

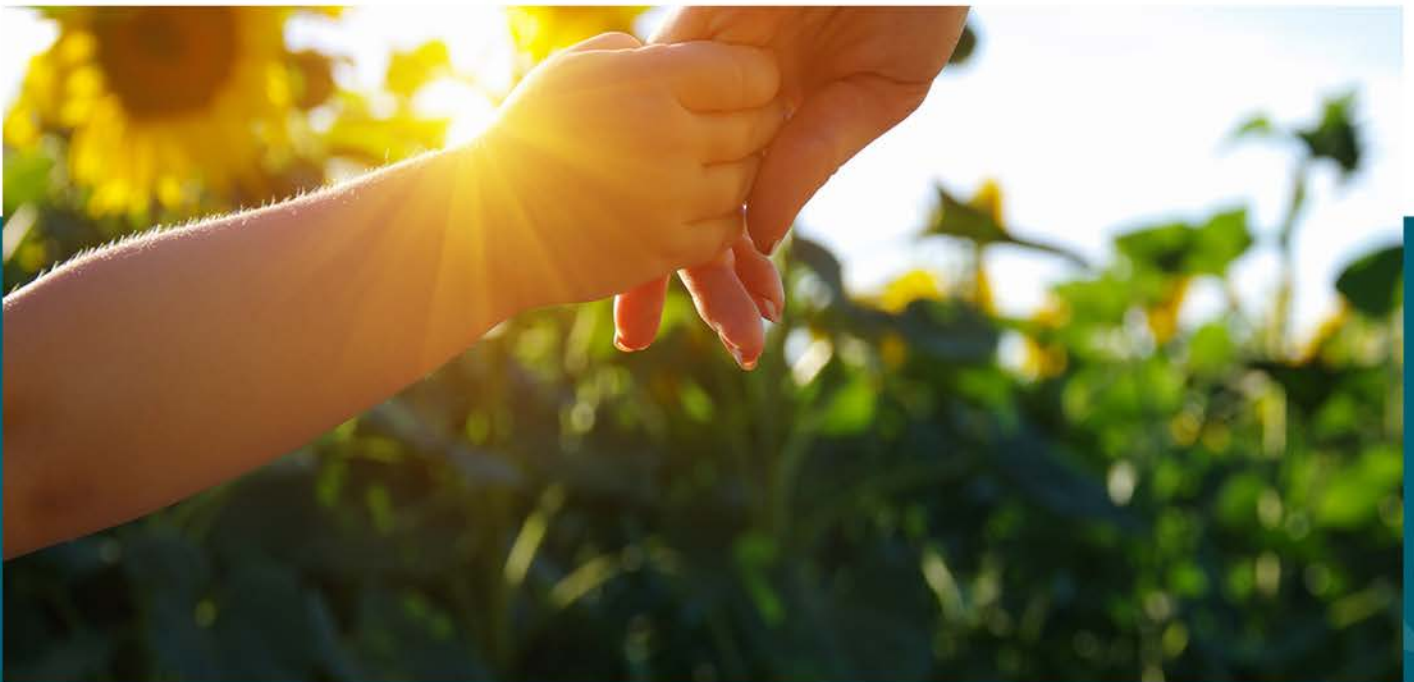


ATCAA

HELPING PEOPLE SINCE 1981

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



AMADOR TUOLUMNE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

A PUBLIC AGENCY DEDICATED TO PROVIDING CRITICAL HUMAN SERVICES

AMADOR TUOLUMNE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY



Serving Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties

Life happens



ATCAA helps

OUR MISSION

ATCAA promotes the economic security, self-sufficiency and the well-being of families and individuals by providing for basic human needs through direct assistance and community collaborations with the belief that all people deserve the opportunity to thrive.

BASIC NEEDS



FOOD

Emergency & supplemental, Food for Kids, Senior Program, Food Club Van, and Volunteer Program



SHELTER

Housing assistance, homeless shelter, homelessness prevention



WARMTH

Home energy efficiency services and utility bill assistance (PG&E, propane, etc.)

CARE & SUPPORT

FAMILY

Head Start/State Preschool Programs for kids 0-5
Support for pregnant women, children and parents



YOUTH

YES Partnership | Friday Night Live | Foster Youth IDA
Suicide and drug prevention, youth crisis prevention
and training, literacy, and foster youth support



ADULT

Financial education & support, tax assistance,
Amador Lifeline medical emergency alert service



CONTACT

AMADOR COUNTY

Jackson Service Center
10590 Hwy 88
Jackson, CA 95462
(209) 223-1485

Amador Lifeline
(209) 223-1485 ext. 232

Foster Youth IDA
(209) 601-8171

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Sonora Service Center
427 N. Hwy 49, #305
Sonora, CA. 95370
(209) 533-1397

ATCAA Food Bank
(209) 984-3960

AMADOR & TUOLUMNE COUNTIES

Head Start & Early Head Start
(209) 533-0361

CALAVERAS COUNTY

Energy Program
(209) 223-1485 ext. 221

ALL COUNTIES

Volunteer Income Tax
Preparation (VITA)
(209) 268-6232

All services are dependent on client eligibility and program fund availability. Call our main phone numbers unless otherwise noted.

ATCAA.ORG

@atcaasince1981

SCAN CODE



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 was a very challenging and rewarding year for Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency.

It started with record rainfall on 12/31/2022 that flooded our brand-new emergency shelter in Jackson with about 2 ½ feet of standing water in our bottom floor apartment, on New Years Day. But while we cleaned up and did a complete renovation of the downstairs, we opened the upstairs shelter to our first guests in late January.



JOSEPH BORS

ATCAA Executive Director

Since opening, we have seen two families and other individuals move into permanent housing. Along with our other shelters in Jackson and Sonora, we have helped dozens of individuals and families move from a position of dependence on social services to complete independence. And that is our mission.

Our Friday Night Live (FNL) team submitted a grant proposal to implement Social Emotional Learning (SEL) principles into our FNL and Club Live classrooms and increase the number of classes from 5 to 13. This proposal yielded a \$240K grant for the 2023-2024 school year, with the hope of continued funding in future years.

For the second year in a row, we submitted an application for a Drug Free Community grant in Amador County. We were awarded the potentially 10-year, \$125K per year grant, which will help support the Substance Solutions for Amador Youth (SSAY) coalition. This coalition includes





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED

representatives of 12 different sectors within the community, like Education, Law Enforcement, Behavior Health, media, and more. The focus of the coalition is to affect community change in a way that reduces or eliminates the use of marijuana and alcohol by youth in Amador County.

ATCAA was challenged by requests from the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors to relinquish a program that we have administered in Calaveras County since 1981. Fortunately, we were able to work through a series of misunderstanding by producing measurable performance metrics showing that ATCAA is in good standing with the State Administrator of the program, in serving all three counties, including Calaveras. Since working through

those challenges, ATCAA is working with the Calaveras Mariposa Community Action Agency to stand up a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Calaveras.

Maybe one of the most colorful changes implemented at ATCAA in 2023 is redefining our new logo and Mission Statement. Multi-disciplinary teams of staff and Board members were formed to develop our rebranding effort. Agency staff were able to weigh in on their preferred choices and for the first time in 42 years, ATCAA has a new look. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Sincerely,

Joseph Bors

Executive Director



WHO WE ARE ROOTED IN OUR HISTORY

The Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency was created in 1981 as a public, human service agency through a Joint Powers Agreement between the two counties of Amador and Tuolumne for the sole purpose of carrying out programs pursuant to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. We strive to improve the lives of residents in our foothill region and the services we provide are based on local community assessments that identify the assets and needs of our community. Over the years, we have under-taken a variety of projects and programs based on these community needs and available funding.

