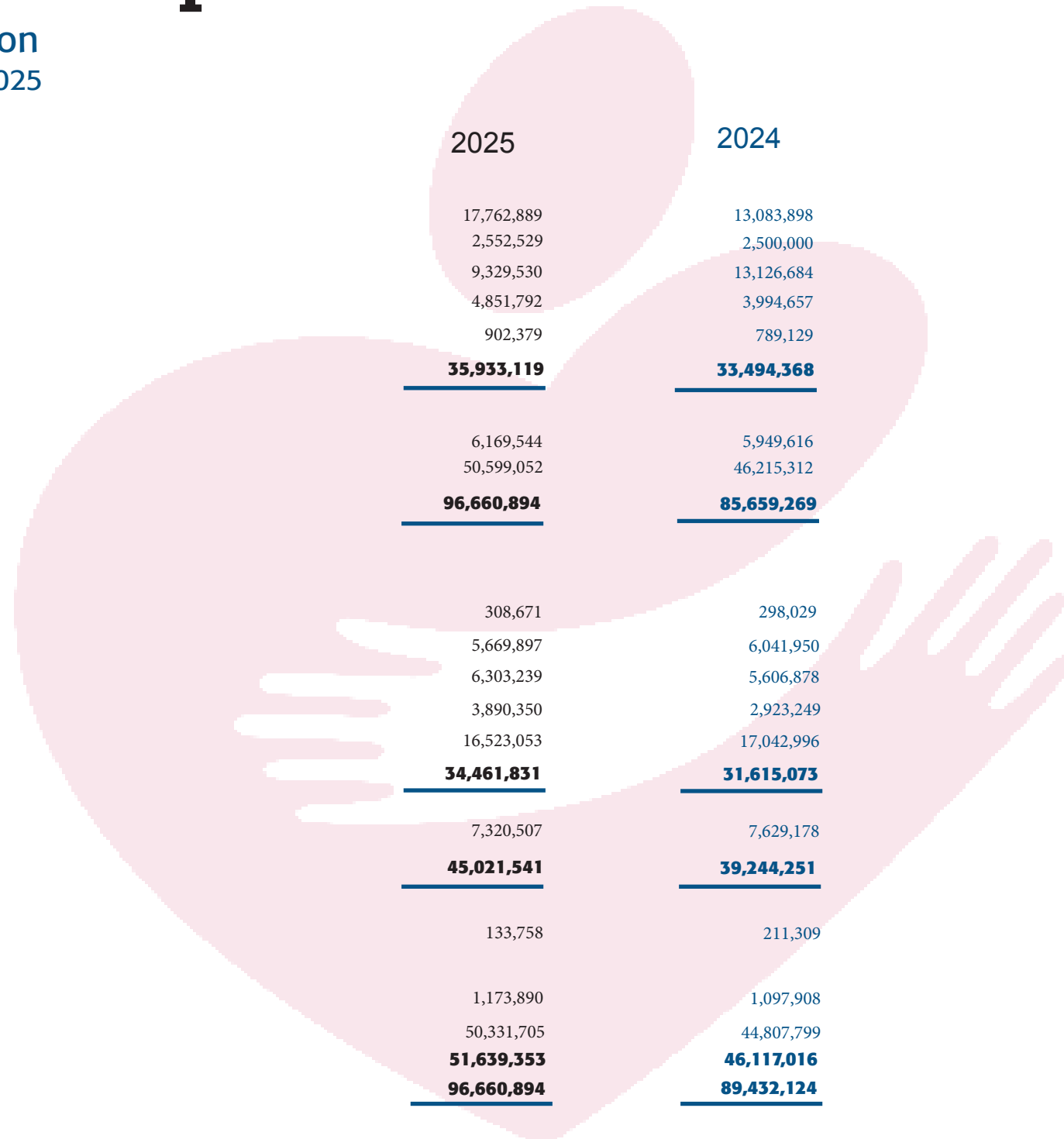
**51,639,353**

**46,117,016**

#### Total liabilities and net assets

**96,660,894**

**89,432,124**



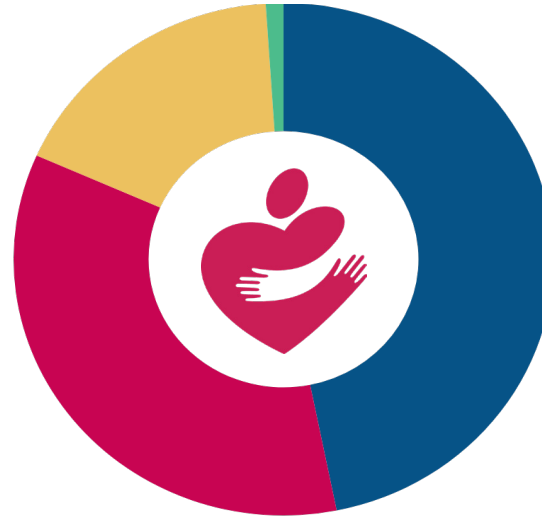
# Agency Financial Report

## Statements of Activities

Years ended February 29, 2024 and 2025

### Revenue

- Federal Grants
- State/Local Grants
- Donations/Contributions
- Other

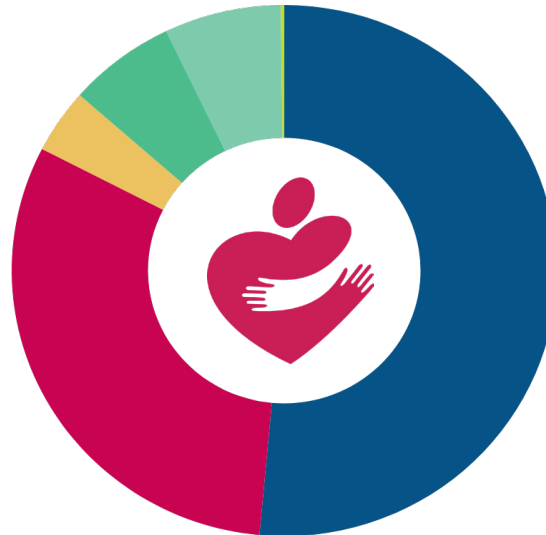


- \$84,638,236
- \$62,925,136
- \$31,686,306
- \$2,026,997

**Total Revenue \$181,276,675**

### Expenses

- Child Care and Education
- Nutrition
- Energy Conservation
- Community Services
- General and Administrative
- Fundraising



- \$90,427,296
- \$54,700,416
- \$6,880,041
- \$11,211,877
- \$12,178,171
- \$356,537

**Total Expenses \$175,754,338**



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*Helping People... Changing Lives*

Discover More

