

## *What is Washington County Community Action?*

**Purpose:** Since 1965 WCCAO, a private non-profit agency, has worked to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty.

**Who We Serve:**

More than 38,000 residents of Washington County do not earn enough to afford adequate housing, food, clothing and warmth. The majority of these are young, working families unable to secure a living wage or affordable housing. Two-thirds of our work benefits the indigent children of our community, while the rest focuses on their parents, the elderly and the disabled.

### *Some of our services include...*

**Head Start**

More than three hundred 3 and 4-year-old low income and handicapped children attend class at our 11 centers located throughout the county. Parent involvement is a key element of our work with the children, helping to insure their success in the public school system. Services to children include health care and development of motor and social skills.

**Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing**

Last year homeless families spent 22,000 bednights in the WCCAO Shelter Home -- two-thirds of these were children. Others who were transitioning from emergency shelter to independent living were provided temporary housing in single family dwellings.

**Rent Assistance & Heating Assistance**

WCCAO clients may receive rent assistance to prevent homelessness or to move from shelter into permanent housing. Financial assistance, training and home weatherization services help with heating and conservation needs for those in permanent housing.

**Advocacy**

WCCAO works to increase low-income housing units and assists in the production of new housing for low-income residents. The agency also advocates to increase resources for affordable child care.

**Other services...**

- Information and Referral
- Parenting Education
- Child Care
- Family Self-Reliance
- Counseling on housing, budget management and related employment & social services.

**For information on these and other WCCAO programs, CALL 648-6646.**