Since 1981, ATCAA has been the local Community Action Agency working with the unique needs of Amador and Tuolumne counties' isolated communities, providing programs that allow neighbors to help neighbors. As an exemplary "umbrella agency," ATCAA effectively and efficiently helps Amador and Tuolumne County families targeting low income each year.

No person shall, on the ground of race, color, age, religion, marital status, ancestry, medical condition, genetic information, citizenship status, political affiliation/opinion, veteran status, request for medical leave, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state or local laws, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any ATCAA program or service.

Photo circa 1981



**ATCAA WAS FORMED IN
1981 THROUGH A JOINT
POWERS AGREEMENT**



DRIVEN BY OUR MISSION & VISION

MISSION

ATCAA promotes the economic security, self-sufficiency and the well-being of families and individuals by providing for basic human needs through direct assistance and community collaborations with the belief that all people deserve the opportunity to thrive.

VISION

Our vision is for residents in our community to be self-reliant, healthy, free from economic hardship, feeling sustained by the support of community and family, and able to achieve their maximum potential as engaged citizens promoting their own well-being.

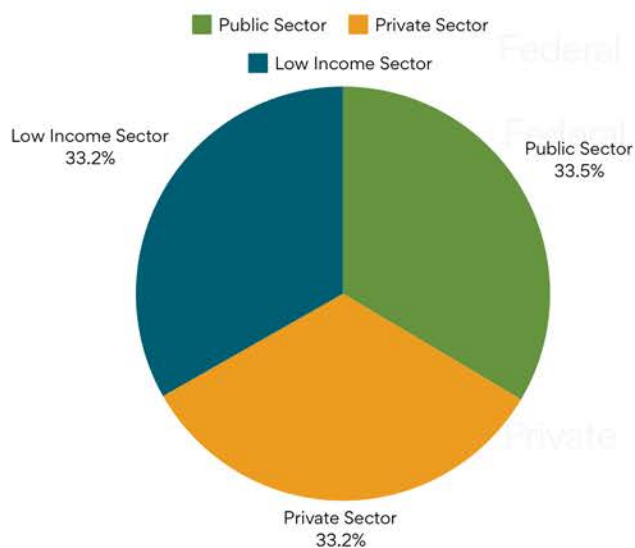


BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023



Our Board of Directors consists of eighteen (18) member seats from the public sector, private sector, and low-income representatives of our communities. This tripartite structure is a unique requirement of Community Action Agencies to gain and retain designation as eligible entities and to receive CSBG funding. Effective tripartite boards reflect and promote the unique anti-poverty leadership, action, and mobilize responsibilities as designated by the CSBG Act to CAAs. Boards are responsible for assuring that ATCAA continues to assess and respond to the causes and conditions of poverty in the community, achieve anticipated family and community outcomes, and remain administratively and fiscally sound.



PUBLIC SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Frank Axe (Chair)

Jeff Brown

David Goldemberg

Jaron Brandon

Claire Gunselman (Treasurer)

Andy Merrill

PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Lynn Morgan

Lloyd Schneider

Carol Rush

Pastor Mark Smith

LOW-INCOME SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES

Joni Drake (Vice Chair)

Mary Pulskamp

Cathy Parker

Susan Conn

Helena Rice-Padilla (Head Start Policy Council)



ATCAA LEADERSHIP

OUR TEAM



JOE BORS
Executive Director

CHERI CUNNINGHAM
Human Resource Director

BRUCE GUIDICI
Fiscal Officer

BOB WHITE
Prevention Programs/YES Partnership

RUTH BRICKNER
Energy Director

DENISE CLOWARD
Housing Director

JOSEPH TOBIN
Tuolumne Food Bank Director

KRISTY MOORE
Communications & Outreach

NANCY MINER
Early Childhood Services Director

PAT PORTO
Family Services Director

TONYA KRAFT
Lifeline Medical Alert Program

2023 ATCAA EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES POLICY COUNCIL ROSTER

Melissa Tuck, Chairperson, Community Rep.
Lisa Berg, Vice Chair, Soulsbyville HS
Helena Rice-Padilla, Secretary, Ione EHS
Bryanna Lamb, Treasurer, Ione HS

Blue Bell EHS

Jennifer Grenland, Jerralyn Hinman, Alternate.

Blue Bell HS

Cherokee DeLeon, Jocelyn Malinowski, Alternate.

Jackson EHS

Maria Irwin

Jackson HS

Amber Kinder

Jamestown HS

Ronni Fountain

Soulsbyville HS

Lisa Berg, Catrina Keshishian, Alternate.

Community Representatives

Christian Tucker, Amador County
Donna Jackson, Amador County
Melissa Tuck, Tuolumne County

ATCAA Board Liaison - Lynn Morgan

Early Childhood Services Director - Nancy Miner

ATCAA Executive Director - Joseph Bors

ATCAA Board Chairperson - Frank Axe



FINANCIAL FISCAL OPERATIONS



In 2023, ATCAA operated under a budget of almost 15 million dollars that included revenues from state and federal grants, private funds, and in-kind services. ATCAA employs approximately 125 employees that operates and manages approximately 60 fiscally sound and model projects, and mobilized volunteers, representing varied segments of the community, who donated 14,834 hours to participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty activities. We gratefully acknowledge their help, as well as the financial support of local community organizations, schools, agencies, churches, businesses, and individuals.

Agency Audits are current and indicate clearly that the agency is capable of administering grant funds for projects. The agency has had no audit findings for the last 21 years.



Federal

**OPERATING
REVENUE
\$15M**

Federal
\$8,200,384

State
\$2,623,896

Private
\$587,633

**60
CONTRACTS
125
EMPLOYEES**





IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023 ATCAA used CSBG, and other Federal, State and Private sector allocated funds to support ATCAA programs and services that could be categorized within the expenditure domains below. (Of note: Food Distribution falls under the Health and Social/Behavioral Development Services Domain. In 2023, the ATCAA Food Bank provided 50,342 food distribution services.)

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
TOTAL: 34

EDUCATION AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
TOTAL: 1,548

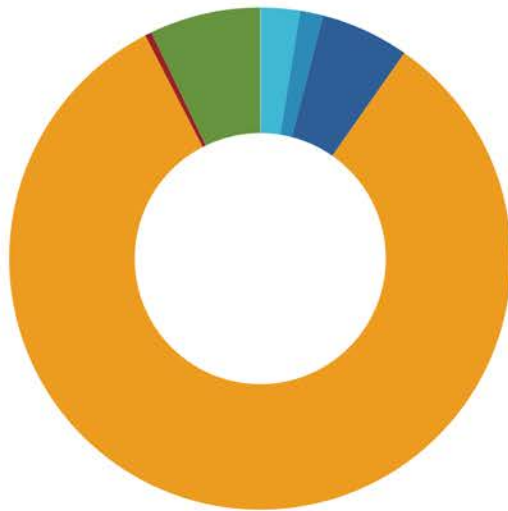
INCOME AND ASSET BUILDING SERVICES
TOTAL: 925

HOUSING SERVICES
TOTAL: 3,539

HEALTH AND SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
TOTAL: 51,404

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SERVICES
TOTAL: 264

SERVICES SUPPORTING MULTIPLE DOMAINS
TOTAL: 4,443



VOLUNTEER HOURS
14,834

NUMBER OF SERVICES PROVIDED
62,157

INDIVIDUALS SERVED
5,775

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
2,756

POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED
771,513

EMPLOYEE WAGES AND BENEFITS PAID
\$6,386,811



COMMUNICATIONS EDUCATION & OUTREACH

In 2023 ATCAA rebranded after 40+ years by updating various re-iterations of our logo and re-defining our Mission Statement.



1981



2023

Communications utilizes traditional and emerging marketing methods including print & digital information distribution, direct mail, digital, social and traditional media engagement, sharing with partner organizations and attending events as needed.

In 2023, Communications focused on nourishing community partnerships, expanding awareness, and refining our marketing approach.

We strengthened our partnerships in Calaveras County in response to feedback we received from Calaveras County government and Calaveras Mariposa Community Action Agency (CMCAA) by increasing communication with partners, increasing our outreach in this area, and clarifying our dedication to serving Calaveras residents.

We expanded awareness about ATCAA's services in a variety of ways including a revision in social media strategy that has led to our highest ever organic (unpaid) reach on record across Facebook and Instagram.

Additionally 2023 we began to use streaming TV platforms to engage our audiences.



ATCAA Communications promotes, supports, and advances the mission, vision and sustainability of the agency by creating and delivering professional, accurate and timely messaging, branding and advocacy.

The Communications Team develops and manages the following platforms under the ATCAA umbrella:

WEBSITES:

ATCAA.org - Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency
MyCalEITC.org - California's Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative
YESPartnership.net
CentralSierraCoC.org - Central Sierra Continuum of Care
CommunityRootsResources.org

SOCIAL PLATFORMS:

@ATCAASince1981
@MyCalEITC
@YESPartnershipTuolumne
@CommunityRootsResources
@FridayNightLiveTC

Highly targeted digital advertising reaches our low-income population better than any other traditional means.



CSBG

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Our Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), administered by the states, provides core funding to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and to empower low-income families to become self-sufficient. CSBG is a federal, anti-poverty block grant which funds the operations of a state-administered network of local agencies. ATCAA is part of this important network and continually complies with the CSBG Organizational Standards: a comprehensive set of standards developed to outline the way in which business is to be conducted. The purpose of the organizational standards is to ensure that all agencies have appropriate organizational capacity, in both critical financial and administrative areas, as well as areas of unique importance to the mission of the Community Action Network.

ATCAA has a long history of successfully developing and sustaining a broad range of exemplary community services and has been a lead, and often primary, community provider for the local programs that address poverty in both Amador and Tuolumne counties. The agency by design and Federal, State and local recognition, is a broad-based community organization -- its board of directors, by mandate, includes tripartite representation from the low-income community, local public sector, and private sector stakeholders. This structure is unique to Community Action Agencies as its intent is to bring together leaders from each of these sectors to collaborate on responses tailored to local needs.

By virtue of its receipt of CSBG funding and consequently, the governance of the entire agency by the tripartite board, all activities fall under the CSBG umbrella. These activities are represented within this report, and summarize the achievements of the strategies/goals outlined in our biennial Community Action Plan (CAP): a plan that identifies and assesses poverty related needs and resources in the community, based on feedback from local partner, low-income, and the general public, and establishes a detailed plan, goals and priorities for delivering those services to individuals and families most affected by poverty, aiding their transition into self-sufficiency.

It is the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening, to everyone, the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity - The Equal Opportunity Act of 1964



View our complete 2024-25 CAP (Community Action Plan) on our website at [ATCAA.org](https://atcaa.org)



CSBG CON'T

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Since 1981, ATCAA has been the local Community Action Agency working with the unique needs of Amador and Tuolumne counties' isolated communities, providing programs that allow neighbors to help neighbors. As an exemplary "umbrella agency," ATCAA effectively and efficiently helps Amador and Tuolumne County families targeting low income each year.

In 2023 ATCAA used CSBG, and other Federal, State and Private sector allocated funds to support ATCAA programs and services that could be categorized within the following expenditure domains: Employment; Education and Cognitive Development; Income, Infrastructure, and Asset Building; Housing; Health and Social/Behavioral Development; Civic Engagement and Community Involvement; Linkages; and Agency Capacity Building.

ATCAA gratefully acknowledges the support of federal, state and local partner agencies such as other non-profit organizations, schools, faith-based groups and private companies, as well as all staff and volunteers who are focused on helping poor and disadvantaged individuals and families in our communities.



In 1990, ATCAA formed Amador Tuolumne Community Resources (ATCR), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to assist ATCAA in providing critical human services to our residents. ATCR is run by a five-member Board of Directors and is neither an endowed organization nor a grant making institution. Grant money and revenue raised passes directly to ATCAA for new and existing program support. ATCAA is responsible for all projects and fiscal duties.



CLIENT NEEDS

COLLECTING DATA FROM CLIENTS



As a Community Action Agency and essentially a human services organization, ATCAA recognizes the need for and the benefit of receiving feedback from customers, employees, and partner agencies. With the growing emphasis on agency accountability, it is important to document the quality of overall agency function. Input from stakeholders, at all levels, is valued by ATCAA as critical to future planning and setting goals for continual quality targeting service and enhancements.

Throughout the year ATCAA distributes a **Client Needs Survey**. This survey focuses on specific areas of poverty and provides a comprehensive picture of client/community needs covering five of the Community Services Block Grant domains.

- The Client needs survey collects data in the following domains: Employment, Education and Cognitive Development, Income and Asset Building, Housing, and Health and Social/Behavioral Development.
- The survey also captures client demographics such as age, gender, race and ethnicity.
- ATCAA has incorporated a single customer satisfaction question on its client needs survey because ATCAA understands that many of our clients come to us in crisis, often feel overwhelmed with paperwork and that many often will not return a satisfaction survey once services are completed.

In 2023 ATCAA collected a total of 1,578 surveys from clients.

The Top 5 Needs Identified from these surveys:

Pay Off or Reduce Debt	45%
Utility Assistance Programs	40%
Broadband/Internet Access at Home	37%
Affordable Medical/Dental/Vision Insurance	35%
Help to Improve Job Skills Training	33%

Top 3 Needs Identified for Overall Family Support:

Food Assistance/Meal Programs	41%
Nutrition Education/Healthy Eating	10%
Life Skills Programs/Services	14%





CLIENT INPUT

SURVEY RESULTS & DEMOGRAPHICS

Client Survey Results:

99% of clients reported being satisfied with ATCAA services
40% were referred by a family member or friend
19% were referred by another agency
10% were referred by an ATCAA staff member

26% of respondents were new clients

91% of respondents were applying for Energy/Weatherization assistance

59% of respondents indicated they had utilized Energy/Weatherization assistance

24% of respondents indicated they had utilized Food Bank services

Client Survey Demographics:

71% of the respondents were Female
29% of the respondents were Male

23% of the respondents are Amador County residents
52% of the respondents are Tuolumne County residents
25% of the respondents are Calaveras County residents

27% of respondents were aged 25-44
21% were aged 65-74

84% of the respondents identified as White
4% of the respondents identified as American Indian/Alaska Native
8% of the respondents identified as Multi-Race



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



ATCAA also conducts, biennially, a complete and comprehensive Community Needs Assessment survey in Amador and Tuolumne Counties that includes census data, and feedback from clients, employees, partner agencies and the Board of Directors. The complete 2022/2023 Community Needs Assessment can be found on the ATCAA website at ATCAA.org

Our programs and services are designed to address the needs identified in our Community Needs Assessment.



DEMOGRAPHICS

AMADOR & TUOLUMNE



AMADOR COUNTY

POPULATION 41,948
 (Worldpopulationreview.com 2024)
RATE OF CHANGE: 2020 to 2023 3.5%

BY GENDER

·Male 55.5% Female 45.5%

BY AGE

4% Persons under 5 years
 15.3% Persons under 18 years
 52.8% Persons over 18 years; younger than 65 years
 27.9% Persons 65 + years

BY RACE (July 2022)

16% Hispanic or Latino (any race)
 77.4% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
 2.9% Black or African American alone
 2.6% American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander
 1.1% Asian

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

POPULATION 53,463
 (Worldpopulationreview.com 2024)
RATE OF CHANGE: 2020 to 2023 -1%

BY GENDER

·Male 51.6% Female 48.4%

BY AGE

4.3% Persons under 5 years
 17.2% Persons under 18 years
 50.4% Persons over 18 years; younger than 65 years
 28.1% Persons 65 + years

BY RACE (July 2022)

10.5% Hispanic or Latino (any race)
 85.4% White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
 1.7% Black or African American alone
 1.4% American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander
 1.4% Asian

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, child poverty jumped from 9% in fall 2021 to 13.8% in early 2023; child poverty was 17.6% in 2023 | Poverty was highest among seniors, Latinos, and less educated adults. | In early 2023, poverty was markedly higher for seniors (15.2%) than for children (13.8% and adults 18 - 54 (12.6%) - a change from pre-pandemic years, when child poverty was highest. | The Latino poverty rate increased to 16.9% (from 13.5% in fall 2021). About 13.6% of African Americans, 11.5% of Asian American/Pacific Islanders, and 10.2% of whites lived in poverty.

Education is tied to poverty rates: 6.4% of college graduates aged 25 - 64 and 22.3% of adults aged 25 - 64 without a high school diploma lived in poverty. Since fall of 2021, poverty increased 2.8 points among less-educated adults.





OUR SERVICES

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Housing

- Veteran Housing
- Central Sierra Continuum of Care
- Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)
- Homeless Shelter
- Non-Congregate Shelter Related to COVID-19
- Rapid Rehousing
- Housing Relocation and Stabilization
- Homeless Emergency Aid
- Home Inspections
- Rental Assistance
- Landlord/Tenant Liaison
- Smart Money

Family Resource Services

- SSAY Coalition (Substance Solutions for Amador Youth)
- IDA (Individual Development Account)
- Parent Mentoring at Early Head Start and Head Start
- Homeless Shelter Parenting Support

Youth/YES Partnership

- Friday Night Live / Club Live
- Alcohol and Drug Primary Prevention
- Suicide Prevention

Early Childhood Education

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- California State Preschool Program
- CACFP

Food

- Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Farmers Market Program
- Food Club Van Pop Up
- FFK Program (Food for Kids)
- Summer FFK Program (Food for Kids)
- Transitional Youth Program
- HFB Program (Holiday Food Basket)
- Farm Feed Program
- Neighborhood Partner Pantries

Energy

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Energy Bill Assistance
- PG&E payments
- Propane payments
- Water/Sewer Payments
- Home Weatherization Assistance
- PG&E CARE (California Alternate Rates for Energy) Program
- Clients can sign up though ATCAA for discounts on their PG&E bills
- PG&E LIEE Program
- Refrigerator Replacement Program
- Water Conservation Program
- Free Well Water Testing

Other Community Services

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance - VITA
- CA. Tax Credit Education & Outreach
- Lifeline Medical Alert

Education & Outreach | Information and Referral | Advocacy

AMADOR TUOLUMNE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2023 Annual Report



HOUSING



ATCAA's Housing Resource programs, primarily funded through State and Federal Competitive and Non-Competitive grants, do more than provide shelter to homeless children and families. Clients are linked to resources to assist with job training, financial literacy education, utility assistance, rental assistance, counseling, housing search and placements, and other services that will help divert them from becoming homeless and assist them in becoming more self-sufficient and stabilized. Case management for all ATCAA Housing Resource Programs was provided to 646 individuals and coordinated entry eligibility determinations were made for 347 individuals in 2023.

HOMELESS SHELTERS

ATCAA Homeless Shelters, one in each county, provide temporary shelter to individuals and families in need. The Amador shelter is a 5-room, 24-bed shelter and the Sonora shelter is a 6-room, 27-bed shelter, both dedicated to families, and single men and woman. In 2021, ATCAA connected with Amador County Health and Human Services to apply for and receive Whole Person Care funding that connects Behavioral Health, Social Services, and Health services to ATCAA sheltered clients. These funds assisted our current Amador shelter and fund an additional homeless shelter in Downtown Jackson which opened at the beginning of 2023. The new ATCAA Water Street Homeless Shelter is a 4-room, 12-bed shelter also dedicated to families, single men and single women. The City of Sonora has also agreed to partner with ATCAA to purchase and renovate an additional shelter in Downtown Sonora, which opened in 2023. ATCAA connected with Sutter Amador Hospital and Sierra Wind Wellness and Recovery

center to increase non-congregate sheltering options, enhance our nutritional and community services programs, and outreach in service to homeless individuals with health-related needs.

In 2023, a total of 178 individuals obtained temporary shelter as well as food, employment assistance and referrals to other area programs. Through program assistance, 192 individuals improved their nutrition skills and their physical health. The average length of stay for a shelter resident was 3 months with some families staying 6 months, or longer, as it is more difficult for families to find housing than for a single person to find a room or a bed.



HOUSING

RAPID REHOUSING | VETERAN HOUSING



Rapid Rehousing is a homeless rental assistance program that assists qualified individuals and families with rental and utility assistance, housing referrals, one-on-one support, budgeting classes and counseling assistance. ATCAA assisted 195 individuals with rental and deposit payments and 1,783 individuals received Utility Assistance. In addition, 12 individuals reported improved financial well-being. This program partners with CalWORKs and collaborates with partner agencies throughout the Continuum of Care and with both Amador and Tuolumne Health and Human Services.

Through all program services and collaborations, ATCAA was able to help 169 individual and families units find and secure permanent affordable housing.



Veteran Housing

Varley Place: ATCAA is the building owner and property manager of Varley Place, opened in 2018, and works with VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing), a program that is a joint effort between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Stanislaus local Housing Authority to provide permanent supportive housing to homeless veterans and their families.

ATCAA owns and operates 6 affordable housing units in Tuolumne County providing 24 beds.



HOUSING

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Sierra Hope Transitional Housing

The great need for affordable housing, as identified in our 2024/2025 Community Needs Assessment (produced in 2023), demonstrated not only a lack of affordable housing - but was consistent with our Central Sierra Continuum of Care findings during our HUD application process. Of great concern was the lack of stabilization for those experiencing homelessness resulting in inability to move them into permanent housing. Transitional Housing uses best practices to stabilize families with children moving from homelessness into permanent housing.

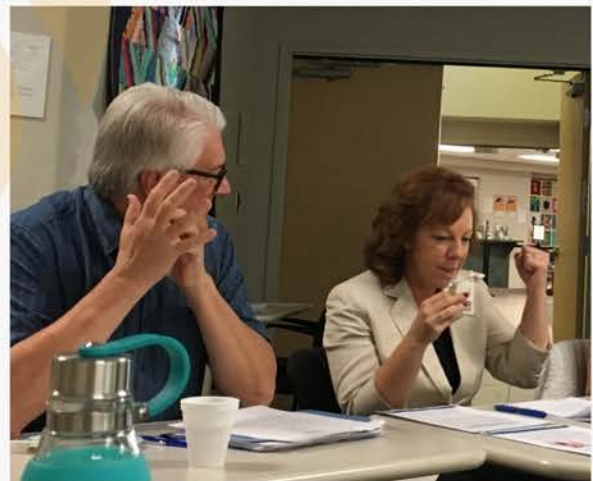
The goal was to increase Transitional Housing throughout the Central Sierra Continuum of Care. ATCAA partnered with Sierra Hope in Calaveras County to contract HEAP funds for development and ongoing referrals through the Central Sierra Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System. This Transitional Housing prioritizes homeless families and homeless youth as defined by HUD, and the State of California Education System.

Impact on the community because of Sierra Hope Transitional Housing has been seen as a stabilizing force in the lives of those experiencing homelessness so they have the opportunity to focus on obtaining permanent housing. If this project was not available in the community, many individuals and/or families would give up hope of every obtaining permanent housing and remain homeless for longer periods of time.

In 2023, the Sierra Hope Transitional Housing project housing facility was able to support Transitional Housing for up to 5 families with children per stay. At exit, the goal was for these families to be able to obtain permanent housing and ALL families were connected to other community services.

ATCAA Housing Resources collaborations do not stop here! They also work with other community organizations such as Behavioral Health Services, Social Services, First 5 Tuolumne and First 5 Amador, County Probation offices, Sonora Area Foundation, Amador Community Foundation, local newspapers, radio, and television stations. Funding for Housing Resources programs comes through fundraisers, grants and local donations from individuals, businesses, community organizations, foundations, federal, state and county funding.

Please visit www.atcaa.org or www.centralsierracoc.org.



HOUSING

CENTRAL SIERRA CONTINUUM OF CARE



ATCAA is the lead agency for the **Central Sierra Continuum of Care (CoC) CA-526**, that covers Amador, Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa, and contracts out multiple housing agreements across the CoC. ATCAA is the lead entity to managing the 4 county-wide Homeless Management Information System. ATCAA in 2023, contracted out, as the selected Administrative Entity to the region, approximately \$1.5 million dollars in homeless and housing funds.

Each year the Housing Program, as part of the CoC, conducts an annual **Point-in-Time (PIT) count**. The PIT count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness that HUD requires each CoC nationwide to conduct in a single night in January. HUD requires that CoCs conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and Safe Havens. CoCs must also conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons at least every other year. The unsheltered count is intended to demonstrate the unmet need.



Conducting a point-in-time count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness requires countless hours of planning and volunteers. Additionally, on the night of the count, it requires people to approach people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to collect data. Any individual interested in participating in the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) is welcome to contact (<https://www.centralsierracoc.org/copy-of-pit-count-2020>) for more information.

The 2023 PIT count was conducted on the night of Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Results indicated there were a total of 156 sheltered homeless individuals across the entire CoC service area, with 45% of the population being under 18 years of age. Amador and Tuolumne County reports indicated a count of 33 and 90 individuals, respectively. Tuolumne youth accounted for 27% of the sheltered population and Amador youth also accounted for 27%.

JOIN THE COUNT

ATCAA and Tuolumne County are looking for volunteers who are willing to help with this year's Point In Time Count (PIT)/Census to determine the number of unsheltered homeless in our community. The data collected from the PIT Count helps enhance strategies for preventing and ending homelessness.

EVERYONE COUNTS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE



PREVENTION PROGRAMS

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

The **YES Partnership** is a community-wide coalition dedicated to supporting Tuolumne County youth and families by promoting resilience and preventing suicide, substance use, and child abuse. The Partnership was established in January 1986 in response to several teen suicides in Tuolumne County. The coalition works in collaboration with local organizations, parents, and youth to create a drug, tobacco, and suicide-safe community through the following (3) strategies:

- **Developing youth assets**
- **Engaging youth in leadership opportunities**
- **Supporting and providing positive adult interaction with youth.**

In 2023, the YES Partnership, through the programs below, provided services and support to the following:

NUMBERS REPRESENT INDIVIDUALS

- Friday Night Live (FNL).....90
- Club Live (CL)....53
- Friday Night Live Kids (FNLK)....38
- EPIC Youth Coalition.....24
- LivingWorks Start...15
- LivingWorks safeTALK....14
- LivingWorks ASIST ...10
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA).....35
- Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHA)



The YES Partnership and the Tuolumne Co. Sheriff's Department celebrated their 13th year of the RX Take Back Day program in Tuolumne County. To date there have been over 7,000 pounds of prescription drugs collected for proper disposal.



The fifth annual Hope and Honor Walk for Suicide Prevention and Awareness was held on September 16th with approximately 100 participants!



Collaborated with the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools to sponsor the first Suicide Prevention Poster Contest and collaborated with Public Health Department and Superintendent of Schools office to implement Red Ribbon Week.



LIFELINE

MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM



The Amador Lifeline Program assists seniors, the disabled, and individuals with chronic illnesses in rehabilitative care and with Hospice, to be safer living alone and to live a more active, independent lifestyle. Amador Lifeline has many clients that live below poverty level, have many medical needs, and live isolated with no family nearby. Our goal is to support these individuals, allowing them to remain at home for as long as possible, and live with safety and security. Our program remains the county's only local medical alert service with the 'human touch', from our volunteers' welfare calls and local installers, and is monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year through various forms of communicators including wireless units, and auto alert help buttons with automatic fall detection. Lifeline is indeed, a "lifeline" for them to remain a part of our community.

In 2023, Amador Lifeline remained open and provided critical services to 162 individuals, many with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses, to maintain independence and security. The pandemic caused much isolation among our clientele, and we were fortunate to have 12 volunteers last year, two of which were program participants themselves. Their volunteerism is invaluable to the program and provides such services as office assistance, client installations and technical calls, monthly telephone wellness check-in calls, and even sending greeting cards to clients.

Lifeline takes extra special attention to their clients during the Christmas holidays. For over 10 years, the program has collaborated with Sierra Belles Organization and the American Sewing Guild/Gold County Chapter, to remember our vulnerable and low-income clients with Christmas gifts. The program provided 42 low-income individuals in both Amador and Calaveras counties with these gifts of remembrance, lifting spirits and letting them know that someone cares.

Help is Just A
Button Away



LIFELINE

MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

In 2023 Amador Lifeline In 2023, Amador Lifeline was in jeopardy of losing critical funding to assist low-income clients. Thankfully, through the implementation of a few outreach measures, the program was able to maintain quality of service.

- Amador Lifeline entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sutter Health to obtain the funding needed to maintain critical services to our low-income elderly population providing assistance to 25 low-income clients who share in their Lifeline fees at a greatly reduced cost.
- They partnered with MACT Board Inc. to provide Lifeline equipment and services at a discounted rate to 10 MACT patients in cost-sharing measures.

As part of the Amador Lifeline outreach efforts, brochures are distributed at pharmacies, the hospital, senior center, health care providers, and convalescent homes. Lifeline staff provide presentations to professional and charitable organizations throughout the year and interviews over the local radio and television stations. Lifeline articles appear in the local newspaper and various community newsletters.

Funding is provided through fundraisers, grants, and donations from individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations.



With Lifeline You Can

- Maintain independence by living in your own environment
- Have security and peace of mind for you and your family
- Have prompt, caring assistance at the touch of a button!
- Have service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year!
- No contracts, no equipment to buy, no hidden fees!

When you experience a fall, medical issue or emergency, every second counts!

3.3 million adults over 65 will fall this year—that's an average of one fall every 2.4 seconds. And close to half of those older adults who fall cannot get up without help.

Our Lifeline with Auto Alert button provides an added layer of protection by automatically placing a call for help if a fall is detected and you can't press your button!

Contact us:

(209) 223-1485 ext 232
tkraft@atacaa.org
www.amadorlifeline.com
10590 Highway 88, Jackson CA 95642

Benefits of Amador Lifeline

- State of the art equipment
- Wireless options – Auto Alert Help button
- Local Office Staff Available for Any Concern
- Local Installers with DMV & Background Checks
- Month-to-Month Billing – No contracts!
- We offer a local low-income program for those who qualify
- Monthly Courtesy Calls & 'Incident' follow-up
- Equipment Made in the USA with U.S. Responders!

Is It Time? You Decide!

- Do you have a chronic illness, disability or in rehabilitation?
- Are you alone during the day or night?
- Have you fallen in the past year or been hospitalized?
- Do you have balance problems? Use a cane or a walker?
- Do you take multiple medications?

Financial Assistance

We offer a local low income program for those who qualify. Inquire today to learn more about how we can help you.

Volunteer or Donate

You can get involved to help us to help others! Tax deductible donations accepted. Volunteer your time to our growing program.

Amador Lifeline staff continue to speak about lifeline services and instruct workshops within the community on “Fall Prevention” and “How to Get Up From A Fall.” The program is also a referral partner with Sutter Amador Hospital Discharge Department and Internal Medicine Associates.



FOOD BANK

TUOLUMNE COUNTY



The ATCAA Food Bank is dedicated to providing nutritious food for our clients. We procure, warehouse, transport, and distribute food to individuals, families, and community-based emergency food pantries, as well as other community agencies throughout Tuolumne County.

The Food Bank currently distributes food to more than 15 pantries and over 35 food distribution sites throughout Tuolumne County. We have the following programs available for eligible members: Farmers Market, Emergency Food Assistance, Food Club Van Pop-Up, and Kids Club.

In 2023, the Food Bank gleaned 771,513.60 pounds of donated food and distributed over 1 million pounds of food throughout our community to over 11,700 individuals.

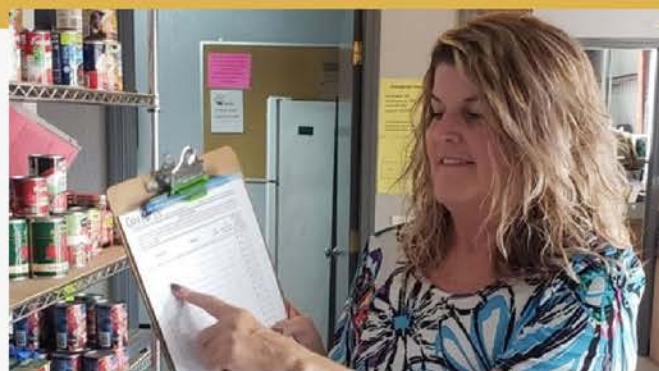
The Food Bank program has over 400 local volunteers who unselfishly spend over 9,000 hours serving those who are food insecure on a regular basis, thus saving the ATCAA Food Bank \$162,156.68 in wages by donating their personal time. We also partner with other community agencies who have recipients that may be eligible to receive mentoring, or on the job training, to learn job skills that can help prepare them to enter or re-enter the job market.

The ATCAA Food Bank is continually striving to improve Program services and sustainability to better serve our community. In 2023, the ATCAA Food Club Van select "Pop-Up" distribution sites were created to bring essential food to seniors, single parents, and those who physically unable to utilize other ATCAA distribution sites.



ATCAA FOOD BANK WELLNESS POLICY

Purpose: ATCAA's vision is for residents to be self-reliant, healthy, free from economic hardship, feeling sustained by the support of community and family, and able to achieve their maximum potential as engaged citizens. As the ATCAA Food Bank, we hope to turn away from caloric fundamentalism (the belief that those needing food simply need calories) and distribute nutritious foods for our clients, to both fill their stomachs and nourish their health. In an effort to strategically fight both hunger and poor health in our community, ATCAA Food Bank is proud to share our Wellness Policy and Nutrition Guidelines. These guidelines detail our intentional shift toward procuring and distributing nutritious food for our families. We will make all efforts to ensure that foods are appealing, culturally appropriate, and follow the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans. As part of our efforts to encourage community health, ATCAA will empower staff, volunteers, and recipients with nutrition education.

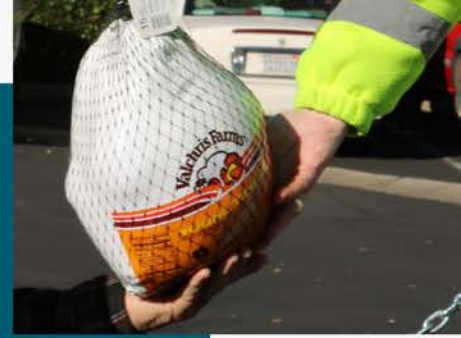


Joi explaining the sign-in process



FOOD BANK

TUOLUMNE COUNTY



THE FOOD BANK, IN ALIGNMENT WITH OUR WELLNESS POLICY, CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE FOLLOWING STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- California Climate Action Corps/Edible Food Recovery Program with Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California (Purpose: To reduce the food waste in our community by partnering with EFR the food that can't be distributed to our community residents or our community farm animals. This food will be composted back into the soil to produce more edible foods and lessen food waste to the land fill.)
- Jamestown Happiness Project (Purpose: Partnering to ensure food waste is minimal. Food that still has a few days left they will come and pick up and deliver to families in need of food items to create meals for the food insecure in our community.)
- County of Tuolumne District Attorney's Office (Purpose: To help educate the elderly we serve to prevent scam crimes against them. Working closely together to ensure our elders are not victims of "elder abuse" crimes.)
- Center for a Non-Violent Community (Purpose: Supporting those who may be victims of domestic violence or other violent crimes.)
- Veterans Service Office (Purpose: To support and come alongside our Veterans who may not be getting all that is available for them or connect them to services they are not aware of.)
- FeedNet (Purpose: Exploring and improving the changing world of feeding the food insecure and homeless in Tuolumne County.)
- Tuolumne County Thrives (Purpose: Tuolumne Thrives members encourage and empower Tuolumne County residents to make healthy eating and physical activity choices. Working together to support collaborative ideas and put into action)
- Social Services Consortia (Purpose: To promote social service research, training, and policy development to strengthen public sector social services in the Tuolumne County. Numerous Tuolumne County agencies meet on a regular basis to discuss ways to help combat poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, etc.)
- Tuolumne County Behavioral Health (Purpose: To provide respectful, culturally sensitive and strength based behavioral health services which provide wellness, self-sufficiency, and recovery from mental illness and/or addiction.)
- Tuolumne County Public Health Department/CalFresh Healthy Living (Purpose: Survey Clients, Create and follow Wellness Program, Health Fairs)
- California Association of Food Banks - (Purpose: To end hunger in California through many ways including advocating for policy change through the Public Policy Council.)
- Blue Zones Group - (Purpose: To discuss healthy foods, hunger relief, food insecurity, physical activity and other issues relating to our local food system. This is a community driven health and wellness effort to help encourage and promote behaviors and conditions locally that result in living better, longer and making healthy choices easier to make.)
- PDO Connection Meetings - (Purpose: Local Rural & Remote Food Banks meet to discuss grant opportunities, as well as to discuss what's working and what's not. We discuss Feeding America issues as well.)
- PG&E PSPS Partnership - (Purpose: To provide a \$40 box food to Tuolumne County residents who have experienced food spoilage due to a loss of power during and up to 3 days following a PSPS event. PG&E also asks that we assist the community in the event of power loss due to natural disasters as well.)

Funding support for the Food Bank is provided through such sources as fundraisers, grants, and donations from individuals, businesses, community groups, and foundations. Examples are Sonora Area Foundation, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Mother Lode Food Project.



ENERGY



ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SERVING AMADOR, CALAVERAS AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES

ATCAA's Energy and Water Conservation Department helps low-income individuals and families manage costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and energy-related minor home repairs.

In 2023, the Energy and Water Conservation Department provided over 3,000 services improving the quality of life of to over 1,900 individuals and families. Services included utility payment assistance, level billing assistance, and home improvements. Additionally, 84 individuals experienced improved health and safety, and 84 had improved energy efficiency and/or energy burden reduction in their home.

Through these measures, ATCAA helps keep families safe and healthy and helps to reduce the burden of home energy costs.

Water Conservation Assistance:

ATCAA's Water Conservation Assistance, offered to qualifying households, provides solutions to conserve water and lower water bills. Measures include installation of low flow faucets, showerheads, toilets and updating energy-saving appliances. In 2023 ATCAA received a grant from the Department of Water Resources through T-Stan IRWM to continue to provide water and energy saving improvements to 155 homes until 2027.

We also, in collaboration local water companies, participating in a new water payment assistance program from California Dept. of Community Services and Development (CSD) to administer the Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), ATCAA provided water bill assistance for the first time to over 528 low-income households.

Utility Assistance (UA) Program

ATCAA's Utility Assistance Program helps low-income individuals and families apply for electricity and propane bill payment assistance. These services are federally funded though the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Through the UA program, ATCAA provided \$1,546,105.17 worth of utility assistance to 2,082 households. When managing competing household expenses while already living on low incomes, many families cut back on food expenditures to pay for critical household expenses and will often choose between food and utilities. This assistance helps clients maintain safe and affordable housing and helps ease the difficult decisions our clients often face on a daily basis.



ENERGY

ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SERVING AMADOR, CALAVERAS AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES



Weatherization Program

Collaboration is a strong component of the Energy program at ATCAA. Collaboration brings individuals, agencies, organizations, and community members themselves together in an atmosphere of support to systematically solve existing and emerging problems that could not easily be solved by one group alone. Partnership and collaboration can go a long way in creating a strong and better community while achieving shared goals.

The Energy Director sits on the Tuolumne-Stanislaus (T-STAN) Integrated Regional Water Management Group. This group, collaborates with groups from all sorts of water districts, county governments and NGO's that define water infrastructure or conservation needs, then search for water-related grant opportunities and apply for them. So far, ATCAA has garnered \$2.25M in new funding from 2 grants in 2023 as a result of our 17-year involvement with these groups. They include both County BOD's, ATCAA, the Tuolumne River Trust, the Audubon Society, TUD, CCWD, Twain Harte CSD, CSERC, the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District, the City of Angels, Groveland CSD, Jamestown Sanitary District, Murphy's Sanitary District, the South San Joaquin Water District, and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

The Energy department cooperates almost every day with partner agencies where needed, including St. Vincent De Paul Society, Catholic Charities, The Center for a Non-Violent Community, Area 12 Agency on Aging and Social Services.

The Energy Director personally networks with several other Community Action Agencies who can help with many aspects of service delivery using our LIHEAP grants, such as Merced, Modesto, Placerville, Fresno, Monterey, and others.



FAMILY RESOURCE SERVICES



ATCAA Family Resource Services (FRS) is a comprehensive child abuse prevention and family strengthening program that provides a range of services for families in Amador County. These services are designed to enhance caregiver skills and competencies as well as increase wellness and resiliency for parents, caregivers, children, teens, and others in our community.

IDA Foster Youth

This program served 6 youth in 2023. Funding is provided by United Way California Capital Region (UWCCR). This program offers support and guidance for current, aging out or former foster youth. They earn money by completing Incentive Activities, which are then matched dollar for dollar, allowing them to build their individual savings account, leading to a more secure and stable financial future as they transition to young adulthood. With the support of this program, youth were able to fulfill Incentive Activities that encouraged improved school grades, participation in sports, resume development, job applications, higher education applications and attendance, community involvement, volunteering, and keeping health appointments.

ECS Parent Support

Each year ECS surveys families for topics they would like additional information and support for. Each video includes a related handout that is available through the center teachers and Family Advocates. Parent support is also offered via phone calls and Zoom meetings to address individual questions and needs.

Staff sometimes view the videos to enhance their support of families, and at times watch it with the parents, allowing for additional questions and conversation, and provide “one on one” support for the parents. In addition, parents meet in person with the Family Resource Services Director.

ATCAA Homeless Shelter Parenting

Monthly parenting discussions are offered at our homeless shelters in Amador and Tuolumne counties. Families with children of all ages participate, pre-natal through teens, as well as residents with adult children who seek healthy relationships with them. Topics are generated by the shelter residents, and supportive handouts and resources are shared with them. In 2023, more than 20 residents were served.

Funding to support Family Resource Services is provided by Amador Child Abuse Prevention Council, Amador County Sheriff's Office, Cal OES, United Way CA Capital Region, and donations from individuals, businesses, and local community groups.



FAMILY RESOURCE SERVICES



SUBSTANCE SOLUTIONS FOR AMADOR YOUTH (SSAY)

SSAY Mission Statement: Supporting Amador County youth and their families, to reduce and prevent youth substance use; Utilizing a whole community approach for changing environments; Implementing local solutions for local conditions, towards substance free childhoods.

The SSAY Coalition was developed to address youth substance use and misuse in Amador County, with a goal of reducing and preventing this behavior. During 2021 members worked together developing goals, a mission statement, and recruitment ideas. The group developed a member survey and a public survey, which were both utilized to assess the community's beliefs regarding youth substance use, as well as suggestions for how the coalition can use the information to raise awareness, offer community education, identify needs and resources, and empower youth to have a leading role in determining change within their community. SSAY includes members from Amador County Behavioral Health, Substance Use Disorders, Social Services, Public Health, and TRAC; AC Sheriff's Dept, AC Probation Dept, AC Unified School District, Amador Child Abuse Prevention Council, Resilient Amador, Lone and Sutter Creek Police Depts, AC Tribal TANF Partnership, Sierra Wind Wellness Recovery Center, Operation Care, Amador College Connect, 4-H, Mother Lode Job Training, students, parents, and citizens at large. The SSAY Coalition continues to recruit members via flyers, social media, word of mouth, and public announcements.



SSAY COALITION MEETINGS

Join Us

You are invited to the SSAY Coalition meetings. Join our team as we develop ways to use awareness, education, and resources to reduce and prevent youth substance use/misuse in Amador County.

Youth are encouraged to attend and will receive a gift card!

[10590 HWY 88, Jackson, CA 95642](https://www.google.com/maps/place/10590+HWY+88,+Jackson,+CA+95642)

Mission Statement

Supporting Amador County youth and their families, to reduce and prevent youth substance use; Utilizing a whole community approach for changing environments; Implementing local solutions for local conditions, towards substance free childhoods.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

ATCAA's Early Childhood Services (ECS) programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, and the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), prepare young children from low-income families to succeed in school and life. To achieve this, our programs deliver services to children and families in the core areas of early learning, health, and family well-being while engaging parents as partners every step of the way. Services are provided in a variety of settings including centers, and children's homes. ECS programs also engage parents in positive relationships, with a focus on family wellbeing, and parents participate in leadership roles, including having a say in program operations.

In 2023, ATCAA's Head Start and CSPP programs for 3- and 4-year-old children, and Early Head Start programs for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women, served 299 individuals. All ECS programs are available at no cost to pregnant women and children ages birth to 5 from low-income families. Families and children experiencing homelessness, and children in the foster care system are categorially eligible for services, and children with disabilities and other special needs are encouraged to enroll. In 2023, ECS programs served 52 families experiencing homelessness, 19 children in foster care, and 61 children with diagnosed disabilities.



ATCAA Early Childhood Services Sites

Blue Bell HS/CSPP and EHS | Lone HS/CSPP and EHS | Sonora HS/CSPP
Jackson HS/CSPP and EHS | Soulsbyville HS/CSPP | Summerville HS/CSPP
Jamestown HS/CSPP and EHS



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

All ECS programs support children's growth through a variety of services, which include:

Early learning and development: Children's school readiness is fostered through individualized learning experiences, relationships with adults and other children, play opportunities, and planned and spontaneous instruction. Through these experiences, children learn social skills, emotional well-being, language and literacy skills, mathematical and science concepts, and skills that promote a love of learning. Parents and staff work together to provide an individualized approach for each child that is culturally and linguistically relevant. In addition, our Head Start/CSPP programs worked with families, school districts and other entities to facilitate a smooth transition for the 71 children going to kindergarten in 2023.

Health: ATCAA ECS programs provide safe and healthy learning experiences indoors and outdoors. All children receive health, dental and developmental screenings, nutritious meals, and programs connect families with medical, dental, and mental health services to ensure children are receiving the care and attention they need. Children also receive support for building resiliency to cope with possible adverse effects of trauma.



Family well-being: Families are offered program services and referrals to community partners to support family well-being, and to achieve family goals such as housing stability, food security, continued education, and financial security. Programs support and strengthen parent-child relationships and engage families in the learning and development of their children. Family Advocates are available to assist families with crisis situations and access to needed services in the community. In 2023, ECS programs provided crisis response for 70 individuals.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START

Another integral part of ATCAA's ECS programs is collaborations with community partners that support staff and the provision of services to children and families.

ECS Programs have a special relationship with the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools (TCSOS) Structured Preschool program. ATCAA Head Start programs have worked with TCSOS for years, and now, since 2021 we have been able to include all their preschool and toddler special education teachers in the Teaching Pyramid training we held for ECS staff. The Teaching Pyramid model helps teachers learn about and implement strategies that support young children's social and emotional development. Through these sessions, our ECS team and special education teachers learned more about each other's programs and how we could work together more effectively to meet children's developmental needs.

Also in 2023, to facilitate children and parents' transitions to kindergarten, ATCAA Head Start programs collaborated with First 5 Tuolumne,



Infant Child Enrichment Services and the TCSOS Supporting Early Education & Development (SEED) program to support a group called Kids in Common Tuolumne. This group of early childhood educators and kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers met to discuss their programs, curricula, routines and how to help prepare children for school.

Funding is provided by the Federal Government and California Department of Education as well as grants, and donations from local organizations, businesses, and foundations.

ATCAA Head Start has served children and families since 1984.
ATCAA Early Head Start has served children and families since 2010.

AMADOR TUOLUMNE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
2023 Annual Report



VITA

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE



Prepared Returns > Year 2021: 220 | Year 2022: 338 **Year 2023: 650**

ATCAA runs a free IRS Sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program where clients can either drop off their tax information, have their tax returns prepared in person or have their tax returns prepared virtually.

Tax preparation and filing is provided by volunteers who are certified by the IRS to provide tax counseling and preparation services, many of whom have tax and/or accounting backgrounds in their professional lives. ATCAA offers service to qualifying residents who have a simple return, make under \$60,000 per household and is within VITA's scope at no cost to the client to help them claim both Federal and State Earned Income Credits.

ATCAA partners with the United Way California Capitol Region's VITA Coalition and Northern California's Rural VITA Coalition allowing ATCAA to benefit from the resources of both Coalitions including use of a virtual tax preparation platform, assisting with the training of volunteers and providing equipment and supplies when needed. We also partner with local entities such as other government and non-profit organizations to help expand the programs reach.

In 2023, the VITA program hired an additional Site Coordinator and expanded our services.

IT'S TAX TIME! FILE FREE WITH VIRTUAL ASSIST



4 convenient ways to file

- On own with assistance
- With a virtual preparer
- Drop off appointment
- In person appointment

Household Income must be below \$60k and your tax situation must be within our scope.

[VIEW OUR CHECKLIST](#)



TAX LINE
209.268.6232

In 2023 we offered three convenient ways our to prepare returns: offer in person, virtual, and drop off. For people who lived in remote underserved communities, we offered mobile drop off services. Finally, we extended our services through September, thus doubling the amount of returns from the previous year.

Our VITA program was also recognized by the IRS in 2023 for the accuracy of returns prepared and the innovative ways we operate our VITA Site. We were one of four VITA sites in the United States asked to present at the National IRS and VITA rural partner panel to teach new and existing VITA sites innovative ways to expand and operate their VITA sites and the positive impact it has had on our community.



CALEITC



CALIFORNIA INCOME TAX CREDIT

Education, Outreach and Free Tax Preparation Support for California's Earned Income, Young Child and Foster Youth Tax Credits
CALEITC.ORG

ATCAA has been awarded the California Education and Outreach grant since its inception seven years ago. In past years, we were awarded \$110,000 to engage with income-eligible rural residents about the credits, eligibility and how they can claim them. In 2022, the grant amount grew to \$4400,000 and allowed us to expand our tax program and our overall reach to serve more rural residents .

Working closely with ATCAA's tax program, ATCAA's Communications staff create and deliver messaging about the CalEITC credits and ATCAA's tax preparation information.

Last year, in Amador and Tuolumne counties alone, over \$1.5million in EITC, CalEITC, and YCTC cash back credits were received by those who need it most.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is widely recognized as one of the nation's most powerful resources for improving the economic stability of low-to-moderate income individuals and families. The California EITC (CalEITC) and its federal counterpart provide refundable cashback credits to qualifying working Californians when they file their tax return.

The CalEITC outreach activities include developing partnerships at all levels and ATCAA has gained recognition for rural outreach efforts at the State level and with the Governor's office.

Integrating our social channel's targeted efforts with Google's digital, search engine and You Tube ads with precise targeting through ads appearing on a variety of streaming television channels is proving to be not only the most measurable, but the most cost-effective way to reach our target audience for the California Earning Income Tax Credit Education and Outreach grant.

NEW IN 2023 - Streaming TV advertising. CTV (Connected TV) is an innovative, engaging and ever-changing environment that makes TV advertising as targeted as Direct Mail or Email better than Social Platforms. CTV finds the "eyeballs" we want to reach based on whatever they are watching.

**EARN \$1 - \$30K LAST YEAR?
FILE AND GET CASH BACK**

- Child Under 6?
Get Even More
- Wage Earner?
W-2 or 1099
- File Free
On Own or With Help
- NO SSN?
File with an ITIN

New Credits for former foster youth ages 18-25.

IT'S YOUR MONEY
GET IT!
EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

WE CAN HELP

ATCAA
Amador Tuolumne
Community Action Agency
People Helping People Since 1981

Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency | ATCAA.ORG

